

Phil Norrey
Chief Executive

To: The Chair and Members of the
Corporate Infrastructure and
Regulatory Services Scrutiny
Committee

County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon
EX2 4QD

(See below)

Your ref :
Our ref :

Date : 18 November 2019
Please ask for : Wendy Simpson 01392 384383

Email: wendy.simpson@devon.gov.uk

**CORPORATE INFRASTRUCTURE AND REGULATORY SERVICES SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, 26th November, 2019

A meeting of the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee is to be held on the above date at 2.15 pm at Committee Suite - County Hall to consider the following matters.

P NORREY
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

PART I - OPEN COMMITTEE

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Minutes
Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2019 (previously circulated).
- 3 Items Requiring Urgent Attention
Items which in the opinion of the Chair should be considered at the meeting as matters of urgency.
- 4 Public Participation
Members of the public may make representations/presentations on any substantive matter listed in the published agenda for this meeting, as set out hereunder, relating to a specific matter or an examination of services or facilities provided or to be provided.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION OR REVIEW

- 5 Scrutiny Work Programme
In accordance with previous practice, Scrutiny Committees are requested to review the list of forthcoming business and determine which items are to be included in the Work Programme. The Scrutiny Work Programme can be found [here](#).

The Committee may also wish to review the content of the Cabinet Forward Plan to see if there are any specific items therein it might wish to explore further. The Cabinet Forward Plan can be found [here](#).

6 In-year Services Briefings

(a) Corporate Services - Report of the Chief Executive.

(b) Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity (Pages 1 - 8)

Briefing paper by the Chief Officer for Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity (SC/19/3), attached.

(c) Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste (Pages 9 - 14)

Briefing paper by the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste (HIW/19/99), attached.

7 Treasury Management Stewardship - Mid year report 2019/20 (Pages 15 - 22)

Report of the County Treasurer (CT/19/117), attached.

8 Food Banks and Root Causes (Pages 23 - 26)

Report of the Chief Officer for Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity (SC/19/4), attached.

9 Food Waste Spotlight Review (Pages 27 - 42)

Spotlight Review report, attached.

10 Highways Winter Service: Progress on Task Group Recommendations (Pages 43 - 48)

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste (HIW/19/100), attached.

11 Highways Performance Dashboard (Pages 49 - 54)

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste (HIW/19/101), attached.

12 Problem Gambling - Approval of letter (Minute *149/26 September 2019) (Pages 55 - 56)

Draft letter to Central Government, attached.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

13 Items Previously Circulated

Below is a list of information previously circulated to Members since the last meeting, relating to topical developments which have been or are currently being considered by this Scrutiny Committee:

- Information pack on the Committee's work programming Masterclass.
- Scrutiny Task Group - Improvements to Public Information Portal.
- Local Government information unit (LGiU) briefing on Universal Credit and Foodbank Use.

PART II - ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF PRESS AND PUBLIC ON THE GROUNDS THAT EXEMPT INFORMATION MAY BE DISCLOSED

Membership

Councillors A Dewhirst (Chair), P Colthorpe, Y Atkinson, K Ball, J Berry, R Bloxham, J Brook, P Crabb, A Eastman, R Edgell, I Hall, J Hook, R Radford, M Shaw, C Slade and C Whitton

Declaration of Interests

Members are reminded that they must declare any interest they may have in any item to be considered at this meeting, prior to any discussion taking place on that item.

Access to Information

Any person wishing to inspect any minutes, reports or lists of background papers relating to any item on this agenda should contact Wendy Simpson 01392 384383.

Agenda and minutes of the Committee are published on the Council's Website and can also be accessed via the Modern.Gov app, available from the usual stores..

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The proceedings of this meeting may be recorded for broadcasting live on the internet via the 'Democracy Centre' on the County Council's website. The whole of the meeting may be broadcast apart from any confidential items which may need to be considered in the absence of the press and public. For more information go to: <http://www.devoncc.public-i.tv/core/>

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Members of the public may also use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings at this meeting. An open, publicly available Wi-Fi network (i.e. DCC) is normally available for meetings held in the Committee Suite at County Hall. For information on Wi-Fi availability at other locations, please contact the Officer identified above.

Public Participation

Devon's residents may attend and speak at any meeting of a County Council Scrutiny Committee when it is reviewing any specific matter or examining the provision of services or facilities as listed on the agenda for that meeting.

Scrutiny Committees set aside 15 minutes at the beginning of each meeting to allow anyone who has registered to speak on any such item. Speakers are normally allowed 3 minutes each.

Anyone wishing to speak is requested to register in writing to the Clerk of the Committee (details above) by the deadline, outlined in the Council's [Public Participation Scheme](#), indicating which item they wish to speak on and giving a brief outline of the issues/ points they wish to make. The representation and the name of the person making the representation will be recorded in the minutes.

Alternatively, any Member of the public may at any time submit their views on any matter to be considered by a Scrutiny Committee at a meeting or included in its work Programme direct to the Chair or Members of that Committee or via the Democratic Services & Scrutiny Secretariat (committee@devon.gov.uk). Members of the public may also suggest topics (see: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/democracy/committee-meetings/scrutiny-committees/scrutiny-work-programme/>)

All Scrutiny Committee agenda are published at least seven days before the meeting on the Council's website.

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Induction loop system available

Committee Terms of Reference

(1) To review the implementation of the Council's existing policy and budget framework and ensure effective scrutiny of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and policies and consider the scope for new policies for the Council's use and management of its resources and the discharge of its corporate and strategic services and governance arrangements and community safety activity, including emergency planning and the Council's functions in the scrutiny of authorities responsible for crime and disorder strategies.

(2) To review the implementation of existing policies and to consider the scope for new policies with regard to all aspects of the discharge of the Council's 'place shaping and universal population services' functions concerning the environment, economic activity and enterprise, integrated planning and transport and community services, including libraries, arts and cultural heritage of the County, an integrated youth service and post 16 education & skills;

(3) To assess the effectiveness of decisions of the Cabinet in these areas of the Council's statutory activity and relate overview and scrutiny to the achievement of the Council's strategic priorities and objectives and of delivering best value in all its activities;

(4) To make reports and recommendations as appropriate arising from this area of overview and scrutiny.

NOTES FOR VISITORS

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SatNav – Postcode EX2 4QD

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Access to County Hall and Public Transport Links

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The nearest mainline railway stations are Exeter Central (5 minutes from the High Street) and St David's and St Thomas's both of which have regular bus services to the High Street. Bus Service H (which runs from St David's Station to the High Street) continues and stops in Wonford Road (at the top of Matford Lane shown on the map) a 2/3 minute walk from County Hall, en route to the RD&E Hospital (approximately a 10 minutes walk from County Hall, through Gras Lawn on Barrack Road).

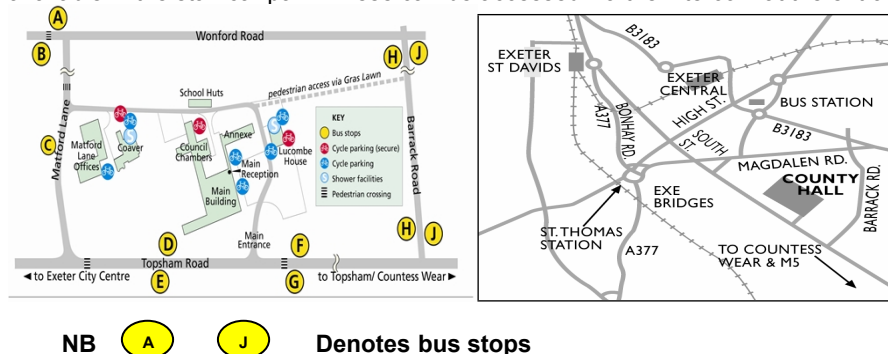
Car Sharing


Carsharing allows people to benefit from the convenience of the car, whilst alleviating the associated problems of congestion and pollution. For more information see: <https://liftshare.com/uk/community/devon>.

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As indicated above, parking cannot be guaranteed and visitors should allow themselves enough time to find alternative parking if necessary. Public car parking can be found at the Cathedral Quay or Magdalen Road Car Parks (approx. 20 minutes walk). There are two disabled parking bays within the visitor car park. Additional disabled parking bays are available in the staff car park. These can be accessed via the intercom at the entrance barrier to the staff car park.



NB   Denotes bus stops

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First Aid

Contact Main Reception (extension 2504) for a trained first aider.

Service Delivery for Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity: In-Year Briefing

Briefing Paper by the Chief Officer for Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity

1. Introduction

This mid-year report for Scrutiny covers the functions of Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity (CoPHEP), i.e. the service areas of Communities (Head of Service: Simon Kitchen), Public Health (Director of Public Health: Virginia Pearson), Planning, Transportation and Environment (Head of Service: Dave Black) and Economy, Enterprise and Skills (Head of Service: Keri Denton).

2. Planning, Transportation and Environment - Head of Service: Dave Black

Key activities in flood risk resilience is completion of schemes focused on improved protection at Ivybridge, Sidmouth, Exeter, Stokeinteignhead combined with Natural Flood Risk Management and Property Level Resilience. The statutory duty for sustainable drainage requires ongoing dialogue with numerous stakeholders and to assist this a well-attended workshop took place.

The School Place Planning Team have delivered (or onsite) several expansion projects plus new schools at Charlton Lodge and Okehampton. In addition, a programme is emerging to provide additional Special Schools places which builds on the current investment strategy. Alongside their regulatory function the Planning Team are actively working on the delivery of Sherford, Cranbrook, South West Exeter and the Exeter joint local plan.

Promoting sustainable travel and access to the countryside aims to improve opportunities for healthy lifestyles. New cycle routes have been delivered (or onsite) in Newton Abbot, Exeter and the Wray Valley Trail. In addition, there continues to be a programme of independent travel training for children with special needs.

The declaration of a Climate Emergency has resulted in the formation of a strategic-level forum of chief executives and directors who agreed to form the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group who are supported by a project team of experts.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/energyandclimatechange/devon-climate-emergency>

We continue to work with the Local Nature Partnership and other partners for the promotion and sustainability of Devon's Natural Capital. Using the Historic Environment Record the Historic Environment team provide essential input to the planning system. They are also proactive in public engagement, events have taken place in Ipplepen, Sherford, Thorverton and Okehampton.

The North Devon Link project and the A382 improvement schemes are key areas where there are planned major improvements to connectivity. These schemes are managed by the combined resources of the Planning and Environment team and Engineering Design Group. Recent planning applications have included a 10% net gain in biodiversity.

There are a series of initiatives focused on driver and cyclist use of the road network that are aimed at improving road safety. Examples of this are "Bikeability" and "Learn to Live" initiatives where we work with partners to promote a greater recognition of the potential hazards of driving to younger cyclists and drivers.

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The Transport Coordination team is managing a number of pressures on delivery of passenger transport provision, examples are the introduction of new legislation and reduction in use of concessionary fares. There are a number of strands to the business involving financially supporting local bus services, daily transport of 14,500 school children, adult and child social care transport and working with NHS for non-emergency patient transport.

3. Communities - Head of Service: Simon Kitchen

The Communities team has responsibilities to deliver four key areas of the Council's duties:

- commissioning of Devon's youth services, support around domestic and sexual violence and library and heritage services;
- community safety and co-ordination of related work and partnerships; and statutory co-ordination to preventing extremism and radicalisation;
- community development across the county and its links to the Council's priorities; and
- work to support a range of communities including the Armed Forces Covenant partnership; the resettlement of Syrian families, gypsies and travellers and through Active Devon accessing and increasing physical activity across the County.

In May the Council launched two new funding streams, alongside its existing Crowdfund Devon pilot, to support and facilitate community and voluntary work across Devon.

The **Doing What Matters** scheme (Grants of £5k to £20k) has been developed in line with the Council's priorities, with a focus this year on loneliness and isolation. The Council has welcomed applications which help:

- to build relationships and connections locally, across all age groups
- people become more physically active
- people take notice of their local environment
- to develop opportunities for culture, creativity or learning
- to support giving across local people and communities, including volunteering
- to make people feel safer locally.

From a standing start the Council has received a high number of enquiries and applications, with over £150k already provisionally allocated to applications; this alongside an additional £55k of matched funding from bidders; clearly helping the Council's funding go further.

The **Making the Connection** scheme provides small, one-off non-repeatable, grants of up to £300 to support community-led ideas and initiatives across Devon. Just over 50% of the fund has already been allocated to a wide range of small community-led initiatives across the County.

Crowdfund Devon, our nationally leading pilot continues to grow and develop, with Torbay Council recently requesting to join the Council's six other District Council and Police partners. For every Crowdfund Devon pound that DCC has invested thus far, £6.13 was added by the wider crowd – a 613% amplification. While recognising that Crowdfunding is one of several funding options, and may not be suitable for all projects, some Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations remain slow to explore crowdfunding and therefore the Council will need to continue to communicate the value of this fund and way of working.

More details on all the projects that we have helped to fund under the pilot can be viewed here: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/user/devon-county-council/profile>.

As has previously been discussed at this committee, the Council's approach to libraries will be the subject of an innovative strategy development over the next year as it considers an exciting and long-term future for libraries in Devon.

The Council is currently in the middle of a procurement process for its Youth Service based around an ambitious set of requirements for the next five years. This will be both informing and informed by an emerging, positive national landscape looking to invest in and invigorate youth services and practice.

The Council is leading work in partnership to consider emerging threats around extremism and wider forms of exploitation. The team has led the development of an online exploitation toolkit to help those working around vulnerable people across agencies to understand the signs of exploitation and provide advice and support to address concerns.

Active Devon continues its great work as a community-focused, non-profit organisation (hosted by DCC) dedicated to inspiring and supporting Devon to be active. Active Devon works closely with its key funder Sport England including the current Local Delivery Pilot (one of 12 in the Country) around Greater Exeter.

Local work to support victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence continues to receive national interest for its innovation and impact including the 'Bystander' initiative, recently promoted and launched by Dame Vera Baird, Victims Commissioner for England and Wales. At the same time, the Council is working with both the Safer Devon Partnership and Devon Children and Families Partnership to explore how we can further strengthen our work in this area, given there appears to be no reduction in demand for services.

4. Public Health - Chief Officer/Head of Service: Virginia Pearson

The Public Health team work has four main responsibilities and some of the current work this year includes:

Public Health Intelligence and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

With the support of the Public Health team, the Devon Health and Wellbeing Board has produced a new **Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy** entitled 'Healthy and Happy Communities' which sets priorities for local partners in relation to health, care and wellbeing from 2020 to 2025. The strategy was the result of comprehensive engagement with board members and local organisations, including stakeholder conferences, workshops, an online public consultation and focus group sessions with local groups including young people, disabled people, deaf people, LGBTQ+ communities, BME groups and people with learning disabilities. The board's vision for 2020 to 2025 is focused on reducing health inequalities and making health outcomes amongst the best in the world. Specific priorities relate to reducing health inequalities by creating opportunities for all through economic growth and education; establishing health, safe, strong and sustainable communities; having a specific focus on mental health; and maintaining good health for all through prevention and early intervention. To deliver this vision and priorities, even closer working relationships with local health, economic, housing and community teams and partnerships will be vital. This work has started in earnest with collaborative arrangements being put in place between the board and the Devon Sustainability and Transformation Partnership, the Devon Children and Families Partnership, the Devon Safeguarding Adults Board and the Safer Devon Partnership.

Healthcare Public Health

Population Health Management is an approach that improves the health of the population through data driven planning and delivery of proactive care to achieve maximum impact. It includes techniques such as risk stratification, segmentation and modelling to identify 'at risk' cohorts, and designs and targets interventions to improve population health and wellbeing, prevent mental and physical ill-health, improve care and support for people with ongoing health conditions, and reduce inequalities in health. A programme of work to establish the infrastructure for this work and embed intelligence-based approaches linked to new models of care and appropriate preventive interventions is being taken forward by the Devon

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Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP), with public health teams in Devon playing a pivotal role in shaping and developing the associated programme of work. Dr Virginia Pearson has been appointed as the STP System Director of Population Health working on behalf of the three local authority public health teams to provide leadership for the programme. The work is also supported by the Devon public health intelligence function, which has been both working to link data across local health organisations and local authorities and develop new techniques and approaches in relation to health intelligence. Embedding and developing Population Health Management approaches will form a core component of the STPs long-term plan, and local work will be accelerated through participation in a 20-week Population Health Management development programme next year.

Health Protection and Emergency Planning

The Health Protection Committee across the Peninsula and chaired by Dr Virginia Pearson provides assurance that the health protection system including screening, immunisation, flu planning, community infection prevention and control and environmental hazards are well planned for and help protect and improve the health of the local population.

The Devon Emergency Planning Partnership led by the Council now includes all the District Councils and Torbay and Plymouth and provides stronger resilience to our emergency planning capacity and capability.

Health improvement and reducing health inequalities

Public Health Services

On 1 April 2019 over 300 Public Health Nursing Staff (PHNS) successfully transferred into the Council to work within the Council's Children's Services. A 'lift and shift' model was adopted which meant staff and systems remained almost exactly as they had been and enabled a smooth transition for services, service users, and staff alike. However, there are challenges:

- The service is around 25% below its clinical staffing establishment, despite an on-going recruitment campaign. The Council is now focusing on 'growing our own workforce' with investment in training new Health Visitors and School Nurses in collaboration with the University of the West of England and Health Education England.
- The immediate impact of the staffing gaps is that overall performance hasn't yet recovered as we had hoped (it had declined during the last year of the previous contract), meaning a more targeted approach to the five nationally-mandated Health Visiting Reviews is having to be adopted across much of the county.
- ICT and data management issues in the first six months since transfer mean we have only limited information on many areas of performance currently, and even then the management information available is not considered wholly reliable.
- Financial challenges are on the horizon: the additional staff costs related to NHS pay, terms and conditions (a pay-rise and a steep rise in employers' pension contributions), and the costs of incorporating the PHNS workforce into DCC IT systems (purchasing a fit-for-purpose case management and reporting system), and developing robust clinical governance systems and processes all contribute to an anticipated financial pressure next year.

The Council is pursuing a collaborative transformation programme focused on realising the benefits of closer working with Children's Centres and other DCC services, but the level of change required will take time to achieve, leaving the service under pressure in the short to medium term.

“One Small Step” provides support for residents wanting to live healthier lives (stopping smoking, reducing alcohol consumption, achieving and maintaining a healthy weight, and increasing physical activity). The service has been recommissioned under the same brand to combine specialist stop smoking support with the wider lifestyle service at reduced cost. The new provider is “Everyone Health”.

Partnership work with planning colleagues in both the County and District Councils continues to help ensure consideration to ensuring healthy places for example access to green space, active travel, play areas, local food and food growing, alongside well-planned health care facilities that support wellbeing. This work is complemented by close working with Active Devon and with the Local Nature Partnership, for example supporting the “Naturally Healthy May”, “Devon Girls Can”, “We Are Undefeatable” and “Connecting Actively to Nature” campaigns and programmes to support more people to be physically active.

Making Every Contact Count (MECC) is an approach to supporting people’s well-being and there are now 23 MECC Healthy Conversation Skills trainers in the Devon County Council area. This year there have been 29 accredited MECC courses delivered reaching 293 people from a wide range of organisations.

On the 7 October 2019 the Council became the first Local Authority in the South West to sign up to the Healthy Weight Declaration for local authorities. The series of pledges are all designed to create healthier environments and to increase the accessibility of foods lower in fat, salt and sugar. The work-streams involve a whole Council approach; there are work-streams led by Trading Standards, Economy, Waste Management, Devon NORSE, Children Centres, Libraries and Public Health.

The Council received funding for £175,000 to expand and support the Suicide Bereavement and Support service (Pete’s Dragons) across the whole of Devon, including setting up a real time surveillance system across the County, ensuring support is offered to those affected by suicide as part of plans to improve mental health and emotional health and well-being.

Public Health is working closely with the Local Medical and Local Pharmaceutical Committees to explore how we will commission and contract public health services in GP practices and pharmacies in the future, given the opportunities offered by the new Primary Care Networks.

In substance misuse, EDP began direct delivery of clinical substance misuse services (previously provided by Devon Doctors) on 1st April. The Council is also exploring the benefit of using “single use kits” to reduce the amount of unused needle kits that are thrown away. There are particular pressures on the substance misuse budget arising from increases in the price of buprenorphine.

There are also cost pressures in our sexual health services. Commissioners are working with the provider to understand the reasons for increases in activity and to identify ways of managing both demand and cost.

Public Health also provides advice to our partners – especially the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group – and are linking increasingly into place-based work at locality level, providing demographic analysis and evidence-based input.

5. Economy, Enterprise and Skills - Head of Service: Keri Denton

The Economy, Enterprise and Skills Service has continued to support the local economy and to work with businesses. It has delivered skills and training opportunities and has provided a range of regulatory services and guidance through the joint Devon, Somerset and Torbay Trading Standards. Set out below are some of the highlights and achievements:

The Service has continued to deliver its primary adult and community learning programme through the year through Learn Devon, with 6,400 individuals engaged over the year,

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representing a 20% increase, and 130 individuals supported to complete their GCSEs with achievement rates of over 80-90% compared to 35% nationally.

The Service has also continued the Council's Post-16 Transition programme, working with CSW Ltd to provide the Council's wraparound tracking and support provision for those young people moving from full time education into new opportunities. Tracking 22,000 young people in year, the programme saw historically low levels of NEETs in 2018 (just over 3% of the total), beating both regional and national averages.

Working with the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership, the service has rolled out the Careers Hub, working with all mainstream secondary schools across the County to support their emerging careers programmes and link together business and education partners. The Digital Skills Partnership has brought together a business led group of digital experts and enterprises to develop and enhance digital skills provision across the area. This includes the roll out from July of the Digital Innovation Fund Programme, providing 300 new training opportunities at a variety of levels for individuals wishing to upskill around digital competencies.

The Service is working through a range of projects to stimulate business growth and successfully securing external funding. The Service is in conversation with the LEP to operate the HotSW Growth Hub. The Service has also submitted bids for ERDF funding for a new Growth Support Programme to run alongside the Growth Hub, creating a single point of contact and a comprehensive source of business support including regulatory advice. The Service has secured funding for an Engaging Rural Micros trial project involving monitoring and practical research with over 250 rural micro businesses.

The joint Devon, Somerset & Torbay Trading Standards Service continues to perform strongly, meeting key operational targets and carrying out some major investigations. The Service has also focused on prevention and business support. Examples include, education campaign to tackle financial scams with specific action on educating younger people as they are increasingly becoming victims and a project was developed in partnership with the Property Ombudsman to provide business support and interventions to all letting agents in our service delivery area.

The Strategy for Growth which sets out the Service's strategic objectives until 2030 is nearing completion and the team has carried out a number of research projects to support the development of future projects. These include supporting the local industrial strategy, a Digital Strategy for Heart of the South West and commissioning a follow up study looking at the potential economic markets for good and services aimed at an ageing society.

The service has also led on the County Council's input in the "Connecting Devon and Somerset" programme which is successfully delivering new broadband services across North Western Devon. The recent decision to terminate the contracts with Gigaclear has been shared with Scrutiny and the work to develop a new procurement remains underway.

The service has continued with development, management and marketing of its industrial estate portfolio, including at Okehampton East Business Park, Mullacott Cross Industrial Estate in Ilfracombe, Duchy Square in Princetown and Roundswell South in Barnstaple.

At Roundswell South work continues to construct a new Enterprise Centre. At Okehampton 4 plots are sold and one in productive use, supporting approximately 100 jobs. We have interest in the remaining plots, half of which are currently under offer, with marketing of the final plots due to commence shortly.

The service continues to support the development of Exeter Science Park and has supported the Science Park on the development of the new University Vibration Simulator building and the new Open Innovation Building, as well as district heating infrastructure and ongoing landscape maintenance.

The service is also working on the future of our Skypark employment site, engaging with our JV partner St Modwen, East Devon District Council and Exeter Airport on opportunities and discussions around the site’s Enterprise Zone status and future plans for a Local Development Order (LDO) to enable the site to be brought forward more simply in future from a planning viewpoint.

Dr Virginia Pearson
Chief Officer for Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity

Electoral Divisions: All

- Cabinet Member for Policy, Corporate and Asset Management: Councillor John Hart
- Cabinet Member for Resources Management: Councillor Stuart Barker
- Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health Services and Cabinet Liaison for Exeter: Councillor Andrew Leadbetter
- Cabinet Member for Children’s Services and Schools: Councillor James McInnes
- Cabinet Member for Highway Management: Councillor Stuart Hughes
- Cabinet Member for Infrastructure Development and Waste: Councillor Andrea Davis
- Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills: Councillor Rufus Gilbert
- Cabinet Member for Community, Public Health, Transportation and Environmental Services: Councillor Roger Croad
- Cabinet Member for Organisational Development and Digital Transformation: Councillor Barry Parsons

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for enquiries: Dr Virginia Pearson
Room No. 142 County Hall Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QD
Tel No: (01392) 383000

Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
Nil		

HIW/19/99

Corporate, Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee
26 November 2019

Service Delivery for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste: In-Year Briefing

Briefing Paper by the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

1. Introduction

This report provides an in-year briefing on service delivery within Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste.

2. Current Position Statements

2.1 Highways and Traffic Management

The key focus over the last 12 months has been reviewing our methods of delivery in light of the corporate approach to 'Doing What Matters'. The Service has been working in three key areas;

- Publicly reported potholes;
- Development of work programmes;
- Management of defects.

The detail of this work is included in the performance dashboard report of this Committee (HIW/19/101).

The performance of Skanska has been much improved within year 3 of the contract. The management of the cyclical works including grass cutting, ditching and cleaning is being delivered to a high standard. We are currently working through issues associated with gully cleaning after carrying out a series of internal audits.

Following the development of a successful business case the Service has been working on a Roadworks Permitting scheme across the County. This new approach gives the Authority more control over roadworks. The Traffic Manager can also add conditions to the roadworks, such as the time when works can start and end, limits on the number of days they can be in place and where equipment should be stored, to ensure disruption is kept to a minimum.

At the time of writing we have yet to carry out any gritting operations however all of our plant was operational and calibrated in advance of the traditional start date of 15 October.

We continue to make good progress regarding support for volunteers that want to assist their community. We now have;

- 75 road warden agreements in place (up from 60 in 2018);
- 21 trained in traffic management so far this year from 12 different parishes (total 226 since 2014);
- 4 trained in community events;
- 115 signed up for the Highway Safety Awareness online course. We have now also adapted the course so it can be issued as a guidance pack (some identified issues

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with access/IT skills, etc). We have also shared the course and content with a number of other authorities;

- 15 parishes have had pothole repair material since November 2018;
- 20 bids received so far for the Highway Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund this year, approved 14, refused 1, 5 to be assessed in December.

We continue to work towards full compliance with the Well Managed Highways Infrastructure code of practice. Devon Audit Partnership are being asked to review our progress and offer advice on the work done to date.

The threat of the Ash Dieback to Devon's highway infrastructure has amplified this year, with an increased workload.

We have professionally inspected four of Devon's eight districts of responsibility this summer being, East, West, Teignbridge and South Hams; each of these districts is highlighting an increase in Ash infected trees at 50% crown loss (our marker for intervention) and needing to be removed through planned works. We have also asked our professional inspectors to gather further intelligence on Ash lightly infected that we will need to be removing in future years. This is also showing a discernible increase in trees lightly infected across the four districts, next year we will continue with this intelligence gathering and have a clearer picture of the future workload across the County. We have also inspected a 20km area of Mid Devon at Bickleigh which has been recognised as a hot spot area, this has highlighted more infected trees to be removed for the third year running in this area.

We have started a campaign through Devon's Ash Dieback Resilience Forum and Devon's Communications Team titled "My tree My responsibility" to encourage landowners, to check trees in their ownership. This was promoted through the recent parish council conferences.

Both Stover and the Grand Western Canal country parks have retained their prestigious Green Flag awards. Significant improvements to the quality of Stover Country park have been realised through the construction of 3800m² of reed beds. Initial water sampling indicates the system is already having an effect by improving the quality of water entering the lake. As the reeds develop and establish there should be a marked difference in both water quality and species diversity in the park. Stover Country Park also became the first Dragonfly Hotspot in Devon as declared by the British Dragonfly society.

The streetlighting contract is shortly due to go out to tender, with an anticipated start date in 2020. It is through this contract that the roll out of LED lighting will continue.

The Civil Parking Enforcement service has been named the winner of the best practice reporting: Customer Service award at the PATROL PARC Awards (Parking Annual Report Awards by Councils). The award recognises excellence in customer service. In particular, Devon's online reporting tools were highlighted for enabling the public to identify concerns around pavement parking and abuse of residents parking permits, and the approach to transparency and "open" data was also praised.

2.2 Infrastructure Development

The Infrastructure Development service is delivering a large programme of capital funded schemes including highway (trails, roads and bridges) schemes, schools maintenance and new schools projects. As part of this work there is a need for a top up consultancy contract for the Transportation and Engineering Professional Services, which is currently being re procured. Tenders have now been returned and being evaluated and the project is on program to meet the contract start date of April 1st 2020.

Works continue on developing a number of multi-use trails and cycle projects including, Clyst Valley trail, Teign Estuary trail, Exeter to Cranbrook cycle route, Langaton Lane cycle route, Sidford to Sidbury route, as well as the completion of the Wray Valley trail by the end of the year.

The main scheme and town centre works for the Modbury Flood risk management has been substantially completed, this will provide a greater standard of protection for up to 80 homes and business, and the Ivybridge Flood Risk Management, scheme is completing design for commencement of construction in January 2020.

On the A361, North Devon Link road, design is progressing on the next phase of the Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension junction. The main improvements between South Molton and Bideford are currently out to tender, with returns due in March 2020, but the tree planting in advance of the works is currently underway. Additionally, with the granting of planning permission for Bishops Tawton, design work progresses on the roundabout and subway.

Other major schemes include Sherford High Street which is under construction and progressing well and construction of the A382 widening is due to start shortly.

Major schemes which are under development include the A382/A383 link along with Dinan Way in Exmouth. Preliminary design has also commenced on Baulk Bridge on the B3181, over the M5 south of Cullompton for delivery probably in 2021/22.

The service is assisting in delivering some of the Capital Maintenance work by designing and delivering resurfacing schemes on the A-Road network as part of the 2019/20 capital programme. Additionally, the £1.2m replacement of Alma Bridge in Sidmouth and strengthening of Broom Bridge on the border with Dorset Council are underway along with a large number of retaining wall schemes across the county. The second phase of Shaldon Bridge pier foundation resilience works will commence in November. A CCTV camera has been installed at Bickleigh Bridge, near Tiverton and this has been successful in both reducing accident damage and identifying those that cause it which allows our team to recover costs.

Progress on the new Marsh Barton Station is slow, however we have recently managed to reach agreement with Network Rail on the Asset Protection Agreement, and it is anticipated that by the time of Committee we will be in a position to give approval to commence design on the revised scheme. Planning permission is therefore now likely to be in March 2020.

There are currently 54 schemes within the Schools Maintenance Programme of which 54% (29 schemes) have already completed this year. The schools basic need programme has seen the opening of the new 210 place St James C of E Primary School in Okehampton (Energy Performance Certificate Rating A), the refurbishment of the former Charlton Lodge Care Home in to a new Special School provision in Tiverton, and new sixth form accommodation in Okehampton similarly by the refurbishment of the former Wardhayes Care Home. In addition, this year has also seen the completion of expansion projects at Honiton Primary School, Ellen Tinkham Special School (Bodley House site) and Totnes St Johns Primary School.

Although opened last year it is pleasing to be able to report that Loddiswell Primary school has just won the SPACES (Society for Public Architecture, Construction, Engineering and Surveying) award for innovation.

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2.3 Waste Management

The 2018/19 data has showed a welcome increase in the recycling rate to 56% making Devon provisionally the 3rd best recycling county in the country. East Devon's and Torridge's service changes contributed significantly to this achievement. A reduction of 0.1% in waste arisings was also welcomed.

Behavioural change campaign work over the first six months of this year has included:

- food waste prevention project "Keep an eye on food waste" with roadshows held across the county providing helpful tips and advice on reducing food waste
- promotion of home composting with the "Get composting" scheme, whereby subsidised compost bins were advertised at Recycling Centres.
- promoting less use of single use plastic with a "Feel good, do good" campaign <https://www.recycledevon.org/single-use-plastic-pledge>

The Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee (DASWC) funded Waste and Recycling Advisors (WRA) contract has focussed on talking to householders' face to face to assist them to improve their recycling habits. To date over 10,000 residents have been spoken to, with 8,596 recycling boxes given out. There has been a drop in contamination of recycling, and an increase in food waste collection tonnages.

Over the past year the Schools Waste Education team have seen a notable increase in demand for their support to schools due to the heightened public interest in the topics of plastic, Climate Change and the youth strikes. During the 2018/19 academic year the Waste Education Team worked with 64 schools across Devon reaching 12,508 children and 1,471 adults. Several of these schools received more than one school visit and some have also visited an EfW plant and recycling centre. The Education team have also recently launched the Recycle Devon Scouts Badge, are working with the Libraries on a poetry competition for young people and supported 13 schools to run a School Community day to raise awareness of waste issues among parents and the wider school community.

During 2018/19, the Community Action Groups in Devon (CAG Devon) project has expanded beyond Tiverton to cover all of Mid Devon and Teignbridge, with the number of groups in the network increasing from 4 to 13. Together these groups put on 79 community events ranging from food surplus events and Repair Cafes to Give or Take swapping events, compost workshops and clothes swaps. The groups directly engaged with 5,616 people and contributed a total of 4,353 volunteer hours. During the year CAG Devon carried out 2 compost training days and 2 Love Food Hate Waste days, working in partnership with local CAG groups to deliver the training. They also ran a Skill Share event in partnership with Eden Project Communities with 65 people attending from over 30 organisations.

Phase II of Ecowaste4food (a 4-year EU funded project aimed at reducing food waste in the supply chain) has seen a successful bid for a Pilot Project providing cooking skills classes to householders across the county. Alongside this, an application to the National Lottery is ongoing to provide 15 community fridges in Devon's market towns.

The Devon Reuse Project has focussed on supporting repair cafes across Devon and in particular the Big Fix 2019 held in Exeter where 268 items were repaired in one day by a team of 40 menders. The organisation of the Big Fix, Devon Reuse week and Devon Upcycling Day contributed to Devon's Reuse Project Officer winning the Outstanding Achievement Award at the national LARAC Conference in October.

New waste operational contracts have been let for processing separately collected food in North Devon and Torridge District Council areas and separately collected garden waste in East Devon, North Devon and Torridge District Council areas.

3. Budget Update - Revenue Expenditure Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

- 3.1 Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste overall is forecasting an under spend of £402k at Month 6.
- 3.2 Highways and Traffic Management is showing an overspend of £725k. This is for a number of reasons, but primarily the level of anticipated income is not being achieved, and although the level of potholes is significantly down on previous years the service set an ambitious saving, which has not been fully realised. There are a number of risks associated with the current projections, particularly in relation to reactive works. Weather patterns over the winter period can have a significant impact on expenditure and this will be monitored closely to identify pressures, and potential management action, as early as possible.
- 3.3 Infrastructure Development is currently generating an over-recovery of income through capital recharges. As a result, the service is now projected to exceed income recovery by £180k.
- 3.4 Waste tonnages are below forecast, and along with a number of other factors including fluctuations in the price of recycled materials being better than anticipated this has led to a forecast overall under spend on the waste budget of £947k. However, waste tonnages can be very volatile depending on both weather and economic factors.

Meg Booth
Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Highway Management: Councillor Stuart Hughes

Cabinet Member for Infrastructure Development and Waste: Councillor Andrea Davis

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

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for enquiries: Meg Booth

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Tel No: 01392 383000

Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
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Nil

mb051119cirssc Service Delivery for Highways Infrastructure Development and Waste In-Year Briefing
hk 04 111119

Treasury Management - Mid Year Stewardship Report 2019/20

Report of the County Treasurer

All recommendations contained in this report are subject to confirmation by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: That the Committee consider whether it wishes to draw to the attention of the Cabinet any observations on the Treasury Management Mid Year Stewardship Report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The County Council has adopted the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services. A revised Code of Practice was published by CIPFA in December 2017 and a revised Policy Statement and Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) were agreed by Council in February 2018. The Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2019/20 was agreed by Council in February 2019 and forms part of the published budget book.
- 1.2. The purpose of this report is to inform members of any key matters arising from the Council's Treasury and Debt Management activities during the first seven months of the 2018/19 financial year. It is intended to enable members to ensure that agreed policy is being implemented. This report, together with any comments offered by this committee, will be considered by Cabinet on 11th December.

2. Borrowing Strategy for 2019/20 – 2021/22

- 2.1. The overall aims of the Council's borrowing strategy are to achieve:
 - Borrowing at the lowest rates possible in the most appropriate periods;
 - The minimum borrowing costs and expenses;
 - A reduction in the average interest rate of the debt portfolio.
- 2.2. The Medium Term Financial Strategy assumes that, over the three year period, no new long-term borrowing will be required, although this will be kept under review. The majority of the capital programme is funded by capital grants or use of capital receipts. Some use is made of internal borrowing from the Council's cash resources, and prudent management of the capital programme aims to ensure that there is no requirement to take on additional external borrowing.
- 2.3. If short-term borrowing is required to aid cashflow, this will be targeted at an average rate of 0.4%.

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3. Implementation of the borrowing strategy in 2019/20

- 3.1. Active treasury management and the maintenance of levels of liquidity have ensured that no short term borrowing has been required for the financial year to date. Cash positions are monitored daily and modelled over a monthly horizon to ensure that anticipated liquidity levels are forecast accurately.
- 3.2. In accordance with the Medium Term Financial Strategy no long term external borrowing has been undertaken this financial year. Instead all borrowing required to fund capital expenditure has been funded by internal cash balances. This position will be kept under review, but the expectation remains that no new external borrowing will be required during the three year period.
- 3.3. On 9th October HM Treasury announced an increase in interest rates for borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb). Some local authorities have substantially increased their use of the PWLB in recent months, as the cost of borrowing has fallen to record lows. HM Treasury was concerned about the level of local authority borrowing and therefore announced that they would restore interest rates to levels available in 2018, by increasing the margin that applies to new loans from the PWLB by 100bps (one percentage point) on top of usual lending terms. Should the Council decide that it wished to take out new external debt, then this move by HM Treasury would increase the cost of the external borrowing. However, this has no impact on the rates applicable to the Council's current long term debt, which were set at fixed rates when the loans were taken out.
- 3.4. At 31st October 2019 the level of long term debt remains unchanged at £507.85m as detailed in the table below.

Analysis of Long Term Debt

	Actual 31.03.19 £'m	Interest Rate %	Actual 31.10.19 £'m	Interest Rate %
Fixed Rate Debt				
PWLB	436.35	4.99	436.35	4.99
Money Market	71.50	5.83	71.50	5.83
Variable Debt				
PWLB	0.00		0.00	
Money Market	0.00		0.00	
Total External Borrowing	507.85	5.11	507.85	5.11

- 3.5. It should be noted that the long term debt figure presented in the Statement of Accounts will be different than the figure stated above. This difference is due to an accounting standard adjustment which requires us to record the value of our long term debt at its Net Present Value in the Statement of Accounts. The Money Market loans, or LOBOs (Lender Option Borrower Option), have stepped interest rates and are revalued annually based on the effective interest rate for the duration of the loan. This revaluation has the effect of smoothing the stepping of the interest over the life of the loans.
- 3.6. The majority of the Council's borrowing is from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb); however, there are three outstanding LOBO loans, totalling £46.5 million and one fixed loan valued at £25m (previously a LOBO), as shown in the above table. These are historic loans which were all taken out over thirteen years ago, at an initial lower rate of interest that then stepped up to a higher rate after the initial period. There is no further stepping built into any of the loans, but the lenders of the LOBOs have the option to increase the interest rate at each half year date. If the lender exercises this option, the Council would

then have the option of repaying the loan in full, incurring no early repayment premium, or to continue making repayments at the higher rate of interest. Given the current level of interest rates it is unlikely that this will happen for many years.

- 3.7. No opportunities have arisen during this financial year to repay outstanding debt without incurring substantial premium penalties, which would negate any benefit of repaying the debt. The PWLB sets premature repayment rates and, where the interest rate payable on a current loan is higher than the repayment rate, the PWLB policy imposes premium penalties for early repayment. These repayment rates are unaffected by the move to increase the rates for new borrowing, in effect increasing the margin between the rates for new loans and the repayment rates. With current low rates of interest these penalties would be of a significant cost. Therefore it will only make financial sense to repay debt early if the PWLB changes its current policy, or if interest rates rise and cancel out the repayment premiums.

4. Investment Strategy in 2018/19

- 4.1. The County Council continues to adopt a very prudent approach to counterparties to whom the County Council is willing to lend. As a result, only a small number of selected UK banks and building societies, money market funds and Non-Eurozone overseas banks in highly rated countries are being used, subject to strict criteria and the prudent management of deposits with them. In addition, the CCLA (Churches, Charities and Local Authorities) Property Fund is being used. The lending policy is kept under constant review with reference to strict criteria for inclusion in the counterparty list.
- 4.2. The 2019/20 Treasury Management Strategy also included provision for the use of multi-asset income funds or short dated bond funds. Use of such funds would be subject to the approval of the Cabinet Member for Resources Management.
- 4.3. The overall aim of the Council's investment strategy is to:
- Limit the risk to the loss of capital;
 - Ensure that funds are always available to meet cash flow requirements;
 - Maximise investment returns, consistent with the first two aims;
 - Review new investment instruments as they come to the Local Authority market, and to assess whether they could be a useful part of our investment process.
- 4.4. The target rate for interest on deposits with banks, building societies and money market funds is 0.75%. The target rate for the CCLA Property Fund is 4.5%.

5. Implementation of the investment strategy in 2019/20

- 5.1. The following table shows the County Council's fixed and variable rate investments as at the start of the financial year and as at 31st October 2019:

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Schedule of Investments

		Actual 31.03.19 £'m	Interest Rate %	Actual 31.10.19 £'m	Interest Rate %
Maturing in:					
Bank, Building Society & MMF Deposits					
Fixed Rates					
Term Deposits	< 365 days	147.50	1.01	132.50	1.04
	365 days & >	10.00	1.00	10.00	1.25
Callable Deposits					
Variable Rate					
Call Accounts		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Notice Accounts		12.50	1.01	40.00	1.04
Money Market Funds (MMF's)		46.83	0.77	41.20	0.72
Property Fund		10.00	4.23	10.00	4.26
All Investments		226.83	1.10	233.70	1.13

- 5.2. The figure as at 31st March 2019 includes approximately £11.7m related to the Growing Places Fund (GPF). This figure had reduced to approximately £6.8m as at 31st October 2019. Devon County Council has agreed to be the local accountable body for the GPF, which was established by the then Department for Communities and Local Government to enable the development of local funds to address infrastructure constraints, promoting economic growth and the delivery of jobs and houses. The Council is working in partnership with the Local Economic Partnership, and interest achieved on the GPF funds, based on the average rate achieved by the Council's investments, will accrue to the GPF and not to the County Council.
- 5.3. The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) have held the base rate at 0.75% since August 2018. Any further moves in the base rate are likely to depend on the outcome of the UK general election and the consequences for Brexit. A move could be made in either direction, but is unlikely to have any significant effect on investment income that can be achieved in 2019/20.
- 5.4. Revenue lending during the current year up to 31st October, including the use of term deposits, call accounts, money market funds and the CCLA property fund, has earned interest of £1,503,000 against a full year budget of £1,600,000. It is forecast that the investment income for the full financial year will exceed budget by around £750,000. The surplus income has resulted from better rates being achieved than the prudent target that was set for the year, plus a higher average cash balance over the year to date than was anticipated.
- 5.5. The County Council continues to adopt a very prudent approach to counterparties to whom the County Council is willing to lend. As a result only a small number of selected UK banks, building societies and money market funds and Non-Eurozone overseas banks in highly rated countries have been used, subject to strict criteria and the prudent management of deposits with them. A longer-term investment of £10m has also been made in the CCLA (Churches, Charities and Local Authorities) Property Fund. However the Council has no direct investments in property or other non-treasury management investments for commercial purposes. The provision in the Strategy for the use of multi asset income funds and short dated bond funds has not yet been utilised.

- 5.6. The lending policy is kept under constant review with reference to strict criteria for inclusion in the counterparty list. All lending has been carried out in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and with institutions on the list of approved counterparties. There have been no breaches of credit limits.

6. Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

- 6.1. Each year the Council has a statutory obligation to charge to the revenue account an annual amount of Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), which is a charge to make provision for the repayment of the authority's external debt and internal borrowing. The charge is based on the historic borrowing required to fund the Council's capital programme.
- 6.2. The current policy, following a review in 2018/19 is to charge MRP in equal instalments over the life of the asset benefiting from the capital spend, based on the annuity method. The budgeted MRP for 2019/20 is £12.685m.

7. Prudential Indicators

- 7.1. Linked to its Treasury Management Strategy, the County Council is required to monitor its overall level of debt in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice. Part of the code requires consideration of a set of Prudential Indicators in order to allow the Council to form a judgement about the affordable, prudent and sustainable level of debt.
- 7.2. The purpose of the indicators is to demonstrate that:
- Capital expenditure plans are affordable;
 - All external borrowing and other long term liabilities are within prudent and sustainable levels;
 - Treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with professional good practice.
- 7.3. Three Prudential Indicators control the overall level of borrowing. They are:
- **The Authorised Limit** - this represents the limit beyond which any additional borrowing is prohibited until the limit is revised by the County Council. Revision may occur during the year if there are substantial and unforeseen changes in circumstances, for example, a significant delay in achieving forecast capital receipts. In normal circumstances this limit will not require revision until the estimate for 2020/21 is revised as part of the 2020/21 budget process.
 - **The Operational Boundary** – this indicator is based on the probable external debt and other long term liabilities during the year. Variations in cash flow may lead to occasional, short term breaches of the Operational Boundary that are acceptable.
 - **The Underlying Borrowing Requirement to Gross Debt** - the Council also needs to ensure that its gross debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the Capital Financing Requirement.

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7.4. During the Budget process, the following Borrowing Limits were set for 2019/20

- Maximum borrowing during the period (**Authorised Limit**) - £776.73m
- Expected maximum borrowing during the year (**Operational Boundary**) - £751.73m
- Maximum amount of fixed interest exposure (as a percentage of total) - 100%
- Maximum amount of variable interest exposure (as a percentage of total) - 30%

7.5. Members are asked to note that for 2019/20 to date, the Council has remained within its set Borrowing Limits and has complied with the interest rate exposure limits.

8. Prospects for 2020/21

8.1. Investment returns are likely to remain low during 2020/21. However, much will depend on the outcome of the UK general election and its impact on the resolution of Brexit, and updated forecasts for UK GDP.

8.2. Downside risks to current forecasts for UK gilt yields and PWLB rates currently include:

- Brexit – if it were to cause significant economic disruption and a major downturn in the rate of growth.
- The Bank of England takes action too quickly, or too far, over the next three years to raise Bank Rate and causes UK economic growth, and increases in inflation, to be weaker than we currently anticipate.
- A resurgence of the Eurozone sovereign debt crisis. In 2018, Italy was a major concern due to having a populist coalition government which made a lot of anti-austerity and anti-EU noise. However, in September 2019 there was a major change in the coalition governing Italy which has brought to power a much more EU friendly government; this has eased the pressure on Italian bonds. Only time will tell whether this new unlikely alliance of two very different parties will endure.
- Concerns around the level of US corporate debt which has swollen massively during the period of low borrowing rates in order to finance mergers and acquisitions.
- Geopolitical risks, for example in North Korea, but also in Europe and the Middle East, which could lead to increasing safe haven flows.

8.3. Upside risks to current forecasts for UK gilt yields and PWLB rates

- Brexit – if agreement was reached all round that removed all threats of economic and political disruption between the EU and the UK.
- The Bank of England is too slow in its pace and strength of increases in Bank Rate and, therefore, allows inflationary pressures to build up too strongly within the UK economy, which then necessitates a later rapid series of increases in Bank Rate faster than we currently expect.
- UK inflation, whether domestically generated or imported, returning to sustained significantly higher levels causing an increase in the inflation premium inherent to gilt yields.

- 8.4. In view of this, it is likely that the target investment return for 2020/21 for bank, building society and money market deposits will continue to be set at a prudent level of around 0.75%, reflecting the current Bank of England base rate. However, the target rate will be reviewed in the light of the general election outcome and progress made in resolving Brexit between now and when the Council's budget is set in February. We expect to achieve a higher rate of return in the region of 4.0% to 4.5% for the CCLA property fund.
- 8.5. Multi asset income funds and short dated bond funds remain within the strategy. The use of such funds will be reviewed when the outcome and consequences of Brexit are clearer.

9. Summary

- 9.1. No long term borrowing has been undertaken to date in 2019/20. The expectation is that no new borrowing will be required during the remainder of the 2019/20 financial Year.
- 9.2. No short term borrowing has been undertaken to date in 2019/20.
- 9.3. The investment income achieved as at the end of October stands at around £1.5 million compared to the budget target for the year of £1.6 million.

Mary Davis

Electoral Divisions: All
Local Government Act 1972
List of Background Papers – Nil
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Food banks and their use in Devon and the UK

Report of the Chief Officer for Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity

1. Introduction

This report is intended to provide Members a short summary of the local and national context around food banks and how they operate; alongside a summary of recent academic and policy research around why people are referred to and utilise food banks today.

The causes behind people accessing food banks are various and complex, as are the wider causes of hunger and poverty. The Trussell Trust are the largest food bank network both in the UK and within Devon and their research and local experiences have significantly contributed to this report, given their expertise and leadership in this area.

2. Food bank use

Food banks generally operate on a model of providing emergency supplies for a household able to sustain a three-day period only, following a referral from a third party. Whilst food banks operate in different ways, many do not support more than three referrals per household in a calendar year.

Most food banks rely on individual donations via a variety of sources including churches, schools and businesses though some have arrangements with local producers too. Organisations collect centrally in shops or businesses, often linked closely to appeals for particular stock as a result of demand or shortages. Many food banks are also able to provide essentials such as toiletries, sanitary products, nappies and pet food. For many food banks, religious festivals are often key times for donations given the link to schools and places of worship able to collect donations.

Donations are required to be collected and sorted by food banks, requiring both suitable transport, space and volunteers. The ability to store food and supplies appropriately and at scale is particularly important for larger food banks. Referrals come from a range of sources agreed by each food bank locally. These will range from doctors, social workers and teachers, to local charities. Each will follow an assessment of needs and in most cases includes the sharing of information and in many cases wider signposting for support and advice. Organisations like the Trussell Trust use the information collected to monitor local use and eligibility alongside the compilation of data around the reasons that people are using their service.

Over the last 12 months, the Trussell Trust alone provided a 1.6 million food parcels, a 19% increase on the previous year. The Trust has 427 Food banks in the UK, alongside 1200 distribution centres.

3. Food banks in Devon

As across the UK, the network of Food banks in Devon is varied and constantly evolving to meet changes in demand and need. The Trussell Trust runs 18 of the major 30+ food banks in Devon based mainly within its market towns. However, alongside these are an array of both collection and distribution points some linking to a network of smaller, informal groups

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and arrangements. Some rural churches for example informally collect and distribute parcels in their local community.

Exeter Food bank remains the largest in Devon distributing around two tonnes of food each week. Donations via supermarkets remain the key source of food and supplies, though a growing network of businesses and organisations, including DCC staff, is increasingly important to the charity. The food bank has over 200 volunteers. When shortages in particular foods are identified, there is agility in the response for donations of priority items usually prompted via social media. As a result, the charity rarely has to purchase specific items.

Young people in Exeter (participating in the National Citizenship Scheme) worked with Sainsburys to develop a simple flagging system to identify products for shoppers that were particularly needed by local foodbanks, which was adopted in its stores nationally. A number of DCC Members provided funding for a new vehicle for Exeter Foodbank to use to collect and distribute items. In addition, several Member Locality Fund grants have been provided to food banks across the County.

4. When do people use Food banks?

In recent years a range of evidence has been gathered around the reasons that people are using Food banks in the UK. These causes are often complex and the subject of political debate.

The recent "[State of Hunger](#)" report, commissioned by the Trussell Trust and conducted by Heriot-Watt University, provides independent research into hunger in the UK. It reveals the average weekly income of people at food banks is only around £50 after paying rent, and almost one in five have no money coming in at all in the month before being referred for emergency food. Groups more likely to access food banks are those with long term health conditions or disability, lone parents and families with three or more children. Significant and detrimental life events such as job loss or bereavement also play a significant factor in food bank referrals.

The report identifies three drivers that push people into hunger and poverty; these are problems with the benefits system; ill health and challenging life experiences; and a lack of local support. Problems with benefits highlighted by the research include a reduction in the value of benefit payments, being turned down for disability benefits, being sanctioned, and delays in payments including the initial five-week wait for Universal Credit.

The DWP have provided significant mitigation to these impacts (having reduced the wait period from six to five weeks) including providing advance payments to bridge the five-week waiting period. Advance payments allow claimants to borrow up to 100 per cent of the amount that they are entitled to in their first payment and most claimants who use advance payments take out 100 per cent of their entitlement. However, this money is a loan (albeit interest free), which must be repaid through automatic deductions from subsequent Universal Credit payments. Inevitably, deductions to subsequent payments sees some claimants fall into further hardships often for many months.

Although the body of evidence is growing, it is difficult to fully understand what is driving the steep rise in food bank use. There is good evidence to indicate that changes to the benefit system have played a significant part, along with low income and debt. However, it is also possible that food banks are meeting demand that existed before they arrived, which may have been met by other means. It is also possible that growing awareness is fuelling demand; for example, staff at Job Centres now signpost people to food banks. Several factors may be responsible for the overall increase.

Alongside personal impacts on claimants, a range of voluntary, community sector (including food banks) and statutory organisations are also placed under greater burden particularly those providing wider welfare and accommodation support.

5. Why are people referred to Food banks?

Like many food banks and wider food charities, Trussell Trust are now seeking to address the underlying causes of hunger and poverty in the UK, rather than to simply develop a bigger and more resilient food bank network. There are many definitions of poverty both relative and absolute, though destitution or extreme poverty (those lacking the most vital essentials, including food) perhaps best describes people in society most likely to be the subject of a food bank referral. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation recently reported that “over 1.5 million people faced destitution in the UK at some point in 2017, 68% of whom were UK-born without ‘complex’ needs”. Increasingly food bank referrals are for those in work but with low-wages, or with little security around regular working patterns or hours in order to cover essential bills.

As described, people will be referred to food banks and use food banks for a range of reasons and the Trussell Trust are undertaking long term research to explore this as outlined within its recent *State of Hunger* report. Many contributors to this report outline food poverty and food insecurity being key challenges to understand and tackle, but overall poverty is recognised as the key issue that needs to be addressed.... “We’ve thought a lot about the movement towards food poverty, fuel poverty, period poverty and other sorts of poverties, and we’re very clear that we would say its just poverty [...] If you say the problem is food poverty or hunger then the solution that that points to is to give people food. Whereas, if you say the problem is poverty, then the solution is obviously to give people income.”

6. Role of Local Government

Although many Local Authorities have provided discretionary funding for food banks in their area since they started to open in the early 00’s, this is a very mixed picture, and this funding has reduced significantly in recent years. Recent guidance published from the Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) association outlined that the provision of food banks is not a Local Authority function or duty.

Most food banks remain independent charities and wish to remain so. Central government, notably DWP, do not identify food banks as part of the welfare system and do not consider the funding of food banks as appropriate use of public funds.

7. Conclusion

For many people, the existence of food banks (often including those who run and volunteer within them) reflects a paradox within a modern and relatively affluent society.

Nevertheless, food banks have over the last twenty years, become a valuable and often vital addition to the lives of people and communities across Devon and the UK. Whilst users often experience stigma as a result of the circumstances that may prompt a food bank referral, most will receive a warm welcome alongside much needed supplies. Alongside this, many food banks will offer wider support and referrals to other local agencies and charities.

Communities and voluntary sector organisations in Devon, supported by millions of pounds of donations from individuals with thousands of hours in volunteer time, have developed a vibrant and flexible network of food banks. Time will tell how this will continue to respond to

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evolving demands and how any root causes are addressed by successive societal, economic and political cycles.

Dr Virginia Pearson
Chief Officer for Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity

Electoral Divisions: All

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

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for enquiries: Simon Kitchen

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Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
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Nil

sc061119cirssc Food banks and their use in Devon and the UK
hk 02 111119

Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services
Scrutiny Committee

Food Waste Spotlight Review

November 2019

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1. Recommendations

The Task Group ask the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet; with a report on progress against the recommendations in six months' time.

	Ambition	Specific recommendations	Agency
1	Increase clarity and consistency on household food waste recycling across Devon	Work with District Councils to give a consistent message to the public that 'any bag' can be used for separately collected food waste.	DCC Waste, District Councils
		Encourage consistent communication with the public on food waste recycling and collection across the districts informing citizens what can be placed in the food waste bin.	DCC Waste, District Councils
2	Encourage greater collaboration with food waste charities to improve food waste education.	Encourage food waste charities with links to schools to link up with the Devon Waste Education Programme to improve shared information to schools on the issues of food waste.	DCC Waste, Food Waste Charities
3	Support Parish and Town Councils to combat food waste	Circulate Community Fridge information, including the Hubbub Community Fridge Tool Kit to Town and Parish Councils through partnership with the Devon Association of Local Councils and DCC Councillors.	DCC Communities, DCC Waste
4	Encourage businesses to combat food waste	Provide online information and signpost to businesses regarding the advantages and potential savings of following the food waste hierarchy and recycling.	DCC Waste, DCC Communications

2. Introduction

- 2.1 This Spotlight review was established following concerns from Councillors on food waste. The establishment of the Food Waste Spotlight Review was decided upon at the Corporate, Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny meeting on 29th January 2019. The minutes of which can be found here, <https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=427&MId=2830&Ver=4>.
- 2.2 Food Waste is an issue that more policy makers are attending to. Recently, the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee published an inquiry report titled Food Waste in England on 25th April 2017. This can be found here, <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmenvfru/429/429.pdf>.
- 2.3 The Government Resource and Waste Strategy published in Dec 2018 had a large focus on food waste. It's aims included more effective food redistribution before it can go to waste and the appointment of a National Food Waste champion, who is now in post.¹
- 2.4 The government stated in their 2018 Environment Plan, their aim to “cut by one fifth the greenhouse gas intensity of food and drink consumed in the UK, and also per capita UK food waste by 2025.”² This is in line with the EU Circular Economy package goals to be “recycling 65% of municipal waste by 2035”³ and the UN Sustainable development goal 12.3, which sets countries the goal to, “by 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses”.⁴
- 2.5 Devon County Council (DCC) is responsible for the safe disposal of all municipal household waste generated in the eight districts of Devon, although its collection is the responsibility of the District Councils.
- 2.6 Trade and commercial waste is not accepted at any DCC recycling centres and DCC does not provide a trade waste service. The only exception to this is for small businesses who have applied to join DCC's trade recycling scheme for garden and cardboard waste.
- 2.7 A number of Devon District Councils do offer charged-for commercial waste collection and recycling services, however there is little consistency on this across districts. Not all the district councils offer a commercial food waste recycling collection service, for example, North Devon.⁵

¹ HM Government, *Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy For England*, (2018), p11

² HM Government, *A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment*, (2018), p89

³ EU, Final Circular Economy Package, (07/08/2019), https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm (accessed 21/10/19)

⁴ United Nations, *Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*, (2015), <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-consumption-production/> (accessed 21/10/2019)

⁵ North Devon Council, Frequently Asked Questions, <https://www.northdevon.gov.uk/business/commercial-waste-and-recycling/frequently-asked-questions/> (accessed 21/10/2019)

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2.8 Recognising the role that scrutiny can have in bringing different agencies together to collectively problem solve, the scope of this spotlight review was:

- a. To understand the underlying causes of food waste and the challenges associated.
- b. To explore the ways in which DCC, district councils and other partners can work together to reduce unnecessary food waste.
- c. To identify the ways in which DCC, district councils and other partners can work together to improve the collection and processing of necessary food waste including increasing householder participation.

2.9 The spotlight review meeting took place on the 6th August and was held in the form of a round table discussion with structured questions clustered around three themes:

- a. How DCC, district councils and other partners can work together to reduce unnecessary food waste;
- b. How DCC, district councils and other partners can work together to improve the collection and processing of necessary food waste including increasing householder participation.

2.10 To give this Spotlight Review an effective scrutiny role it was felt necessary to limit the scope in some way. To cover the full extent of food wastage in its entire sense would result in look a vast number of topics including farming techniques to restaurants portions to food waste bin sizes. Therefore, Members of the spotlight review chose to predominantly focus on household food waste, since this comprises the vast majority of food waste in the UK (see paragraph 3.3 below).

3. Background

3.1 There is a legal definition of ‘waste’ as “material which the producer or holder discards, intends to discard, or is required to discard of.”⁶ However, there is no such legal definition of food waste. The EU FUSIONS (Food Use for Social Innovation by Optimising Waste Prevention Strategies) defines food waste as “any food, and inedible parts of food, removed from the food supply chain to be recovered or disposed (including composted, crops ploughed in/not harvested, anaerobic digestion, bioenergy production, co-generation, incineration, disposal to sewer, landfill or discarded to sea)”⁷

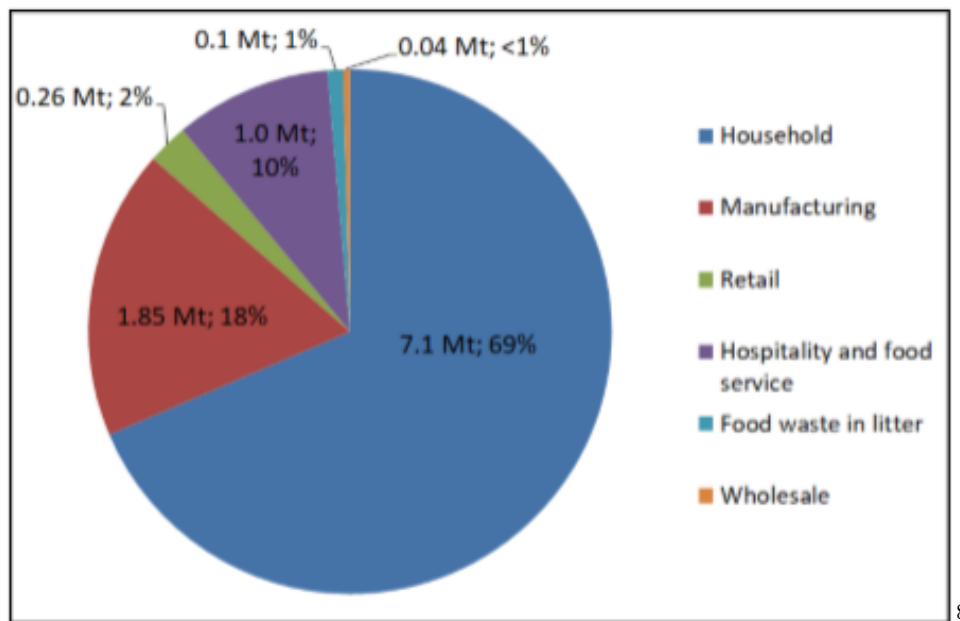
3.2 In 2015 the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) estimated, in 2015, annual food waste arisings within UK households, hospitality & food service

⁶ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, *Decide if a material is waste or not: general guide (updated version of part 2 of original full document)*, (05/05/2016) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/legal-definition-of-waste-guidance/decide-if-a-material-is-waste-or-not#decide-if-your-material-is-waste> (accessed 21/10/2019)

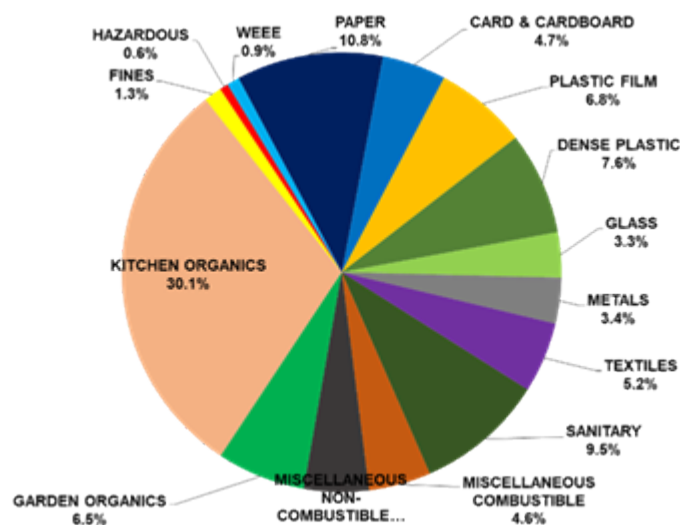
⁷ EU FUSIONS, *Food Waste Definition*, (no date) <https://www.eu-fusions.org/index.php/about-food-waste/280-food-waste-definition> (accessed 12/10/2019)

(HaFS), food manufacture, retail and wholesale sectors totalled around 10 million tonnes, 70% of which was intended to be consumed by people (30% being the ‘inedible parts’). This had a value of over £20 billion a year and would be associated with more than 25 million tonnes of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Around 85% (by weight) of this wasted food arises in households and food manufacture, although waste arising in one part of the supply chain is certainly influenced by other parts of the chain.

3.3 By weight, household food waste makes up around 69% of the UK post-farm-gate total, manufacturing 18%, hospitality and food service 10% and retail 2%. As shown here:



7.1 DCC studies of the contents of residual bins across the County show that kitchen organics is the largest contributor to the content of the average residual bin.



⁸ WRAP, *Food surplus and waste in the UK – key facts*, (July 2019)
http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Food%20Surplus%20and%20Waste%20in%20the%20UK%20Key%20Facts%20%2822%207%2019%29_0.pdf (accessed 17/10/2019)

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- 3.4 The Food Waste in England Select Committee Report states that, “economically, food waste has a cost to households and causes increased disposal costs to local authorities. The environmental impact is significant, both in terms of the impact of producing food, which is then wasted, and in terms of the additional emissions of food disposed of via landfill.”⁹ Globally, the World Resources Institute has stated that food loss and waste, were it a country, would be the third biggest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions after the USA and China.¹⁰ Furthermore, the wastage of food raises social questions when others are struggling with food shortages in the UK and abroad.
- 3.5 Food wastage has been decreasing over the past 10 years. Post-farm-gate total food waste between 2007 and 2015 decreased by around 9%. Excluding ‘inedible parts’ the reduction was 15%, and on a per capita basis the reduction for post-farm-gate total food waste was 14%, and 19% excluding the ‘inedible parts’¹¹

⁹ Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, *Food waste in England*, (April 2017), p5 <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmenvfru/429/429.pdf> (accessed 17/10/2019)

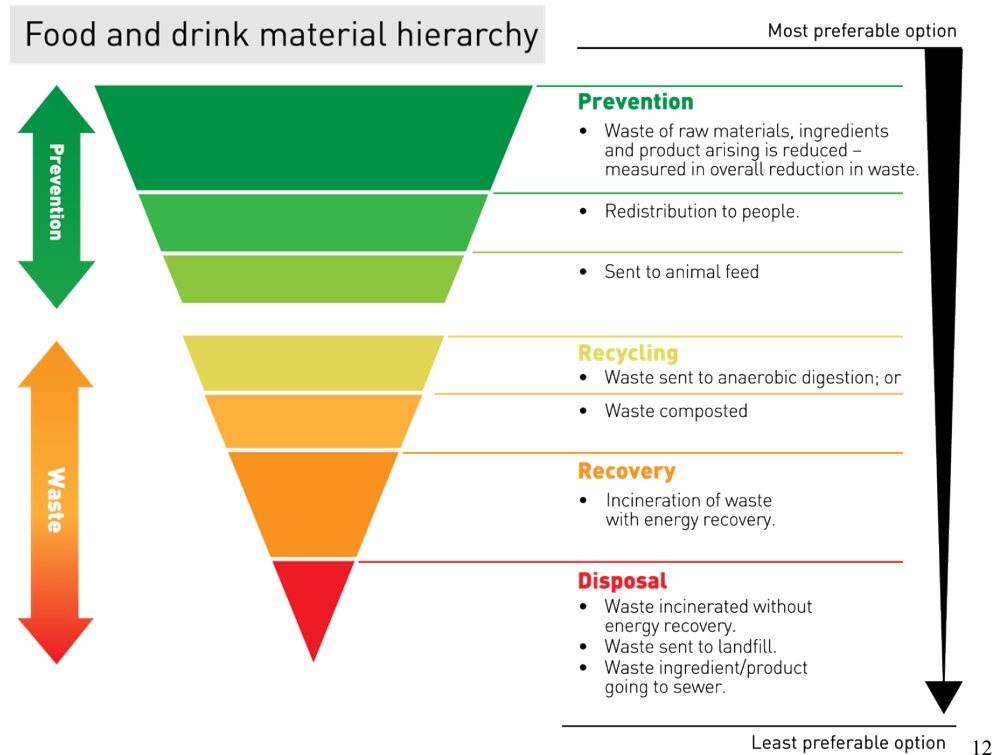
¹⁰ World Resources Institute, *What’s Food Loss and Waste Got to Do with Climate Change? A Lot, Actually*, World Resources Institute, (December 2015), <https://www.wri.org/blog/2015/12/whats-food-loss-and-waste-got-to-do-climate-change-lot-actually> (accessed 17/10/2019)

¹¹ WRAP, *Food surplus and waste in the UK – key facts*, (July 2019) http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Food%20Surplus%20and%20Waste%20in%20the%20UK%20Key%20Facts%20%2822%207%2019%29_0.pdf (accessed 17/10/2019)

4. The Food Waste Hierarchy

4.1 The Food Waste Hierarchy is a model and guide for food waste reduction and management created by WRAP. The principal is to prioritise the reduction of food waste then it's recycling, then energy recovery and finally it's disposal

4.2 A more detailed vision of the Food Waste Hierarchy can be seen here:



5. Household Prevention

5.1 The first level of the food waste hierarchy is prevention. As has been previously mentioned, most food waste in the UK comes from households. The DCC Waste Team currently uses education and engagement campaigns to attempt to reduce people's food waste. This includes one-to-one engagement events as well as countywide media campaigns achieving over 5,000 positive commitments for behavioural change on food waste during the last 4 years. Such campaigns are aimed at changing the behaviour of people so as to decrease the amount of household food wasted, for example, by keeping a household fridge at the correct temperature.

¹² Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, *Food waste in England*, (April 2017) <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmenvfru/429/429.pdf> (accessed 17/10/2019)

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- 5.2 One of the key schemes undertaken by the DCC Waste Team with its contractor Resource Futures is the Devon Waste Education Programme, a comprehensive programme of visits and workshops about all aspects of waste in the school environment. The programme is delivered by experts to schools across Devon both in primaries and at secondaries. Where possible a whole school approach is taken and one element includes encouraging schools to tackle their lunch waste.
- 5.3 Regarding redistribution of household food waste to people, which is a part of the larger picture of prevention, DCC does encourage this through Community Action Groups (CAG) Devon and sharing communications via Recycle Devon social media sites (over 15,000 followers)
- 5.4 One of the successful schemes being encouraged in DCC are Community Fridges. Community Fridges are food storage areas - most likely fridges - located in a public space. It enables food to be shared within a community, anyone can put food in and anyone can take food out. The main aim of Community Fridges is to reduce food waste. They can enable people facing hardship to potentially have access to fresh, nutritious food, but are open to all. That having been said, the Spotlight Review did highlight that Community Fridges should not be seen as a replacement to Food Banks, for example, which specifically aim to help those facing hardship, rather than being aimed at tackling food waste.
- 5.5 However Community Fridges are normally social spaces that enable people to connect to their communities. Some Community Fridges also have an associated area for non-perishable food. In July 2017, a national network of Community Fridges was set up in July 2017 by the environmental charity Hubbub UK, which offers a free support service to new projects. Hubbub particularly offers guidance on how to set up a Community Fridge. Community Fridges are a method by which household food waste can be avoided, but also commercial food waste if businesses work with Community Fridges.

1. Non-Household Prevention

- 6.1 Of course, households are not the only producers of food waste. Other areas, such as commercial food waste should not be forgotten. The largest scheme aimed at reducing commercial food waste is the Courtauld 2025 Commitment which was launched in March 2016. This is a voluntary agreement that brings together organisations across the food system—from producer to consumer—to make food production and consumption more sustainable. This agreement includes a target to reduce food and drink waste in the UK by 20% by 2025, compared to a 2015 baseline. Signatories to the 10-year Commitment include some global food manufacturers as well as major UK retailers, who represent more than 93% of the grocery market. 24 bodies from the local authority sector are also signatories, including the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee, with the aim of improving communications. However, many companies, particularly on the manufacturing side, are not signatories to Courtauld.

- 6.2 There is certainly a public perception of supermarkets “doing too little to assist consumers in reducing waste”¹³, which was reflected in the Spotlight Review meeting. There are schemes in Devon which are supported by DCC which do seek to address food waste from supermarkets through redistribution such as Devon and Cornwall Food Action and Exeter Food Action whose websites can be found here, <https://devonandcornwallfoodaction.org/> and here, <http://exeterfoodaction.org.uk/>. Indeed, there are arguments that more should be done in supermarkets to avoid the wasting of food due to aesthetic standards.¹⁴
- 6.3 The Food Waste in England Select Committee Report highlighted that food waste from the retail sector is “small in comparison to other parts of the supply chain”¹⁵ Furthermore, “it was relatively easy to encourage retailers to sign up [to the Courtauld Agreement], because they have a public-facing brand and there is a lot at stake.”¹⁶
- 6.4 Nevertheless, it particularly highlighted the need for supermarkets to publish their food waste statistics so as to increase transparency.¹⁷

2. Food Waste Recycling

- 7.2 Anaerobic Digestion (AD) is the process by which organic matter such as food waste is broken down to produce biogas and biofertiliser. This process happens in the absence of oxygen in a sealed, oxygen-free tank called an anaerobic digester.
- 7.3 AD is recognised by the government, Defra, the Welsh Assembly, the Scottish Parliament, Friends of the Earth and the National Farmers Union as one of the best methods for food waste recycling and dealing with farm waste and sewage sludge. The biogas naturally created in the sealed tanks is used as a fuel in a CHP (combined heat and power) unit to generate renewable energy i.e. electricity and heat. What’s left from the process is a nutrient rich biofertiliser which is pasteurised to kill any pathogens and then stored in large covered tanks ready to be applied twice a year on farmland in place of fossil fuel derived fertilisers. Every tonne of food waste recycled by anaerobic digestion as an alternative to landfill prevents between 0.5 and 1.0 tonne of CO₂ entering the atmosphere, one of the many benefits of anaerobic digestion.

¹³ WRAP, *Household Waste Prevention Evidence Review: L3 m3-4 (T) – Attitudes and Behaviours Food Waste, A report for Defra’s Waste and Resources Evidence Programme*, Brook Lyndhurst, (October 2009), p6

¹⁴ Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, *Food waste in England*, (April 2017), p18-19 <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmenvfru/429/429.pdf> (accessed 17/10/2019)

¹⁵ Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, *Food waste in England*, (April 2017), p14 <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmenvfru/429/429.pdf> (accessed 17/10/2019)

¹⁶ Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, *Food waste in England*, (April 2017), p10 <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmenvfru/429/429.pdf> (accessed 17/10/2019)

¹⁷ Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, *Food waste in England*, (April 2017), p14-15 <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmenvfru/429/429.pdf> (accessed 17/10/2019)

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- 7.4 The majority of Devon's District councils collect food waste to be sent to AD, with the exception of Exeter City Council and South Hams District Council. However, Exeter City Council are planning to introduce food waste collection in 2021¹⁸ and will use AD. Furthermore, South Hams does not currently send its food waste to AD, instead its food waste is sent with garden waste and composted. However, this is planned to change to an AD system by the end of 2020.¹⁹
- 7.5 In Devon 21,522 tonnes of food waste were recycled by AD in 2018/19. As of October 2017 37,797t of food waste were placed in the residual bins. There is a potential of 5,280t of food waste from Exeter. Therefore leaving 32,517t, of which 70% is avoidable i.e. 22,762t.
- 7.6 From the Spotlight Review, the issue of liners was picked up. Liners are useful for keeping the food waste contained, and bins relatively clean, which helps some householders to use the collection service. There is a lot of conflicting advice on the best liner to use. The Devon authorities are working closely together to agree the best advice, which currently is that any bag can be used, and that no bag or newspaper are also acceptable. Work is continuing on this. It should be noted though that commonly used "biodegradable", starch type bags are in fact unhelpful to the anaerobic digestion process. In fact, any bags used in the food waste bins are removed before the anaerobic digestion process. These are then sent to an energy from waste plant.²⁰ South Hams is an exception to this at the current time, as mentioned since AD is not currently used for its food waste.
- 7.7 Despite the fact that compostable bags are not needed, many people use these bags in the assumption that they are necessary. Different advice regarding liners can be found online, for example compostable liners are advised for East Devon and plastic advised for Mid Devon.²¹ Meanwhile, the DCC website gives a paragraph of advice on why compostable packaging should not be used.²² Yet another set of advice is given by the district council web pages, such as North Devon stating that residents should "line your caddies with special compostable caddy liners".²³
- 7.8 This is important as both information and consistency are key to fully engaging with residents. Indeed, WRAP has noted that many say that compostable bin liners are one of the top four barriers to using a food waste recycling service. In

¹⁸ Devon Live, *Exeter's massive rubbish collection change won't happen until summer 2021*, (9 Oct 2019), <https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/exeters-massive-rubbish-collection-change-3410211>, (accessed 10/10/2019)

¹⁹ South Hams District Council, *South Hams Looking to Improve Recycling Services*, 9 Oct 2019, <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/article/4764/South-Hams-Looking-to-Improve-Recycling-Services>, (accessed 10/10/2019)

²⁰ Devon County Council, *Food Waste Recycling and Collections*, <https://www.devon.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/household-collections/food-waste-recycling-and-collections/> (accessed 15/10/2019)

²¹ Recycle Devon, *Recycling and Food Waste Collections*, <https://www.recycledevon.org/recycling-collections> (accessed 15/10/2019)

²² Devon County Council, *Food Waste Recycling and Collections*, <https://www.devon.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/household-collections/food-waste-recycling-and-collections/> (accessed 15/10/2019)

²³ North Devon Council, *How to recycle your food waste*, <https://www.northdevon.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/weekly-food-waste-collections/how-to-recycle-your-food-waste/>, (accessed 16/10/2019)

2015, 12% stated that “The council doesn’t provide liners for free/I need to pay for them” and 7% stated that “Don’t have any caddy liners/ don’t know how to get hold of them” were one of the top four reasons stopping them from recycling their food waste.²⁴

- 7.9 Furthermore, slightly different advice is given online, for example, as to what should be put in the food waste bin. Although, this information is not contradictory, it should be noted.
- 7.10 Of the most misunderstood foodstuffs, such as bones, eggs and teabags around 12/13% of people who use food waste bins do not put these in the correct bin. Furthermore, “when presented with food types that were considered by WRAP to be potentially more challenging to dispose of, only about half of users report using the food waste service effectively, with between 35% and 41% either failing to take food out of the wrapping before placing in the food waste collection or saying they would use the general rubbish bin”²⁵. The fact that there is, across the country, “often inconsistent provision of the infrastructure needed to participate in a food waste recycling collection (e.g. caddy liners and communications)”²⁶ can certainly be seen as a contributing factor to misunderstanding regarding food waste. This can be seen here in Devon also. For example on the Recycle Devon website, East Devon food waste advice is given as “cooked and uncooked food, meat and fish, bones, fruit and vegetables, cat and dog food, plate scrapings and tea and coffee grounds” while Torridge’s is “vegetable peelings, tea bags, coffee grounds, egg shells, stale bread, meat, fish, plate scrapings (raw and cooked)”²⁷.
- 7.11 Regarding commercial waste, WRAP has pointed out that by engaging with the food waste hierarchy, businesses can save money and improve their public perception if well planned and handled. Monetarily, this is mainly due to the costs of waste collections and relative lower price of recycling collections. Perception improvement would be due to the current appetite to improve the environmental credentials of a business.
- 7.12 In the 2013 DCC Waste and Resource Management Strategy for Devon Review. It states that central Government is keen to see Local Authorities playing a greater role encouraging commercial recycling, but with no statutory duty to perform this function imaginative use of limited resources is required. It suggests that the extent of Local Authorities’ participation could range from signposting on websites, to providing generic leaflets, to trial initiatives in Business

²⁴ WRAP, *3Rs recycling knowledge, attitudes and reported behaviour survey 2015*, Spring 2015, p12, <http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/3Rs%20Recycling%20Highlights%202015%20FINAL%20FOR%20PUBLICATION.pdf> (10/10/2019)

²⁵ WRAP, *3Rs recycling knowledge, attitudes and reported behaviour survey 2015*, Spring 2015, p13 <http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/3Rs%20Recycling%20Highlights%202015%20FINAL%20FOR%20PUBLICATION.pdf> (10/10/2019)

²⁶ WRAP, *A Food Waste Recycling Action Plan for England*, no date, p9 http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/A_Food_Waste_Recycling_Action_Plan_For_England_0.pdf (10/10/2019)

²⁷ Recycle Devon, Recycling and Food Waste Collections, <https://www.recycledevon.org/recycling-collections> (accessed 15/10/2019)

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Improvement Districts such as Plymouth where services are paid for by groups of businesses.²⁸

- 7.13 It should be noted that in Devon, the majority of waste, including food waste, that isn't reduced, reused, recycled or composted is sent to one of two energy from waste facilities either in Exeter or Plymouth. Therefore the bottom level of the food waste hierarchy, sending food waste to landfill, is avoided for domestic waste.

8. Conclusion

This Spotlight Review brought together partners from district councils, the AD operators, food waste charities and DCC officers. The work offers a snapshot view into concerns around food waste.

While it is clear that much is being done to improve the issue of food waste in Devon, it is also clear that there are areas for improvement. Firstly, clarity and consistency on household food waste recycling must be improved to ensure residents have a clear message as to how and what to put in the food waste bin. Secondly, greater collaboration with food waste charities should be encouraged to improve food waste education. As key centres of communities in Devon, Parish and Town Councils should be further supported to combat food waste through methods such as Community Fridges. Finally, although households are the largest contributor of food waste, businesses should also be encouraged further to combat food waste.

Whilst this was a review conducted in a single day the evidence that the recommendations rest upon is based on significant research from several organisations. Food Waste is becoming recognised as a more serious avenue of environmental and societal importance. Not only are there climate change implications to food waste, but also issues surrounding food poverty. It is intended that the recommendations in this report will support increased recognition of the importance of food waste prevention and disposal, as well as supporting a multi-agency approach to encourage further community schemes to bring people together over this issue.

²⁸ Devon County Council, Waste and Resource Management Strategy for Devon Review, (March 2019), p32

9. Sources of evidence

Witnesses

The Task Group heard testimony from a number of sources and would like to express sincere thanks to the following for their involvement and the information that they have shared as well as to express a desire of continuation of joint work towards the fulfilment of the recommendations in this document.

Name	Organisation
Annette Dentith	DCC Waste Management team
Liz Jarvis	DCC Waste Management team
Emma Croft	DCC Waste Management team
Simon Hill	Exeter City Council
Jon Curtis	Exeter Food Action
Gareth Bourton	East Devon District Council
Luke Crisford	Andigestion
David Beasley	DCC Comms Team
Claire Dexter	reROOTed Tiverton
Steven Edwards	DCC Communities Team
Jenny Rayner	DCC Communities Team

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Nicky Scott	Devon Community Composting
Aynsley Jones	Axminster Food Bank
Amanda Cole	Chudleigh Community Fridge
Andrea Davis	DCC Cabinet Member

Thanks also to Philip Bridge for some of his early research and advocacy on food waste.

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10. Spotlight Review Membership

The Group was chaired by Councillor Ian Hall and membership of the Spotlight Review was as follows:

Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services	
Councillor Ian Hall (Chair)	Councillor Yvonne Atkinson
Councillor Polly Colthorpe	Councillor Carol Whitton
Councillor Alistair Dewhirst	Councillor Colin Slade

11. Contact

For all enquiries about this report or its contents please contact

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Camilla de Bernhardt Lane, Head of Scrutiny Cam.debernhardtlane@devon.gov.uk

HIW/19/100

Corporate, Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee
26 November 2019

Highways Winter Service: Progress on Task Group Recommendations

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a progress update on the Council's work regarding the 7 recommendations made by the Highways Winter Service Task Group, presented to the Scrutiny Committee on 26 March 2019 and commended to the Cabinet (Scrutiny Minute *119 and Cabinet Minute *335 refer).

2. Progress on Recommendations

The Service has incorporated the actions in its annual winter service review cycle over the summer. The service level being delivered for this winter is virtually identical to that delivered last year, with only minor changes being made to the primary salting network where there have been changes to the highway network (eg developments and road closures).

Discussion has been held with Devon Clinical Commissioning Group, and they have requested and been provided with data relating to winter service. However, they have not yet provided any information to justify a change to the salting network and therefore there will not be any changes this winter as the window of opportunity has passed.

The emergency planning team will be using social media at the appropriate time to promote and engage with the appropriate use of 4X4s within the community and develop work in this area with partners.

The Snow Warden Scheme continues to be supported, and there has been some revision to information available regarding insurance as requested. This was included in the recent Parish and Town council events across the county, and social media groups have been established to provide support to Snow Wardens.

An educational campaign will be considered for development once the work currently being undertaken to develop a new peninsula-wide Road Safety Partnership has come to fruition.

Further details about progress on the recommendations are set out in the attached Appendix.

3. Conclusion

The Service has taken on board the recommendations from the Task Group and sought to progress many areas as part of their summer review and will continue to develop communications and publicity over this coming winter period.

Meg Booth
Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Highway Management: Councillor Stuart Hughes

Agenda Item 10

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for enquiries: Chris Cranston

Room No. AB1 County Hall, Exeter. EX2 4QD

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Background Paper	Date	File Reference
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Nil

cc281019	cirssc	Highways Winter Service Progress on Task Group Recommendations
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Highways Winter Service Task Group: Overall Approach, Specific Recommendations and Progress on the Recommendations

	Overall Approach	Specific Recommendations (March 2019)	Progress October 2019
1.	The County Council to deliver a Winter Service policy which continues to prioritise strategic and high use sections of the highway, access to larger settlements and other key premises across the County.	1.1 Retention of the County Council's current Winter Service Policy, with no reduction to the primary and secondary gritting networks across the County, for remainder of this Council.	There have been no policy changes and the salting network for this coming winter has only minor changes due to changes in the highway network (road closures, developments etc)
		1.2 The County Council to consider amending its salting networks to include access to all Devon GP surgeries (see costings in para 4.30), if compelling evidence can be identified of the benefits following discussion with the Devon Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).	There has been dialogue with Devon CCG and a lot of information has been provided to them but to date no request has been received or information provided to justify changing the salting network.
		1.3 The County Council to continue to monitor cycle path journeys in Exeter and other key cycling routes, and reconsider winter treatment if/when journey numbers significantly increase (i.e. when winter cycling path journeys are around 1000 per day, in line with the criteria used for roads).	Noted. Data will be reviewed as part of the annual winter service review each year.

	Overall Approach	Specific Recommendations (March 2019)	Progress October 2019
2.	Communities be encouraged and supported to deliver well organised and resourced selfhelp and volunteer schemes, with improved, practical support from the County Council and partners.	2.1 The County Council to support communities and cycling groups to explore options to enable the winter treatment of cycle paths in the county, through voluntary and self-help schemes, in line with the Snow Warden scheme.	The Authority continues to promote and support the snow warden scheme, and most recently through the Parish and Town council events held in October.
		2.2 The County Council to work with Devon & Cornwall Police, CCGs, hospital trusts and 'Devon & Cornwall 4x4 Response' to promote and encourage individuals with access to 4x4s to join organised 4x4 response groups, to enable a more co-ordinated and efficient response to widespread snow.	<p>A coordinated approach to encourage potential membership of organised 4x4 groups has not yet been developed. However, through the @Devonalert Twitter account DCC issue tweets to direct individuals with suitable vehicles towards Devon & Cornwall 4x4 Response. The latest one was retweeted 18 times and received a message of support from the police. The potential reach of the tweet was in excess of 29,000. We do not have any information on possible take-up but the lead coordinator for D&C4x4R has expressed his thanks for promoting their group.</p> <p>The LRF 4x4 protocol has been updated to provide an agreed percentage of available vehicles to the NHS, so that resources are also available for other essential services in emergencies.</p> <p>In an attempt to deter untrained drivers, we also posted a warning message about the danger of not being prepared for winter conditions.</p>

	Overall Approach	Specific Recommendations (March 2019)	Progress October 2019
		<p>2.3 The County Council to provide improved support and guidance for the Snow Warden Scheme through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a review and revamp of the online guidance for the Snow Warden Scheme, to include specific guidance and signposting on getting the necessary insurance cover; • a hard copy version of the above guidance which can be distributed to all Devon Town and Parish Councils and relevant community groups; • use of social media and email alerts to inform Town and Parish Councils and community groups as and when Council gritters are treating primary and secondary routes across the County; • use of social media to promote community volunteering in the Snow Warden scheme and in emergency planning; • use of online/social media platform to provide advice/guidance and sharing of best practice for Town and Parish Councils on the Snow Warden Scheme; • use of Town and Parish Conferences to provide advice and guidance on the Snow Warden Scheme (and other self-help), and provide an opportunity for local councils to network and work together. 	<p>A snow warden pack has been created and is available on the website https://www.devon.gov.uk/communities/opportunities/snow-warden-scheme .</p> <p>The insurance section “what insurance cover do DCC provide?” has been updated to advise councils to contact their insurance provider for further information.</p> <p>See above – this was available at our recent parish and town council events and has been promoted in our dedicated parish and town council newsletter.</p> <p>We’ve created a Facebook group and have only just got sufficient numbers. We invited all registered snow and road wardens but engagement was very poor. Now that we have approx. 20 members (following promotion at our PC/TC events), our focus will now be on providing information.</p> <p>We frequently promote all of our self-help options on our social media pages. As we’ve now entered our official winter period we will start promoting the snow warden scheme.</p> <p>A self-help display was available at the recent Parish and Town council events.</p>

	Overall Approach	Specific Recommendations (March 2019)	Progress October 2019
3.	Improved public understanding of the dangers of driving in extreme weather and a reduction in the number of people who undertake non-essential journeys during future snow events.	The County Council to work with partner agencies (including police, fire service and local media) to launch a consequences based public education campaign around the risks of driving in snow and extreme weather.	The Road safety team are currently working with many partner agencies to establish a Peninsula wide Road safety Partnership that should be able to tackle these types of issues, and once established, this task will be one of the areas that they will consider.

Highways Performance Dashboard

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

1. Introduction

In response to the recommendations of the Planned & Reactive Maintenance: Potholes & Drainage Task Group presented to the Corporate, Infrastructure and Regulatory Services (CIRS) Scrutiny Committee in March 2019 an updated Performance Dashboard Report has been produced. The intention of this report is to provide Members with an overview of the performance of Devon Highways on key seasonal aspects of delivery;

- Winter preparations;
- Cyclical Works;
- Carriageway safety defects;

Additionally, progress on the Doing What Matters work has now been included as requested by the Committee.

2. Winter Preparations

Following the works carried out during the summer the final salt deliveries have been made ensuring our salt barns are full and ready to deliver this year's winter service. We are still waiting for the new saturators for Tiverton and Rydon, these are expected to be delivered and installed by mid-November with alternative arrangements in place should the gritters need to be used before then.

An extensive programme of winter service awareness and refresher training has been completed to ensure the highway teams are ready for another winter. Grit Bins are being filled on request using the 'report it' pages on the Council's website.

We have utilised the recent Parish Conferences around the county to promote the Snow Warden scheme and to support the Parish councils with the self-help options available to them. A new Facebook group has been created which will be used to improve communication and promote the scheme. We continue to develop other communication channels including Twitter and One.Network which has recently replaced Roadworks.org.

3. Cyclical Works

3.1. Gully Emptying

An update on the progress of the gully emptying programme can be seen in Appendix A. The works are currently on programme.

Progress against programme continues to align with our annual calendar. However, in order to strengthen resilience and mitigate the impact of winter maintenance Skanska intend to add a further 2 gully emptiers into the service for the next two months to get us ahead of programme, we will re-evaluate the position in December to decide whether we will extend this arrangement in to 2020. This financial year to date we have disposed of 1316 tonnes of gully waste.

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3.2. Drainage Cleaning

Delivery is currently behind where we would like to be. To improve this situation we have commenced a trial using mechanical attachments with the tractors to increase output over the winter months. We continue to face the challenge of identifying and cleaning new assets, so far this financial year we have added a further 5228 assets to the inventory. This impacts on efficiency and the ability to monitor progress due to the reactive response this creates.

3.3. Jetting

Following the successful trial last year we have employed a dedicated jetting team for 6 months to work on sites identified by our gully cleaning teams prioritising the salting network. All information obtained onsite directly updates the asset inventory.

3.4. Rural and Urban Grass

Urban and rural grass is now complete but was delivered to programme and to budget this year. Additionally, for the urban grass we carried out a successful trial this year that improved digital asset and data capture.

4. Carriageway Safety Defects

Analysis of the number of recorded potholes can be found on the previously published electronic dashboard. The headline figures are provided in Appendix B.

We experienced a spike in public reports following the prolonged period of rain throughout Autumn. The increase in demand has been a challenge to manage resulting in the difficult decision to turn off 'serviceability' defects in the north and south of the county. We are investigating options for sources of funding to enable additional inspectors to provide better resilience across the seasons.

5. Doing What Matters

Over the last 12 months the Service has been reviewing methods of delivery in light of the corporate approach to 'Doing What Matters'. We have been working in three key areas;

- Publicly reported potholes;
- Development of work programmes;
- Management of defects.

5.1. Publicly reported potholes

In 2018 the Service trialled the approach of an inspector being used to verify public enquires. Since June this approach has been carried out across the whole of the county. In addition to verifying enquiries the inspector provides all necessary information for the repair gang to carry out the repair at the first visit. The inspector also has the ability to order repairs to defects that do not meet our safety intervention levels – these are considered as 'serviceability defects'.

In 2018 we received 68,000 pothole reports. Up to the end of October 2019 we received just under 39,000. It is felt that the new approach of dealing with publicly reported defects has had a significant, positive impact on this improvement.

5.2. Development of work programmes

Feedback from various sources had indicated to the Service that the identification of capital improvement works including resurfacing, patching, surface dressing and other surface treatments had lost sight of the opinion of the local communities and was being driven by trying to maintain the value of the asset rather than considering the needs of communities.

To address these concerns a project team was established to initially understand the current system and design a new approach to capital delivery. This team is based in our Okehampton Depot and is in the process of developing an approach that considers not only the data available from machine survey but also the view of the local Neighbourhood Team and the view of the community via consultation with the Parish or Town Council. The feedback from early trials is very positive and the team are looking at a programme to expand this work countywide.

This new approach will have a significant, fundamental impact on the day to day operation of the service and is hoped to have a positive impact on the relationship between the service and the local community.

5.3. Management of defects

Following on from the rebuild of the publicly reported pothole process a team has been established to review our approach to managing defects identified by Highway Safety Inspectors. This work remains in its infancy but has identified a high level of 'clustering' of potholes and is trialling a different approach through the reactive deployment of Skanska's 'Dragon Patcher' to deal with both safety and serviceability defects.

It may be too early in the project to see a tangible difference over winter 2019/20 however it is hoped that this work will be well developed by next summer and will stand us in good stead for the following winter season.

Meg Booth
Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Highway Management: Councillor Stuart Hughes

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Reference
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Nil

rr051119cirssc Highway Performance Dashboard
hk 04 111119

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Appendix A To HIW/19/101

Drainage Cleaning

Gully emptying

As at 1/11/2019			58% Through the year		
	% Complete Overall	Total Programmed	Attended	Cleaned	Remaining
Honiton	73%	23,630	17,150	16,915	6,480
Exeter and Mid	48%	33,662	16,135	15,224	17,527
Rydon	66%	23,394	15,354	14,942	8,040
Ivybridge	46%	19,030	8,840	8,169	10,190
Okehampton	57%	15,207	8,637	8,202	6,570
Torrington	52%	11,640	6,030	5,346	5,610
South Molton	50%	21,149	10,489	9,579	10,660
Summary	56%	147,712	82,635	78,377	65,077

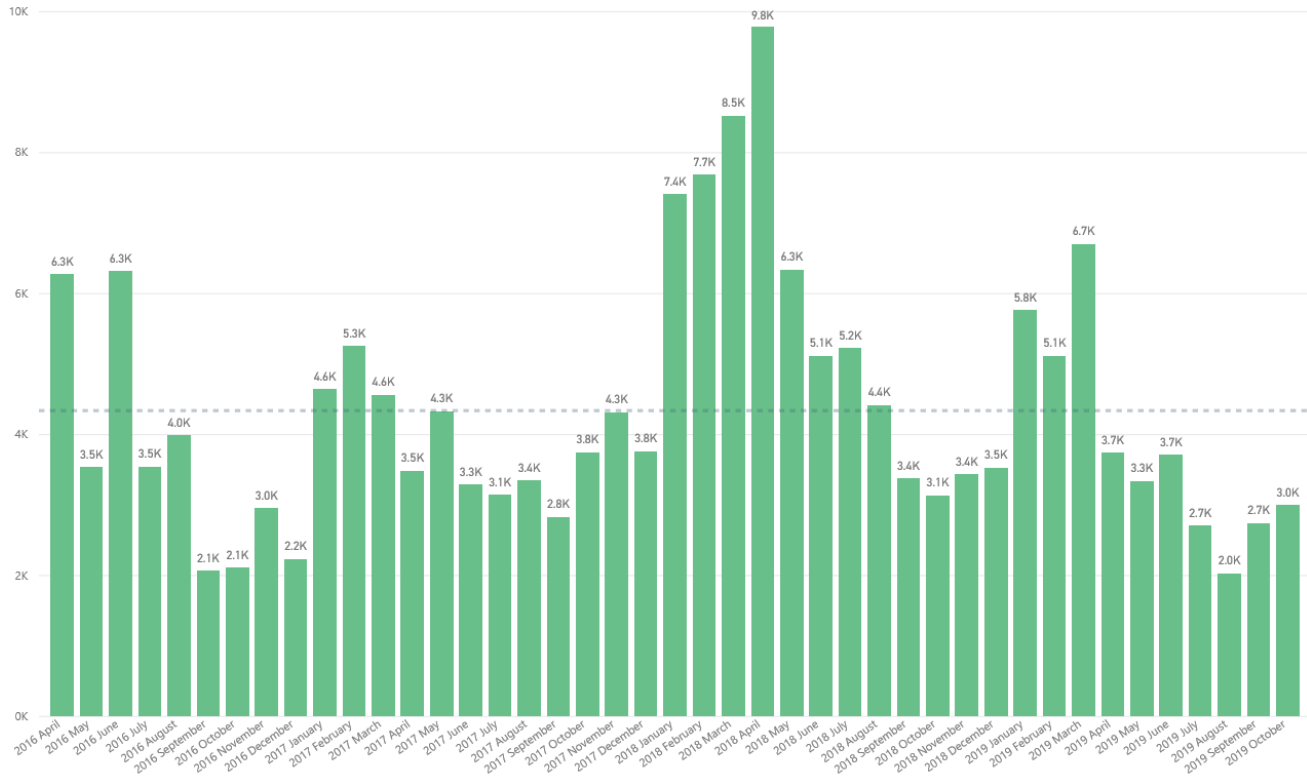
Grips, Easements and Buddleholes

As at 1/11/2019		58% Through the year		
	Total Assets Programmed	New Asset Added	Total Assets Cleaned	Left to Attend
Exeter/Mid machine gang	12165	402	10476	2091
South hand clean gang	2436	612	2126	922
North/West hand clean gang	6433	452	4251	2634
Honiton machine gang	29688	1550	12069	19169
West machine gang	18293	1608	9810	10091
North machine gang	9621	467	5502	4586
South machine gang	10056	1973	8974	3055
Exeter/Mid machine gang	3688	7	541	3154
Summary	92,380	7,071	53,749	45,702

	Programmed (m)	Cleaned (m)	Additional Cleaned (m)	% Complete
Exeter/Mid machine gang	35,229	26,544	3,951	86%
South hand clean gang	13,603	5,668	683	87%
North/West hand clean gang	13,663	11,480	2,604	66%
Honiton machine gang	110,017	32,561	1,423	41%
West machine gang	38,469	29,659	7,967	54%
North machine gang	51,764	22,521	3,956	57%
South machine gang	26,106	24,791	5,525	89%
Exeter/Mid machine gang	6,025	1,243	2	15%
Summary	294,877	154,470	26,114	58%

Appendix B To HIW/19/101

Carriageway Safety Defects





Phil Norrey
Chief Executive

Helen Whately MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
(Minister for Arts, Heritage and Tourism)
Department for Digital, Culture, Media &
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100 Parliament Street
LONDON SW1A 2BQ

County Hall
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EX2 4QD

26 November 2019

Dear Miss Whately

(Copied to APPG Gambling Related Harm)

PROBLEM GAMBLING

I am writing to you on behalf of the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee at Devon County Council regarding the issue of problem gambling.

The Scrutiny Committee feel compelled to place on record their continued and extreme concern regarding the victims of problem gambling. The Scrutiny Committee has considered the issue of problem gambling at some length, holding a spotlight review in 2018, looking at what the County Council and partners have within their powers to act upon and exploring and discussing the issue in public committee. (Spotlight review report attached to this letter.)

The Scrutiny Committee acknowledges that there have been a series of national developments to support responsible gambling, stemming from the recent Gambling Act 2019 including:

- age verification of gamblers
- identity verification of gamblers
- reduction of maximum stake on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals from £100 to £2
- in-match advertising for games starting before the 9pm watershed (does not apply to horse racing)

The Scrutiny Committee has also been made aware of the Gambling Commission publication of its three-year National Strategy to reduce gambling harms in April of this year. In addition, the January 2019 NHS Long Term Plan includes commitments to strengthening

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public health and prevention, including an element directed at gambling. NHS specialist clinics will be expanded to help more people with serious gambling problems.

However, the Scrutiny Committee asserts that these developments are not addressing the fundamental hazards caused by gambling. The Committee condemns the disproportionate impact that gambling harm has on the most vulnerable in society and their families. Despite efforts at a local level to understand the scale of the problem and work cross-agency to put services in place, gambling related harm is increasing. This is at a time when profits from gambling are increasing. (Between October 2016 and September 2017, the UK gambling industry produced a yield of £13.9 billion, an 0.7% increase from the previous year.)

Problem gambling cannot be solved locally, and the Scrutiny Committee's ask to Government is to take action nationally to tackle the escalating problem specifically:

- Banning online gambling
- Phasing out entirely the use of fixed-odds betting terminals (FOBTs)
- Taking steps to prevent targeted online advertising of gambling to the most vulnerable

The Scrutiny Committee very much look forward to your response to these issues and hope that you find the attached report of interest.

Yours sincerely

Camilla de Bernhardt Lane
Head of Scrutiny
Devon County Council
On behalf of the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Committee