

*County Council*  
Thursday, 27th May, 2021



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**DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL**

To: Members of Devon County Council

County Hall  
Exeter  
EX2 4QD

19 May 2021

**Your attendance is requested at the Meeting of the Devon County Council to be held at Sandy Park, Exeter on Thursday, 27th May, 2021 at 2.15 pm.**

Chief Executive

**AGENDA**

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Election of Chair**
3. **Appointment of Vice-Chair**
4. **County Returning Officer's Report** (Pages 1 - 6)

To receive the County Returning Officer's return of persons elected as County Councillors at the election held on 6 May 2021.

5. **Appointment of Leader of the Council**
6. **Appointment of Deputy Leader of the Council**
7. **Appointment of Cabinet Members and Allocation of Remits**

The Leader of the Council to move:

*"that the Council note that members shown in the Appendix circulated at the meeting will be appointed to hold office until the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2022 together with the remits shown therein."*

**8. Minutes**

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2021 (previously circulated and available to view [here](#)).

**9. Chair's Announcements**

**10. Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

**11. Appointment of Committees**

Councillor Hughes to move:

(a) that in accordance with Standing Order 21 the County Council appoints those Committees, Joint Committees and Working Parties/Panels as shown in the Appendix circulated prior to the meeting and uploaded to the website with terms of reference set out in the Council's Constitution or set out therein for the period expiring at the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2022;

(b) that, as required by section 16(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Members of the Council be appointed as voting members to those Committees, Joint Committees, Joint Consultative Committees and Working Parties/Panels referred to at (a) above in accordance with the names notified to the Chief Executive by each of the Political Groups represented on the Council, to give effect to the proposed allocation of seats as between political party groups and set out for the time being in the Appendix circulated prior to the meeting and uploaded to the website;

(c) that, as in accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the County Council appoints the total numbers of voting (v) or non-voting (nv) members to those Committees, Joint Committees and Working Parties/Panels referred to (a) above as thus denoted in the Appendix (the Council's voting scheme) circulated with the agenda for the period expiring at the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2022;

(d) that the Chief Executive be authorised to approve such changes to membership of the above bodies detailed in the Appendix circulated as may be notified from time to time by the relevant political group to which those seats have been allocated by the Council; and

(e) that additional Members of Scrutiny Committees, Highways and Traffic Orders Committees, the Standards Committee and the Farms Estate Committee as detailed in the aforementioned Appendix (or to be nominated by those bodies listed thereon) be appointed for the period expiring at the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2022 or as otherwise shown (subject to any change

notified by the nominating body) or, in the case of parent governor representatives on the Children's Scrutiny Committee, following a ballot of eligible parent governors.

## **12. Appointment of Chair's and Vice-Chair's of Committees**

Councillor Hughes to move:

'that Members shown in the Appendix circulated prior to the meeting and uploaded to the website be elected Chair and Vice-Chair of those Committees as indicated therein to hold office until the date of the Annual meeting of the Council in 2022'.

## **13. Appointments to Outside Bodies**

Councillor Hughes to move:

(a) that members shown in the Appendix circulated prior to the meeting and uploaded to the website be appointed to those outside bodies listed to hold office until the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2025 or such other date as indicated therein;

(b) that the Chief Executive be authorised to approve such changes to representation on the above bodies detailed in the Appendix circulated as may be notified from time to time by the relevant political group to which those places have been allocated by the Council.

## **14. Petitions from Members of the Council**

## **15. Public Participation: Petitions and Representations**

Petitions or Representations from Members of the public in line with the Council's Petitions and Public Participation Schemes.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

## **16. Devon County Council Constitution**

The Leader of the Council to move:

"that, subject to necessary amendments to reflect the foregoing, the Council adopt formally the existing Devon County Council Constitution (previously circulated on email) and accessible here - [Constitution - Democracy in Devon](#).

### **NOTICES OF MOTION**

## **17. Speed Limits - Deaf Academy and Wider Devon**

Councillor Dewhirst to move:

### **Background to the Motion**

The Deaf Academy has been providing education and support for deaf young people in Devon since 1826. In September 2020, they relocated from Exeter to Exmouth to a new campus at the old Rolle College Site at Douglas Avenue.

The Deaf Academy is an education hub for 50 students, 30 of which stay within the residential provision on campus. Students are incredibly diverse and come from all over the country, with varying needs ranging from mobility, visual and special educational needs alongside their deafness.

Last term the Student Council started a campaign to reduce the speed limit. Other schools in Exmouth have 20 mph speed limits outside their entrances.

Unlike hearing children, deaf children cannot clearly identify cars in the distance or around corners through sound. They rely on sight and trusting the public are driving slowly in the area.

Douglas Avenue currently has a 30mph speed limit with various blind spots and does not have any targeted highway signage, traffic calming measures or crossing points near the Academy.

Consequently, the avenue poses a risk to students, staff and visitors and therefore:

#### **Motion to Council**

1. This Council applauds the Deaf Academy Student Council campaign to reduce the speed of traffic in Douglas Avenue. Council calls on our Highway Officers to urgently introduce a 20 mph speed limit in Douglas Avenue and install a zebra crossing outside the school to ensure that these children and young people can cross the road in safety, and,
2. Additionally, this Council calls on Highway Officers to bring a Report to Council before the end of 2021 on implementing 20 mph speed limits in the vicinity of all schools in Devon to ensure that all children and young people can arrive and leave their schools in greater safety.

#### **18. Councils for Fair Tax Declaration: Standing up for Fair Tax Practices**

Councillor Aves to move:

The Council notes:

That local residents are asking Devon County Council to sign up to the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration.

The Fair Tax Mark has developed the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration in collaboration with UK cities, counties and towns who believe they can, and

should stand up for responsible tax conduct. [Councils-for-Fair-Tax-Declaration.pdf \(fairtaxmark.net\)](#)

As recipients of significant public funding councils should take the lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct. Polls have found that 63% of the public agree that the government and local councils should consider a company's ethics and how they pay their taxes as well as value for money and quality of service, when undertaking procurement. That three-quarters of people would rather shop or work for a business that can prove it is paying its fair share of tax.

Fair Tax Mark said there was "a pressing need for action", claiming that research it commissioned had discovered that 17.5% of UK public procurement contracts commissioned by local and national government over the period 2014-19 were won by businesses with connections to a tax haven, with a combined value of £37.5 bn.

Billions are missing from our public purse because some companies choose to avoid paying their corporation tax - the same companies who have since benefited from taxpayer support through this crisis or have asked for bailouts.

This means we have less money available for the vital public services we all rely on, and that the smaller, local businesses in our county can't compete because it's not a level playing field.

That other Councils around the UK have already signed up to the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration including Peterborough City, Oxford City, Oldham, Cannock Chase, and the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

The Council believes:

Councillors across the UK work hard to serve their local communities and help direct the delivery of essential public services. The Coronavirus pandemic has exposed major weaknesses in our economy and deep-seated inequalities in our society. To Build Back Better we must tackle tax avoidance and Councils can pioneer the promotion of responsible tax conduct through:

- Leading by example on their own tax conduct
- Demanding greater transparency from suppliers

Having gone through a decade of austerity and reduced council spending caused by government reductions in grants, where funds have not kept up with demands of inflation and extra demands of new legal statutory duties, we're now living through an era of unprecedented public spending due to

the pandemic.

As a council, we have seen first-hand the challenge that a funding squeeze created for crucial frontline services. Local government has a proud history of standing up for responsible public sector conduct, ranging from paying the real Living Wage to promoting Fairtrade.

The Council resolves to:

1. Approve the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration [Councils-for-Fair-Tax-Declaration.pdf \(fairtaxmark.net\)](#)
2. Lead by example and demonstrate good practice in our tax conduct right across our activities
3. Require greater transparency from suppliers
4. Consider a company's ethics and how they pay their tax as well as value for money and quality of service provided, when undertaking procurement
5. Promote Fair Tax Mark certification for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due
6. Support Fair Tax Week events in Devon and celebrate the tax contribution made by responsible businesses who say what they pay with pride
7. Demonstrate good practice including:
  - ensuring contractors implement IR35 robustly and pay a fair share of employment taxes;
  - not use of offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty,
  - ensuring that there is clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers and their consolidated profit & loss position,
  - undertaking due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates; and
  - supporting calls for urgent reform of EU and UK law to enable councils to revise their procurement policies and better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct.

## **MEETINGS INFORMATION AND NOTES FOR VISITORS**

### **Getting to County Hall and Notes for Visitors**

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[Further information about how to get to County Hall](#) gives information on visitor parking at County Hall and bus routes.

Exeter has an excellent network of dedicated cycle routes. For further information see the [Travel Devon Webpages](#).

The nearest mainline railway stations are Exeter Central (5 minutes from the High Street), St David's and St Thomas's. All have regular bus services to the High Street.

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### **Membership of a Committee**

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### **Committee Terms of Reference**

For the terms of reference for any Committee, please [visit the Committee Page](#) on the website and click on the name of the Committee. Under purpose of Committee, the terms of reference will be listed. Terms of reference for all Committees are also detailed within Section 3b of [the Council's Constitution](#).

### **Access to Information**

Any person wishing to inspect any minutes, reports or background papers relating to an item on the agenda should contact the Clerk of the Meeting. To find this, [visit the Committee Page](#) on the website and find the Committee. Under contact information (at the bottom of the page) the Clerks name and contact details will be present. All [agenda's, reports and minutes of any Committee are published on the Website](#)

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In relation to Highways and Traffic Orders Committees, any member of the District Council or a Town or Parish Councillor for the area covered by the HATOC who is not a member of the Committee, may attend and speak to any item on the Agenda with the consent of the Committee, having given 24 hours notice.

### **Webcasting, Recording or Reporting of Meetings and Proceedings**

The proceedings of any meeting may be recorded and / or broadcasted live, apart from any confidential items which may need to be considered in the absence of the press and public. For more information [go to our webcasting pages](#)

Anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings may do so unless the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting or there is good reason not to do so, as directed by the Chair. Filming must be done as unobtrusively as possible without additional lighting; focusing only on those actively participating in the meeting and having regard to the wishes of others present who may not wish to be filmed. Anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chair or the Democratic Services Officer in attendance.

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### **Declarations of Interest for Members of the Council**

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### **Induction Loop available**

