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To: The Chair and Members  
of the Cabinet

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Date: 5 April 2022

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## **CABINET**

Wednesday, 13th April, 2022

A meeting of the Cabinet is to be held on the above date at 10.30 am in the Council Chamber to consider the following matters.

Phil Norrey  
Chief Executive

## **A G E N D A**

### **PART I - OPEN COMMITTEE**

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2022 (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 Announcements

5 Petitions

6 Question(s) from Members of the Council

## **FRAMEWORK DECISION**

NIL

## **KEY DECISIONS**

### 7 Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy and Strategy (Pages 1 - 68)

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste (HIW/22/18) seeking approval of the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Policy and Strategy, attached.

The Cabinet is also asked to note that a Standing Overview Group of the Corporate, Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny was held on the 3 March 2022 to consider the draft Policy and Strategy. The Overview Group recommendations were considered by the full Corporate, Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee on 24 March 2022.

The Scrutiny Committee resolved “that the report be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting held and that the recommendations contained therein be endorsed and commended to Cabinet, namely:

- (a) repair and maintenance of our road networks be underpinned by a positive and proactive approach and efforts to be made to implement this mindset into the working practices of DCC staff and contractors;
- (b) the Community Road Warden Scheme and the Snow Warden Scheme be continued and expanded;
- (c) annual work programmes be produced to cover integrated schemes and additional detail is included where these include drainage repair;
- (d) graffiti be explicitly recognised in the Plan as a notable problem and innovative solutions to graffiti removal be investigated; and
- (e) further exploration of local council involvement in highway maintenance is undertaken, to include closer relationships between local councils and the County Council.”

Cabinet is asked to note that the draft documents have been updated to incorporate these recommendations and these will be further developed in the review of the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan and annexes, as paragraph 5.2 of the Report refers.

An Impact Assessment is also attached for the attention of Members at this meeting. Also available on the website - [Published Impact Assessments - Impact Assessment \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/impact-assessments)

*Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions*

- 8 County Road Highway Maintenance - Capital Budget and Progress on 2021/22 Schemes and Proposals for the 2022/23 Programmes and the On-street Parking Account 2022/23 (Pages 69 - 92)

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste (HIW/22/19) on the County Road Highway Maintenance Capital Budget and Progress on 2021/22 Schemes and Proposals for the 2022/23 Programmes and the On-street Parking Account 2022/23, attached.

The Impact Assessment for this item is the budget [Budget 2022/2023 - Impact Assessment \(devon.gov.uk\)](#) that has previously been circulated to Members.

*Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions*

- 9 Formal Consultation Submission to the Devon Climate Emergency Partnership's responses to the recommendations of the Devon Climate Assembly (Pages 93 - 114)

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment (PTE/22/15) outlining the proposed consultation submission to the Devon Climate Emergency partnership's responses to the recommendations of the Devon Climate Assembly, attached.

An Impact Assessment is also attached for the attention of Members at the meeting and can be viewed online at - [Proposed Responses to the Devon Climate Assembly - Impact Assessment](#).

*Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions*

- 10 South West Exeter Housing Infrastructure Fund: Update on project including approval for submission of planning application and to award tenders (Pages 115 - 148)

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment (PTE/22/16) on the South West Exeter Housing Infrastructure Fund: including an update on the project including seeking approval for submission of planning application and to award tenders, attached.

An Impact Assessment is also attached for the attention of Members at the meeting and can be viewed online at - [Published Impact Assessments - Impact Assessment \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

*Electoral Divisions(s): Alphington & Cowick; Exminster & Haldon*

- 11 Construction of a community facilities building in Cranbrook Town Centre providing flexible space for County Council services including children's, youth, and libraries (Pages 149 - 154)

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment (PTE/22/17) seeking approval for the construction of a community facilities building in Cranbrook Town Centre to provide flexible space for Council services, attached.

*Electoral Divisions(s): Broadclyst*

- 12 Plymouth and South Devon Freeport (Pages 155 - 186)

Join Report of the Head of Economy, Enterprise and Skills and Director of Finance (EES/22/3) on the Plymouth and South Devon Freeport, attached.

*Electoral Divisions(s): Bickleigh & Wembury*

- 13 Bideford Library/Art Centre Project - Approval requested to award the Construction contract (Pages 187 - 190)

Report of the Head of Communities (SC/22/1) seeking approval to award the construction contract in relation to Bideford Library/ Arts Centre, attached.

*Electoral Divisions(s): Bideford East*

- 14 Commissioning for Peninsula Fostering Services, with Independent Fostering Agencies Tender Approval and Arrangements for Award of the Contract. (Pages 191 - 228)

Report of the Chief Officer for Children's Services (CS/22/5) relating to the re-commissioning for Peninsula Fostering Services and contract award, attached.

An Impact Assessment is also attached for the attention of Members at this meeting.

*Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions*

- 15 Workforce Stability: Attracting Agency Children's Social Workers to Devon - Agency Pay Rate Proposals (Pages 229 - 234)

Report from Head of Childrens Social Work (CS/22/06) relating to Workforce Stability and proposals for attracting agency children's social workers via agency pay rate proposals, attached.

*Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions*

## **MATTERS REFERRED**

### 16 Children's Scrutiny Committee: Children's Standing Overview group

In considering the Minutes of the Children's Standing Overview Group (Minute 38 refers), the Children's Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 15 March 2022 had RESOLVED to:

(b) Raise concern to Cabinet about the critical lack of affordable housing as a barrier to recruitment and retention in Devon. The Committee understand that the Devon Housing Taskforce are looking at housing in the county as part of any potential devolution deal and will be drawing up strategic recommendations. Nevertheless, we raise our concern to Cabinet about the immediate challenge that the lack of affordable housing is having now on our recruitment and retention of key staff, not just in Children's Services but across the wider public sector.

(c) Asks Cabinet to recognise that in order to continue to deliver our statutory duties in Children's Services, the Council must be equipped to attract and accommodate a highly skilled, diverse workforce right across the County. At this time, the lack of accommodation for prospective permanent and agency staff places us at a major disadvantage compared with other local authorities. In particular, there is an immediate need for solutions in the north of the County in order to recruit to these areas.

(d) Asks Cabinet to consider investing in pilot schemes to provide accommodation for those who cannot currently secure accommodation. This might include the temporary solutions and home share initiatives being explored by Cornwall Council or the Council of the Isles of Scilly. The Council previously did this over the COVID-19 Pandemic for other sectors and services for temporary accommodation. This would be limited to 'move on' housing solutions such as bulk renting hotel rooms, renting properties, buying properties or other innovative housing solutions such as 'micro homes'.

(e) Asks Cabinet to work with other partners such as registered social landlords and government agencies such as Homes England to explore these solutions.

(f) Asks the Devon Housing Taskforce, via the Cabinet and Team Devon, to meet as soon as is practicable to look into this issue as part of their work and report this back to the Committee.

(g) Asks Cabinet, when considering these matters, to also consider suitable, affordable accommodation for our care leavers too.

## Recommendations

(a) that Cabinet acknowledge that increases in house prices and rents; overall reduction in the number of properties available to rent; and lack of affordable, good quality housing is contributing to difficulties in recruiting and retaining a wide range workers whose jobs are critical to the safety, health and wellbeing of everyone in Devon;

(b) that Cabinet further note that at its meeting on 2 December 2021 the Council agreed to take action to address Devon's housing crisis and that Team Devon (Leaders and Chief Executives) has now established a Devon Housing Task Force;

(c) that Cabinet continue to work with Devon's Members of Parliament on supporting the powers, funding and flexibilities proposed in the Devon, Plymouth and Torbay devolution deal which would improve the availability, quality and affordability of both new and existing housing, and;

(d) that the Council contribute to the work of Devon's District Councils, housing providers, registered social landlords, Homes England and the NHS in finding short, medium and long-term solutions to the provision of suitable, secure and affordable accommodation.

*Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions*

## **STANDING ITEMS**

17 Question(s) from Members of the Public

18 Minutes

Minutes of the bodies shown below are circulated herewith for information or endorsement as indicated therein (i.e. any unstarred minutes):

a Devon Audit Partnership - 8 March 2022 (Pages 235 - 240)

b Devon Education Forum - 16 March 2022 (Pages 241 - 248)

[NB: Minutes of [County Council Committees](#) are published on the Council's Website:

19 Delegated Action/Urgent Matters

The Register of Decisions taken by Members under the urgency provisions or delegated powers is available on the website in line with the Council's Constitution and Regulation 13 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. The decisions taken and associated information can be found [here](#).

20 Forward Plan (Pages 249 - 260)

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Cabinet is requested to review the list of forthcoming business (previously circulated) and to determine which items are to be defined as key and/or framework decisions and included in the Plan from the date of this meeting.

The [Forward Plan is available on the Council's website](#).

**PART II - ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

NIL

*Members are reminded that Part II Reports contain exempt information and should therefore be treated accordingly. They should not be disclosed or passed on to any other person(s). They need to be disposed of carefully and should be returned to the Democratic Services Officer at the conclusion of the meeting for disposal.*

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