

COUNCIL

25 July 2019

Present:-

Chair: J Mathews

Vice-Chair: M Squires

Councillors H Ackland, M Asvachin, Y Atkinson, S Aves, K Ball, S Barker, J Berry, F Biederman, E Brennan, J Hook, J Brook, C Channon, I Chubb, C Chugg, J Clatworthy, P Colthorpe, A Connett, R Croad, A Davis, A Dewhurst, A Eastman, R Edgell, R Gilbert, B Greenslade, G Gribble, I Hall, R Hannaford, J Hart, L Hellyer, G Hook, R Hosking, S Hughes, A Leadbetter, J McInnes, B Parsons, P Prowse, R Radford, S Randall-Johnson, S Russell, P Sanders, A Saywell, R Scott, D Sellis, M Shaw, C Slade, J Trail, P Twiss, N Way, C Whitton, C Wright and J Yabsley

Apologies:-

Councillors R Bloxham, J Brazil, J Hawkins, J Hodgson and T Inch

211 Minutes

The Chair of the Council **MOVED** and it was duly **SECONDED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May 2019 be signed as a correct record.

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

212 Announcements

The Chair of the Council reported that both Stover Country Park and the Grand Western Canal Country Park had both been awarded Green Flag Awards during the year's Love Parks Week. Stover had received the prestigious award for the past 16 years. It was also the 11th consecutive year that the Grand Western Canal Country Park had received the honour. The awards demonstrated that both of the Council's Country Parks offered the highest possible environmental standards, were beautifully maintained and provided excellent visitor facilities.

The Chair further highlighted that the Council had been presented with the 'Value Award' by the industry body 'Constructing Excellence South West', which recognised excellence and best practice in the built environment. The industry award had been achieved by the Council's Southern Construction Framework, in recognition for its outstanding contribution to value across public sector building construction.

The Chair also reported that the Council had won a top award at the country's most prestigious awards ceremony for the parking industry. The authority had picked up the "best practice reporting: Customer Service award" at the annual PATROL PARC (Parking Annual Report Awards by Councils) Awards held in London. The award recognised excellence in customer service, where authorities had reported on steps taken to proactively engage with the community. Of particular note were the the Council's online reporting tools which enabled the public to identify concerns around pavement parking and abuse of residents parking permits.

The Chair congratulated all those involved in receiving the awards and the teams who had contributed to receiving these accolades.

213 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

214 Devon Youth Parliament

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Schools introduced Freya Hope and Tom Matthews, representatives of the Devon Youth Parliament Team who gave a short presentation to the Council on:

- the role of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament and the work undertaken by the Devon Members, nationally and locally and the current policy making process of the Youth Parliament;
- working with young people locally and other partners on current campaigns, in particular making it clear that youth voices needed to be heard, for example speaking on Radio Devon at the Respect Festival, consulting young people at Pride, taking part in Occupy the Airwaves on Phoenix Radio on International Women's Day, presenting to the Exeter Strategic Board and screen-printing their own merchandise to distribute at such events;
- the aim of a 'curriculum for life' which included researching what young people wanted to learn (and how) and using this to create an information resource for teachers, lobbying MP's and local Councillors and creating lesson plans around democracy and youth voice and pilot this in local primary schools (year 6);
- the campaigns and focus on mental health and the environment with activities such as researching which schools were using positive mental health strategies and to share these as best practice, showing and reducing the impact of our actions on the environment through carrying out direct actions to improve the Devon environment, promoting local environmental activities and working with local environmental organisations and supporting schools to use less plastic and become more aware of their environmental impact.

The Cabinet Member and the Chair, on behalf of the Council, both expressed their gratitude to the Devon UKYP Team for all their hard work and efforts in representing and 'sharing' the voice of young people in Devon, the ways they could influence national and local policy making and the ways in which Members of the Council could assist them, for example, the environment forum in October, help get schools signed up to Make Your Mark, to meet youth representatives from local schools to improve connections and also sign up to the newsletter.

215 Public Participation: Petitions, Questions and Representations

The Leader was presented by Ms Augenthaler on behalf of the Exeter Halt 5G group with a petition containing approximately 107 signatures relating to halting 5G in Exeter. There was also an ongoing petition on Change.Org containing 962 signatures (although not all the signatures could be verified as people living and / or working in Devon in line with the Council's Petitions Scheme).

The relevant Cabinet Member or Head of Service would be asked to respond direct to the petitioner on the issues raised, within 15 days.

In accordance with the Council's Public Participation Rules, the relevant Cabinet Members responded to 13 questions from members of the public on the advice and guidance provided by Public Health England (PHE) regarding the health and safety of mobile technologies including 5G and the independence of advice received, the awareness of the Council of 5G concerns and prevention of any rollout, consultation with the public about 5G and public health guidance on radio waves and International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) statements, 3G/4G harm to humans and the 5G appeal petition calling for an independent study regarding EMF's and its risks, pre-planning investigations prior to planning applications for 5G infrastructure, decisions being made on bringing 5G into the area before investigations into health consequences, the Princesshay City Bee project and the

safety of Exeter's bees in light of 5G radiation, assurances to citizens that all peer reviewed studies were examined relating to the biological effects of 5G frequencies, invoking a moratorium on 5G and applying the principle of precaution, the testing of existing 2, 3 and 4G microwave radiation levels, studying and understanding available data and independent metering and recording of electromagnetic frequency levels, disclosure of information with telecommunications companies and / or mobile network operators regarding 5G rollout, Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines and declaration of a moratorium on 5G technology until evidence of effects had been examined and the implementation of a system which was untested, untried and without evidence of its safety.

The Cabinet Members also responded orally to supplementary questions arising from the above.

A copy of the questions and answers would be sent to those who were not present at the meeting.

The Chair thanked all members of the public for their contributions.

(NB: A copy of the questions and answers are appended to these minutes and are available on the Council's Website at <http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=132&Year=0>. Any supplementary questions and answers may be observed through the webcast of this meeting.

216 Petitions from Members of the Council

The Leader was presented by Councillor Hellyer on behalf Mrs Lynne Prouse (Monkleigh Parish Council) containing some 25 signatures on speeding through the village of Saltrens.

[NB: The relevant Chief Officer / 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>)

217 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 the Housing Infrastructure Fund - bids and awards and work to ensure infrastructure investment reached all parts of the County, the recent House of Lords Select Committee Report on the rural economy including any pertinent messages and action for Devon, the actions of the Council to reduce its carbon footprint and other plans to further reduce carbon footprints, pedestrian flow at the A39 Pilton Bridge junction and Abbey Road, Pilton and options to improve pedestrian safety, progress on providing a Park and Ride on the north west side of Exeter and fixed penalty notices issued on bank holidays.

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

[NB: See also responses to Questions referred to at Minute 215. 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]

218 Cabinet Member Reports

(Councillor Biederman declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in this matter by virtue of being an employee of the Post Office and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration).

The Council received reports from the relevant Cabinet Members on specific issues upon which they had been asked to comment and report, as set out below:

(a) Highways Management

Councillor Hughes commented, as requested by Councillor Biederman, on the risk management process for diversion routes (when a road had to be closed) including responsibility for checking all was in place, was safe and had the appropriate signage.

The Cabinet Member for Highways Management highlighted that when applying for any road closures, a works promoter must provide adequate information and plans including signing to be employed and any diversion route. It was also their responsibility to consider risks and mitigate these before submitting their proposal. Any diversion route used had to be of a standard equal to or exceeding the road being closed and only in exceptional circumstances was this not applied. Once approval was given, the responsibility rested with the works promoter regarding implementation and the Council would perform proportionate checks, signing and diversion route as necessary, or if issues arose. The Cabinet Member highlighted that the Council could not be held responsible for any unreasonable actions of the motoring public and evidence of non-adherence to traffic signs, signals, inconsiderate driving, use of pavements etc as this was a matter for the appropriate enforcing organisation.

The Cabinet Member responded to questions on pedestrian symbol reinstatement in Exeter, representations to the Secretary of State for Transport on highways maintenance funding and planned work at Penn Inn roundabout in Newton Abbot.

(b) Economy and Skills

Councillor Gilbert circulated a Report, as requested by Councillor Hannaford, on the potential for a new economic powerhouse for the UK encompassing Newport, Cardiff and Bristol. The recently published report on the matter called for a number of measures to support businesses and made the case for a cross-border stretch along the M4 corridor from Swindon and across the Welsh border to Cardiff and Swansea, and in the North from Gloucester and Cheltenham to Bath and Bristol.

The Cabinet Member highlighted how the Council was working with other local authorities in the Heart of the South West area to deliver economic development goals, through the Heart of the South West Joint Committee, to champion the economic needs of this area with a united voice. The Joint Committee was recognised and welcomed by Government who had assigned senior civil servants to work with the partnership.

He referred to the agreed Productivity Strategy in place, which identified priorities and goals to improve productivity and develop the economy in the area and also that the Joint Committee was contributing to work on the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) for the area (led by the HotSW LEP with Government).

The Cabinet Member advised that the Great Western Powerhouse Report appeared ambitious and also seemed to have support from within the area covered, however, it did not overlap with or detract from the strategies and priorities for Devon or the wider Great South West area.

He further reported, as requested by Councillor Hannaford on protecting farming, fishing and food production in Devon on the advent of a no deal Brexit and responded to both Councillors Connett and Shaw on the arrangements being made by the Council to support and assist residents and communities to prepare both for Brexit and post Brexit, following the UK's departure from the European Union and the consequences of no deal Brexit for Devon. In particular, he highlighted that the Council was working closely with all local partners to prepare for Brexit and help everyone in Devon deal with the situation, whatever the final outcome was.

He advised the Council that the Chief Executive was the South West Regional Communication lead reporting directly into Government in relation to EU Exit implications and he also chaired the Devon and Somerset Brexit Resilience and Opportunities Group (BROG),

established following the EU Referendum which also provided evidence and research to Whitehall. This group had undertaken a great deal of work with local farming, fish and food and drink industries, including solution focused practical proposals such as re-purposing business support and advice; strengthening regulatory services to provide assistance in terms of labelling, export and imports; lobbying for EU funding and improving ports and harbour capacity.

Whilst it was difficult for the Council to predict and plan, it was determined to play a lead role in assisting communities and businesses in whatever scenario occurred, for example being a Member of the Local Resilience Forum in response to a major incident (which was likely in the event of a No Deal Brexit).

The Cabinet Member reported on all the work being undertaken such as Business Continuity Planning, supplying information to Local Resilience Forums, working through professional associations and pressing Government for impact assessments and assumptions to inform planning.

The Chief Executive had been invited by the Secretary of State for MHCLG to be one of 9 Regional Chief Executive Communication links, representing the South West and working with 41 Councils and 5 Local Resilience Forums across the South-West to feed Brexit issues, identified by local authorities and partners, directly to Government.

The Cabinet Member also responded to questions from the floor on the event in Taunton to help SME's, the potential for a newsletter and the importance of supporting vulnerable people as well as businesses.

(c) Children's Services and Schools

Councillor McInnes circulated a Report, as requested by Councillor Hannaford on progress being made to ensure that support was implemented at the earliest opportunity (including academies, faith schools and other organisational models) regarding access to free sanitary products in England's primary schools from early 2020, following the Government's commitment in April 2019. He highlighted that the DfE was working with key stakeholders in both public and private sector to roll-out the programme. Within Devon, the current understanding was that all secondary schools and the majority of primary schools were providing access to free sanitary products when needed. In many cases, this was delivered through the Red box Project.

He reported back to Councillor Connett on the arrangements of the Council to ensure children had one proper meal per day during the school holidays. The Cabinet Member said Government had recognised the issue of 'Holiday Hunger' and £9.1 million had been allocated to help tackle the problem, but there was currently no allocation for the County Council footprint. The Cabinet Member supplied graphs within his Report on the number of children eligible for and claiming free school meals with comparisons to England, regional and statistical neighbour numbers, but stated the statistics masked 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.

The Report also referred to a Plymouth project <https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2018-08-02/help-for-plymouth-families-facing-holiday-hunger/> and also the challenge for Devon in terms of geography. The Public Health Team had collated information on where families could get free or low-cost food onto a searchable webpage which had been widely circulated to schools, all Children's Centres and the Public Health Nursing Service. <http://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/library/schools/food-poverty-and-schools/free-or-low-cost-food-during-summer-holidays-2019/>

He further reported in response to Councillor Dewhirst on the provision of Free School Meals (FSM) in Devon in the light of the report by Citizens UK that up to £65 million of funding was

being diverted away from the provision of Free School Meals. The Cabinet Member highlighted that individual schools (academies or maintained) were responsible for securing the provision of Free School Meals within their establishments, therefore a wide range of delivery systems were used. This meant there wasn't just one single answer and it was a matter for schools to ensure the way school meals were purchased represented best value and adhered to funding regulations set out by the DfE.

Devon Norse were the largest provider of primary school meals. Contracts were run on a cost-plus basis, therefore, if a child eligible for a free primary school meal didn't take the meal the caterer didn't directly benefit. In the two secondary schools where Norse was the supplier, they operated an online payment system and cash payment system. Students eligible for free school meals received a credit of £2.20 and if this was not used / partly used then remaining credit balance was lost. The following day a new £2.20 credit was available.

The Cabinet Member lastly responded to Councillor Aves on the current and ongoing situation at the South Dartmoor Community College and the South Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust, the role of the Regional Schools Commissioner and improving communication and transparency. He outlined that the Trust had recently appointed experienced interim executive leaders to drive strategic direction, ensure stability and sound financial management. He reported on the outcome of the consultation on the proposed restructure and that the Trust had been working closely with the Education and Skills Funding Agency to address the areas outlined in the Financial Notice to Improve. An action plan was also being implemented. He advised there had been a meeting with parents on the 18th June, the previous Principal of SDCC had stepped down, the appointment of an interim principal (Mr Dyke) and the work of the Trust with the Office of the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) for the South West to help find a suitable partner within South Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust.

The Local Authority was in communication with the RSC about a variety of schools and emphasised the importance of regular open and transparent communication with parents and other stakeholders. From the Autumn, regular face to face meetings had been arranged to ensure close join up regarding both existing and new schools.

The Cabinet Member also responded to questions from the floor on working with foodbanks and the how the £9.1 million funding was allocated.

(d) Community, Public Health, Transportation and Environment

Councillor Croad reported, as requested by Councillor Hannaford on the HPV vaccination programme, in particular the expansion of the programme to cover boys from September 2019.

The Cabinet Member highlighted that immunisation was the responsibility of NHS England and the screening and immunisation team commissioned the delivery of the HPV (human papilloma virus) vaccination programme, which was being delivered in Devon by Virgin Care Ltd. The programme would be offered to boys aged 12-13 and there were 6839 eligible boys this year. The rollout mirrored that of the girls' programme.

The service was receiving good numbers of consents and queries but there was no available data yet. However, the extension of the programme would strengthen protection by increasing 'herd' immunity and would prevent more cases of HPV-related cancers.

He also reported on how post office closures would affect Devon, in particular, rural communities, as requested by Councillor Atkinson, pointing out that the Council had been actively engaged in putting forward its views on the future of Post Offices. In April 2019 the Council had responded to the call for evidence from the Parliamentary Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee's Inquiry into the Postal Network. The Cabinet Member outlined the Executive Summary of the evidence submitted, including the potential for increasing the role Post Offices played in providing basic banking services and also the recommendations that were submitted to the Inquiry. These included opportunities for further commercial

support for rural, coastal and other 'community' critical post office locations and the potential for Government to better utilise and work with the post office network on wider service delivery.

The Cabinet Member also responded to questions from the floor on Post Offices and transport links and the mapping of this information, publicising information for Parish Councils who might be interested in establishing a Post Office Counter in their area and good news initiatives that had been happening around the County.

(e) Infrastructure Development and Waste

Councillor Davis circulated a Report, as requested by Councillor Connett, on progress with Marsh Barton Rail station, highlighting that delivery of the station was a long-standing aspiration for the County as part of its Devon Metro strategy. There had been a number of issues that had caused costs to escalate and therefore delayed construction. The delay had given the opportunity to re-think the design and produce an alternative solution, which provided additional benefits to pedestrians and cyclists, whilst still delivering the new Station. The Cabinet Member outlined the several challenges ahead to ensure the scheme was delivered such as planning, rail technical approvals, maximising efficiencies through rail possessions and managing works when they got to site.

Funding had been secured which covered the project estimate cost, but progress was dependent on Network Rail responding promptly to the various technical approvals, which could be time consuming and complicated. As DfT provided additional support with Newcourt on the New Stations Fund scheme, the Council had contacted DfT again to assist in encouraging a collaborative effort on the project.

(e) Adult Social Care and Health Services

Councillor Leadbetter commented, as requested by Councillor Connett on discussions between the Council about the future of or future uses of community hospitals in the County.

The Cabinet Member said he would respond further in writing to all Members.

He also responded to questions from the floor on NHS property services and other partnership work across the County.

219 Minutes

The Chair of the Council **MOVED and it was duly SECONDED** that the Minutes of the under-mentioned meetings of Committees be approved, including proposed amendments to financial regulations in the Constitution, as set out at minute 64 and the amendments to the remit of the Appointments and Remuneration Committee and the appointment of an Appeals (Chief Officer) Committee, as outlined at minute 66.

Audit Committee	-	21 May 2019
Development Management Committee	-	5 June 2019
Standards Committee	-	10 June and 16 July 2019
Appeals Committee	-	17 June and 15 July 2019
Investment & Pension Fund Committee	-	28 June 2019
Public Rights of Way Committee	-	4 July 2019
Procedures Committee	-	9 July 2019
Children's Scrutiny	-	10 June 2019
Health & Adult Care Scrutiny	-	18 June 2019
<i>(minute *131 was called for debate by Councillor Shaw)</i>		
Corporate Infrastructure & Regulatory Services Scrutiny	-	25 June 2019

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

220 Free Personal Care (Minute 207 - 23 May 2019)

Pursuant to County Council Minute 207 of 23 May 2019 relating to the Notice of Motion set out below as previously submitted and formally moved and seconded by Councillor Biederman that:

Devon County Council notes that over a million older people in England are struggling with unmet care needs and believes that in light of an ageing population we need bold changes to deliver a long term funding solution for social care.

Devon County Council believes that it is fundamentally unfair that to access basic care many older people face catastrophic costs that can run into hundreds of thousands of pounds, wipe out a lifetime of savings, and force families to sell their homes.

Devon County Council also believes that England's care system needs major reform to provide a long-term sustainable funding solution and to make care free at the point of use.

Devon County Council therefore supports Independent Age's call for the introduction of free personal care for all older people in England, alongside a new social care contribution to fully fund the policy on a sustainable basis.

Devon County Council calls on the Government to take the necessary steps to implement this policy as swiftly as possible to end the care crisis and properly support older people in Devon.

Devon County Council also calls on our local MP(s) to support the campaign for free personal care, and to speak up in favour of the policy in the House of Commons and through their wider engagements.

and having had regard to the advice of the Cabinet set out in Minute 360(a) of 12 June 2019:

Councillor Hart **MOVED** and Councillor McInnes **SECONDED** that the Cabinet's advice be accepted and in response to the Notice of Motion;

(a) that the Council urges the Government to publish the Adult Social Care Green Paper without further delay and, furthermore, responds to the proposals in that Green Paper when it is published and ensures that Members across the Council are engaged and can contribute to such an important issue; and

(b) that the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health Services, continue his dialogue with Devon MPs to lobby central Government for the health and care arrangements, including the workforce requirements, that are in the best interests of all adults in Devon regardless of their age or specific health and care needs.

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.

10 Point Green Action Plan (Minute 208 - 23 May 2019)

Pursuant to County Council Minute 208 of 23 May 2019 relating to the Notice of Motion set out below as previously submitted and formally moved and seconded by Councillor Wright that:

This council notes its resolution on declaring a climate emergency in Devon, in February.

This council notes also that officers launched the policy on wildflower verges earlier this month. Huge congratulations to the officers who helped bring this about.

The government has now declared a state of climate emergency across the UK, following the actions of Extinction Rebellion.

Climate change and other human activity is now causing species to decline at a rate unprecedented in human history, with three-quarters of land-based environments and two-thirds of the marine environment significantly altered.

Devon County Council, with its positive record on the environment is well placed to work with others to help mitigate the catastrophe coming our way.

Therefore, this council agrees to:

- 1. Call on the government to offer all pollinators full legal protection from harm*
- 2. Write to all Devon outlets stocking bee harming pesticides, and urge them to permanently cancel their order with the suppliers*
- 3. Take action to phase out all glyphosate pesticides used in council weed spraying or any other council related activity, by December 2019 (there may be exceptional circumstances such as dealing with specific non native species, such as Japanese knotweed)*
- 4. Support Devon County Council tenant farmers in phasing out the use of inorganic fertilisers (such as nitrogen) by December 2023*
- 5. Support Devon County Council tenant farmers in setting aside 10 per cent of their land for wildlife and/or wildflower mixes for pollinators*
- 6. Work with community groups and non-government organisations such as Devon Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust to support Devon County Council tenant farmers to set aside five per cent of their land for tree planting*
- 7. Work with community groups and non-government organisations such as Devon Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust on supporting town and parish councils, schools and community groups to set aside land for tree planting*
- 8. Develop a policy on soil health good practice, with an emphasis on allowing land to recover and phasing out damaging chemicals, which are ultimately sterilising the land. This would include setting appropriate and reasonable targets for Devon County Council tenant farmers*
- 9. Work with South West Water on a campaign to save water across the county, with an emphasis on education about future water scarcity. Specifically target town and parish councils, community groups and schools to raise awareness of the importance of good water practice*
- 10. Support Devon Wildlife Trust's campaign by calling on the Environment Secretary to allocate a further eight Marine Conservation Zones to Devon's waters. Details can*

be found on the DWT website - <https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/take-action/marine-conservation-zones>

and having had regard to the advice of the Cabinet set out in Minute 360 (b) of 12 June 2019:

Councillor Hart **MOVED** and Councillor McInnes **SECONDED** that the Cabinet's advice be accepted and the spirit of the Notice of Motion be approved and;

(a) that the Council endorse the principle of further action by Devon County Council to address environmental issues in line with the global concerns highlighted through relevant intergovernmental panels; and

(b) mandates the Environmental Performance Board to consider how relevant issues raised by the 10 Point Green Action Plan might be addressed through relevant changes or additions to its suite of action plans, in the light of the opportunities and constraints highlighted by Appendix 1 of Report (CSO/19/14).

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

Councillor Wright then **MOVED** and Councillor Shaw **SECONDED** that the Motion amended by the addition of paragraph (c), as below.

(c) writes to the new environment secretary, Theresa Villiers, congratulating her on her new role, underlining the importance of tackling climate breakdown and the associated crisis in nature, water and soil, including Devon County Council's own response to it.

The amendment in the name of Councillor Wright 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**.

222 Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Organisations (Minute 209 - 23 May 2019)

Pursuant to County Council Minute 209 of 23 May 2019 relating to the Notice of Motion set out below as previously submitted and formally moved and seconded by Councillor Hodgson that:

Full Council recognises the valuable and considerable contribution community groups and associated enterprises make towards waste reduction and recycling. To this end it commits to continued financial support where a waste project has proved successful in supporting the delivery of the Council's waste services in line with its policies and priorities. Full Council further recognises that continued financial support can be vital to the viability of such organisations

The recent public consultation on the Reuse Credit Scheme (RCS) demonstrated the success and popularity of the three main community organisations who deliver these services and divert an extensive tonnage of waste from landfill for less than £50,000 p.a. These organisations have made a clear case that DCC financial support for their services is essential to their continued viability.

(when DCC ceased its funding of the large number of community composting groups, and reduced the landfill tax support it paid them for diverting waste - approximately 60 groups at the time- over half of them ceased to operate within 12 months; resulting in a major reduction in the volume of biodegradable waste being diverted from landfill)

and having had regard to the advice of the Cabinet set out in Minute 360 (c) of 12 June 2019:

Councillor Hart **MOVED** and Councillor McInnes **SECONDED** that the Cabinet's advice be accepted and that no further action be taken on the Notice of Motion at this stage, but that the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure Development and Waste considers the Notice of Motion alongside the results of the consultation and the priorities of Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee, when the matter is considered by that Committee.

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.

223

Future of the Post Office

(Councillor Biederman declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in this matter by virtue of being an employee of the Post Office and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration).

Councillor Hannaford **MOVED** and Councillor Whitton **SECONDED**, as amended below and with the consent of the Council.

Council notes with concern that;

Britain's 11,500 post office branches are facing mounting financial pressures. It is claimed financial pressures have already forced up to 1,000 out of business. More customers are now going online to buy stamps and parcels for postage. More people are also using the web to pay bills and to use government services. Government subsidies for remote post office branches have already fallen from £415million in 2013-14 to £99million in 2017-18. Under current plans this will fall further to £50million in 2020-21 before being stopped completely. At the moment Post Office Limited, which is owned by the Government, replaces branches when they shut, but campaigners have warned that the rate of closures in the coming years will make this impossible.

This Council believes that:

Our post offices are a key asset for our communities in Devon, and the expertise and experience of staff there is invaluable. The relentless franchising and closure programme of the profit-making Crown post Offices, points to a lack of vision rather than the plan for growth and innovation that is needed. Government should therefore halt these closures and bring together stakeholders, including the CWU, industry experts, and business leaders, to develop a new strategy that safeguards the future of the Post office.

Therefore Council resolves;

To formally write to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and all our local Members of Parliament, calling on the Government to guarantee their future. We are calling for the network to be properly funded, with a full range of services over the counter for those who are not online, and better support for the development of community hub models.

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

224 Boosting South West Railway Investment

Councillor Hannaford **MOVED** and Councillor Ackland **SECONDED**

*Council is concerned that the **£56 billion HS2** rail scheme has little or no direct economic, social or infrastructure benefits for the South West region.*

Council considers that the existing rail links between London, Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester are already good, if not excellent, and in stark comparison to the far South West, that has dated and frail rail connections, that badly need new substantial strategic investment.

Council notes the recent report by the New Economics Foundation “A Rail Network For Everyone – Probing HS2 And Its Alternatives”, that includes rerouting the current HS2 funding to other regional rail improvements to improve local connectivity across the UK.

Council further notes other recent professional reports, representations and cross party discussions at Parliament, that have also recommended this move to invest in alternative railway investment away from HS2.

*As part of this process Council supports that reallocation of HS2 funds for the following **local projects**:*

- *Improve connectivity to **Bristol Temple Meads** - to boost this transport hubs rail links - **£125m***
- *Rebuild **Cullompton Station** – lost since 1964, connecting the town to Exeter and Bristol, in tandem with the proposed 5,000 new homes at the garden village - **£15m***
- ***Exeter to Plymouth via Okehampton** - to improve sustainability, resilience, and green travel, in line with the ongoing substantial new housing developments - **£500m***
- ***Cross Cornwall Rail Link** – to improve links between East and West Cornwall - **£125m.***
- *Reopen the **Bodmin to Wadebridge** railway line – to convert the community line back into more active service - **£125m.***

*And the national scheme to **build cycle paths next to motorways and A roads**, to create **7,600 miles** of new routes to boost cycling - **£1.82bn.***

*Council resolves to make formal representations to the **Parliamentary Transport Committee**, the **Secretary of State for Transport**, the **Chancellor**, the **Prime Minister** and all **local Members of Parliament** to support this reallocation of strategic infrastructure investment, and work with other key regional partners to move matters forward.*

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

225 Appledore Shipyard Renationalisation

Councillor Hannaford **MOVED** and Councillor Asvachin **SECONDED**

Council notes that Appledore Shipyard has a long and proud history of building and repairing vessels, and general engineering work since its founding in 1855.

Council is gravely concerned that despite having a highly skilled, dedicated and innovative local work force the shipyard remains closed.

Council reflects that this area of Devon has high levels of child poverty, poor infrastructure and very high rates of rural poverty generally, all of which require more public investment and intervention.

Council calls on the Government to re-nationalise Appledore Shipyard and fully integrate the site and its operations into the Ministry of Defence, to secure its long term future, ensure that defence capacity and resilience are maintained, and provide employment and prosperity to the local community, and the wider county of Devon.

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

226 Veterans Pledge

Councillor Scott **MOVED** and Councillor Hall **SECONDED**

This Council supports and urges the Government and new Prime Minister to implement the Veterans Pledge and legislate to:

- 1) create an Office of Veterans Affairs within the Cabinet Office, with a Cabinet-level Minister, to ensure world-class care and support for former Armed Forces personnel;*
- 2) enshrine the Military Covenant into law, so that no veteran or their family should ever face any disadvantage because of their service for this country; and*
- 3) end vexatious investigations into historical allegations against our troops - including in Northern Ireland - to be passed before the next General Election.*

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 Councillor Channon.

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 5.14 pm



QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Thursday 25 July 2019

1. QUESTION FROM C. KAY (ATTENDING)
Re: Health and Safety of Mobile Technologies

The County Council draws on the advice and guidance provided by Public Health England (PHE) regarding the health and safety of mobile technologies including 5G. PHE & other agencies, for example the WHO, rely on advice from the International Commission on Non-ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). However, this agency is not independent, is run by telecommunications industry executives and gives misleading and out dated data about safety limits & health effects. With this in mind, and following the precautionary principle, will the council, like other bodies within the UK and other countries, seek a moratorium on the roll out of 5G within the county until independent research has been authorised? "

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

The County Council is not involved with mobile infrastructure planning applications, this is a District Council responsibility as part of the planning authority remit. Where street furniture is concerned, we are not aware of any Council assets that are currently hosting mobile network operators 5G technologies, but we would review any such request from mobile network operators in accordance with Government guidance and PHE guidance.

2. QUESTION FROM Z. BATSTONE (NOT ATTENDING)
Re: Rollout of 5G Network and Health Risks

I have been very concerned about the rollout of 5G network in UK cities, as this technology has widely been warned against as harmful to human health and all other living beings in our environment. I don't want to suffer ill health because of this and I don't want my children to grow up in harmful environment when we can prevent it. It is microwaves, so it doesn't take one to be an expert to deduce that there indeed are likely to be impacts, especially to those sensitive to wireless technology and radiation.

We have also seen that in other parts of the Earth, these health risks have been recognised seriously and for example the whole of Japan banned 5G rollout, as well as Brussels, cities in Italy and other countries.

My question is: Is the Devon Council aware of these concerns and therefore as a consequence, is the Council going to do the right thing for their people and electorate, and stop the rollout of 5G network?

Let me say also this: I am of course aware of the promotion of 5G by companies and overall as the fantastic new technology that is going to unlock whatever potential. Do we, do people, actually want this ??? I don't believe it will bring such change, we already have 3G and 4G with fantastic abilities. It is extremely important to do the right thing and not risk people's health through 5G rollout.

Thank you in advance for your answer and no doubt reassurance.

Minute Item 215

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

The County Council draws on the advice and guidance provided by Public Health England (PHE) regarding the health and safety of mobile technologies including 5G. PHE continues to monitor the health-related evidence applicable to radio waves, including in relation to base stations, and is committed to updating its advice as required. The County Council has been in touch with PHE (June 2019) to ask for any further advice. PHE responded to confirm that their briefing note on 5G is still current, and PHE has also recently updated its website with information on 5G.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phone-base-stations-radio-waves-and-health/mobile-phone-base-stations-radio-waves-and-health>

Public Health England (PHE) advises the Government on appropriate public health standards for protection from exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (EMFs), or radio waves. PHE's main advice is that the guidelines of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) should be adopted and there is no convincing evidence that exposures below the ICNIRP guideline levels cause adverse health effects. ICNIRP is formally recognised as an official collaborating non-governmental organisation by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization. ICNIRP is also consulted by the European Commission. Advice from PHE includes comprehensive scientific review reports and statements on topics.

3. **QUESTION FROM MR N TURNER (ATTENDING)** **Re: Public Consultation around the Deployment of 5G**

I would like to know why the general public has not been consulted about the deployment of 5G and asked whether we wish to have this technology which has been untested for safety, forced on us?

Public Health England's (PHE) Guidance Report on Wi-Fi radio waves and health, published 1st November 2013 states on page 23: "The body is particularly effective at absorbing radio waves.....the body then behaves as an antenna absorbing energy....." Thus, we are all being affected in one way or another.

The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) states that different groups within a population may vary in their ability to tolerate a particular non-ionising radiation (NIR) exposure. For example, children, the elderly and some chronically ill people have a lower tolerance to one or more categories of NIR exposure than the rest of the population.

It goes against our human rights. Therefore, it should be halted and independent safety tests carried out.

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

Public Health England's Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards (CRCE) is responsible for providing public health advice to local authorities. The conclusion of this advice is that it is possible that there may be a small increase in overall exposure to radio waves when 5G is added to an existing network or in a new area; however, the overall exposure is expected to remain low relative to guidelines and as such there should be no consequences for public health. Public Health England is committed to monitoring the evidence applicable to this and other radio technologies and to revising its advice on the basis of independent evidence.

4. **QUESTION FROM MRS WELLS (ATTENDING)** **Re: Independent Study into the Effects of 5G**

I am a Grandmother of 5 children aged from 6 months to 15 years and I'm sure that most of DCC are parents or Grandparents. There is proven science that 3G/4G are known to cause harm to humans & biology at levels lower than the current Guidelines given by the WHO, PHE & ICNIRP. (Reference DR Erica Mallory-Blythe).

Babies in uterus & young children have a smaller less dense body mass & their skulls are thinner than an adult's. Therefore, any high frequency radiation will be more potent. Doctors believe up to 60% more. There has been no research into how the many levels of EMF's (Electromagnetic Frequencies) combined together 3,4&5G will affect sensitive, vulnerable groups like children.

The 5G appeal petition signed by over 200 scientists is calling for this Independent study. It is known by the medical profession & Peer Reviewed science that the quickest growing rate of illness in 5-19 year olds is sadness. Suicide rates are rising & becoming the highest cause of death in children.

EMF's affect the natural rhythm of the brain/body health, increase harmful free radicals, cause genetic damage, neurological disorders & further risk of infertility in males & females.

I ask DCC have you even considered the potential high risk of damage to children & young adults by EMF's, particularly with 5G being rolled out across Exeter in 2020, can DCC assure me that they have been advised by an Independent Scientific body that this vulnerable group in our community will be safe from 5G exposure and will DCC be responsible for any or all adverse medical disease or debilitating illness that this vulnerable group in our society may be effected by due to the increased EMF exposure of 5G?

I do not consent to be a part of this 5G experiment on human life & I do not want my grandchildren harmed by this untested technology.

I ask DCC to invoke the Precautionary Principle until further Independent study away from the Telecom industry is completed & the Community of Devon know that they are being held safe & future generations will be able to flourish in a healthy environment.

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

As stated above, Public Health England's Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards (CRCE) is responsible for providing public health advice to local authorities. The County Council is not involved with mobile infrastructure planning applications; this is a District Council responsibility as part of the planning authority remit. Larger requests do require planning permission and an application, and are accompanied with certificates stating the site operates safe levels of ionising radiation. These are issued by ICNIRP (International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection): <https://www.icnirp.org>. Where street furniture is concerned, we are not aware of any Council assets that are currently hosting mobile network operators 5G technologies, but we would review any such request from mobile network operators in accordance with Government guidance and PHE guidance.

5. QUESTION FROM MS HARVEY (ATTENDING) Re: Pre-Planning investigation into 5G

Has Devon County Council carried out a pre planning investigation prior to planning application being granted for any 5G infrastructure?

If not, I would like to request that a pre planning investigation is carried out using independent research and evidence to ascertain the safety or not of 5G, prior to any planning application being granted.

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

The County Council is not involved with mobile infrastructure planning applications, this is a District Council responsibility as part of the planning authority remit. Where street furniture is

Minute Item 215

concerned, we are not aware of any Council assets that are currently hosting mobile network operators 5G technologies, but we would review any such request from mobile network operators in accordance with Government guidance and PHE guidance.

6. QUESTION FROM MRS CLIMIE (ATTENDING)
Re: Health Consequences of 5G

I wanted to ask why decisions were being made about bringing 5G in this area before proper investigation into health consequences to both people and other living beings.

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

The County Council draws on the advice and guidance provided by Public Health England (PHE) regarding the health and safety of mobile technologies including 5G. PHE continues to monitor the health-related evidence applicable to radio waves, including in relation to base stations, and is committed to updating its advice as required. The County Council has been in touch with PHE (June 2019) to ask for any further advice. PHE responded to confirm that its briefing note on 5G is still current, and PHE has also recently updated its website with information on 5G.

Public Health England (PHE) advises the Government on appropriate public health standards for protection from exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (EMFs), or radio waves. PHE's main advice is that the guidelines of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) should be adopted and there is no convincing evidence that exposures below the ICNIRP guideline levels cause adverse health effects. ICNIRP is formally recognised as an official collaborating non-governmental organisation by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization. ICNIRP is also consulted by the European Commission. Advice from PHE includes comprehensive scientific review reports and statements on topics.

The County Council is not involved with mobile infrastructure planning applications, this is a District Council responsibility as part of the planning authority remit. Where street furniture is concerned, we are not aware of any Council assets that are currently hosting mobile network operators 5G technologies, but we would review any such request from mobile network operators in accordance with Government guidance and PHE guidance.

As a County Council we have no current plans to make use of 5G in our "ICT roadmap" to 2020.

7. QUESTION FROM MS WAKEFIELD (ATTENDING)
Re: Princesshay City Bee Project

Exeter has been very innovative in many ways and is home to Princesshay City Bee project. There are five hives with reports of up to 300,000 busy bees enjoying their rooftop existence.

My question to the council is that in view of the considerable scientific reports showing that radiation is deadly for bees and also the huge numbers of photographs showing dead bees in locations where 5g has been implemented (illegally and without testing), in what way is provision being made for the safety of the Exeter bees? In what way is the council prepared for the inevitable onslaught of furore and anger when these colonies are decimated?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

The County Council is not involved with mobile infrastructure planning applications, this is a District Council responsibility as part of their local planning authority remit. On this basis, it will be Exeter City Council's role to give consideration to such issues. Where street furniture is concerned, we are not aware of any Council assets that are currently hosting mobile network operators 5G technologies.

8. QUESTION FROM MR WILSON (ATTENDING)
Re: Peer Reviewed Studies and 5G rollout

As a former medical scientist, I am worried about 5G rollout which represents a quantum leap into the unknown. My question is:

In the event of a possible 5G rollout in Exeter, can you assure the citizens of Exeter that you will examine all peer reviewed studies related to the biological effects of 5G frequencies and if there is any doubt about safety in regard to human, animal, avian, insect or plant life apply the Precautionary Principle and do not proceed with its deployment?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

All advice and Guidance regarding the health and safety of mobile technologies including 5G is sourced by the County Council from the Public Health England (PHE).

PHE continues to monitor the health-related evidence applicable to radio waves, including in relation to base stations, and is committed to updating its advice as required. Since concerns have arose regarding 5G, the County Council have been in touch with PHE (June 2019) to ask for any further advice. PHE responded to confirm that its briefing note on 5G is still current, and PHE has also recently updated its website with information on 5G.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phone-base-stations-radio-waves-and-health/mobile-phone-base-stations-radio-waves-and-health>

Public Health England (PHE) advises the Government on appropriate public health standards for protection from exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (EMFs), or radio waves. PHE's main advice is that the guidelines of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) should be adopted and there is no convincing evidence that exposures below the ICNIRP guideline levels cause adverse health effects. ICNIRP is formally recognised as an official collaborating non-governmental organisation by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization. ICNIRP is also consulted by the European Commission. Advice from PHE includes comprehensive scientific review reports and statements on topics.

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As a County Council we have no current plans to make use of 5G in our "ICT roadmap" to 2020.

9. QUESTION FROM MS AUGENTHALER (ATTENDING)
Re: Health Impact of 5G on Children and Pollinators

I am gravely concerned about telecommunication industries rolling out 5G in the county of Devon and about 5G compatible street furniture (such as LED street lights) being installed throughout Devon and the serious impact this rollout would have on the health of all of us, especially on the health of the children as well as on pollinators. I would urge Councillors to read the following article <https://www.5gspaceappeal.org/the-appeal> on peer-reviewed scientific studies demonstrating the harm to human health.

Brussels and Rome have invoked a moratorium on 5G as the relevant data could not prove that the new technology was safe and Glastonbury Council has invoked the principle of precaution, therefore I am asking DCC to invoke the precautionary principle so that the rollout of 5G can be halted in the county of Devon until there are sufficient independent studies proving that 5G is safe and that the 10 000 scientific studies cited above are wrong.

Minute Item 215

We have collected more than 900 signatures of local residents and are continuing to collect signatures to provide valid proof that the community are concerned.

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

The County Council is not involved with mobile infrastructure planning applications, this is a District Council responsibility as part of the planning authority remit. Where street furniture is concerned, we are not aware of any Council assets that are currently hosting mobile network operators 5G technologies, but we would review any such request from mobile network operators in accordance with Government guidance and PHE guidance.

As a County Council we have no current plans to make use of 5G in our "ICT roadmap" to 2020.

10. QUESTION FROM MR MOORE (ATTENDING) Re: testing of existing 2G, 3G and 4G

I am diagnosed as RF (radio frequency) EMF sensitive (Electromagnetic Frequency Sensitive) meaning I was forced to give up my job and move away from Bristol City to escape the microwave pollution that I was exposed to. The RF and EMF Radiation had over a period of time caused me to become deeply sick so I am concerned regarding the microwave radiation levels already existing in Devon and am horrified to hear of the planned introduction of even higher and potentially more harmful EMF's to be transmitted.

My question is regarding the testing of the existing 2,3 and 4G microwave radiation levels already transmitted within the Devon county council area. Can any Member of the Council admit to studying and understanding all the available data regarding microwave radiation science, including the PHD studies proving the biological effects of non-ionizing radiation (my own research tell me the information from PHE or ICNIRP is out of date and cannot be relied upon). Can Members assure me under the Councils Constitution to protect our community and perhaps even under personal legal liability and whether independent metering / recording of Electromagnetic frequency's levels has regularly taken place and are reviewed by completely independent experts.

It is my view that observation of the precautionary principle needs to be applied on this important matter and that due diligence is applied for the health and wellbeing of everyone in the County.

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

The County Council draws on the advice and guidance provided by Public Health England (PHE) regarding the health and safety of mobile technologies including 5G. PHE continues to monitor the health-related evidence applicable to radio waves, including in relation to base stations, and is committed to updating its advice as required. The County Council has been in touch with PHE (June 2019) to ask for any further advice. PHE responded to confirm that its briefing note on 5G is still current, and PHE has also recently updated its website with information on 5G.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phone-base-stations-radio-waves-and-health/mobile-phone-base-stations-radio-waves-and-health>

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As a County Council we have no current plans to make use of 5G in our "ICT roadmap" to 2020.

11. QUESTION FROM MS MARCUS (ATTENDING)
Re: contact regarding 5G Rollout

Please would Members of Devon County Council disclose to the meeting details of any contact, be it meetings, briefings, emails or telephone calls with telecommunications companies / mobile network operators or their agents / representative regarding the roll out of 5G in the county.

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

The County Council is not involved with mobile infrastructure planning applications, this is a District Council responsibility as part of the planning authority remit. Where street furniture is concerned, we are not aware of any Council assets that are currently hosting mobile network operators 5G technologies, but we would review any such request from mobile network operators in accordance with Government guidance and PHE guidance.

As a County Council we have no current plans to make use of 5G in our "ICT roadmap" to 2020.

12. QUESTION FROM MS BROOKING (ATTENDING)
Re: Declaring a moratorium on 5G rollout

Taking in to account that the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) Guidelines for limiting exposure to time-varying electric, magnetic and electromagnetic fields are based of thermal effect rather than microwaves and baring in mind that they are 20 year out of date I wonder if it would be wise and humane to declare a moratorium on the roll out of 5G technology across Devon until more recent evidence of it effects has been examined?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

The County Council is not involved with mobile infrastructure planning applications, this is a District Council responsibility as part of the planning authority remit. Where street furniture is concerned, we are not aware of any Council assets that are currently hosting mobile network operators 5G technologies, but we would review any such request from mobile network operators in accordance with Government guidance and PHE guidance.

As a County Council we have no current plans to make use of 5G in our "ICT roadmap" to 2020.

13. QUESTION FROM MS SIMONS (ATTENDING)
Re: Halting implementation of 5G

Why is Devon County Council considering implementing a system which is untested, untrilled, without evidence of its safety? Although Councillors are elected, actions as important as this for the whole of humanity ought to be put to the public for decision. There will be no going back once 5G is installed. The only outcome will be more sick people, more demand on the medical system, more deaths, more suffering. Do members of DCC (and beyond of course, e.g. members of parliament) not have children and grandchildren, wanting to ensure their safe future?

Minute Item 215

I for one do NOT wish for antennas to be placed on every streetlight in my street or any other just to speed up wifi (or so it is claimed!). I do NOT wish for my health or anyone else's to be put at risk deliberately. I view an uninformed installation of 5G as a crime against human rights.

Why is it that Brussels (amongst other places) has barred 5G until further notice, demanding safety evidence? Can DCC assure the public, myself included, in writing, with evidence, that 5G is safe and will the Council declare itself responsible for all future claims, i.e. when people fall sick, without passing that on to other 'bodies'? Is the Council prepared to have an unbiased view, listening to both sides, to enable it to make an informed choice for the good of humanity rather than one controlled by money?

I would like to draw the Council's attention to various websites, there are many more:

<https://www.naturalnews.com/2019-05-19-5g-apocalypse-extinction-event-film-destroy-humanity.html>

<https://www.greenmedinfo.com/> = at the top you will see a link to register for a G5 summit commencing 26 August

<https://www.radiationhealthrisks.com/5g-cell-towers-dangerous/>

<https://www.5gawareness.com/>

<https://ehtrust.org/key-issues/cell-phoneswireless/5g-networks-iot-scientific-overview-human-health-risks/>

<http://phiremedical.org/category/5g/>

<http://www.es-uk.info/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/V3-240419-NB-RAD-19-6151-ES-UK-ADVERT-APRIL-A3P.jpg>

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

The County Council is not involved with mobile infrastructure planning applications, this is a District Council responsibility as part of the planning authority remit. Where street furniture is concerned, we are not aware of any Council assets that are currently hosting mobile network operators 5G technologies, but we would review any such request from mobile network operators in accordance with Government guidance and PHE guidance.

As a County Council we have no current plans to make use of 5G in our "ICT roadmap" to 2020.



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

Thursday 25 July 2019

**1. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HANNAFORD
Re: Housing Infrastructure Fund Awards**

At the Cabinet meeting on the 10th April the successful HIF awards were announced for the DCC area. No awards were apparently granted for the Exeter (excluding the land in Teignbridge to the South West of the city), South Hams, Torridge and West Devon areas.

- Were any submitted or considered for these areas?
- Will there be further bidding rounds and opportunities to apply?
- What work or support could be done to ensure that this infrastructure investment can and will reach all parts of the County?
- Especially those with high levels of rural poverty, economic and employment underactivity and deprivation?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR DAVIS

The Housing Infrastructure Fund was split into two tranches. District Councils could bid for funding as part of the Marginal Viability tranche and County Councils could bid for the Forward Funding tranche. Whilst more than one bid could be submitted by authorities, if more than one was submitted, they were required to be ranked. Given the significant amount of work required to submit a bid and likelihood of winning two bids was very small, the Council decided that it was only feasible to submit one bid as part of the Forward Funding tranche. The South West Exeter bid was considered the best fit for a number of reasons including scale, deliverability and evidence of a stalled housing site.

In terms of the Marginal Viability HIF process 5 District Councils were successful, Teignbridge, Exeter, Mid Devon, East Devon and North Devon. As far as I am aware the other Districts did not have proposals that fitted the criteria.

There is no indication of further bidding rounds at present as far as we are aware.

The Government announces bidding rounds for infrastructure investment on occasions, every effort is made to ensure there is a proportionate spread of investment around the County, whilst ensuring that any bid fits the criteria and consequently has the best chance of success.

**2. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR GREENSLADE
Re: House of Lords Select Committee report on the rural economy**

Minute Item 217

Does the Leader intend to consider the fairly recent House of Lords Select Committee report on the rural economy at Cabinet with a view to teasing out any messages pertinent to Devon and any actions that DCC may take as a result?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

Members may be aware that Government's response to the House of Lords Select Committee report on the Rural Economy was released by Defra relatively recently, on 2nd July 2019. Following this response from Defra, the Council is now in a position to consider the report and the planned actions identified by Defra over the next few months. The response primarily states that Government will work harder across departments to undertake to "rural-proof" their policies, rather than provide a separate rural strategy.

This Council welcomes the report and supports the findings, which broadly address the same issues as the Rural Productivity Commission (RPC) report, on which MPs are being engaged through the Great South West All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG). Devon County Council plays an active role in providing evidence to the RPC and is working with regional partners as part of the Heart of the South West Joint Committee to seek recognition of rural issues highlighted and gain a rural deal.

There are challenges and opportunities for rural areas, including higher employment rates, poor connectivity and a lack of affordable housing. The majority of Devon geographically is defined as rural and the needs of rural businesses and communities are central to our economic development strategies and plans, including the Council's Strategy for Growth and the wider HotSW Joint Committee and LEP approved HotSW Productivity Strategy, as well as the HotSW Local Industrial Strategy currently in development.

The Local Industrial Strategy will provide opportunities and benefits for rural areas, through raising productivity and prosperity for all. Focussing on clean growth this will transform the economy, ensuring that proceeds of growth are more equitably shared across the area and are for the long-term.

The rural Devon economy is varied and in line with the national picture, has different issues arising in different rural communities. The Council's Strategy for Growth in development reflects this with a strategic priority on inclusive growth to help every area and individual achieve their potential.

Some examples of the Council's activities towards addressing rural issues includes: support for rural businesses through hosting of £2.89m EU LEADER funding in 2 Local action groups and the EU funded Growth Support Programme; Trading Standards support for farmers and farm visits; Connecting Devon and Somerset rollout of rural broadband; development of transport infrastructure – roads and cycleways; rural employment space development, such as through our work hubs programme and Duchy Square; the Careers Learning Pilot providing additional skills opportunities; and working with LEP Partners on housing strategy.

3. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR GREENSLADE Re: Zero Carbon Targets

In light of the increased public interest in zero carbon targets could the relevant Cabinet Member tell me what actions the County Council has implemented in recent years to reduce the DCC carbon footprint and what further plans are in place to further reduce the DCC carbon footprint?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

DCC reports its carbon footprint annually, which is published online at the bottom of this page <https://www.devon.gov.uk/environment/environmental-policy>. The current target is to reduce the 2012 carbon footprint by 50% by 2030.

Since 2012, The Council's reported carbon footprint has reduced by 36% in response to various initiatives including part-night street lighting, LED conversion of the all-night street lighting, building upgrades (including rooftop solar PV arrays) and more efficient fleet vehicles and school-transport routing.

£8.6m has been allocated to convert the part-night street lighting to LED over the next 2 years. By the end of this programme, the street-lighting carbon footprint will have reduced by 75%.

In response to this authority's declaration of a climate emergency, a revised Corporate Energy and Carbon Strategy will be prepared for the autumn.

4. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR GREENSLADE
Re: A39 Pilton Bridge junction

There is significant pedestrian flow, especially school children, at the A39 Pilton Bridge junction and in Abbey Rd, Pilton where there is considerable pedestrian/vehicle conflict. Parents are becoming more and more concerned at the risks to safety this poses.

In recent months I have had meetings with DCC Officers like the excellent Bill Banting from the local services group and Damien Jones from County Hall to discuss options to improve pedestrian safety in these areas. Thus far I have not received any concrete suggestions about improvements that could be made. I have indicated my willingness to contribute towards costs from my community funds.

Can the Cabinet Member provide any positive feedback for me to relay to concerned parents?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES

Feasibility design work for introducing pedestrian improvements at the A39 Pilton Causeway junction will be progressed this year. The design will consider options for either incorporating pedestrian facilities with the signals or for providing a stand-alone crossing on the northern side of the junction between the garage and Pilton Quay.

Subject to identifying a recommended scheme option to take to HATOC, there is potential for utilising already secured S106 contributions to fund its delivery or that funding is sought through the next local transport plan capital programme.

5. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR WAY
Re: Park and Ride – North West Exeter

Has any progress been made towards providing a Park and Ride car park on the north western side of Exeter for those commuters travelling on the A377 and A3072?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR DAVIS

The Local Transport Plan aims to develop a series of Park and Ride sites around Exeter including one in the North West quadrant. Unfortunately, we have been unable to find a suitable site which would be a good candidate for a successful planning application due to a number of environmental and topographical constraints. The recent public consultation on the Exeter Transport Strategy included an aspiration to double the number of Park and Ride spaces serving the city including a facility to the north of the city which would capture car trips from Crediton and Tiverton corridors. The results of the consultation were in favour of this. Consequently, we have

Minute Item 217

recently commissioned a study to review previous sites and investigate new sites on all the radial corridors into Exeter.

6. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR WAY
Re: Fixed Penalty Notices issued on Bank Holidays

I have received an increasing number of complaints from motorists who are issued Fixed Penalty Notices in Crediton's high street during bank holidays and from traders concerned about the effect the publicity has on their trade. This seems particularly a problem when bank holidays occur on Mondays. The high street has part time loading bays. Anyone not loading or unloading is able to use them after 2pm Monday – Saturday and at any time on Sundays. Whilst notices on the plates mention this, there is no mention concerning bank holiday parking on the plates covering the loading bays or the 45-minute maximum stay parking spaces. Few, if any of the business receive deliveries on bank holidays.

How many Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued on bank holiday Mondays over the past 12 months? How does this compare to Mondays during a normal week?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES

I assume the query relates to Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) rather than Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs). With the limited time available to respond, Officers have analysed data for Crediton High Street over the past 12 months comparing the number of PCNs issued on Bank Holiday Mondays with those issued the Monday prior or after the Bank Holiday.

Bank Hol date	Issued	Standard Day	Issued
27/08/2018	0	20/08/2018	0
22/04/2019	0	15/04/2019	0
06/05/2019	5	13/05/2019	2
27/05/2019	0	20/05/2019	5

As can be seen the numbers are relatively low but do compare in terms of total issued, with 5 PCNs being issued on Bank Holiday Mondays and 7 PCNs being issued on the 'normal' Mondays.

Officers would be happy to discuss the perceived issue with Councillor Way if wanted.

Report of the Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills

1. Introduction

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

- *on the potential for a new economic powerhouse for the UK encompassing Newport, Cardiff and Bristol, has been published calling for a number of measures to support businesses. The Powerhouse for the West report, commissioned by the Great Western Cities partnership of Bristol City Council, Cardiff Council and Newport City Council, was presented at the House of Lords recently. The report, by Metro Dynamics, makes the case for a cross-border stretching along the M4 corridor from Swindon and across the Welsh border to Cardiff and Swansea, and in the north from Gloucester and Cheltenham to Bath and Bristol.*

How do we and our other key regional partners in the far South West view this move? And how does it fit with our current regional and strategic economic, growth, and development goals?

- *an update and analysis report, specifically on protecting farming, fishing and food production in Devon, on the advent of a no deal Brexit with other key partners and central government.*

In addition, I have been asked by Councillor Connett to report on:

- *arrangements being made by Devon County Council to support and assist residents and communities to prepare in the months up to Brexit and following the UK's departure from the European Union.*

And by Councillor Shaw to report on:

- *Consequence of a no deal Brexit for Devon.*

2. Economic Development

Devon County Council is working with other local authorities in the Heart of the South West area to deliver our economic development goals, through the Heart of the South West Joint Committee, and champion the economic needs of our area with a strong, united voice. The Joint Committee is recognised and welcomed by Government which has assigned senior civil servants to work with our partnership.

Minute Item 218

In collaboration with the Heart of the South West (HotSW) LEP, the Joint Committee has an agreed Productivity Strategy in place, which identifies our priorities and goals to improve productivity and develop the economy in our area.

The Joint Committee is contributing to work to on the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) for our area, which is being led by the HotSW LEP in close liaison with Government. The developing LIS considers the Government's Industrial Strategy and how this can be prioritised locally to achieve improved productivity and growth. A draft has been received positively by Government departments and is being fast-tracked, accelerating its development.

Looking at the wider Peninsula geography, a Great South West All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG), co-chaired by Sir Gary Streeter, MP for South West Devon, and Ben Bradshaw, MP for Exeter, has recently been set up with support from three LEPs, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, Dorset and HotSW, to promote the concept of a Great South West region in Government. The official launch of the APPG was welcomed and attended by Jake Berry, the Minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth.

The three LEPs are developing a proposed prospectus for improved productivity and growth for the Great South West region. The County Council awaits the draft prospectus with keen interest. This is in addition to the sub-national transport body for the SW Peninsula – Peninsula Transport Sub-national Transport Body - which is also working with Government on similar transport themes to the Great Western Powerhouse document, to enable a resilient infrastructure to reduce congestion, shorten journey times, improve productivity and unlock growth.

In summary, the Great Western Powerhouse report appears ambitious and appears to have support from within the area covered. However, this does not overlap with or detract from the strategies and priorities for Devon or the wider Great South West area.

3. Brexit

As Members will be aware the responsibility for Brexit preparedness and response sits with the Government. Devon County Council is working closely with all our local partners to prepare for Brexit and to help everyone in Devon deal with the situation, whatever the final outcome. As a County Council we provide a great deal of support to Government in rolling out its preparations and fighting for Government support for our service users, communities and businesses.

Our Chief Executive is the South West Regional Communication lead reporting directly into Government in relation to EU Exit implications. He also chairs the Devon and Somerset Brexit Resilience and Opportunities Group (BROG) which was established following the EU Referendum and provides evidence and research to Whitehall. Since January 2019, the Group has been meeting on a monthly basis and is supported by business representatives, Government Departments and senior officers from across Devon and Somerset.

BROG, supported by Devon County Council, has undertaken a great deal of work with our local farming, fish and food and drink industries. We have supported and amplified the messages they have been giving to Government about their own resilience and needs and will continue to do so in the coming months as Government steps up its preparations for a potential No Deal scenario in the approach of the 31st October deadline. We have tried to be solution focused and have developed a number of practical proposals for consideration such as re-purposing business support and advice; strengthening our regulatory services to provide assistance in terms of labelling, export and imports; lobbying for EU funding the sector relies on to be matched in the forthcoming UK Shared Prosperity Fund; improving our ports and harbour capacity to cope with additional demands from the sector. We have also secured Government Departments of BEIS, DEFRA, Home Office to come and talk to businesses on 25th July in Taunton and run a workshop aimed at SME's. Given our location this will have a strong focus on food and farming industry. We are unsure where the next few months will take us but I would like to reassure Members that Devon County Council is doing everything within its power to support these key industries within our county.

As Members will be aware there is still uncertainty as to which Brexit scenario will prevail from the parliamentary process. In relation to understanding the full economic, environmental and social impact on Devon, both positive and negative, it is very difficult for the Council to predict and plan for this unprecedented event in isolation. Devon County Council is determined to play a lead role in assisting our communities and businesses in whatever scenario occurs. This situation is not of our making but we stand ready to play a full role in whatever response and recovery activity is required to ensure the best possible outcome.

In the event of a No Deal Brexit the Government is likely to announce a major incident and it will be the responsibility of the Local Resilience Forums to co-ordinate response activity across partners in Devon. As Members will be aware our Local Resilience Forum is chaired by Devon and Cornwall Police and has senior representatives from all major stakeholders across the area including Health, business and local authorities. Devon County Council is a member of the LRF.

Devon County Council is undertaking the following work to prepare for a No Deal Brexit:

- Updating Business Continuity Plans to plan for a No Deal Brexit and supplying this information to our Local Resilience Forum
- Working through professional associations such as the Association of Directors of Social Services, Local Government Association, Trading Standards to ensure the dissemination of information and good practice
- Pressing the Government to release impact assessments and assumptions to inform our planning and preparedness
- Our Chief Executive is the South West Regional Communication lead reporting directly into Government in relation to EU Exit implications. He also chairs the Devon and Somerset Brexit Resilience and Opportunities Group (BROG) which was established following the EU Referendum and provides evidence and research to Whitehall. Since January 2019, the Group has been meeting on a monthly basis and is supported by business

Minute Item 218

representatives, Government Departments and senior officers from across Devon and Somerset.

At the end of January 2019, Phil Norrey was invited by the Secretary of State for MHCLG to be one of 9 Regional Chief Executive Communication links. Phil represents the South West and is working with 41 Councils and 5 Local Resilience Forums across the South-West to feed Brexit issues, identified by local authorities and partners, directly to Government.

Councillor Rufus Gilbert

Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills

Report of the Cabinet Member
Children's Services and Schools

I have been asked to report as follows for Full Council on 25 July 2019:

1. By Councillor Hannaford on:

"In April 2019 the Government offered access to free sanitary products in England's primary schools from early 2020, in addition to secondary schools and the NHS. The Government committed to provide access to free sanitary products in England's secondary schools and colleges in Spring Statement, this was then followed by the Children and Families Minister Nadhim Zahawi confirmed access to the free products will also be fully-funded by the Department for Education in all primary schools across the country.

Extending the programme to all primary schools follows feedback from teachers, students and parents, and the DfE is now working with key stakeholders in the public and private sector to roll-out the programme in a cost-effective manner that supports girls and young women across the country.

Can the Cabinet Member please update council on the preparations and progress being made to ensure that this much needed support is implemented at the earliest opportunity in the Devon County Council are, including academies, faith schools and other organisational models.

2. By Councillor Connett on:

Any arrangements Devon County Council has made to ensure children have at least one proper meal a day during the school holidays.

3. By Councillor Dewhirst on:

Please can the Cabinet Member Children & Schools report on the provision of Free School Meals (FSM) in Devon in the light of the report by Citizens UK that up to £65 million of funding is being diverted away from the provision of Free School Meals.

It is reported that if the student on FSM does not use their allowance by the end of the day - they may be absent from school, attending a lunchtime club or do not use their full credit - then this is retained by the meal provider as "profit" and not rolled over to providing enhanced meals.

4. By Councillor Aves on:

Can the Cabinet Member please update Council on the current and ongoing situation at the South Dartmoor Community College, and the South Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust?

Can the Cabinet Member also give Council assurance that they will make strong representations to the Regional Schools Commissioner to improve communication and transparency, that she will have consultations with all key stakeholders of the Community College and the Primary Schools in the MAT? As the lack of information going out to parents, families and carers is woefully inadequate.

1. Access to Free Sanitary Products

In the spring statement, the Government committed to provide access to free sanitary products in England's secondary schools and colleges. On April 16th 2019 this was followed by confirmation from Children and Families Minister Nadhim Zahawi, that access to the free products would also be fully-funded by the Department for Education (DfE) in all primary schools.

The DfE is now working with key stakeholders in the public and private sector to roll-out the programme in a cost-effective manner. The aim is that free sanitary products will be offered to girls in all primary schools in England from early next year.

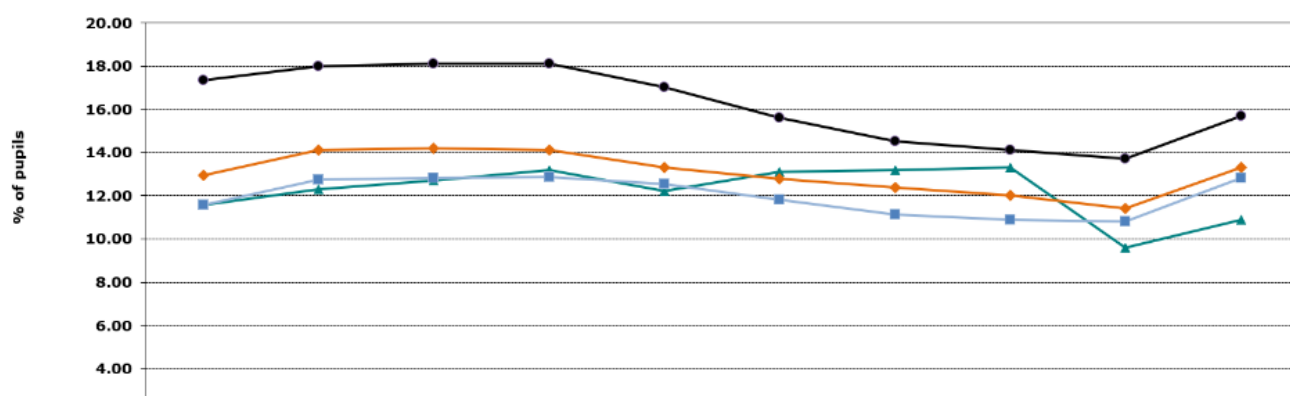
Within Devon, our current understanding is that all secondary schools and the majority of primary schools are providing access to free sanitary products when needed. In many cases, but not all, this is delivered through the Red box Project. This is a community-based, not-for-profit initiative, which aims to support young people throughout their periods by providing red boxes filled with free period products to local schools.

2. Any arrangements Devon County Council has made to ensure children have at least one proper meal a day during the school holidays.

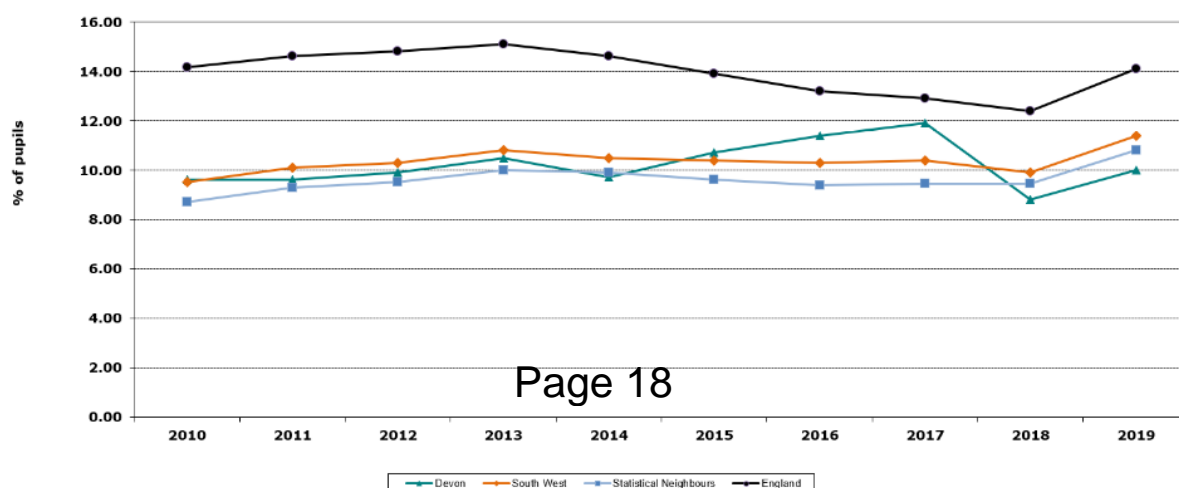
The Government have recognised the issue of 'Holiday Hunger' and the Department for Education has allocated £9.1 million to help tackle the problem in some of the most deprived areas of England. There is however, currently no allocation for the Devon County Council footprint.

Devon has a lower number 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. The graphs below provide a comparison to England, regional and statistical neighbour numbers.

Primary pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals



Secondary pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals



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

Members may be aware that in previous years some counties have worked as communities to develop a way of distributing free meals to children over the holidays. We understand that the Plymouth project is run through the company that provides their Free School Meals (FSM). More information on last year's project can be found here <https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2018-08-02/help-for-plymouth-families-facing-holiday-hunger/>.

Whilst recognising the value of the Plymouth project, Devon is faced with a significantly different challenge due to the size of the county and the distribution of pupils on FSM over a large rural area. Whilst a project of the type described above for Plymouth would I am sure be welcome, this would require significant officer time and funding which for Devon is currently not provided through central government funding.

To support those families in need over the summer the Public Health Team collated information on where families could get free or low-cost food onto a searchable webpage. This information and the link below has been widely circulated to schools (via newsletters and the School Communications Website) to all Children's Centres and the Public Health Nursing Service.

<http://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/library/schools/food-poverty-and-schools/free-or-low-cost-food-during-summer-holidays-2019/>

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

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

3. Free School Meals

Individual schools (Academies or Maintained) are responsible for securing the provision of Free School Meals within their establishments. This means there is a wide range of systems available through which school meals are paid for and delivered. For example:

- Some schools may commission an external provider which may be a commercial company or another school, others have an in-school system (which may also provide to other schools).
- Parents in some schools may pay for meals on a weekly basis (with each day's meals having a set value) others may pay using an online card system where each item has a value which is charged to the card.

All the above mean's that there is no single answer to the question asked and it is up to the schools to ensure that the way the school meals are purchased represents best value and adheres to funding regulations as set out by the DfE.

In Devon the largest provider of primary school meals is Devon Norse. The Norse contracts run on a cost-plus basis, meaning that schools pay the actual cost of the meal provided and retain any profit from the service after a management fee has been paid. Therefore, under Norse contracts if a child

eligible for a free primary school meal doesn't take the meal for any reason the caterer doesn't directly benefit.

There are a high number of large commercial catering organisations operating secondary school catering across Devon. Devon Norse only operate in two secondary schools. At both of these schools, one operates an online payment system and the other a cash payment system. Each day students eligible for free school meals receive an available credit of £2.20, if this is not used or partly used then any remaining credit balance is lost and the following day a new £2.20 credit is available. No credit rolls over day to day.

It should be noted that whilst the above graphs shown in question 1 relate to the number of children entitled to free school meals funding provided to schools from within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) it is based on formula funding and not on the number of meals being purchased.

4. Update on South Dartmoor Community College and the South Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust

South Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust has recently appointed experienced interim executive leaders, Angela Barry and Lee Miller. Both Ms Barry (as Interim Executive Support) and Mr Miller (as Interim Chief Operating Officer) are working alongside the CEO, the Trustees, South Dartmoor Community College (SDCC) and the six other schools in the Trust to drive strategic direction and ensure stability and sound financial management.

Following the outcome of the consultation on the proposed restructure, a letter to parents and Governors was shared on 12th June to confirm that no compulsory redundancies were made among teachers. Across the Trust, five teachers opted to take voluntary redundancy. Regrettably, a number of support staff were also made redundant, the vast majority voluntarily.

Over the past few months the Trust has been working closely with the Education and Skills Funding Agency to address the areas outlined in the Financial Notice to Improve. An action plan is being implemented which includes developing a robust and sustainable financial plan. The school report they are already making good progress with this.

On Tuesday 18th June, school leaders held a meeting with a number of parents who are working together to support the academy. This meeting allowed the school to understand some of the concerns and subsequently provided a letter to parents which answered some key questions (see attached).

A further letter was sent to SDCC parents on Friday 12th July confirming that Paul Collins, the Principal of SDCC, who has been away from the school in recent weeks for health reasons, would not be able to return and so has stepped down.

The same letter also announced that through the Ivybridge Teaching School's application to the Department for Education for a school improvement grant, SDCC would be welcoming Kevin Dyke from 1st September as the Interim Principal. Mr Dyke has made numerous visits to the school over the past couple of weeks in readiness for taking up his new position.

At present, the Trust's leadership team is working closely with the Office of the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) for the South West to help find a suitable partner for the schools within South Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust, including SDCC. The Trust had initially consulted on a partnership with Education South West (ESW) for additional support, but this will no longer be taken forward. The RSC has an overview of all the Trusts which may be able to provide the additional support and expertise required and will use this to inform next steps.

The school are clear that the experience and expertise in the leadership of the Trust, at both executive and board level, working with the RSC will ensure that they can move forward positively and that the schools in the Trust are safeguarded for the good of the children and young people they educate.

Representations to the Regional Schools Commissioner to improve communication and transparency.

The Local Authority (LA) is in communication with the RSC about a variety of schools and always emphasises the importance of regular open and transparent communication with parents and other stakeholders. As with all things, there are sometimes processes (e.g. redundancy) which need to be completed before parents can be informed of next steps.

As from the Autumn, regular face to face meetings have been arranged between the LA and the RSC office to ensure a close join up regarding existing and new schools.

James McInnes

Cabinet Member

Children's Services and Schools

12.07.19

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Tuesday 18th June, myself and Angela Barry, who is currently Interim Executive Support at South Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust and who will be Interim Chief Executive Officer from September, had a very positive meeting with a number of parents who are working together to support South Dartmoor Community College, ensuring we have a strong line of communication.

This meeting was extremely valuable as it allowed us all to discuss some of the most common questions being asked within the community. We wanted to share the questions the group asked, and also the answers we gave. These are below – myself and Angela hope you find these helpful.

What changes are happening as a result of the restructure?

The school day will be changing from six 50-minute lessons a day to five one-hour lessons a day, with the school moving to a two-week timetable.

Is the school reducing the arts and PE subjects?

No. The school values these subjects – students will still get the same amount of PE that they have currently and the creative arts subjects (drama, art and music) will be down by only 20 minutes, only because of the change from 50-minute to one-hour lessons. All teachers within the art, drama and music departments are remaining with the school.

Teachers from the geography, history, MFL, maths, English and science departments have left within year. Many schools will make reductions/changes to their staffing from year to year by not replacing staff in a department when they leave if the role is no longer needed, which is the case here.

Will the College be able to maintain their excellent reputation for safeguarding?

We are pleased that the changes will not have an impact on the level of teaching assistants, who we believe provide a vital role in supporting pupils learning and wellbeing. As the school has become smaller we have reduced the pastoral and admin functions of the school but are confident that the numbers in place from September will deliver effectively within these areas and we will still have student reception staffed full time by first aiders and admin staff, alongside the Heads of Houses who have their offices within this area. There will also be no changes to our full-time mental health and wellbeing provision (The Place).

Is the school closing the library?

No. The library is an important area of the school and one we are keen to maintain. We have reduced staffing but there will still be staff available to keep the library organised and advise the students on their book choices. The library will continue to be open throughout the school day. However, we are keen to get more members of our local community involved in the running of the library and if you know anyone who would be interested in volunteering for a few hours a week we would love to hear from them.

Is the sixth form closing?

No – we can reassure everyone that this option has not been discussed at all and there are absolutely no plans to close the sixth form. As with all sixth forms, very low sign-up for particular subjects may mean that they may not continue to be offered.

What is happening with regards to the leadership of the school?

Mr Collins has resigned and we wish him the very best. We are delighted to be able to welcome Mr Kevin Dyke as our interim Principal from September 1st. Mr Dyke will be writing to all parents when he takes up his new post and no doubt his letter will include a summary of his background and experience that he will be bringing to our lovely school. During the parents' meeting, questions were raised in relation to the progress of the post Ofsted action plan. We would like to take this opportunity to assure you that the Senior Leadership Team have been diligently working on evaluating the school and this information has been shared with the local governing body in great detail.

How can the Trust afford additional staff when they are making staff reductions?

This question was raised following the letter that introduced Angela Barry (Interim Executive Support and Interim CEO from September) and Lee Miller (Interim Chief Operating Officer). Mr Miller's role was already budgeted for as our Chief Finance Officer is currently on maternity leave and he is filling this role. This term, Angela Barry's role is not coming directly from any school but being supported by additional funding secured through a successful application for a school improvement grant through Ivybridge Teaching School.

What is happening with the merger?

The directors of the Trust have asked the Regional Schools Commissioner's office (part of the Department for Education) to help find a suitable partner for the schools within South Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust.

As you may know, the Trust had initially consulted on a partnership with Education South West (ESW), however the board of directors will not be taking this forward. The Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) has a good overview of all the Trusts across the south west and can assess who is performing well and will have the capacity to take on the schools within South Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust. Trusts that would be suitable for our schools are being considered at the moment and it is expected a decision will be made in mid to late September with the aim of the Trust joining their new partner in January 2020. The Chairs of the Local Governing Bodies, alongside their Headteachers will meet next week with representatives of the RSC to discuss their views and hopes for the future. I will update you as further information regarding this becomes available.



South Dartmoor Community College

Head of School | Paul Collins

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As I mentioned above, I hope this is a helpful update and gives an overview of the areas that were raised with myself and Angela at the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Shaw
Chief Executive Officer
South Dartmoor Academy

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

Introduction

I have been asked to report as follows for Full Council on 25 July 2019:

1. By Councillor Hannaford as follows:

The Department of Health has announced that the HPV vaccination programme will expand to cover boys from September 2019. This means that boys aged 12 and 13 will be offered HPV vaccinations on the NHS - 11 years after the health service began vaccinating girls in 2008. The change follows recommendations from advisers on the joint committee on vaccination and immunisation (JCVI) that there were 'clear health benefits in vaccinating boys'.

Public Health England believes the expanded HPV vaccination programme could prevent 100,000 cases of cancer by 2058, including 64,000 cases of cervical cancer and 50,000 other cancers.

Can the Cabinet member please confirm with council how this will be rolled out, how many boys will be vaccinated, and do we have any public health estimates for Devon in terms of health prevention benefits?

2. By Councillor Atkinson on:

How post office closures will affect Devon, in particular our rural communities.

Response

1. HPV vaccination Programme

Immunisation is the responsibility of NHS England, not the local authority. The screening and immunisation team commissions the delivery of the HPV (human papilloma virus) vaccination programme, which is being delivered in Devon by Virgin Care Ltd.

The programme will now be offered to boys aged 12-13. Boys/young men will remain eligible until they are 18 (as for the girls' programme). There are 6839 eligible boys in Devon this year. The rollout of the programme mirrors that of the girls' programme, in that it is being offered to all year 8's in school (including special

schools) over the next academic year, and there will be provision through appointment clinics for children educated outside of school.

The Director of Public Health has been advised that the service is receiving good numbers of consents and queries about this new element of the HPV immunization programme but there are no data yet; this applies nationally and locally. The high uptake rate of the HPV vaccine among girls has reduced the overall risk of unvaccinated boys and girls coming into contact with HPV. The extension of the programme will strengthen protection by increasing 'herd' immunity and will therefore prevent more cases of HPV-related cancers.

It is difficult to estimate the health prevention benefit of the programme but as a large Local Authority we would anticipate that a significant number of cancers in this population would be prevented in the future. Evidence-based vaccination is an effective and cost-effective public health programme.

Additional Background Facts:

- HPV is responsible for over 99% of cervical cancers. There is also increasing evidence of the association between HPV infection and anogenital and oropharyngeal cancers. On the advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), a HPV vaccination programme for girls aged 12-13 was introduced in 2008 to protect against cervical cancer;
- in April 2018 the vaccination programme was extended to men who have sex with men (MSM) aged 45 and under. This was because MSM receive little or no indirect protection from the girls programme;
- more than 150 HIV and sexual health clinics nationally are already offering the programme and NHS England anticipates that rollout will be complete by April 2019;
- in July 2018 the JCVI advised that the HPV vaccination programme should be extended to adolescent boys. On 24 July 2018, the Government announced that HPV vaccination would be extended to boys aged 12-13. They will remain eligible until they are 18;
- the high uptake of HPV vaccine among girls over the last ten years has reduced the prevalence of the types of HPV that the vaccine protects against. This means that the risk of unvaccinated boys and girls coming into contact with HPV viruses, and passing them on, is far lower than before the programme started in 2008. The number of diagnoses of genital warts in England has also fallen sharply in both girls and boys since the vaccination programme started, suggesting that boys are already benefiting indirectly from the girls' programme through 'herd immunity' protection; and
- the criteria for all vaccination programmes aims to target those most at risk or with the greatest ability to benefit. Our priority is therefore to vaccinate adolescents before they reach sexual maturity.

2. Post Office Closures

Devon County Council has been actively engaged in putting forward its views on the future of Post Offices and in April responded to the call for evidence from the Parliamentary Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee's Inquiry into the Postal Network.

The Executive Summary of the evidence submitted is as follows:

- the shift by the Post Office towards a central / devolved model has seen core services fluctuate across the country, including in deprived, or remoter areas;
- the lack of a single national offer and guarantee in banking and service provision is a significant challenge in both policy design and national delivery of community led service provision;
- the focus on third party resilience through the franchise model is of concern to authorities such as Devon with considerable start-up costs and limited support;
- the Post Office has strong brand recognition and strength, but needs to combine with a better defined and consistent community-based offer;
- Government should be aware of the very strong socio-economic supporting role that a comprehensive physical Post Office network plays, including for many businesses and as a central focus for vibrant high streets;
- a national discussion is required about whether a focus only on profitable areas for franchises is sustainable over the long term in terms of the wider economic and social role played by Post Offices;
- Government recognition of the disproportionate impact that Post Office and banking closures and movements of post offices have on other local retail and service hierarchies, including downstream effects on local service provision; the wider public sector costs of sustaining small communities and business rates revenues in Local Authorities;
- recognising the very significant number of personal and business customers who continue to use physical banking services across the country, particularly in rural and coastal areas such as Devon (evidence provided) and the market opportunity this provides for the Post Office network;
- recognising the strong supporting role that Post Offices have in supporting global digital and internet-based commerce and trading by smaller UK based companies;
- recognising the unique role and opportunity for Post Offices to act as a single service provision centre within many communities, offering both postal, financial and retail service in locations increasingly devoid of wider competition. Post Offices are well placed to develop strategic relationships with other retail providers across the country beyond the existing supermarket relationships). This provides improved covenants and surety for landlords and other commercial partners for franchise holders seeking to sustain a store; and
- Government should consider the very strong central role that Crown Post Offices have in maintaining the economic vibrancy of town and city centres and supporting other businesses and local Business Rates revenues. As with smaller Post Offices there is a case for additional franchise support, not just

for those at risk of failing, but also for those seeking to establish or move a franchise.

Included in the evidence submitted was the potential for increasing the role Post Offices play in providing basic banking services, but also potential difficulties.

In principle, the Post Offices shift towards basic banking service should provide them with an inherent market opportunity. With a retraction of the retail banking sector, but a slower movement amongst communities (particularly older and harder to reach communities) towards digital solutions, Post Offices are well placed (at least in the interim) to benefit from a transitional need for localised services. Evidence at successive reviews of community banking identify the need for a residual level of localised banking provision across the country for at least the medium term. As banks rapidly retrench towards an online presence alone in the majority of communities, Post Offices have an opportunity to play a vital and commercial attractive bridging role as banks of first or last interaction with those most in need of localised provision. Opportunities also exist for the Post Office to work more closely with the wider bank sector on extending services within harder to reach communities, filling a void left by the loss of more traditional high street banking networks.

The Post Office network across Devon at present remains fairly comprehensive. A number of small to medium sized towns (up to around 14,000 population) in Devon have, however, been left with no single high street retail bank and the Post Office remains as the only feasible local provider of banking services. Around 30 retail bank branch closures have occurred in Devon over the past 2 years. Mobile banking van provision is patchy and often visits one town for around 1 hour per week, at times that are often not convenient for either personal, or business customers. Retail banks such as Barclays and Natwest have specifically advised customers to shift to using the Post Office for banking transactions when closing branches.

One bank alone, when it closed 10 branches in Devon between 2017 and early 2019, very recently identified 22,381 regular-to-heavy usage personal customers and 4,254 regular-to-heavy usage business customers predominantly using those branches. These numbers are expected to be similar for other banks which have also closed. While some customers will shift to more online transactions, a significant number of these customers will need to transfer their usage to another local banking facility.

Devon, as with much of the UK, is a predominantly small and micro business focused economy with almost 41,000 VAT registered SME and Micro businesses, plus many more smaller trading businesses. Many of these will continue to need to access physical banking facilities to undertake part of their business. While current access to Post Office facilities remains good for most, many are now a significant distance from high street retail banks.

Recommendations were submitted to the Inquiry by the Council as follows:

- Consideration given to the opportunities for further commercial support for rural, coastal and other 'community' critical post office locations, reflecting the

challenges around the franchise model in many of these locations and their centrality to local service delivery

- Consideration made of the potential for Government to better utilise and work with the post office network on wider service delivery, beyond financial transactions, and their potential role in competitive processes around regeneration and deprivation through key socio-economic Departments (MHCLG, BEIS, DCMS, DoH etc)

This inquiry is still open to receiving evidence and the Council's full response can be viewed online at:

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/business-energy-and-industrial-strategy-committee/post-office-network/written/101221.html>

Councillor Roger Croad
Cabinet Member for Communities, Public Health, Transportation and Environmental Services

Report of the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure Development and Waste

1. Introduction

I have been asked to report, by Councillor Connett, on:

- *Progress on the Marsh Barton Rail station.*

2. Delivery of Marsh Barton Railway Station

The delivery of Marsh Barton station is a long-standing aspiration for the County as part of its Devon Metro strategy, which has also seen two other stations (Newcourt and Cranbrook) opened in Exeter in recent years.

However, there have been a number of issues that caused costs to escalate and as a result delayed construction. As a result of the delay, we have taken the opportunity to re-think the design of the access to the station and have come up with an alternative solution, which provides additional benefits to pedestrians and cyclists, whilst still delivering the new Station.

However, there are several challenges ahead to ensure that the scheme is delivered. These are areas where we need to now focus our efforts:

- Securing planning for the revised scheme
- Gaining rail technical approvals
- Maximising efficiencies through rail possessions
- Managing works when they get to site

We have now secured funding which covers the current project estimate cost, excluding contingency. Additionally working with the rail industry we have potentially identified suggestions to help make further savings on the scheme, providing the needed contingency and this should enable us to proceed.

Progress is dependent on Network Rail responding promptly to the various technical approvals, experience suggests obtaining these approvals can be very time consuming and complicated. Delays are currently being experienced and the programme is beginning to slip, and potentially cost increases will be incurred. In the same way that DfT provided additional support and authority with Newcourt on the New Stations Fund scheme, we have contacted the DfT to assist in encouraging a collaborative effort on the project.

Councillor Andrea Davis

Cabinet Member for Infrastructure Development and Waste

