

## CABINET

11 November 2020

### Present:-

Councillors J Hart (Chair), R Croad, A Davis, R Gilbert, S Hughes,  
A Leadbetter, J McInnes and B Parsons

### Members attending in accordance with Standing Orders 8 and 25

H Ackland, Y Atkinson, S Aves, F Biederman, A Connett, A Dewhirst and  
R Hannaford

\* 571

### Minutes

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2020 be signed as a correct record.

\* 572

### Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

\* 573

### Announcements

The Chair welcomed Mrs Mayes who was attending the meeting in her capacity as a Co-opted Member of the Council's Standards Committee to observe and monitor compliance with the Council's ethical governance framework.

The Chair then thanked, on behalf of the Council, Virginia Pearson (Chief Officer for Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity) who was due to retire from the Council.

The Leader and other Group Leaders paid tribute to Virginia's leadership, particularly over the last few months during which time she had been a tower of strength, her excellent working relationships with Public Health England and for the promotion of Public Health in Devon over the last several years.

The Council wished to formally record its thanks and wish her well.

\* 574

### Petitions

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

\* **575**     **Question(s) from Members of the Council**

In accordance with the Cabinet Procedure Rules, the Leader responded verbally to a question on tackling holiday hunger in Devon and any actions to tackle this issue and then the relevant Cabinet Member responded to two further questions on progress of a Traffic Regulation Order in relation to reducing the speed limit at Firs Park on Bakers Hill and the revocation of the limited waiting restriction at the junction of Dryfield and Main Road in the village of Exminster.

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

*[NB: A copy of the questions and answers are available on webpage for meeting and any supplementary questions and answers may be observed through the webcast of this meeting – see Notes below]*

**KEY DECISIONS**

\* **576**     **Budget Monitoring - Month 6**

(Councillors Connett, Dewhirst, and Hannaford attended remotely in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 and spoke to this item).

The Cabinet considered the Report of the County Treasurer (CT/20/84) on the month 6 budget monitoring position, circulated prior to the meeting in accordance with regulation 7(4) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

The Report outlined that at month 6 it was estimated that budgets would overspend by £2.7millions, a reduction of £1.8 millions from the month 4 forecast of £4.5 millions. If the overspending materialised, it would be accommodated by not making the full 2020/21 planned contribution to reserves.

The Dedicated Schools Grant funding shortfall, relating to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), was forecast to be £27.8 millions. In line with guidance from the Department of Education this would not be dealt with in the current financial year but carried forward to future years.

Government had put in place a number of grant funding streams to help support Local Authorities with Covid 19. The most recent was confirmation of a fourth tranche of the Local Authority Support Grant. Totalling £919 millions nationally, the Council had received just under £2.1 millions which was considerably less than anticipated. This grant was fully explained in section

8.3 of the Report and Cabinet noted that in total the Council had received £43.5 millions.

For service areas, the Cabinet noted that Adult Care and Health Services were forecast to overspend by £2.3 millions, a reduction of £600,000 from month 4 and Children's Services were forecasting an overspend of £3.1 millions (the figure did not include the projected shortfall of £27.8 millions on Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND)).

Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste were forecasting a breakeven position, a reduction of £500,000 from month 4 and Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity (COPHEP) an underspend of just under £1.7 millions.

Corporate Services were showing a projected overspend of £446,000, a reduction of £579,000 from month 4.

The approved capital programme was £186.1 millions and the year-end forecast was £162.0 millions, producing forecast slippage of £24.1 millions, in the main attributed to variations and programme delays in Highways, Planning and Transportation (£17.0 millions net slippage) reflecting the complexity of the major schemes.

Corporate debt stood at £7.9 millions, being 4.6% of the annual value of invoices, against the annual target of 1.9%. The balance of debt owed would continue to be pursued with the use of legal action where appropriate to do so, but the Leader explained that some pursuit actions had been halted due to the pandemic.

In summary, the level of uncertainty and pressure being faced by the public sector was unprecedented. Whilst the projected forecast of breakeven was welcomed there remained significant far reaching risks associated with the impact of the pandemic, which could be financially destabilising.

The matter having been debated it was **MOVED** by Councillor Hart, **SECONDED** by Councillor McInnes and

**RESOLVED** that

- (a) the Month 6 budget monitoring forecast position be noted; and
- (b) the Covid-19 Local Authority Support Grant update also be received.

\* 577

**Resource & Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay**

(Councillors Biederman, Connett, Dewhirst and Hannaford attended remotely in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and

Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 and spoke to this item).

The Cabinet considered the Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste (HIW/20/37) seeking approval of the Resource & Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay. The Report had been circulated prior to the meeting in accordance with regulation 7(4) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

The Report described how Devon Local Authorities and Torbay would manage Local Authority Collected Waste (household waste, litter, flytipped, street sweepings and some trade) from 2020-2030. The delivery of the Strategy would be overseen by the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee. Whilst Torbay were party to the Strategy, as a Unitary Authority they would also have their own.

Following its approval at the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee (DASWC) meeting on 15th October 2020 the draft Strategy required the approval of the individual local authorities for proceeding to public consultation before returning to Cabinet in 2021 for final approval.

Waste Prevention and Reuse were critically important areas of the Strategy. Less waste meant that the costs of collection and recycling/disposal were reduced along with a reduced carbon footprint. The key targets for each were highlighted in the Report including Carbon targets and how the Strategy contributed to a net zero carbon for Devon and Torbay by 2050 at the latest, recycling targets including recycling at least 60% of household waste by 2025 and 65% by 2035 and other actions such as continuing to support Don't let Devon go to Waste and Recycle Devon.

The Chief Officer's Report incorporated an Impact Assessment for the attention of Members at the meeting. This highlighted that the focus of the draft Strategy meant positive impacts on the environment, including a reduction in greenhouse gases. There was also potential for improved social cohesion, skills development and resilience, via community engagement (e.g. repair cafes). The Strategy would also align with the Circular Economy and Green Recovery plans so a potential for new jobs due to the need to increase reuse and recycling and enable businesses to recycle more. When implementing campaigns and any changes to services, Local Authorities would ensure information was written in plain English and available in a variety of formats and languages where appropriate so they were accessible to all.

The matter having been debated and the options and/or alternatives and other relevant factors (e.g. financial, sustainability (including carbon impact), risk management, equality and legal considerations and public health impact) set out in the Chief Officer's Report and/or referred to above having been considered:

it was **MOVED** by Councillor Davis, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hart, and

**RESOLVED** that

(a) the draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay be approved for consultation; and

(b) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure Development and Waste on any necessary changes to the draft strategy prior to consultation.

*(NB: The Impact Assessment referred to above may be viewed alongside Minutes of this meeting and may also be available on the [Impact Assessment Webpages](#)).*

\* 578

### **Household Waste Recycling Centres Improvement Strategy**

(Councillors Biederman, Connett, Dewhirst and Hannaford attended remotely in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 and spoke to this item).

The Cabinet considered the Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste (HIW/20/38) on the Household Waste Recycling Centres Improvement Strategy, circulated prior to the meeting in accordance with regulation 7(4) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

The Report outlined a Strategy to ensure that the Council's network of Household Waste Recycling Centres could continue to be significantly improved, with several older sites being replaced over the next 10 – 15 years, should funding become available. The issues with some sites were illustrated in the Appendix to the Report, but included matters such as sites having to temporarily close to allow waste to be safely loaded and transported, vehicles regularly queuing on the public highway, restricted layouts, access issues, health and safety concerns, pedestrian conflict with vehicles and increased public demand.

The proposals to replace where possible would ensure that the standards of the service continued to develop in line with health and safety requirements and the public's demands and expectations, thereby offering a network of modern, attractive, safe sites.

The sites requiring improvement were outlined in full as follows;

- Tavistock -provision of new site
- Newton Abbot - provision of new site
- Cullompton, Tiverton and Willand area - provision of a combined new site
- Honiton - provision of new site
- Kingsbridge, Totnes, Dartmouth - provision of combined new site
- Barnstaple - provision of new site

The Report sought approval to submit a planning application to develop a new facility at Tavistock and sought funding for £4.9m from the Corporate Capital programme. The existing facility at Crowndale was developed adjacent to the old landfill site which closed over 30 years ago. The site was physically constrained, there had been significant queuing problems on the public highway raising safety concerns and complaints. The proposed new facility would be on the adjacent inert landfill site, which was mostly within the Council's ownership.

The Report finally proposed the development and implementation of a van permit system for Household Waste Recycling Centre access to help reduce the potential of trade waste abuse at sites. Permits would only be issued to vans registered to individual residents and not to vehicles registered to companies/businesses.

In progressing this particular scheme/proposal, the Chief Officer's Report incorporated an Impact Assessment for the attention of Members at the meeting. Equality considerations only applied to the proposals surrounding the provision of new and maintenance of Household Waste Recycling Centres (public facilities). Modern designs would allow easy access for all site users and eliminate the need to use steps to access containers at these new sites. Disabled parking and welfare facilities would be provided at new sites. Overall, the provision of modern facilities would benefit all site users and in particular the vulnerable who sometimes struggled to use steps at the older sites.

The matter having been debated and the options and/or alternatives and other relevant factors (e.g. financial, sustainability (including carbon impact), risk management, equality and legal considerations and Public Health impact) set out in the Chief Officer's Report and/or referred to above having been considered:

it was **MOVED** by Councillor Davis, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hart, and

## **RESOLVED**

(a) that the Household Waste Recycling Centre Improvement Strategy which set out the vision and principle of 'providing a network of modern, safe, attractive Household Waste Recycling Centres which are convenient to use

and designed to maximise the recycling and recovery of the material brought in' be approved;

b) that approval also be granted for the submission of a planning application for a replacement Household Waste Recycling Centre to serve Tavistock and the surrounding area; and

(c) that the development and implementation of a Household Waste Recycling Centre van permit scheme be endorsed in principle, with approval of the details of the scheme being brought back to a future Cabinet meeting.

*[NB: The Impact Assessment referred to above may be viewed alongside Minutes of this meeting and may also be available at: <http://new.devon.gov.uk/impact/>].*

\* **579**      **Exeter Transport Strategy 2020-2030**

(Councillors Atkinson, Biederman, Connett and Hannaford attended remotely in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 and spoke to this item).

The Cabinet considered the Report of the Head of Planning Transportation and Environment (PTE/20/36) seeking approval of the Exeter Transport Strategy, circulated prior to the meeting in accordance with regulation 7(4) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

Cabinet also noted that the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 24 June 2020, had considered the notes of the Standing Overview Group on the draft Exeter Transport Strategy (the Standing Overview Group had met on 18 June 2020 ([Minute \\*182 refers](#))).

The Group had broadly supported the recommendations of the Strategy, but added a number of additional comments for presentation to Cabinet.

Paragraph 6 of the Report outlined those recommendations and confirmed that the points raised by Scrutiny had been incorporated into the updated Strategy and a 5-year action plan contained in Appendix II.

This Report included a summary of the work undertaken to date including the draft transport strategy, public consultation responses and changes since the consultation and the Council's declaration of a climate emergency.

The Exeter Transport Strategy focused on improving travel choices, creating better places for people and taking advantage of technology opportunities to influence travel behaviour in a positive way. This included addressing constraints on sustainable transport networks to provide the basis of a

connected city region, deliver interventions that contributed to improved quality of life and utilise technological advancements to integrate services and engage with people to influence how and when they travelled. The proposals were embodied in 3 key themes of Greater Connectivity (which focused on travel into the city from outside Exeter's boundaries and enhancements to key transport corridors in the travel to work area), Greater Places for People (related to travel within the city, focusing on increasing the number of trips made on foot or by bike and urban bus corridors) and Greater Innovation (working with private sector partners to test and implement innovative technology solutions to make travel easier, encourage mode shift and help transport networks operate more flexibly and efficiently).

The Head of Service for Planning, Transportation and Environment also agreed to amend the Strategy to reflect some of the issues presented in the South West Exeter area, as outlined by Members speaking under Standing Order 25(2).

The ten-year Strategy set a direction of travel, and further detail on the type and location of certain interventions were provided in a 5-year action plan.

The Strategy would be delivered from a number of funding sources, including LTP integrated block, developer/Community Infrastructure Levy contributions and external grant funding. The speed of delivery was dependent on funding.

The Report also presented the Exeter Transport Strategy consultation which received more than 1,100 public responses as well as responses from key stakeholders and organisations. Respondents were broadly evenly distributed between Exeter, Greater Exeter and further afield.

The Cabinet noted that an updated Exeter Transport Strategy would better align with current priorities and ensure the County was well placed for seeking external funding. It aimed to provide a range of travel choices which would manage congestion levels, improve air quality and move towards a low carbon transport system.

An Impact Assessment had been prepared for the attention of Members at this meeting and was available at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/impact/exeter-transport-strategy>. The Assessment demonstrated there were no significant negative impacts on different groups and that much of the investment, for example in multi-use walking and cycling infrastructure, public transport and removing air quality exceedances would be expected to particularly enhance equality of opportunity across a wide range of groups.

The matter having been debated and the options and/or alternatives and other relevant factors (e.g. financial, sustainability (including carbon impact), risk management, equality and legal considerations and Public Health impact) set out in the Head of Service's Report and/or referred to above having been considered:

it was **MOVED** by Councillor Gilbert, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hart, and

**RESOLVED**

(a) that the content of the Report be noted;

(b) that the Exeter Transport Strategy be adopted and that the contents of the Strategy, contained in Appendix I, provide the basis for developing transport projects, and infrastructure in the Exeter and Greater Exeter area; and

(c) that the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment be given delegated powers, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s), to make minor alterations to the Strategy and Implementation Plan.

*[NB: The Impact Assessment referred to above may be viewed alongside Minutes of this meeting and may also be available at:*

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/impact/exeter-transport-strategy/>

\* 580

**Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Report**

(Councillors Biederman, Connett, Dewhirst and Hannaford attended remotely in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 and spoke to this item).

The Cabinet considered the Report of the Head of Education and Learning (CS/20/17), presenting the Annual Childcare Sufficiency Report, circulated prior to the meeting in accordance with regulation 7(4) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

The Authority had a statutory duty to secure sufficient, accessible, affordable, high quality early years and childcare places and Sufficiency was met through a variety of providers that included all types of schools, pre-schools, day nurseries, holiday clubs, breakfast clubs, after school clubs, childminders, etc.

The Early Education and Childcare: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities, set out that the Authority should report annually on how they were meeting their duty. This was the eighth Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual report.

The Childcare Sufficiency Annual Report 2019/20 (Appendix 1), encapsulated key findings from data from 1 April 2019 to 31 August 2020 and actions for the Early Years and Childcare Service for 2020/21. The Report also included data and observations collected from 1 April to 31 August 2020 at the height of restrictions enforced on the childcare sector as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The data analysis indicated that overall, there was sufficient early years and childcare provision within Devon. Although the rural/urban spread of different types of provision varied, Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spots had been identified. However, there continued to be increased and improved communication with providers through social media platforms.

In terms of proposals for next year, the Early Years and Childcare Service proposed to change the reporting period to the academic year (September 2020 to August 2021), introduce a new termly survey of providers to ensure the service had regular, up to date information on the supply of childcare and introduce a new termly survey of parents to capture demand as parents' circumstances changed.

A number of actions arose from the report which were outlined in full in paragraph 6.1. These included continuing to assess sufficiency and identify hot spots and support providers to open or expand their businesses where appropriate. It also included carrying out a termly survey of providers, to continue the data review of out of school provision, support providers through Early Years ONE Devon to become good or outstanding and work with providers to build greater flexibility and affordability. Parents would be surveyed to gain a greater insight into the demand for childcare where there was insufficient provision and the use of data from the Council's Economy team to help inform demand for childcare as working patterns changed. Other actions included promoting the 'unable to find childcare form' to parents as a way of feeding back to the Council, promotion of childminding as a career, work with the School Place Planning Team, review the Golden Ticket process with a view to sending a single Golden Ticket to all parents on the Department for Work and Pensions list, promote the take-up of the Early Years Pupil Premium and promote Free School Meals in nursery classes.

The actions arising from the Childcare Sufficiency Report contributed to the promotion of equality of opportunity and the Report considered accessibility and affordability of childcare for all families and included consideration of disabled children, families on low incomes and parents working irregular hours. Early years and childcare provisions were registered and inspected by Ofsted and inspections would assess the extent to which the provider complied with all legal duties including those set out in the Equality Act 2010. The actions identified for the coming year were a continuation of the ongoing work of the Early Years and Childcare service in promoting equality of opportunity for all families through the provision of accessible, affordable, high quality childcare.

The matter having been debated and the options and/or alternatives and other relevant factors (e.g. financial, sustainability (including carbon impact), risk management, equality and legal considerations and Public Health impact) set out in the Head of Service's Report and/or referred to above having been considered:

it was **MOVED** by Councillor McInnes, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hart, and

**RESOLVED** that the Annual Childcare Sufficiency Report be welcomed and endorsed and that arrangements be made for the Report to be published on the Council's website.

## **MATTERS REFERRED**

### **581 Notice(s) of Motion**

#### **(a) Food Justice (Councillor Aves)**

(Councillor Aves attended in accordance with Standing Order 8 and Councillors Ackland, Biederman and Dewhirst attended in accordance with 25(2) and spoke to this item).

#### ***This Council notes:***

*That Trussell Trust research shows three million children in the UK are at risk of hunger during the school holidays.*

*The Trussell Trust anticipates that ending furlough in October would trigger a rise in foodbank use of at least 61%.*

*Foodbank use has already dramatically increased. The Independent Food Aid Network recorded a 59% increase in demand for emergency food support between February and March 2020.*

*The Covid-19 emergency has exposed major health inequalities across the country with children and families suffering disproportionately.*

*Between March and August 2020 there has already been a 115% increase in Universal Credit claimants nationally and in Devon even greater, 165% for all claimants and 173% for 16-24 year olds.*

*That Government has committed to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which have an international and domestic commitment to ending hunger by 2030.*

*That Government has asked Henry Dimbleby to lead on producing a National Food Strategy.*

#### ***This Council believes:***

*No one in the UK should go hungry, not least children.*

*Food justice is about taking action on the causes of hunger such as affordability and availability of good nutritious food. That the stopping of*

*furlough payments will lead to further unemployment and more food poverty as a result.*

*Local councils, schools and communities play a key role in supporting those that are experiencing food poverty during the Covid-19 pandemic and that should be recognised.*

***The Council resolves to:***

- 1. Nominate an existing cabinet member to take on responsibility for Food Justice.*
- 2. Commit to setting up a food partnership to work with district councils and other partners to develop a Food Action Plan.*
- 3. Re-double its efforts to increase Free School Meal sign ups to ensure that all those who are entitled to them or need them, receive them.*
- 4. Encourage Scrutiny to look at the extent of food poverty – map it and understand what is going on across the County.*
- 5. Write in association with Devon MPs, to encourage Government to:*
  - a) commit to legislate the existing commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals to end hunger by 2030;*
  - b) commit funding in the next spending review for the five Sustain policies to protect children's health and increase access to nutritious food that is culturally appropriate, because the National Food Strategy will take a year to be adopted;*
  - c) support our local food production and suppliers, our farming and fishing industries in Devon, to protect workers jobs so that our food supplies are sustained throughout the pandemic and any shortages or delays experienced during the EU Brexit;*
  - d) increase Universal Credit so people can buy enough food;*
  - e) immediately act to help those most affected.*

Members considered the Officer's factual briefing note on the matter (CSO/20/16) which referred to food insecurity being a wide-ranging issue, covering affordability, accessibility and quality of food, and the related impacts on diet, health and the environment. It also outlined the current activity and listed several initiatives to improve food security, the learning from the COVID experiences and mitigation measures, the current risks in Devon around resilience and insecurity and plans for a Strategy to adopt a leadership role in ensuring food security and fostering local food resilience to scale up work to

address immediate demand for food aid and improve the food system in the longer term.

The Cabinet considered the recommendation now before them and the actions now proposed and already undertaken and it then was **MOVED** by Councillor Hart, **SECONDED** by Councillor McInnes, and

**RESOLVED** that Council:

(a) ask the Leader to nominate an existing Cabinet Member to take on responsibility for Food Insecurity.

(b) support the creation of a working group within Devon County Council (DCC) to develop further understanding of the Council's role around food supply, resilience and insecurity. This will include, but is not limited to:

- (i) Consider the development of a Devon Food Partnership using the Sustainable Food Places approach to strengthen food resilience in the county;
- (ii) The development of a food resilience strategy for Devon County Council

(c) encourage Scrutiny to look at the extent of food insecurity in Devon.

(d) continue to work with Devon MPs to encourage Government to:

- (i) Support our local economy, including agriculture.
- (ii) Ensure resilience of our food supply chains.
- (iii) Support food-based initiatives that reduce health inequalities and food insecurity.

**(b) Devon Economy and Recovery (Councillor Atkinson)**

(Councillor Atkinson attended in accordance with Standing Order 8 and Councillors Dewhirst and Hannaford attended in accordance with 25(2) and spoke to this item).

*The strength of the UK and Devon economy and GDP depends in the major part on the recovery of the service sectors as we are principally a service led economy. Though we also have manufacturing and production industries nationally and in Devon. It is acknowledged that our economy has contracted as a result of the pandemic and the impending Exit from the EU.*

*The EU has set up a £750bn Euro coronavirus pandemic recovery fund and long-term spending plans to provide grants to kick start Europe's recovery from the pandemic particularly investing in green industry and*

*infrastructure and to target resources to recovery, resilience and transformation.*

*To date only £20 million of new funding to help small and medium sized businesses across England to get back on track after the pandemic has been announced by the government and this means access only to grants of between £1,000 - £5,000 for new equipment and technology and specialist advice. No funding has been allocated to the Shared Prosperity Fund to replace the loss of EU Structural Funds after Brexit.*

*This Council will write to the government and request it:*

- to ensure that there are no new austerity measures like those introduced in 2010 after the banking crisis;*
- to set up a similar well-funded fund proportionate to the size of this country to provide grants to support Britain and Devon's economic recovery resilience and transformation;*
- to make grants available out of the fund to invest in and support:*
  - Devon's local food and drink production and suppliers, our farming and fishing industries in Devon, so as to protect jobs so that our food supplies are sustained throughout the pandemic and any shortages or delays experienced during the exit from the EU;*
  - Devon's service sectors such as retail hospitality tourism education health human services information technology finance arts and culture;*
  - Devon's shipbuilding and engineering and environmental science sectors*
  - Devon's Green economy and sustainable energy production and transport systems and to support local industry to achieve net zero carbon climate change targets set by the Paris Agreement*
  - Devon's blue economy - its marine environment which is aiming to become more sustainable;*
  - New infrastructure to support sustainable green and blue growth.*

Members considered the Officer's factual briefing note on the matter (CSO/20/16) which referred to the recent Cabinet Report on 14th October 2020 which set out the key impacts facing the Devon economy including forecasted impacts and the Team Devon Economic Recovery Prospectus and the approval of an economic recovery programme of £6m over the next 2-3 years, the case being made to Government (backed by all Devon MPs) for additional funding to deliver the key priorities in the Team Devon Economic Recovery Prospectus, the work with the LEP and funding secured, the work of the Heart of the SW Economic Resilience and Opportunities Group and the commissioned economic forecasting research from Oxford Economics for all upper tier areas which had provided helpful scenarios and modelling of economic impacts from COVID.

The Cabinet considered the recommendation now before them and the actions already undertaken.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hart, **SECONDED** by Councillor McInnes, and

**RESOLVED**

(a) that Council be recommended to take no further action at this time, given that the concerns and issues have already been raised with Government by the Council working with Team Devon including a request for funding; and

(b) to note that the Council has also approved a £6m package of investment, for consideration as part of the 2021/22 budget setting process which would support the actions as set out in the notice of motion.

**(c) Great South West Initiative (Councillor Atkinson)**

(Councillor Atkinson attended in accordance with Standing Order 8 and Councillors Biederman, Dewhirst and Hannaford attended in accordance with 25(2) and spoke to this item).

*Since the abolition of the Regional Development Agency and the establishment of local LEPS economic development in the region has become fragmented. Control of public funds for economic development rest with central government on a piecemeal basis.*

*At the recent AGM of the Heart of the South West LEP the chair lamented that there has been no rural productivity deal for the South West and that the South West does not garner the level of support we need from the Government. He cited that attempts to deal with this by establishing the Great South West with its prospectus had failed to get the support of government.*

*The Council agrees to write to the government to ask it to support the Great South West Initiative and in particular:*

- Give formal recognition and*
- Provide an identified Minister to link into Government.*
- Provide at the very least £2million requested over three years to move forward at pace and enable it to develop full business cases across the range of topics covered in its prospectus though arguably now more is required sooner to support the recovery of the economy after the impact of the pandemic*
- Support an enhanced export and investment hub.*
- Recognition to a Great South West Tourism Zone; and an*
- Agreement to create a rural productivity deal.*

Members considered the Officer's factual briefing note on the matter (CSO/20/16) which referenced the Council as the leading local authority supporter and promoter of the Great South West initiative, the Council providing political leadership and professional advice to the regional partnership, the role of the Council as the co-ordinator for the Steering Group and the liaison office with the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Great South West, the professional advice provided from the Economy, Enterprise and Skills service and the Policy team for the Great South West prospectus, the meetings held at Ministerial level and the personal backing of the Prime Minister to the Great South West and the region's prospectus for growth, Securing Our Future, that would support the Government's "Build Back Better" policy.

The regional partnership had not been able to convince Ministers of the importance of recognising and agreeing funding for the Great South West as the clean energy powerhouse for the region and the UK, therefore the Leader had written to the Prime Minister seeking the earliest opportunity to discuss how the priorities within the prospectus could be turned into a solid reality with Government support. Efforts were also being made to secure a meeting with the new Local Government Minister Luke Hall.

The Cabinet considered the recommendation now before them and the actions already undertaken.

It was then **MOVED** by Councillor Hart, **SECONDED** by Councillor McInnes, and

**RESOLVED** that Council be recommended to make no further representation at this time, whilst we await a response and outcome to the recent letter sent on this matter and a meeting with the Minister for Local Government has taken place.

**(d) The Protection of UK Jobs and Businesses (Councillor Hannaford)**

(Councillor Hannaford attended in accordance with Standing Order 8 and Councillors Atkinson, Biederman and Dewhirst attended in accordance with 25(2) and spoke to this item).

***Council Notes With Concern***

*The South West region has seen some of the highest employee furlough rates in the country during the first part of the Covid-19 pandemic. Figures show that under the Government's Job Retention Scheme, 808,900 people in the region were furloughed, with take-up in the South-West of 32.1%, being the second highest for any region in England after the West Midlands.*

*Retail has been the sector hardest hit by mass redundancies since the pandemic began, with manufacturing, tourism, hospitality and aviation also being badly affected.*

*Tens of thousands of job losses have been announced, and more mass redundancies are expected in these sectors, yet they will not receive any tailored support when the Government's jobs-retention scheme is scheduled to finish at the end of October. Our country is facing an unprecedented jobs crisis. The Office for Budget Responsibility predicts that, by the end of this year, nearly one in eight of the UK's workforce will be unemployed.*

*The Government's current plan to end furlough outright is oversimplistic and will only exacerbate the problem - it puts millions of jobs at risk. Regions such as the South West, are as a direct result at risk of suffering from deepening inequality. Britain already has the worst regional inequalities in Europe, and without targeted action now, these are likely to get even worse.*

### **Council Supports**

*The work of the Treasury select committee, that has called on the Government to "carefully consider" targeted extensions to its coronavirus job retention scheme, that is due to end for all sectors. The new 'Challenges of Recovery' report from the cross-party group of MPs, concludes that although the retention scheme "cannot persist indefinitely" the Chancellor should consider further support measures.*

*Commenting on the new publication, Treasury select committee chair Mel Stride MP said: "Our second report of the inquiry focuses on emerging challenges as lockdown measures are lifted. One such challenge is to target assistance effectively at those businesses and individuals who need it. The Chancellor should carefully consider targeted extensions to the coronavirus job retention scheme and explain his conclusions."*

*The new report is the second by the committee on the economic impacts of Covid-19. The first identified gaps in the Government's financial schemes that left at least one million people unsupported. The proposals set out in the earlier June report were ignored, which led the Treasury select committee to accuse the Government of "turning its back on those who are suffering".*

*The newly released report also says the Government should extend reforms to Universal Credit past their one-year cut-off, support small businesses struggling with debt and define "levelling up".*

*Although the Prime Minister claims to have made reducing regional inequalities a central aim of his administration, the committee accuses his 'levelling up' promise of being merely an "empty slogan".*

*The Chair Mel Stride MP added: "The key will be assisting those businesses who, with additional support, can come through the crisis*

*as sustainable enterprises, rather than focusing on those that will unfortunately just not be viable in the changed post-crisis economy. As the committee has said throughout the crisis, the Chancellor must continue to show flexibility in his approach. We hope that the Treasury's unwillingness to implement the recommendations from our first report is not a sign of how it will respond to this one."*

### **Council Believes That**

*We need a financial support system that specifically targets industries worst hit by the pandemic, seeks greater economic protections for any areas under local lockdown restrictions, and ensures incomes for people who are forced to self-isolate. Without targeted support viable businesses will fail and employment will be lost. This will extinguish any hopes of a quick economic recovery from the deep economic recession that we are facing.*

*Our region and the whole country is now facing a social and economic toxic shock through the threat of mass unemployment in tandem with an international health crisis from a second wave of the pandemic.*

### **Council Resolves**

*To formally write to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and all our local Members of Parliament as a matter of urgency to call again on the Government, in the strongest possible terms, to not implement its damaging blanket approach to indiscriminately sever and totally withdraw the current furlough scheme. Which fails to consider the circumstances of different regions, such as the South West, and the most effected sectors, with the deep impact on the communities that have a proud history in these industries. Therefore to urge the Government to do right by our local communities and businesses and see them through the crisis by targeting support, extra relief for lockdown areas, extend the eviction ban, adequate support for self-isolators, and not pull the life raft away while the storm is still raging, to save jobs, and to potentially save lives.*

Members considered the Officer's factual briefing note on the matter (CSO/20/16) which referred to the national support measures focused on retaining viable jobs and supporting business cash flow and the work with the Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Hub to communicate this to the Devon business community, the support to incentivise compliance with self isolation and local restrictions, Test and Trace Isolation Payments and the Local Restrictions Support Grant.

The Council, working with Team Devon and the LEP, continued to state and make the case for the economy and the interventions and had made the case to Government to retain unspent business support grants to support shared priorities. Work also continued with local and regional partners around Government's wider suite of employment support measures, engagement with

our MPs and Team Devon partners to push for additional investment to level up Devon's economy.

The Cabinet considered the recommendation now before them, the actions now proposed and those already undertaken.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hart, **SECONDED** by Councillor McInnes, and

**RESOLVED**

(a) that Council be recommended, in light of recent announcements and amendments to the package of support offered to areas facing restrictions, that no letter be sent at this time; and

(b) that Council continue to monitor the economic impacts facing the Devon economy and consider the ongoing economic consequences from additional restrictions and measures that could potentially be applied to Devon and its neighbours.

\* 582 **Exeter Highways and Traffic Orders Committee - Residents Parking Working Group: Recommendations**

(Councillor Atkinson attended remotely in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 and spoke to this item).

The Cabinet noted that at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 in considering the Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste (HIW/20/33) on a Residents Parking Policy Working Group examining Exeter's residents' parking strategy, policy and design (Minute \*162 referred), the Exeter Highways and Traffic Orders Committee had RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Working Group as detailed in the Appendix II of the Report be commended to the Cabinet to be considered as County Policy

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hart, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hughes, and

**RESOLVED**

(a) that the Exeter Highways and Traffic Orders Committee be thanked for undertaking a review of the management of residents' parking in Exeter; and

(b) that the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste be asked to work up a County policy on Residents' Parking for presentation to a future Cabinet meeting.

## STANDING ITEMS

### \* 583 Question(s) from Members of the Public

In accordance with the Council's Public Participation Rules, the Leader / relevant Cabinet Member(s) responded to five questions from members of the public on the Exeter City Transport Strategy and the climate emergency, the targets related to work trips originating in Exeter and increased targets, the Exeter Transport Strategy and how and with whom the Council would engage with (across Exeter/Devon) in terms of stakeholders, how progress in reducing transport carbon (both production and consumption emissions) would be measured and reported, transport budget and allocations to safe walking and cycling.

The Cabinet Member also responded orally to the supplementary question arising from one of the questioners and undertook to provide a written response.

A copy of the questions and answers had been sent direct to those questioners not present in the meeting.

*(NB: A copy of the questions and answers are available on webpage for meeting and any supplementary questions and answers may be observed through [the webcast of this meeting](#) – see Notes below)*

### \* 584 Minutes

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hart, **SECONDED** by Councillor McInnes, and

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the following be endorsed and any recommendations to Cabinet therein be approved:

Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee - 15 October 2020.

### \* 585 Delegated Action/Urgent Matters

The [Registers of Decisions taken by Members under the urgency provisions or delegated powers](#) were available for inspection, in line with the Council's Constitution and Regulation 13 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. [Decisions taken by Officers](#) under any express authorisation of the Cabinet or other Committee or under any general authorisation within the Council's Scheme of Delegation set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

\* 586 **Forward Plan**

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Cabinet reviewed the [Forward Plan](#) and determined those items of business to be defined as key and framework decisions and included in the Plan from the date of this meeting onwards reflecting the requirements of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

**NOTES:**

1. *Minutes should always be read in association with any Reports for a complete record.*
2. *If the meeting has been webcast, it will be available to view on the [webcasting site](#) for up to 12 months from the date of the meeting*

**DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 11.15 am and finished at 1.38 pm