

County Council
Thursday, 17th February, 2022



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DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

To: Members of Devon County Council

County Hall
Exeter
EX2 4QD

9 February 2022

Your attendance is requested at the Meeting of the Devon County Council to be held at the Great Hall, University of Exeter on Thursday, 17th February, 2022 at 2.15 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Dorrey".

Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2021.

3. Announcements

4. Items Requiring Urgent Attention

5. Public Participation: Petitions, Questions and Representations

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

6. Petitions from Members of the Council

7. Questions from Members of the Council

Answers to questions from Members of the Council pursuant to Standing Order 17.

FRAMEWORK DECISION

8. Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 - 2025/26 and Capital Programme 2022/23 - 2026/27

In the exercise of its Public Sector Equality Duty, as set out below, the County Council must have full regard to and consider the impact of any proposals in relation to equalities prior to making any decisions and any identified significant risks and mitigating action required. The overview of the impact assessments for all service areas entitled '2022/23 Budget Impact Assessment' has been circulated separately and is available to all Members of the Council for consideration under this item (alongside any specific equality impact assessments undertaken as part of the budget's preparation) at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/impact/published/budget-impact-assessments/>.

To receive and approve the Report of the Director of Finance (DF/22/18) together with the Minutes of the Cabinet held on 11th February 2022 relating to the budget.

Minutes from the recent Scrutiny Budget meetings (Children's Scrutiny, Health and Adult Care and Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services) are also attached for the information of Members which contain the Scrutiny Budget Resolutions, attached.

The Report of the County Treasurer will follow.

The Cabinet Minutes will be available to view at <https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MId=4179&Ver=4> shortly.

Electoral Divisions(s): All Divisions

- (a) Children's Scrutiny Committee (Budget) - 18 January 2022 (Pages 1 - 10)
- (b) Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee (Budget) - 20 January 2022 (Pages 11 - 18)
- (c) Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee (Budget) - 27 January 2022 (Pages 19 - 26)

9. Pay Policy Statement 2022/2023 (Pages 27 - 32)

To receive and approve the Councils Pay Policy Statement, as recommended by the Appointments, Remuneration and Chief Officer Conduct Committee (19 January 2022) (Minute 16 refers). The minutes and Pay Policy Statement are attached.

OTHER MATTERS

10. Cabinet Member Reports

To consider reports from Cabinet Members.

11. Minutes

To receive and adopt and / or approve the Minutes of the under mentioned Committees

- (a) Development Management Committee - 1 December 2021 (Pages 33 - 36)
- (b) Development Management Committee - 26 January 2022. (Pages 37 - 40)
- (c) Appeals Committee - 6 December 2021 (Pages 41 - 42)
- (d) Appeals Committee - 7 February 2022
The minutes for this meeting will be published here shortly -
<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=160&MId=4324&Ver=4>
- (e) Appointments, Remuneration and Chief Officer Conduct Committee - 19 January 2022 (Pages 43 - 48)
- (f) Procedures Committee - 8 February 2022 (Pages 49 - 50)
Including approval of minute 16 relating to Members Allowances.
- (g) Children's Scrutiny Committee (Ordinary Meeting) - 18 January 2022
(Pages 51 - 56)
- (h) Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee (Ordinary Meeting) - 20 January 2022 (Pages 57 - 64)
- (i) Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee (Ordinary Meeting) - 27 January 2022 (Pages 65 - 70)

NOTICES OF MOTION

12. Restoring Railway Resilience (Minute 72 of 2 December 2021)

To receive and consider the recommendations of the Cabinet (Minute 103(a) as an amendment to the following Notice of Motion submitted previously to the Council by Councillor Hannaford and referred thereto in accordance with Standing Order 8(2), namely:

Council warmly welcomes and celebrates the restoration of the Okehampton to Exeter daily rail services after an absence of forty-nine years.

After many years of strong cross party support at Devon County

Council, we are especially pleased and proud that the first reopening under the governments “Restoring Your Railway Programme” has taken place at the heart of Devon. Hopefully heralding a national railway service revival across the whole country, that will see a transformational change in commuter movements, and a substantial reduction in harmful emissions.

Council also welcomes the £50,000 to develop a business case to reinstate passenger rail links between Tavistock and Plymouth, and the new additional funding to reopen Cullompton Railway Station.

However, Council is greatly concerned, that there is still an estimated huge gap in regional railway service investment of 4.5 billion for the South West Region, based on its ONS projected population over the period to 2045.

Therefore, in order to continue to build upon the restoring your railway programme, increase the far South West’s general connectivity, secure our railway resilience, and crucially assist with the climate emergency, Council commits its active support, working with others to lobby, help facilitate, and advocate for the following projects;

- The completion of the Great Western electrification programme.
- The development of the North of Dartmoor line, connecting Plymouth, via Okehampton and Tavistock.
- Additional passing loops, and an increase in line speeds, between Exeter and Salisbury to improve journey times between Exeter and Waterloo Station.
- Encouraging and working with the logistics sector to commit to a serious switch to rail freight for the distribution of consumer goods, food, and industrial products.

Furthermore, Council resolves to make formal representations to the Government, national and regional transport bodies, the business sector, and our local Devon Members of Parliament, to secure the necessary funding and investment to progress these much needed and long awaited improvements.

Having had regard to the aforementioned, any factual briefing/position statement on the matter set out in Report (CSO/22/01) and other suggestions or alternatives considered at that meeting the Cabinet subsequently **resolved**:

that Council be recommended to:

(a) continue to work collaboratively with the Peninsula Transport Sub National Transport Body authorities to develop a Peninsula Rail Strategy to inform future rail investment priorities; and

(b) through the Peninsula Transport Sub National Transport Body, work closely with rail partners and key stakeholders to make the case for future

funding in line with the industry's Delivery Plan process.

13. After COP 26 (Minute 73 of 2 December 2021)

To receive and consider the recommendations of the Cabinet (Minute 103(b)) as an amendment to the following Notice of Motion submitted previously to the Council by Councillor Atkinson and referred thereto in accordance with Standing Order 8(2), namely

The final draft of the COP26 agreement recognises "the urgent need for multilevel and cooperative action." which is understood by those negotiating on behalf of local government to refer to governance, and mean that action should include all levels of Government from local to central.

This Council

- will work with Government and Local Government networks, to make sure the COP26 text is translated into meaningful local and national programmes to reduce carbon which are supported by agreed and sufficient financing by Government;
- demands that national plans formulated by the Government are discussed and negotiated between local and devolved Governments and not imposed centrally by Government;
- demands that when the Government promotes new financial measures addressing climate change, these should be discussed with local Governments and associations before implementation to ensure that the resources are used effectively at a local level and provide value for money; and
- considers the current national Government competitive approach introduced in 2010, which has introduced an array of short-term and one-off funding pots for which Councils have to dedicate resources to bidding for to access to often small pots of money is not an effective way to address action to reduce global warming.

Having had regard to the aforementioned, any factual briefing/position statement on the matter set out in Report (CSO/22/01) and other suggestions or alternatives considered at that meeting the Cabinet subsequently **resolved**:

'that Council be recommended to endorse the Notice of Motion and continues to work with national government to provide the resources necessary to meet the Paris Agreement commitments'.

14. Behaviour Change and Phasing Out Fossil Fuels (Minute 74 of 2 December 2021)

To receive and consider the recommendations of the Cabinet (Minute 103(c) as an amendment to the following Notice of Motion submitted previously to the Council by Councillor Hodgson and referred thereto in accordance with Standing Order 8(2), namely:

Further to the outcomes of COP26, which failed to secure strong commitments to phase out fossil fuels, this council will seek to support behaviour change in residents and businesses in the County by implementing initiatives modelled on the Welsh Government's One Planet Standard and associated Policies. This will include a commitment to switch funding from fossil fuel intense (e.g. new road building) projects to alternative (e.g. Active Travel) projects that will support low carbon, and healthier lifestyles.

Background information at this link -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSDnAnpaGHs>

Having had regard to the aforementioned, any factual briefing/position statement on the matter set out in Report (CSO/21/01) and other suggestions or alternatives considered at that meeting the Cabinet subsequently **resolved**:

'that Council be recommended to endorse the spirit of the Notice of Motion, continues to help residents and businesses reduce their environmental impact, and continues to take opportunities to invest in low-carbon infrastructure for the people of Devon'.

15. Community Composting Initiatives (Minute 75 of 2 December 2021)

To receive and consider the recommendations of the Cabinet (Minute 103(d)) as an amendment to the following Notice of Motion submitted previously to the Council by Councillor Hodgson and referred thereto in accordance with Standing Order 8(2), namely:

In the spirit of COP 26 to reduce the carbon footprint of waste recycling, this Council will encourage and support community composting initiatives that are supported by Parish Councils in the County.

Having had regard to the aforementioned, any factual briefing/position statement on the matter set out in Report (CSO/21/01) and other suggestions or alternatives considered at that meeting the Cabinet subsequently **resolved**:

'that Council be recommended to note the current position and the planned work on community composting and no further action be taken on the Notice of Motion'.

16. Neonicotinoid Ban

Councillor Brazil to move:

'It is desperately disappointing that once again the Government has permitted the use of a pesticide known to have catastrophic effects on bees. This Council will not permit the use of thiamethoxam or any neonicotinoid pesticides on County farms or any County land. We would also encourage farmers to adopt more sustainable farming practices and reduce their reliance on toxic pesticides. The Government needs to support our farmers to do this and uphold its own ban on neonicotinoids'.

17. Devon's Cost Of Living Crisis

Councillor Hannaford to move:

Council notes with concern that;

According to the **House of Commons Library**, the **UK cost of living** has been rising since **early 2021**, but in **December 2021** inflation reached its highest recorded level in decades, seriously affecting the ability of households to afford basic goods and essential services. Economic experts agree that the UK is now expected to experience will be the **sharpest fall in disposable incomes since records began in 1990**, as the cost of living crisis wreaks havoc among **middle and lower-income households**.

Inflation

Consumer prices, as measured by the **Consumer Prices Index (CPI)**, were **5.4% higher in December 2021** than a year before – **the highest inflation rate recorded since 1992**. In mid-December, the **Bank of England forecast** the CPI inflation rate to remain around **5%** over the winter, before rising to **6% in April 2022**. **However now against a backdrop of rising household energy prices, the Bank said** inflation was on course to peak close to 7.25% in April, **a sharp adjustment to its previous forecast**.

Fuel and Petrol Prices

Petrol and diesel prices both fell over the first two months of the first lockdown. At the end of May 2020 they were at their lowest level for around five years: the UK average was 104.9 pence for a litre of petrol and 111.7 pence for diesel. Prices increased steadily during most of 2021 and particularly rapidly in October and November. Petrol reached a **record price of 147.5 pence per litre** on 29 November 2021. Diesel reached a **record price of 151.3 pence per litre** on the same day. Both prices have fallen slightly since then; on 17 January 2022 average prices were 144.8 and 148.7 pence for a litre of petrol and diesel respectively. However these prices were still historically very high and are even more economically regressive in a rural county like Devon, where driving is often essential.

Housing Costs

Particularly in the private rental sector ever rising costs are adding pressure to those in most in need. The latest **HomeLet Rental Index** figures show average monthly rental costs in the UK rose by **8.6 percent**, with the average rent being **£1,060**. An article on the cost-of-living crisis in the homeless charity magazine, **The Big Issue**, noted, “Already, data shows that private rents are unaffordable for the poorest in the country, with data from 2021 showing that there are **just two areas in England** where the poorest families spend less than **30 per cent** of their income on **rent costs.**”

As proven by the research done by **Team Devon**, the distortion of the rental market from ever more **holiday homes, second homes**, and an explosion in **Airbnb properties**, and the scarcity of affordable and social housing in all parts of Devon, are all feeding into this crisis.

Also following recent **Bank of England** interest rate increases, homeowners with mortgages are expected to see an average £15-a-month increase, but for many its much higher, depending on their own individual rates, and especially in Devon where property prices remain some of the highest in the UK.

Energy Prices and Devon’s Fuel Poverty

A particularly important driver of inflation is obviously energy prices, with household energy tariffs increasing. Between January and November 2021 domestic **gas prices increased by 28%** and **domestic electricity prices by 19%**.

Energy regulator **Ofgem** has now announced the new energy price cap on , confirming it will increase by **54 per cent, or £693**, from 1 April. This will allow energy firms to charge customers up to £1,971 per year, up from the previous limit of **£1,277**. The energy price cap is the maximum amount a utility company can charge an average customer in the UK per year for the amount of electricity and gas they use.

Consultancy Cornwall Insight said that the households whose energy bills are tied to the price cap can expect the cap to rise further, to around **£2,350**, at the next review in **October**.

The number of homes set to be plunged into **‘fuel stress’** could rise to over **six million in April** when a new price cap comes into play, according to the think-tank **Resolution Foundation**. **This will see the proportion of households in England in fuel stress rise from nine per cent to 27 per cent.**

The current international situation in **Ukraine** could make matters even worse, with **Europe highly dependent on Russian natural gas**. Although the UK imports barely any gas from Russia. It meets about half of its gas requirements from the North Sea, while another third is sourced from

Norway. The rest is imported by pipelines connecting the UK to Europe, or in the form of liquefied natural gas (LNG), which is transported by tankers typically from Qatar or the US.

However the UK's gas sources could all becoming eye-wateringly expensive if markets in Europe soar. The UK's market is closely connected to markets in Europe, so a price rise in Germany or the Netherlands , should tensions rise , **would also lead to higher prices in Britain.**

Rising energy charges such as these could **devastate the UK's poorest families**, analysis suggests, as many adults could be forced to **spend more than half of their income after housing costs on electric and gas bills.**

The latest government information from April 2021 , that does not factor in the forthcoming price hikes, already indicates **substantial fuel poverty in Devon**, and it is also widely estimated that these figures hide a much higher actual number in reality.

	Number of households ¹ in poverty	Number of fuel	Proportion of households fuel poor (%)
Devon	355,130	38,051	10.7
East Devon	64,942	6,148	9.5
Exeter	54,298	6,439	11.9
Mid Devon	36,079	4,162	11.5
North Devon	43,963	5,073	11.5
South Hams	40,597	3,834	9.4
Teignbridge	59,478	5,886	9.9
Torridge	30,763	3,637	11.8
West Devon	25,010	2,872	11.5

Food Prices

Food and non-alcoholic drink prices were up by 4.2% in the year to December 2021 on the official CPI measure of inflation. They may rise further in the coming months. However some everyday food items have increased in price by 344% in a year.

It comes as food poverty campaigner, activist and chef **Jack Monroe** has successfully urged the **Office for National Statistics (ONS)** to reconsider how the cost of living is actually measured in the wake of rising prices for **everyday essentials**, such a **flour, pasta, rice and milk**, rather than luxury items , that the poor cannot afford and never buy.

Nationally its estimated that **Foodbanks** are already handing out 32 meals a minute, despite seeing a big drop in donations because of the cost of living crisis.

One in 10 households in the Devon County Council area suffer "substantial disruptions" to get enough food. Overall, **17%** of households were shown to experience some **food insecurity** and "not having reliable access to enough affordable, nutritious food".

Other Pressures On Household Budgets

As well as higher inflation, household budgets will be also be further squeezed by changes in taxes and benefits in the coming months. This includes an **increase in National Insurance Contributions from April 2022**, and **changes to income tax**, as well as the **withdrawal of the £20 Universal Credit uplift**.

Stagnant wages will also affect household incomes. Furthermore **public transport costs** will be raised.

Overall a recent report by **The Resolution Foundation** predicts households will be on average at least **£1,200 a year worse off from this year**.

Low Income Households & Child Poverty

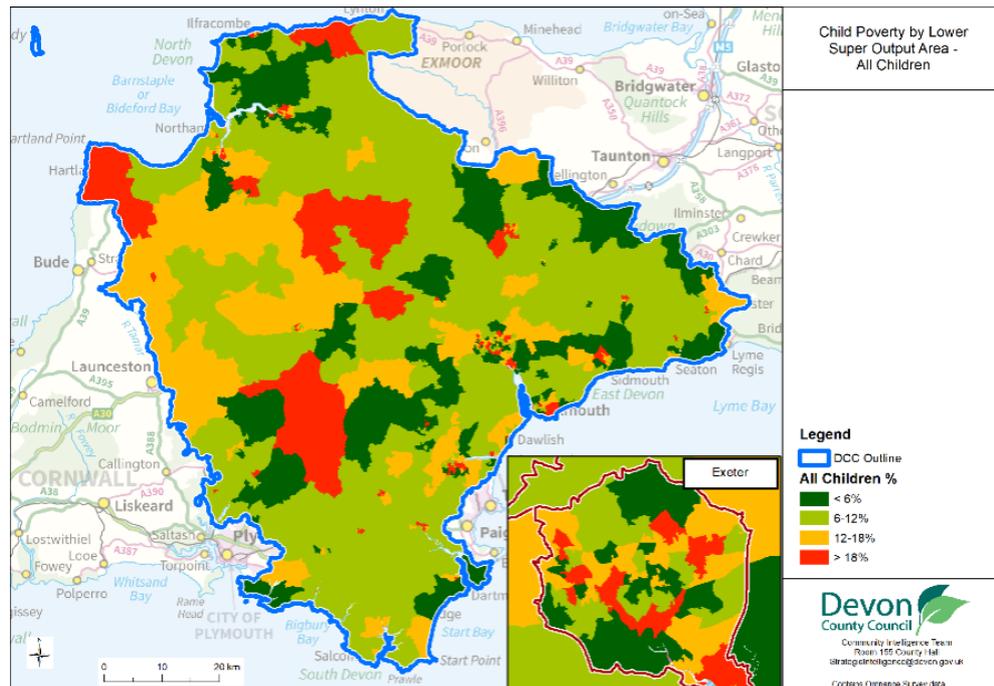
Low income households spend a larger proportion than average on energy and food, and will therefore be relatively more affected by increases in prices. **The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)** say that low-income families may have to spend, on average, **18%** of their income on energy bills, which rises to **54% for single adult households**, and around a quarter for **single parents and couples without children**.

Low income households are paying an estimated "**poverty premium**" of **£478 each year**, according to research by the campaign group **Fair By Design**.

As a result **thousands of people already in poverty across Devon** are paying more for essentials such as **energy and insurance**, because they are unable to afford lump sums and instead have to opt for pricier regular payments. This includes higher tariffs and fees through **prepayment meters** and **car insurance premiums**.

Recent data from **2016** shows that **12.3% of children in Devon are in low income families** compared to 17% for England, although this does not take into account the social and economic effects of the pandemic.

However **a fifth of children were living in households with a low income for at least three of the four years between 2016-2019**, rising to around one in three children in single-parent families. **The child poverty rate for children in families with three or more children, was almost twice as high as the rate for children in one- or two-child families (47% versus 24%)**.



Financing Progressive Measures

The governments financial position is much better than expected. **Tax revenues are coming in higher than forecast**, and some substantial expected **government spending has not occurred**. We are nine months into the current financial year and thanks largely to that more money is coming into the exchequer than expected, the deficit is lower than expected. It is still huge, **£147bn**, because of the economic effects of the global pandemic , but that is **£13bn less** than the **Office for Budget Responsibility** expected. So in conjunction with an new **annual windfall tax** and **some careful strategic borrowing** , the government does have some considerable financial headway to make sure **its leveling up agenda in the face of a cost of living crisis is more than just an empty slogan**.

Council Notes:

The recent announcements by the **Chancellor** including;

- All households will receive **£200 off their energy bills in October under a rebate and claw back” scheme** – but then pay the discount back by £40 a year over five years from 2023.
- **Council taxpayers** in England in bands A to D would receive **a rebate of £150** from their bills in April, which will not have to be paid back.
- Local authorities would receive **£150m** to make **discretionary payments** to the neediest.
- The number of poorer households eligible for the **warm homes discount** – worth **£150 from October** – would be **increased by a third to 3m**.

Council Believes That:

The Government has made **an limited intervention** to tackle the energy bills crisis. **But this isn't the only cost of living challenge families face.**

As such the Chancellor's announcements are **hopelessly inadequate**. For most families it's just £7 a week and more than half must be paid back. It's too little, it's poorly targeted, and it's stop gap measures instead of fixing the big problems.

The support may not reach people quickly enough. The £200 energy bills rebate won't arrive in people's bank accounts until October. But people are struggling right now.

And while the **£150 Council Tax rebate** is coming this April, **one-in-eight of the poorest families in England won't even qualify** for support because of the houses they live in.

Finally, most of the £9 billion of support is being paid for via higher energy bills over the next five years. This is a very risky strategy, especially if the cost of gas doesn't fall sharply and soon. **High energy bills could be a feature of the 2020s** – continuing to hammer the poorest in society – and **a reminder of the need to wean ourselves off fossil fuels.**

Council therefore resolves:

To call on the UK Government and our local Members of Parliament to effectively tackle the cost-of-living crisis facing Devon families and act now to support them with the following specific measures;

- a) A new **revised local government settlement** that adequately funds local councils so that **council tax does not have to be raised this year** to protect and operate vital front line services.
- b) A twelve month pause in the proposed **National Insurance rise** to directly help those on low and fixed incomes.
- c) Revise the planned **3.1%** increase in the **value of welfare and benefits**, and build in a rise of 6% to protect the poorest and most vulnerable in society.
- d) A **VAT cut** on everyone's **home energy bills** for a year from **5% to 0% percent**.
- e) Increasing the **Warm Home Discount** from **£140 to £400** per year and expanding the number of households eligible to **9.3 million**.

- f) Introducing a **year-long increase to corporation tax** for North Sea oil and gas producers in order to secure at least a **£1.2 billion windfall** from their increased price rise profits to help mitigate household energy bills.

18. Motion for the Ocean - Ocean Recovery Declaration

Councillor Aves to move:

Devon County Council is developing the Devon Carbon Plan aiming to reach net zero carbon by 2050 at the latest. The Plan includes the ambition to enhance the ability of habitats along our 200 miles of coast, in our countryside and in our villages, towns and cities to store carbon. This offers tremendous opportunities to reverse the decline of biodiversity and restore healthy ecosystems. This council has shown its wider environmental values through its support of projects such as the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.

In May 2019, after Devon County Council declared a Climate Emergency, a partnership formed to respond to the climate and ecological emergency in Devon. Its members represent private sector interests, environmental organisations, academic institutions, and public bodies, including our neighbours Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council. Plymouth City Council is leading the way in connecting people to the ocean through the development of the UK's first National Marine Park, in Plymouth Sound and as the first Council to pass the Ocean Recovery Declaration.

International and national context

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development runs from 2021 to 2030. Last year the UK hosted COP26 in Glasgow and the G7 came to Cornwall. The UK Government has publicly declared its ambition to be a global leader in marine conservation. All eyes are on the ocean.

There is national and global recognition that the world ocean is in crisis. The impact of the climate crisis on the ocean is profound, including in our local waters. Raised atmospheric carbon dissolves in the seawater and causes ocean acidification, dissolving the shells, reefs and other hard parts of marine animals. The heating of the climate causes ocean heating too which makes some parts of the ocean intolerable for life and is changing what lives and is caught locally. It also increases the volume of the ocean which causes sea level rise, added to by ice melt at the poles. Thanks to a more turbulent climate, increased storminess and sea level rise is a serious threat to all coastal communities, economies and infrastructure including Devon coasts. Marine microplastics have been found in all marine environments and in the bodies of many species, including humans. Fish stocks collapse from permitted and illegal overfishing. Poor water quality is impacting seafood and preventing safe bathing.

We must play our part in securing the sustainability and health of the ocean. Action is needed at all levels, from individuals developing their ocean literacy (understanding of the relationship between people and the ocean), individual and collective marine citizenship (promoting and demanding an ocean recovery through local, national and international policy changes).

This Council declares an urgent need for Ocean Recovery.

We recognise that we need ocean recovery to meet our net zero carbon targets, and we need net zero carbon to recover our ocean.

This Council pledges to:

1. Report to Full Council within 6 months on the actions and projects that will begin an ocean recovery in Devon.
2. Embed ocean recovery in all strategic decisions, budgets, procurement and approaches to decisions by the Council (particularly in planning, regeneration, skills and economic policy), aligning with climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements and considering ocean-based solutions in our journey towards a carbon neutral and climate resilient future.
3. Ensure that local planning supports ocean recovery, working closely with the Marine Management Organisation to embed strong links between the Local Plans and the South West Marine Plan to support ocean recovery.
4. Work with partners locally and nationally to deliver increased sustainability in local marine industries and invest in the development of a sustainable and equitable blue economy that delivers ocean recovery and local prosperity, including the local fishing industry and the vital work of the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCA).
5. Grow ocean literacy and marine citizenship in the county, including ensuring all pupils have a first-hand experience of the ocean before leaving primary school, and promote sustainable and equitable access to the ocean through physical and digital experiences for all students.
6. Create an online portal of the Council website to update on ocean recovery progress, signpost to ocean literacy development opportunities, and marine citizenship pledges.
7. Write to the Government to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030 by
 - a. Ensuring Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities have the resources they need to effectively research and monitor our growing number of marine protected areas, and to set and enforce appropriate fishing levels that support local economies and deliver environmental sustainability.

b. Work with coastal communities to co-develop marine policy to ensure it delivers equitable and sustainable outcomes in local placemaking.

c. Appoint a dedicated Minister for Coastal Communities.

d. Stop plastic pollution at source by strengthening the regulations around single-use plastics and set standards for microfibre-catching filters to ensure that all new domestic and commercial washing machines are fitted with a filter that captures a high percentage of microfibres produced in the wash cycle.

e. And by listening to marine and social scientific advice to update the Marine Policy Statement and produce a national Ocean Recovery Strategy which will:

i. Enable the recovery of marine ecosystems rather than managing degraded or altered habitats in their reduced state.

ii. Consider levelling up, marine conservation, energy, industrial growth, flood and coastal erosion risk management, climate adaptation and fisheries policy holistically rather than as competing interests.

iii. Develop a smarter approach to managing the health of the entire ocean that moves beyond Marine Protected Areas and enables links to be made across sectors towards sustainability.

iv. Establish improved processes for understanding the benefits from ocean management, leaving no doubt the links between this and human lives, livelihoods, and wellbeing.

MEETINGS INFORMATION AND NOTES FOR VISITORS

Getting to University of Exeter and Notes for Visitors

For SatNav purposes, the postcode for the University of Exeter is EX4 4PY

[Further information about how to get to University of Exeter](#) gives information on visitor parking 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 University.

Membership of a Committee

For the full details of the Membership of a Committee, please [visit the Committee Page](#) on the website and click on the name of the Committee you wish to see.

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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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.

Members of the public may also use social media to report on proceedings.

Declarations of Interest for Members of the Council

It is to be noted that Members of the Council 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.

Fire

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Induction Loop available



CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18 January 2022

Present:-

Councillors S Aves, J Brazil, P Bullivant, G Gribble, R Hannaford (Chair), L Hellyer, F Letch MBE and L Samuel

Apologies:-

Councillors C Mabin, J Bradford, J Hawkins, P Sanders, M Squires and J Wilton-Love and C Mabin (Church of England Representative)

Members attending in accordance with Standing Order 25

Councillors Leadbetter, Saywell and Twiss

* 18 **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There was no matter raised as a matter of urgency.

* 19 **Public Participation**

There were no oral representations from members of the public.

* 20 **Budget 2022/23 and Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2026/27**

The Committee noted that the proposed budget for the 2022/23 financial year would be scrutinised by individual Scrutiny Committees.

The Chairs of the Children's Scrutiny Committee and the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee would present any relevant resolutions and an overview of those issues arising to the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Committee. This Committee would also consider the draft budget proposals within its own remit, providing an opportunity for Scrutiny Members to comment on proposals for the Council's Budget in its entirety. The resulting resolutions from Scrutiny will be reported to Cabinet and Council.

This would follow the opportunity for individual Scrutiny Committees – at this meeting – to have an initial overview of the budget proposals and examine them to identify any specific issues or areas of interest that might be considered at the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Committee for incorporation into any recommendations to Cabinet and Council.

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The Committee then considered the joint report of the Director of Finance and the Chief Officer for Children's Services (DF/22/01) on the provisional financial settlement made by Government and the spending targets set by the Cabinet for each service area which included inflation, commitments and any service prioritisation reductions. The Report also detailed the proposed medium-term capital programme for Children's Services and how it was funded.

The Cabinet, at its meeting of 8th December 2021, had set Revenue Budget targets for 2022/23. That Report outlined the targets in paragraph 2 which represented an overall increase of £48.7 million or 8.4%. The increased Revenue Spending Targets for 2022/23 now totalled just over £629 millions.

As detailed within budget monitoring reports, significant pressures had been and were continuing to be experienced within Devon and across the country. The unprecedented set of circumstances faced by the country had led to demand growth, cost base increases and acute labour shortages. Adult Care and Health and Children's services in particular were continuing to experience in year operational pressures and many of the current year pressures were translating into budget pressures for 2022/23.

It was proposed to further support time limited pressures, invest to save programmes and to provide the critical services with time to manage demand and transform further by utilising some of the Council's reserves.

The Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2026/27 would be presented to Cabinet at the February Budget meeting.

At the Cabinet meeting on the 12th January, an update was given following the Provisional Local Government Settlement 2022/23 which was received on the 16th December 2021. The 2022/23 local government finance settlement was for one year only and was based on the Spending Review 2021 (SR21) funding levels. As part of SR21, the Chancellor had announced an additional £1.6bn per annum (2022/23 to 2024/25) for local government and the majority of this amount had been included in the Core Spending Power figures.

The council tax referendum limit would be 2% for local authorities, with social care authorities allowed an additional 1% social care precept.

Devon's Core Funding of £103.2 million (and grants announced so far) was as follows.

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	£000
Revenue Support Grant	566
Business Rates Central Government Top Up	80,654
BRRS Local Element	21,997
Core Funding	103,217
New Homes Bonus	2,143
Rural Services Delivery Grant	7,823
Social Care Grant	32,317
Improved Better Care Fund	29,126
ASC Reform/Market Sustainability & Cost of Care Fund	2,413
Services Grant	7,076

The provisional settlement was very close to what was expected, and no change was therefore proposed to the Budget Targets for 2022/23 that were agreed by Cabinet in December which were Revenue Spending Targets for 2022/23 totalling just over £629 millions with the relevant service budgets as outlined below, showing an increase in all service areas.

	2021/22 Adjusted Budget *	Inflation & Pressures	Savings & additional Income	2022/23 Budget	Net change	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
1 Adult Care & Health	283,294	47,875	(18,241)	312,928	29,634	10.5%
2 Childrens Services	159,036	28,787	(11,675)	176,148	17,112	10.8%
3 Communities, Public Health E&P	40,280	3,809	(2,846)	41,243	963	2.4%
4 Corporate Services	40,937	3,612	(2,830)	41,719	782	1.9%
5 Highways, Infrastructure D&W	57,124	3,349	(3,149)	57,324	200	0.4%
	580,671	87,432	(38,741)	629,362	48,691	8.4%

* Adjusted for permanent virements

The Committee were reminded that its consideration of the draft Children's Services budget was just part of the process of setting the County Council's budget which, following this meeting, would culminate in the Cabinet meeting on 11th February 2022 formulating a budget for consideration by the County Council on 17th February 2022.

The Chief Officer for Children's Services, commented on the likely implications of the 2022/23 target for individual service areas, confirming that the overall approach had been to strike a balance between the reality of the financial challenges facing the Council and providing sustainable support services against the increasing demands of front-line services and operational demands.

The Leadership Group commentary in the Report highlighted how over the last two years the Council had worked with other organisations to respond to and manage the impacts of COVID-19. As a community leader and part of

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Team Devon it had new responsibilities for addressing issues such as food poverty, financial hardship and shielding. During that time the pressures on health, social care and children's services had increased. Those pressures had been exacerbated by the fragility of the care market and difficulties of recruiting key workers. The Council's finances and workforce remained under significant pressure and strain.

The Chief Officer referred to service specific issues as outlined in the Report, including:

Children's Social Care:

- There was investment in early help and the children's social care response following first point of contact to enable children and families to be effectively helped at the right time and avoid further escalation into child protection and the need for care.
- Strategies focussed on providing the right support at the right time early on, at the "Front Door".
- Further investment in the workforce of £3.4 millions of targeted measures to recruit and retain social workers, agreed by Cabinet in September 2021, in recognition of the need to improve terms and conditions for children's social workers in key frontline safeguarding teams, and building a more stable workforce.
- Strategic leadership capacity had been strengthened, with an additional £180,000 of funding for an additional Deputy Chief Officer, Children's Health and Wellbeing, and an additional Tier 3 leadership role responsible for placements and fostering.
- Bridges (formally known as Edge of Care) was an invest to save improvement strategy, with the multi-disciplinary team now fully operational and successfully contributing to better outcomes for children, working alongside them and their families at an early stage and was partly credited for the sustained reduction in the number of children coming into care, from a high of 840 at its peak, to around 805.
- There were significant cost pressures of £4.6 million in demand-led budgets for placements for children looked after, independent special school care placements and Special Guardianships.

Public Health Nursing:

- The national and local shortfall in trained Health Visitors and School Nurses remained a challenging issue. The Service had successfully recruited qualifying Specialist Community Public Health Nurses although this did not cover all vacancies and recruitment remained a focus.

General Fund:

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- The regulatory and operational pressures within School transport remained high and together with external market pressures caused by COVID-19, was putting pressure on bus, coach, and taxi operators.
- The cost of Personalised School Transport continued to rise due to a continued increase in the number of children requiring complex transport arrangements.
- The Education and Inclusion Services contract, formerly Babcock LDP, would be brought back in house from August 2022.

Schools Funding:

- In 2022/23 the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for schools and early years setting would increase by £40 million, due to the increase in the National Funding Formula for the DSG announced by the Department for Education (DfE) in 2019.
- Significant cost pressure continued to relate to the SEND High Needs service. This was largely due to continued increases in the number of children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
- Devon continued to raise concerns with the DfE over the rising costs and demand of special educational needs, and although government had responded nationally with £730 million for 2022/23 and a further £325 million in the recent spending review, Devon's share of this funding was £12.5 million which was not sufficient to deal with the demand on the High Needs Block.

The Report also contained the detailed budget proposals for Children's Services, prepared in line with the targets referred to above, reflecting the different pressures and influences faced by services. The Children's Services base budget (excluding the Dedicated Schools Grant) was £176.1 millions (an increase of 10.8% from 2022/23), and included inflation and pressures of £28,787 millions and required savings and income initiatives of £11,675 millions.

Under the Equality Act 2010, the County Council had a legal duty to give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations when making decisions about services. Where relevant, Impact Assessments were carried out to consider how best to meet this duty, which included mitigating against the negative impact of service reductions.

The Report before the Committee referred to the Budget 2022/23 Impact Assessment, circulated prior to the meeting, giving an overview of the impact assessments for all service areas (available at: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/impact/budget22-23/> for the attention of Members so they were aware of the equality impact assessments undertaken as part of the budget's preparation, that any risk assessments and projections were

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adequate and the evidence supported the assumptions made in the formulation of the budget. Also bearing in mind that the preparation of Impact Assessments were a dynamic process and that individual assessments for specific proposals may need to be updated with time, Members of the Council must have full regard to and consider the impact of any proposals in relation to equalities prior to making any decisions and any identified significant risks and mitigating action required.

Specific issues and observations arising from the current budget proposals raised at the meeting included the following:

- The need to look at medium to long term budgeting, rather than planning a yearly budget. Officers advised that there had been 3-year Government Spending Review in autumn, however this did not translate into a multi-year financial settlement for local government. The Council had multi-year plans for each Service area and planned for medium term financial plans, but this was difficult when government funding was yearly. The Full Council meeting in February would have medium term plans included, however these would be subject to change.
- The Troubled Families funding, (changed name to Supporting Families), would receive a 40% uplift by 2024/25, and the Service was budgeting for a £1.6m grant in 2022/23.
- There was no planned reduction in Public Health Nursing (PHN). Newly trained students were coming through the system, which would help staffing shortfalls.
- Negotiations with the DfE around deficit in SEND had begun and whether this would be a negotiation for a repayment package in instalments, or additional money coming from government. It was expected an agreement would be reached by the end of March this year, as to whether additional funding would be received from the DfE.
- The budget had been carefully considered with assumptions in mind based on previous years, including transport. However, what was difficult to predict were the conditions in which the Council was operating, around Covid and staff shortages. There had been significant impacts because of the pandemic, when professionals were unable to see young people during lockdowns, and the Service was still working through some of those impacts.
- How being underfunded in Devon schools was impacting on the Early Help offer and the ability to protect young people. Officers advised that the biggest impact was seen in class sizes and support staff members e.g. Teaching Assistants (TA's). In 2017 schools saw a reduced budget resulting in a reduction in class sizes, as well as less TA's to support children with additional needs. Last year, for the first time since 2017,

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school budgets had started to increase, however schools were struggling to recruit TA's and support staff which was impacting on school's ability to support children. The High Needs Block (HNB) was also funded through a national formula that was not based on numbers of pupils with an EHCP, but on historical factors and deprivation and as such Devon was significantly underfunded.

- Recruitment and Retention of staff across all Children's Services – issues in the local housing market were also pushing out local workers in the area. The Council had improved its pay and conditions for workers, yet the housing situation had made it difficult for workers to move to Devon for jobs. Members noted that whilst housing was not the responsibility of the County Council, District Councils were drawing up local plans and the County Council should be contributing to those to ensure there was housing for key workers as well as social housing.
- Members were keen that Social Workers were provided with relevant training to promote those careers. It was noted that Cornwall Council Social Workers were given time off work to train and work on their careers which was paid for by the Council and it was hoped Devon looked to offer the same. Members were advised that social workers were not expected to take time off for training and there was a training budget for staff which was looked at on a case-by-case basis. The service hoped to introduce a commissioned training offer.
- There was additional funding for Family Hubs which Devon had applied for. Other money was available under Early Help schemes which the Council was looking to bid for. Regarding the recommissioning of Children's Centres, the current contract was due to end at the end of March 2023, and the service would consider extending the contract.
- School transport – Members were advised that transport had gone through a difficult time with COVID, and the Council had supported operators through that process, looking to reinstate the programme of network reviews. The rates being paid per contract was increasing, and the Service looked to make the networks more efficient, by reallocating vehicles where necessary. A Review of DCCs fleet of vehicles was also ongoing, including the option to lease to the NHS to increase revenue. Members discussed in-house provision but noted it would not improve the situation regarding a lack of available drivers.
- The use of public transport - of 14,000 children that used school transport, approx. 2,000 used either public transport buses or train services. Public transport was going through a difficult time with commuters not returning to the same pre-pandemic levels. The Council aimed to use the additional capacity currently available to transfer local children to public transport services, which would increase revenue to operators which would protect the public network throughout the day.

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- Individual taxi journeys went through a procurement service to secure best value, and future savings would be realised where journeys could be amalgamated or where children had left school and journeys could be stopped. The Council would be looking at electric vehicles moving forward.
- Cost pressures in Children's Services, were due in part to the difference in costing between inhouse provision (on average £25,000) and external independent places (on average £45,000) per school place. The number of children placed in independent settings had increased and was above the national average. The Council would be increasing state funded places by 525 places over the next 2 years.
- The number of EHCPs accepted was in line with national averages; however, the number of requests received in the first place in Devon was increasing exponentially and was above the national average.
- The current number of young people placed within inhouse fostering was 394, with 182 placed in the independent sector. The Service was budgeting to increase inhouse places next year to 409 places and 160 independent places.
- The number of unaccompanied asylum seeker children was less than anticipated, therefore the budget had been adjusted accordingly. However, this number could increase next year as Councils were expected to take more children.
- Domestic Violence and Abuse – Members noted that 75% of children entering the social care system had experienced some form of Domestic Violence, although for many it was not the primary presenting issue.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hannaford, **SECONDED** by Councillor Bullivant, and

RESOLVED that the Committee

Welcome and supports:

1. The 10.8% overall increase in the budget for Children's Service.
2. The ongoing discussions with the Department for Education on the Safety Valve Programme to support the reduction of the deficit in the SEND High Needs Block, and welcomes the agreement anticipated by the end of March 2022.

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3. Capital investments to provide an additional 525 special school places by 2024.

Record Concern:

4. The Committee places on record dissatisfaction with the 1-year finance settlement against a demand led-budget and the resulting challenges in developing strategy without financial certainty.
5. Cabinet to satisfy itself about the realism of achieving £5.1 million savings in social care over the 2-year period outlined, considering the increase in cost of living, increases in demand and cost of the post-covid recovery.
6. Recognising the national challenges in recruitment and retention in Children's Social Care, ask Cabinet to seek to engage with District Council's local plan process to improve housing availability for key staff.
7. Ensure adequate funding is in place to adequately support the significant numbers of vulnerable children who have experienced domestic violence.

Cabinet be asked to:

8. Continue to lobby for fair funding for Devon children to support them to reach their potential including the large shortfall in Capital investment to maintain the school estate by creating and maintaining quality learning environments.
9. Support joined up working across Council departments for the improvement of youth Services.
10. Explore other authorities' approach to an in-house school transport service with a view to achieving the budget savings attributed to this service.

***DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 12.45 pm

HEALTH AND ADULT CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20 January 2022

Present:-

Councillors S Randall-Johnson (Chair), C Whitton (Vice-Chair), T Adams, J Bailey, R Chesterton, D Cox, L Hellyer, S Parker-Khan, R Peart, R Scott, M Wrigley and J Yabsley

Apologies:-

Councillors P Crabb, I Hall, P Maskell and L Evans

Members attending in accordance with Standing Order 25

Councillor J McInnes

* 25 **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

* 26 **Public Participation**

There were no oral representations from members of the public.

* 27 **Budget 2022/23 and Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2026/27**

(Councillor J McInnes attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(1) and spoke to this item in regard to the Health and Adult Care budget proposals and referred to the impact of the pandemic over the last year and more, the difficulties and implications for the next 12 months and the severe pressures faced by the Service).

The Committee welcomed the opportunity for individual Scrutiny Committees to scrutinise the proposed budgets for the 2022/23 financial year.

The Chairs of the Children's Scrutiny Committee and the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee would present any relevant resolutions and an overview of those issues arising to the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Committee on 27 January 2022. This Committee would also consider the draft budget proposals within its own remit, providing an opportunity for Scrutiny Members to comment on proposals for the Council's Budget in its entirety. The resulting resolutions from Scrutiny will be reported to Cabinet and Council.

This would follow the opportunity for individual Scrutiny Committees – at this meeting – to have an initial overview of the budget proposals and examine

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them to identify any specific issues or areas of interest that might be considered at the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Committee for incorporation into any recommendations to Cabinet and Council.

The Committee then considered the joint report of the Director of Finance and the Chief Officer for Adult Care and Health Services; and the Director of Public Health (DF/22/02) on the provisional financial settlement made by Government and the spending targets set by the Cabinet for each service area which included inflation, commitments and any service prioritisation reductions. The Report also detailed the proposed medium-term capital programme for the Adult Care and Care Services and how it was funded.

The Cabinet, at its meeting of 8th December 2021, had set Revenue Budget targets for 2022/23. That Report outlined the targets in paragraph 2 which represented an overall increase of £48.9 million or 8.4%. The increased Revenue Spending Targets for 2022/23 now totalled just over £629 million.

As detailed within budget monitoring reports, significant pressures had been and were continuing to be experienced within Devon and across the Country. The unprecedented set of circumstances faced by the Country had led to demand growth, cost base increases and acute labour shortages. Adult Care and Health and Children's services in particular were continuing to experience in year operational pressures and many of the current year pressures were translating into budget pressures for 2022/23.

It was proposed to further support time limited pressures, invest to save programmes and to provide the critical services with time to manage demand and transform further by utilising some of the Council's reserves.

The Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2026/27 would be presented to Cabinet at the February Budget meeting.

At the Cabinet meeting on the 12th January 2022, an update had been given following the Provisional Local Government Settlement 2022/23 which had been received on the 16th December 2021. The 2022/23 local government finance settlement was for one year only and was based on the Spending Review 2021 (SR21) funding levels. As part of SR21, the Chancellor had announced an additional £1.6bn per annum (2022/23 to 2024/25) for local government and the majority of this amount had been included in the Core Spending Power figures.

The council tax referendum limit would be 2% for local authorities, with social care authorities allowed an additional 1% social care precept.

Devon's Core Funding of £103.2 million (and grants announced so far) was as follows.

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	2021/22 Adjusted Budget *	Inflation Pressures	Savings & & additional Income	2022/23 Budget	Net change	
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	580,671	87,432	(38,741)	629,362	48,691	8.4%

* Adjusted for permanent virements

The Committee was reminded that its consideration of the draft Adult Care and Health Services and Public Health budgets was just part of the process of setting the County Council's budget which, following this meeting, would culminate in the Cabinet meeting on 11th February 2022 formulating a budget for consideration by the County Council on 17th February 2022.

The Chief Officer for Adult Care and Health Services and the Director of Public Health respectively commented on the likely implications of the 2022/23 target for individual service areas, confirming that the overall approach had been to strike a balance between the reality of the financial challenges facing the Council and providing sustainable support services against the increasing demands of front-line services and operational demands. In order to deliver budget targets budget reductions were required in respect of for Adult Care and Health Services as detailed in the Report Saving Strategies (page 10) and for Public Health (page 22).

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For Adult Care and Health Services, the Leadership Group commentary in the Report referred to working together with other organisations to respond to and manage the impacts of COVID-19 and lead on the Council's Strategic Plan and development of the Government's Levelling Up agenda. .

The Chief Officer for Adult Care and Health Services and Director of Public Health respectively referred to the specific issues as outlined in the Report.

The Report also contained the detailed budget proposals for Adult Care and Health Services, prepared in line with the targets referred to above, reflecting the different pressures and influences faced by services. The Adult Care and Health Services base budget was £312.928 million (a net increase of 10.5% from 2021/22), and included inflation and pressures of £47.8 millions) and required savings and income initiatives of £18.241 million).

Under the Equality Act 2010, the County Council had a legal duty to give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations when making decisions about services. Where relevant, Impact Assessments were carried out to consider how best to meet this duty, which included mitigating against the negative impact of service reductions.

The Report before the Committee referred to the Budget 2022/23 Impact Assessment, circulated prior to the meeting, giving an overview of the impact assessments for all service areas (available at: [Budget 2022/2023 - Impact Assessment \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/budget-2022-2023-impact-assessment) for the attention of Members so they were aware of the equality impact assessments undertaken as part of the budget's preparation, that any risk assessments and projections were adequate and the evidence supported the assumptions made in the formulation of the budget. Also bearing in mind that the preparation of Impact Assessments was a dynamic process and that individual assessments for specific proposals may need to be updated with time, Members of the Council must have full regard to and consider the impact of any proposals in relation to equalities prior to making any decisions and any identified significant risks and mitigating action required.

(i) Adult Care and Health: Specific Issues and observations arising from the current budget proposals raised by Members in discussion with the Chief Officer for Adult Care and Health, the Locality Director North and East; and the Head of Adult Care Operations and Health included:

- the impact of inflationary pressures including the national living wage (mainly passported to independent contract providers) amounted to £15m and the limited flexibility this created;
- the cost pressures relating to (i) demand; (ii) supply, and (ii) national policy developments;

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- the complexities (and acuity) relating to adults including with physical disabilities and mental health/autism with complex needs; and children transitioning into adult care; and the increasing number of older people and increasing numbers requiring complex residential nursing care; (more information on demography was requested by Members);
- the exceptional work of the independent residential/nursing home sector in Devon in minimising the impact of the pandemic with the support from the Service;
- the delay of 2 years before any additional resources from National Insurance increases would be available for Adult Social Care;
- the increased demands on the Service from impending changes to deprivation of liberty national policy with increased assessment and new and broader range of liberty protection safeguards and advocacy costs (which would also impact on legal costs);
- the impact of the proposed saving of £18m as detailed in the saving strategy;
- the current negotiations by Officers with the NHS for additional resources of up to £10m to support the budget 2022/23 for this one year only (and not referred to in the papers pending the current negotiations);
- the new staff required to support savings plan;
- the purpose/objective the Better Care Fund, and the improved Better Care Fund, the deployment of which was subject to joint agreement with NHS partners and designed for the benefit of health and social care overall but used for the purposes of meeting adult social care needs, reducing pressures on the NHS – including reducing delayed transfers of care; and stabilising the social care provider market:
- the assessments were based on a national eligibility framework and individual needs and the availability of alternative settings to save on costs where appropriate and promotion of independence as far as possible within the community with integrated care services;
- the use of technology to assist independence (on which further information/presentations could be made to Members through masterclasses);
- the impact of the budget pressures for staff and the welfare supports available across the local authority and within the independent sectors and the detailed impact assessments of the proposals (which had been available to all members); and
- the very competitive and significant work force pressures across the health and care system in Devon and nationally and work with the NHS and independent sector partners to recruit and retain valuable staff (via for example the Proud to Care campaign).

(ii) Public Health: Specific Issues and observations arising from the current budget proposals raised by Members in discussion with the Director of Public Health at the meeting included the following:

- Public Health was predominantly funded by a ring-fenced grant from the Department of Health and Social Care which had not been confirmed and

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the budget proposals were based on the current year's budget (£30.045m (including £60k internal income) making effective planning more problematic;

- the majority of the Budget (75%) related to mandated and commissioned services and the Public Health worked with and supported other Services in relation to factors and wider determinants of public health such so housing, education, health and social care and the Service was a partner within the Integrated Care System and part of the Long Term Plan;
- the impact of the pandemic in the current financial year and implications for future planning and configuration of services;
- the impending loss of 'track and trace' staff and their positive feedback about their employment with the Service and County Council; and
- the possible impact on Alcohol support services (on which more information was requested) and the impact of the pandemic on sexual health services.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor S Randall Johnson, **SECONDED** by Councillor M Wrigley and

RESOLVED that the provisional financial settlement and its impact on spending targets and on the proposed Adult Social Care and Health and Public Health budgets for 2022/23 be noted and the issues and/or observations set out below be drawn to the attention of the Cabinet meeting on 11 February 2022:

(a) this Committee welcomes and supports:

(i) the 10.5% increase in the budget for the Adult Care and Health Service recognising the huge demand on the system, and the imperative to invest in workforce given the issues with staff recruitment, notwithstanding the £18 million savings required in the budget;

(ii) the negotiations with the NHS to enable one-year additional funding, possibly £10million, to maintain services and support a reduction in unnecessary hospitalisations and achieve timely transitions out of hospital;

(b) this Committee

(i) records its dissatisfaction with the unknown grant settlement for Public Health and also the 1-year financial settlement for Adult Care against a demand led-budget and the resulting challenges in developing strategy without financial certainty;

(ii) requests the Cabinet to satisfy itself about the realism of achieving £18 million savings considering the increase in cost of living, inflation, increases in demand and the cost of the post-covid recovery; and in particular, the potential for hidden cost pressures to lead to budget overspend and the

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resulting impact upon vulnerable people in Devon and the importance of the preservation of preventative services;

(iii) record its concern with the anticipated additional pressures on the Adult Care and Health Service including:

- the impact of the cessation of grants including the 'Discharge to Assess' funding from the end of March 2022;
- changes to the Liberty Protection Safeguards, replacing the Deprivation of Liberty Scheme, and the current lack of clarity from Government about how this will be funded;
- the increase in future demand coming through from Children's Services.

(c) that the Cabinet be asked to continue to maintain support for workforce recruitment and retention, including promoting the 'Proud to Care' opportunities with the individuals who have been recruited by the County Council to support the track and trace programme on a temporary basis.

***DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 12.30 pm

CORPORATE INFRASTRUCTURE AND REGULATORY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 January 2022

Present

Councillors A Dewhirst (Chair), C Slade (Vice-Chair), M Asvachin, J Berry, J Brook, R Chesterton, P Crabb (part), M Hartnell, J Hodgson, R Radford, I Roome and J Wilton-Love

Apologies

Councillors P Bullivant and J Morrish

Members attending in accordance with Standing Order 25

Councillors Davis, Hannaford, Hart, Hughes, Randall-Johnson and Twiss

* **24** **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2021 be signed as a correct record.

* **25** **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

The Chair referred Members to the Chief Executive's recent email and the Council's recently published Race Equality Audit Report, commissioned by the Leadership Group, as part of the Council's commitment to becoming an anti-racist organisation.

* **26** **Public Participation**

There were no oral representations from members of the public.

* **27** **Budget 2022/23 and Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2026/27**

(Councillors Davis, Hannaford, Hart, Hughes, Twiss and Randall-Johnson attended in accordance with Standing Order 25 and spoke to this item at the invitation of the Committee.)

The Committee noted that the proposed budget for the 2022/23 financial year would be scrutinised by individual Scrutiny Committees.

The Chairs of the Children's Scrutiny Committee and the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee would present any relevant resolutions and an

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overview of those issues arising to the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Committee. This Committee would also consider the draft budget proposals within its own remit, providing an opportunity for Scrutiny Members to comment on proposals for the Council's Budget in its entirety. The resulting resolutions from Scrutiny will be reported to Cabinet and Council.

This would follow the opportunity for individual Scrutiny Committees – at this meeting – to have an initial overview of the budget proposals and examine them to identify any specific issues or areas of interest that might be considered at the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Committee for incorporation into any recommendations to Cabinet and Council.

The Committee then considered the Joint Report of the Director of Finance, Chief Executive, Director of Public Health and Chief Officer of Highways, Infrastructure Development & Waste (DF/22/03) on the provisional financial settlement made by Government and the spending targets set by the Cabinet for each service area which included inflation, commitments and any service prioritisation reductions. The Report also detailed the proposed medium-term capital programme for the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services and how it was funded.

The Cabinet, at its meeting of 8th December 2021, had set Revenue Budget targets for 2022/23. That Report outlined the targets in paragraph 2 which represented an overall increase of £48.7 million or 8.4%. The increased Revenue Spending Targets for 2022/23 now totalled just over £629 millions.

As detailed within budget monitoring reports, significant pressures had been and were continuing to be experienced within Devon and across the country. The unprecedented set of circumstances faced by the country had led to demand growth, cost base increases and acute labour shortages. Adult Care and Health and Children's services in particular were continuing to experience in year operational pressures and many of the current year pressures were translating into budget pressures for 2022/23.

It was proposed to further support time limited pressures, invest to save programmes and to provide the critical services with time to manage demand and transform further by utilising some of the Council's reserves.

The Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2026/27 would be presented to Cabinet at the February Budget meeting.

At the Cabinet meeting on the 12th January, an update was given following the Provisional Local Government Settlement 2022/23 which was received on the 16th December 2021. The 2022/23 local government finance settlement was for one year only and was based on the Spending Review 2021 (SR21) funding levels. As part of SR21, the Chancellor had announced an additional

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£1.6bn per annum (2022/23 to 2024/25) for local government and the majority of this amount had been included in the Core Spending Power figures. The council tax referendum limit would be 2% for local authorities, with social care authorities allowed an additional 1% social care precept.

Devon's Core Funding of £103.2 million (and grants announced so far) was as follows.

	£000
Revenue Support Grant	566
Business Rates Central Government Top Up	80,654
BRRS Local Element	21,997
Core Funding	103,217
New Homes Bonus	2,143
Rural Services Delivery Grant	7,823
Social Care Grant	32,317
Improved Better Care Fund	29,126
ASC Reform/Market Sustainability & Cost of Care Fund	2,413
Services Grant	7,076

The provisional settlement was very close to what was expected, and no change was therefore proposed to the Budget Targets for 2022/23 that were agreed by Cabinet in December which were Revenue Spending Targets for 2022/23 totalling just over £629 millions with the relevant service budgets as outlined below, showing an increase in all service areas.

	2021/22 Adjusted Budget *	Inflation & Pressures £000	Savings & additional Income £000	2022/23 Budget £000	Net change	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
1 Adult Care & Health	283,294	47,875	(18,241)	312,928	29,634	10.5%
2 Childrens Services	159,036	28,787	(11,675)	176,148	17,112	10.8%
3 Communities, Public Health E&P	40,280	3,809	(2,846)	41,243	963	2.4%
4 Corporate Services	40,937	3,612	(2,830)	41,719	782	1.9%
5 Highways, Infrastructure D&W	57,124	3,349	(3,149)	57,324	200	0.4%
	580,671	87,432	(38,741)	629,362	48,691	8.4%

* Adjusted for permanent virements

The Committee were reminded that its consideration of the draft Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services budget was just part of the process of setting the County Council's budget which, following this meeting, would culminate in the Cabinet meeting on 11th February 2022 formulating a budget for consideration by the County Council on 17th February 2022.

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Heads of Service commented on the likely implications of the 2022/23 target for individual service areas, confirming that the overall approach had been to strike a balance between the

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reality of the financial challenges facing the Council and providing sustainable support services against the increasing demands of front-line services and operational demands.

The Leadership Group commentary in the Report highlighted how over the last two years the Council had worked with other organisations to respond to and manage the impacts of COVID-19. As a community leader and part of Team Devon it had new responsibilities for addressing issues such as food poverty, financial hardship and shielding. During that time the pressures on health, social care and children's services had increased. Those pressures had been exacerbated by the fragility of the care market and difficulties of recruiting key workers. The Council's finances and workforce remained under significant pressure and strain.

The Report also contained the detailed budget proposals for Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services prepared in line with the targets referred to above, reflecting the different pressures and influences faced by services.

Under the Equality Act 2010, the County Council had a legal duty to give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations when making decisions about services. Where relevant, Impact Assessments were carried out to consider how best to meet this duty, which included mitigating against the negative impact of service reductions.

The Report before the Committee referred to the [Budget 2022/23 Impact Assessment](#) circulated prior to the meeting, giving an overview of the impact assessments for all service areas for the attention of Members so they were aware of the equality impact assessments undertaken as part of the budget's preparation, that any risk assessments and projections were adequate and the evidence supported the assumptions made in the formulation of the budget. Also bearing in mind that the preparation of Impact Assessments were a dynamic process and that individual assessments for specific proposals may need to be updated with time, Members of the Council must have full regard to and consider the impact of any proposals in relation to equalities prior to making any decisions and any identified significant risks and mitigating action required.

Specific issues and observations arising from the current budget proposals raised at the meeting included the following:

Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity:

- The Public Health budget had previously been scrutinised at the Health & Adult Care Scrutiny Committee.
- Savings outlined around the Citizens Advice Bureau and Devon Communities Together (£462,000) would be entirely funded for the next financial year, and this was welcomed by Members.

- The reduction in community grants schemes (£329,000) would largely be mitigated from a carry forward of budget from this year, although Members expressed concern at these cuts, and also the reduction in Locality budgets, as they provided valuable support for local communities.
- Members welcomed the significant investment in Community Safety and Violence Prevention.
- The Council had been awarded £7.5 million of Government funding for a major project to identify flood resilience measures.
- Members welcomed the increase in support for public transport, whilst expressing concern at the fragility of rural bus services.
- The Cabinet Member reported that Government were being lobbied to continue the bus service support grants.
- Concern was raised that more should be spent on Public Mental Health in recognition of rising problems within communities.

Corporate Services:

- Budgeted assumptions around staff turnover and subsequent vacancy savings of £1.3 million had meant the Service had avoided the need to cut frontline operations.
- A further £170,000 had been invested in the ICT Service to increase the Council's resilience to cyber threats.
- The HR Services and Legal Services budgets had increased, in recognition of the additional work generated by COVID and the improvements required for Children's Services.

Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste:

- The Service faced continued cost pressures from contractual inflation and the increase in red diesel tax, which together was estimated at £1.6 million.
- All work budgets had been reviewed and savings proposed from a number of maintenance budgets totalling £1.8 million. Further energy savings were expected from the rollout of LED Street Lighting.
- Concern was expressed on the savings strategies in Highways, in particular, the reduced safety defects demand.
- It was proposed to introduce a new charge for disabled bay applications, and that advertising on highways assets, e.g. roundabouts, be considered in order to generate further income.
- The Waste Service faced increased expenditure arising from contractual inflation and growth. Additionally, the ongoing impact of COVID and associated household behavioural change continued to generate higher levels of household residual waste.
- On page 35 of the Report, under Service Statistics and Other Information, the Change figure for Total grass area cut should read 0.05 million and not 0.5 million.

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- Disappointment was expressed at the municipal waste disposal to landfill of an estimated 17,000 tonnes. It was clarified that this was the residue from household waste recycling centres.
- Strengthening of the impact on diversity and inclusivity.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Dewhirst, **SECONDED** by Councillor Brook and

RESOLVED

Welcomes and supports:

1. The 10.8% net increase in the budget for Children's Services and the 10.5% increase in the budget for the Adult Care and Health Services recognising the huge demand on the system, and the imperative to invest in workforce given the issues with staff recruitment.
2. The negotiations with the NHS to enable one-year additional funding, possibly £10million, to maintain services and support a reduction in unnecessary hospitalisations and achieve timely transitions out of hospital.
3. The ongoing discussions with the Department for Education on the Safety Valve Programme to support the reduction of the deficit in the SEND High Needs Block, and welcomes the agreement anticipated by the end of March 2022.
4. Additional monies in this budget, specifically:
 - Capital investments to provide an additional 525 special school places by 2024
 - The additional investment in violence prevention combined with the significant investment in developing the Council's new duties around supporting survivors of domestic abuse.
5. Scrutiny welcomes service productivity specifically:
 - The addition of 200,000 books in Devon's libraries.
 - An additional 500 courses delivered online by Learn Devon.

Record concern:

6. Scrutiny places on record dissatisfaction with the 1-year financial settlement for the Council against demand-led pressures and the resulting challenges in developing strategy without financial certainty and also the unknown grant settlement for Public Health.
7. Cabinet to satisfy itself about the realism of achieving almost £39 million in savings and offset income considering the increase in cost of living, inflation, increases in demand and the cost of the post-covid recovery. Scrutiny is particularly concerned about the potential for cost pressures to

lead to budget overspend and the resulting impact upon vulnerable people in Devon as well as the maintenance of roads and safety and highlights the need for the preservation of preventative and routine services.

8. Scrutiny places on record concern with the anticipated additional pressures on the Adult Care and Health Service including:
 - The impact of the cessation of grants including the 'Discharge to Assess' funding from the end of March 2022.
 - Changes to the Liberty Protection Safeguards, replacing the Deprivation of Liberty Scheme, and the current lack of clarity from Government about how this will be funded.
 - The increase in future demand coming through from Children's Services.
9. The future of public transport and the viability of routes because of reduced patronage and supports the Cabinet Member in her lobbying endeavours for additional funding for this area. Scrutiny would also like to see additional investment in active travel.
10. Record concern about how the impact assessment does not consider safety and access for disabled people.

Cabinet be asked to:

11. Rethink the £329,000 reduction in community grant schemes as well as the £2,000 reduction in each Councillor locality budget in order to support partnership working with the communities of Devon.
12. Consider the in-year ability to provide additional support to highways maintenance and patching if target savings are on track.
13. Continue to maintain support for workforce recruitment and retention, and specifically:
 - Improve housing availability for key staff through Team Devon and engaging with District Council's local plan process.
 - Promote 'Proud to Care' opportunities with the individuals who have been recruited by the County Council to support the track and trace programme on a temporary basis.
14. Continue to lobby for fair funding for Devon children to support them to reach their potential including the large shortfall in Capital investment to maintain the school estate by creating and maintaining quality learning environments.
15. Ensure adequate funding is in place to adequately support the significant numbers of vulnerable children who have experienced domestic violence.

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16. Support joined up working across Council departments for the improvement of Youth Services.
17. Include means-testing in the proposed charge for disabled parking bays to ensure low-income disabled people are not disadvantaged.
18. Explore other authorities' approach to an in-house school transport service with a view to achieving the budget savings attributed to this service.
19. Work to minimise the anticipated increase of 4,750 tonnes of municipal waste being disposed of in landfill in 2022/23.

***DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 9.30 am and finished at 12.07 pm

Pay Policy Statement (April 2022 - March 2023)

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document sets out Devon County Council's pay policy statement which will be reviewed annually.
- 1.2. The statement sets out the Council's policies relating to the remuneration of chief officers/heads of service, senior officers and officers and the relationship between the remuneration of the highest and lowest paid. Remuneration for the purpose of this statement includes basic salary, any other allowances and any payments made upon the cessation of employment.
- 1.3. The key principles underpinning this pay policy statement are:
 - 1.3.1. **Affordability** – ensuring remuneration policies represent value-for-money for the taxpayer.
 - 1.3.2. **Fairness** – ensuring remuneration policies are fair to all employees, ranging from the most senior post to the most junior post.
 - 1.3.3. **Meeting legislative requirements** – ensuring remuneration policies comply with all legal obligations, such as the Equality Act and Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017 regarding gender pay gap reporting.
 - 1.3.4. **Market Awareness** – ensuring due regard is taken of the market, both nationally and locally in the South West, and that this policy is in line with councils of a similar size and/or in a similar labour market.

2. Officers (including Lowest Paid Employees)

- 2.1. Officers are defined as those on [grades A-T](#)
- 2.2. Lowest Paid Employees at the County Council are defined as employees paid on Spinal Column Point 1 of the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) Pay Scale. This definition has been adopted as it is the lowest level of remuneration attached to a post in the Council.
- 2.3. Officers are employed under NJC terms and conditions.
- 2.4. The adoption of the NJC Pay Scale was jointly agreed by the County Council and NJC recognised Trade Unions as part of Single Status implementation.
- 2.5. The County Council uses the Greater London Provincial Council (GLPC) job evaluation scheme to determine an employee's position on the NJC pay scale (and therefore their pay level).
- 2.6. Officers are eligible for annual incremental increases up the NJC pay scale until they reach the top of their grade.
- 2.7. Any annual pay awards are determined by national NJC agreement.
- 2.8. Officer appointment, remuneration and terms in the event of the cessation of employment are in line with paragraph 4 of the Chief Officer Employment Procedure Rules, Council employment policy and statutory regulations and guidance.
- 2.9. Certain staff groups, defined as 'officers' within this Pay Policy Statement, are employed on separate terms and conditions which reflect relevant national agreements. These include teachers and some staff employed within social care or Public Health who are on NHS/health terms and conditions.

3. Senior Officers

- 3.1. Senior Officers are defined as those on grades L9-L5 for non Head of Service posts.
- 3.2. Senior officers are employed under Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officer (JNC) terms and conditions unless noted otherwise.
- 3.3. Senior Officers are remunerated on a local pay scale.
- 3.4. The Hay job evaluation scheme is used to determine an employee's position on the local pay scale (and therefore their pay level).

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3.5. The County Council operates a tiered pay scale for Senior Officers. Each tier has a spot salary and there is no incremental progression or salary increase, other than any annual pay awards which are determined by national JNC agreement.

4. Chief Officers and Heads of Service

4.1. Chief Officers and Heads of Service are defined as follows:

4.1.1. **Chief Officers** - Chief Executive, the Chief Officers for Children's Services, for Adult Care & Health, and for Highways, Infrastructure, Development & Waste; Director of Finance (Chief Finance Officer) and County Solicitor (Monitoring Officer) on Devon County Council Grades L0-L3 and the Director of Public Health (see paragraph 7).

4.1.2. **Heads of Service** – either holders of posts defined locally who comprise the Council's Leadership Team appointed by the Appointments Remuneration and Chief Officer Conduct Committee and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 or who fall within the category of non-statutory officer (as set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989), on Devon County Council Grades L2-L4.

4.2. All Chief Officers and Heads of Service are employed under Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Executive or Chief Officer (JNC) terms and conditions (except for the Director of Public Health – see paragraph 7).

4.3. The County Council operates a [tiered pay scale](#) for Chief Officer and Heads of Service posts (except the Director of Public Health – see paragraph 7). Each tier has a fixed, spot salary and there is no incremental progression. The Hay job evaluation scheme is used to determine an employee's position on the scale (and therefore their pay level).

4.4. The Appointments Remuneration and Chief Officer Conduct Committee will consider and recommend the appointment, remuneration and terms in the event of the cessation of employment of any substantive posts of Chief Officers and Heads of Service, in line with its Terms of Reference, the Pay Policy Statement, Chief Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Council's employment policy and statutory regulations and guidance.

4.5. The Appointments Remuneration and Chief Officer Conduct Committee would not normally recommend the re-employment of individuals to Chief Officer positions who have recently left the Council (for any reason) in any capacity (either as an employee, consultant or contractor). If this does occur, it will be subject to the provisions of the Modification Order.

4.6. Salaries are fixed for the duration of this policy and reviewed annually by the Appointments Remuneration and Chief Officer Conduct Committee. Any variation from the fixed salary during the period of this policy (either for an existing Chief Officer/Head of Service or for the appointment of a new Chief Officer/Head of Service) requires approval from the County Council, except in the case of any annual pay awards which are determined by national JNC agreement.

4.7. The County Solicitor, Chief Officer for Legal, is also the County Returning Officer and Returning Officer fees paid are in line with the guidance stipulated from the Ministry of Justice for the relevant elections.

4.8. The County Council has adopted the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency, in respect of its approach to publication of and access to information relating to the remuneration of Chief Officers/Heads of Service. Pay levels for all Chief Officers/Heads of Service posts are published on the [County Council's website](#) and/or in the [Annual Statement of Accounts](#).

5. Terms and Conditions for all employees

- 5.1. The County Council does not operate a performance-related pay scheme for any employee.
- 5.2. The County Council does not pay bonuses to any employee.
- 5.3. The County Council may pay a market supplement in circumstances where it is not possible to recruit or retain particular staff or categories of staff, subject to the principles set out in the Council's Market Supplement Policy. The market supplement is a temporary addition to the basic pay of the role and is reviewed annually. Market supplements paid to the highest paid employees will be published in accordance with any relevant legislation and the Senior Officers salary publication requirements.
- 5.4. Travel and subsistence expenses incurred on County Council business are reimbursed to employees. Reimbursement of expenses is governed by the principle that employees should not be financially advantaged or disadvantaged in carrying out their duties and all employees are subject to the same policy. Expenses and any benefits-in-kind for the highest paid employees will be published in the [Annual Statement of Accounts](#).
- 5.5. The County Council does not pay fees on behalf of any employees, though this is subject to change in exceptional circumstances where there is an appropriate business case. Any fees paid to the highest paid employees will be published in the [Annual Statement of Accounts](#).
- 5.6. Allowances are paid in line with NJC terms and conditions (for Officers) or JNC terms and conditions (for Senior Officers and Chief Officers/Heads of Service), or by local agreement where appropriate. Any allowances paid to the highest paid employees will be published in the [Annual Statement of Accounts](#).
- 5.7. All employees are subject to the same terms and conditions in respect of termination of employment. The only exception to this is Chief Officers who are subject to a modified disciplinary procedure which is outlined in paragraph 9 of the Chief Officer Employment Procedure Rules.
- 5.8. All non-teaching employees are eligible to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The County Council does not augment pensionable service. The Council's employer severance and pension discretions, allowed under the LGPS regulations, apply to all employees.
- 5.9. During the year the Council will continue to explore and consult upon, with the aim of agreeing, changes to employee terms and conditions, to ensure that they are fit for purpose for a changing council.

6. Relationship between Chief Officers and employees who are not Chief Officers

- 6.1. Senior Officers and Chief Officers/Heads of Service receive no special enhancements to benefits or terms and conditions.
- 6.2. The Hutton Review recommends a maximum ratio of the highest remunerated post compared with the lowest remunerated post of 20:1. The County Council has adopted this recommendation. It is the Council's policy that this ratio will not exceed 20:1 and it will be reviewed annually by the Appointments, Remuneration and Chief Officer Conduct Committee.
- 6.3. The current ratio of the highest paid post to the lowest paid post at the County Council is 9.1¹, based on the lowest paid post being at spinal column point 1.
- 6.4. The ratio of the median average pay level to the highest paid post at the County Council is 7:1² The ratio of the mean average pay for Chief Officers/Heads of Service to non Chief Officers/Heads of Service is 3:1³.

7. Director of Public Health

¹ The 2021/22 reported Pay Policy Statement ratio was 9.1

² 2021/22 Pay Policy Statement ratio was 7.1.

³ 2021/22 Pay Policy Statement ratio was 3.1.

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- 7.1. Devon County Council assumed public health responsibilities (in line with the Health and Social Care Act 2012) from April 2013 and employs a Director of Public Health, who is defined as a Chief Officer, as described at paragraph 4.1.
- 7.2. The Director of Public Health and a number of other Devon Public Health employees transferred from the NHS to Devon County Council in accordance with the principles of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) with effect from 1st April 2013. In practice this means that the existing terms and conditions of employment of transferring employees are protected at the point of transfer and they currently continue to be paid on NHS pay rates and not NJC or JNC terms.

8. Amendments to this policy

- 8.1 As the policy covers the period April 2022 to the end of March 2023, amendments may need to be made to the policy throughout the relevant period. As the Localism Act 2011 requires that any amendments are approved by the Council, proposed amendments will be reported to the Appointments, Remuneration and Chief Officer Conduct Committee for recommendation to the Council.

Leadership Grades*

L9	£50,576	Senior management roles	
L8	£56,820		
L7	£63,287		
L6	£69,733		
L5	£83,424		
L4	£94,546	Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure, Development and Waste Deputy Chief Officer Children’s Services and Head of Social Care Deputy Chief Officer – Head of Children’s Health and Wellbeing Head of Education and Learning Head of Adult Commissioning and Health Head of Adult Care Operations and Health Head of Economy, Enterprise and Skills Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment Head of Digital Transformation and Business Support	
L3	£105,669		
L2	£114,502		Director of Finance County Solicitor
L1	£141,759		Chief Officer for Adult Social Care and Health Chief Officer for Children’s Services**
L0	£171,728		Chief Executive
In addition to the heads of service and chief officers above, the Council employs the Director of Public Health on NHS pay rates, on a current salary of £104,927 plus a market supplement.			
**plus market supplement.			
Any national pay award for 2021/22 will impact on the above but is yet to be agreed.			

*This is the structure in place at 31/03/2022

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1 December 2021

Present:-

Councillors J Brook (Chair), P Bullivant, A Connett, D Cox, G Gribble, R Hannaford, J Hodgson, J Wilton-Love and J Yabsley

Member attending in accordance with Standing Order 25

Councillor J Bailey

Apologies:-

Councillors I Hall, D Barnes, I Chubb, L Hellyer, P Sanders and C Slade

* 5 Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 July 2021 be signed as a correct record.

* 6 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

No item was raised as a matter of urgency.

* 7 County Matter: East Devon District: Extraction of up to 1.5 million tonnes of as raised sand and gravel, restoration to agricultural land together with temporary change of use of a residential dwelling to a quarry office/welfare facility, Straitgate Farm, Exeter Road, Ottery St Mary

(Kirstin McCarthy (Aggregate Industries) and Duncan McIntosh (Aggregate Industries), both for the applicant, attended under the Public Participation Scheme and spoke in support of the application; and Councillor Amanda Townsend, Rupert Thistlethwayte, Chris Wakefield, Professor Rick Brassington (attended remotely), Monica Mortimer, Tim Taylor and Councillor Roger Giles, attended under the Scheme and spoke in objection to the application).

(Councillor J Bailey attended in accordance with Standing Order 25 and spoke in objection to the application).

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Planner (PTE/21/44) on an application for the development of a new sand and gravel quarry, a new site access and ancillary storage and quarry facilities on 42.5ha of land at Stairgate Farm, Ottery St Mary. The Committee also considered an Update

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Note on proposed new and amended conditions and which detailed minor corrections to the Report. The Chief Planner also reported on representations received since the publication of the Report and outlined new reasons for objection within the recent representations.

The Chief Planner's Report gave a reasoned assessment of the proposal, referring to all relevant policies and summarising the comments and views of interested parties received prior to the meeting.

Member discussions and questions to the Officers (which included points arising from the issues raised by the Speakers) related to: planning policy considerations, the level and number of objections received, transportation, access and highway safety; the water environment including hydrogeology water supplies, surface water management (and on which an Environment Agency representative gave advice (remotely)), and flood risk; health and amenity; the historic environment; landscape and visual impact; biodiversity impacts; restoration proposals, including agricultural and soil considerations; economic considerations; sustainability and climate change; availability of alternatives; and scope and enforceability of the proposed legal agreements and conditions.

The matter having been debated and having regard to the main material planning policies and requirements, it was

MOVED by Councillor J Brook, and **SECONDED** by Councillor J Yabsley that subject to the applicant entering into a legal agreement providing for the measures set out in Appendix I of the Report, the County Solicitor be authorised to grant planning permission subject to the conditions set out in Appendix II of this Report and as amended in the Update Note with any subsequent minor material changes to the conditions being agreed by the Head of Planning Transportation and Environment in consultation with the Chair and the local County Councillor.

The **MOTION** was put to the vote and declared **LOST**.

It was then **MOVED** by Councillor A Connett and **SECONDED** by D Cox and

RESOLVED that the application be refused for the following reasons (Chief Planner to refer to the relevant Planning Policy Guidelines in the Decision Notice):

(a) the great weight afforded by the NPPF to the protection of heritage assets irrespective of the degree of harm;

(b) the potential unacceptable impact on human health relating to private water supplies;

(c) the unresolved road safety issues relating to the cattle crossing and children's bus stop;

(d) the lack of evidence of protected species due to the failure to provide up to date surveys;

(e) lack of finalised surface water management plan

(f) loss of mature trees and 1.5km of important hedges; and

(g) sustainability of transporting material for processing in light of the climate emergency.

(N.B. In accordance with Standing Order 32(4) Councillor G Gribble requested that abstention from the vote and the decision taken be recorded)

* 8 **County Matter: Minerals: Mid Devon District: Importation of up to 1.5 million tonnes of as-raised sand and gravel from Straitgate Farm into Hillhead Quarry for processing, Hillhead Quarry, Uffculme, Cullompton**

The Committee received the report of the Chief Planner (PTE/21/45).

The Chief Planning Officer reported that in view of the decision to refuse the Straitgate planning application (Minute*7 refers) it was now considered appropriate for a revised recommendation to be submitted to refuse this application.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor D Cox, **SECONDED** by Councillor J Hodgson and

RESOLVED that planning permission be refused on the grounds that the importation of materials is considered to be unsustainable and therefore contrary to policy M12 and policy M22 of the Devon Minerals Plan and in view of the refused Straitgate Farm quarry application.

* 9 **County Council Development: Teignbridge District: Creation of a new 5km stretch of shared use path (Teign Estuary Trail) from the Passage House Inn, east of Newton Abbot Racecourse, along the Teign Estuary to Teignmouth via Bishopsteignton, primarily over existing farmland. The scheme involves the creation of a minimum 3m wide pathway with sections of boardwalk, viewing platforms, and a bridge, Bishopsteignton, Teignmouth**

(Judith Sharples, Henry Merritt, Hannah Clark (for the applicant), Anjumn Kanani (for the applicant) and Councillor Stuart Hughes (for the applicant) Estelle Skinner (Teignbridge District Council) attended (all remotely) in accordance with the Public Participation Scheme and spoke in support of the application; and Alison Green (Savills Solicitors on behalf of Trevor Davey),

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attended (remotely) under the Participation Scheme and requested an amended scheme).

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Planner (PTE/21/46) on the proposed construction of a pedestrian/cycle way between Teignmouth and Newton Abbot along the Teign Estuary, running alongside the railway track for the most part.

The Chief Planner's Report gave a reasoned assessment of the proposal, referring to all relevant policies and summarising the comments and views of interested parties received prior to the meeting. The Chief Planning Officer also reported on representations received since publication of the Report.

Member discussions and questions to the Officers related to health, economic and sustainability benefits and ecological impacts; landscape and fencing, and any lighting arrangements and provision of rest areas.

The matter having been debated and having regard to the main material planning policies and requirements, it was

MOVED by Councillor P Bullivant, **SECONDED** by Councillor J Hodgson and

RESOLVED that the County Solicitor be authorised to grant planning permission subject to the conditions set out in Appendix I of the Report (with reference to include provision of rest areas where appropriate in condition 8) and with any subsequent minor material changes to the conditions being agreed by the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment in consultation with the Chair and Local County Councillor.

* 10 **Delegated Action - Schedules (to include ROMPS Actions) and Summary Schedule**

The Committee received the report of the Chief Planner (PTE/21/47) on action taken under delegated powers.

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 2.15 pm and finished at 4.48 pm

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

26 January 2022

Present:-

Councillors J Brook (Chair), I Hall (Vice-Chair), D Barnes, I Chubb, A Connett, G Gribble, L Hellyer, J Hodgson, C Slade, J Wilton-Love and J Yabsley

Apologies:-

Councillors P Bullivant, D Cox, R Hannaford and P Sanders

Members attending in accordance with Standing Orders 8 and 25

Councillor F Biederman

* 11

Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 December 2021 be signed as a correct record.

* 12

Items Requiring Urgent Attention

No item was raised as a matter of urgency.

* 13

County Matter: Waste: North Devon District: Variation of Condition 4 (operating hours) of planning permission DCC/4154/2019 for 'Waste Transfer Station including a waste transfer hall, single storey weighbridge office and welfare facilities building, hardstand including staff parking and external weighbridge, internal access road, new access from the existing highway, drainage, lighting and landscaping', Brynsworthy Waste Transfer Station, Roundswell, Barnstaple

(Eleanor Crick, (agent for the applicant) and Chris Chandler (Senior Waste Manager (Operations DCC)) (supporter) attended under the Public Participation Scheme and spoke in support of the application; and Geoff Hall spoke in objection to the application).

(Councillor F Biederman attended in accordance with Standing Order 25 and spoke in objection to the application).

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Planner (PTE/22/4) on a variation of a condition which limited hours for waste deliveries and exports, to allow for receipt of waste on Saturday afternoons and on Sundays. Since submission, the application has been amended to limit the receipt of waste on

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2

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

26/01/22

Sundays to a total of eight Sundays in any calendar year, together with other Saturday afternoons.

The Chief Planner's Report gave a reasoned assessment of the proposal, referring to all relevant policies and summarising the comments and views of interested parties received prior to the meeting.

Member discussions and questions to the Officers (which included points arising from the issues raised by the Speakers) related to the loss of amenity as a result on the proposed changes to the currently approved hours for waste movements, and impact on local residents particularly on Saturdays and Sundays and capacity at local Household Waste Recycling Centres.

The matter having been debated and having regard to the main material planning policies and requirements,

it was **MOVED** by Councillor J Brook and **SECONDED** by Councillor J Yabsley and

RESOLVED that planning permission be granted subject to the conditions set out in Appendix II of the Report (with any subsequent minor material changes to the conditions being agreed in consultation with the Chair and local County Councillor).

* 14

County Matter: Waste: South Hams District: Variation of Condition 12 of planning permission DCC/4139/2019 'Change of use from Vehicle depot (B8) to a Waste Transfer Station (Sui Generis). Including land previously used as a Household Waste Recycling Centre. Building works to include, demolition of an existing storage building, and construction of a waste transfer station building, & associated litter netting' to extend the operating hours from 17.00 to 19.00, and hours for deliveries from 16.45 until 18.45 Mondays to Saturdays, Ivybridge Council Depot, Ermington Road, Ivybridge

(Councillor J Hodgson declared a personal interest by virtue of being a Member of the South Hams District Council)

The Committee considered the Report of the Chief Planner (PTE/22/5) on a proposed variation of the currently approved operating and delivery hours at this waste transfer station in Ivybridge used for the collection of recyclable materials.

The Chief Planner's Report gave a reasoned assessment of the proposal, referring to all relevant policies and summarising the comments and views of interested parties received prior to the meeting. The Chief Planner also reported that South Hams District Council had raised no objections and that planning permission had been granted by the District Council for additional parking on land associated with the application.

Member discussion points and questions to the Officers related to pedestrian and cycle access and parking.

The matter having been debated and having regard to the main material planning policies and requirements,

it was **MOVED** by Councill J Brook, **SECONDED** by Councillor L Hellyer and

RESOLVED that planning permission is granted subject to the conditions set out in Appendix 1 of the Report (with any subsequent minor material changes and local County Councillor).

* 15 **Delegated Action - Schedules (to include ROMPS Actions) and Summary Schedule**

The Committee received the report of the Chief Planner (PTE/22/6) on action taken under delegated powers.

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 2.15 pm and finished at 3.05 pm

APPEALS COMMITTEE

6 December 2021

Present:-

Councillors J Hawkins (Chair), P Henderson, S Parker-Khan, C Slade and C Whitton

* **14** **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2021 be signed as a correct record.

* **15** **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual relating to their financial affairs and in accordance with Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by virtue of the fact that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

* **16** **Budget Monitoring**

(An item taken under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 during which the press and public were excluded)

The Committee received the Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation & Environment on the financial impact of the Committee's decisions for the current financial year 2021/22.

* **17** **Deferred Appeals**

(An item taken under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 during which the press and public are excluded)

The Committee noted there were no appeals determined under urgency procedures following the last meeting.

* **18** **School Transport Appeals**

(An item taken under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 during which the press and public were excluded)

Agenda Item 11.(c)

2

APPEALS COMMITTEE

6/12/21

The Committee considered reports from the Chief Officer for Children's Services on appeals and written and verbal submissions from appellants who attended as follows:-

ST191	Exeter - Exeter, St James School	Appellant & local County Councillor
ST188 ST189) & ST190)	Barbrook - Lynton Primary	“
ST186) & ST187	Kilminster - Axe Valley Academy	“
ST192	Kingsbridge - Brixham CC	“

RESOLVED:-

(a) that the following appeal(s) be allowed:-

ST192 Kingsbridge - Brixham CC

(b) that the following appeal(s) be refused:-

ST191 Exeter - Exeter, St James School

(c) that the following appeal(s) be deferred for members' route inspection:-

ST188 Barbrook - Lynton Primary
ST189) &
ST190)

ST186) & Kilminster - Axe Valley Academy
ST187.

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 9.45 am and finished at 1.00 pm

APPOINTMENTS, REMUNERATION AND CHIEF OFFICER CONDUCT COMMITTEE

19 January 2022

Present:-

Councillors R Hannaford, J Hart (Chair), J McInnes (Vice-Chair) and A Saywell

Apologies:-

Councillors A Connett

* 14 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2021 be signed as a correct record.

* 15 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

16 Pay Policy Statement 2022/2023

The Committee considered the Joint Report of the County Solicitor (Head of Legal (Intrim)) and Head of Human Resources outlining the proposed and revised Pay Policy Statement for 2022/2023 and consequential amendments to the Chief Officer Employment Procedure Rules and Disciplinary Policy, for ratification by the County Council.

The Pay Policy Statement, required under the Localism Act 2011, formed part of the Constitution of the Council. It was a statutory requirement of the Pay Policy Statement that the Statement should be reviewed at least annually. The Pay Policy Statement specified that salaries for Chief Officers and Heads of Service on Leadership Grades were fixed for the duration of the Policy and would be reviewed annually by the Appointments, Remuneration and Chief Officer Conduct Committee.

The draft Pay Policy Statement continued to reflect a potential future review of terms and conditions and the Authority's wider reward strategy, particularly the pay and grading implications of the National Living Wage, and other issues such as recruitment and retention and the changing nature of work and roles within the Authority. A review of NJC and Chief Officer Annual Leave Entitlement was conducted in 2021 and full implementation would be completed in April 2022.

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2

APPOINTMENTS, REMUNERATION AND CHIEF OFFICER CONDUCT COMMITTEE
19/01/22

Appendix 2 set out the current senior management roles and salary levels. This appendix, alongside the Pay Policy Statement, reflected the current senior management structure and as and when changes took effect, the Policy would be updated to reflect these, for example, decisions made regarding the replacement of the County Solicitor.

The trade unions and the national employers were continuing to discuss the pay award for 2021/22 and of course any national pay awards, and the change to the Authority's wider reward strategy would have a financial impact, but the exact details were not known at this stage.

Members discussed and asked questions on the current position with pay negotiations, the role of national pay bargaining, the use of more Council policies to attract workers and working with Team Devon to look at salary competitiveness across the region.

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

RESOLVED

(a) that the proposed amendments to the Pay Policy Statement be endorsed and the revised Statement for 2022/23 be commended to the Council;

(b) that the change to leadership roles and salary rates, which may be impacted by any national pay award, be noted; and

(c) that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to make amendments to the Pay Policy Statement resultant from consequential changes to role descriptions following the consultation process as well as forthcoming Leadership appointments.

* 17 **Leadership Group - Proposals for New Leadership Arrangements**

The Committee considered the Report of the Chief Executive (SO/21/2) outlining proposals for new Leadership Arrangements.

The Committee noted that there had not been an opportunity to make significant changes in respect of the configuration and leadership of Council services for a number of years, however the planned retirement of a number of Heads of Service and Chief Officers in a six month timeframe provided the opportunity to review the configuration of services and make some proposals for changes.

The impact of the Global Pandemic on the working of the Council had been profound and it now faced a prolonged period of adjustment, as coexisting with the virus and recovery from some of the longer-term changes, for example exit from the EU, the cost of living, labour and property markets and key sectors of the economy such as hospitality and retail as well as the need to respond to the Climate Emergency.

These leadership proposals gave the opportunity to reshape the Council's officer leadership, and the way that leadership operated, drawing on changed working practices and the priorities expressed in the new strategic plan.

A key principle behind the proposed changes was to simplify and clarify the leadership roles and responsibilities.

Services areas would be called:

- Children and Young People's Futures
- Integrated Adult Care
- Finance and Public Value
- Public Health, Communities and Citizen Engagement
- Climate Change, Environment, Connectivity and Growth.
- Transformation and Resources
- Legal and Democratic Services

To go alongside the new service structures, the proposed changes would result in a reduction in one post and a much smaller leadership team. The new strategic leadership team was proposed to consist of 6 roles reporting to the Chief Executive. These would be:

- Director of Climate Change, Environment, Connectivity and Growth
- Director of Public Health, Communities and Citizen Engagement
- Director of Transformation and Resources
- Director of Integrated Adult Care
- Director of Children and Young People's Futures
- Director of Finance and Public Value

There would be a Deputy Director post for Legal and Democratic Services (which would also fulfil the Monitoring Officer, Proper Officer and Returning Officer functions) which would report directly to the Chief Executive, in line with the desire for all statutory posts to do so.

Once the new strategic leadership team was in place, a new 'tactical' tier of leadership would be formed which would include existing deputies, Heads of other services and leadership representatives from across the full range of Council Services.

This tactical tier would enable the Strategic Leadership Team to focus on the strategic business and provide organisation-wide leadership and coordination to deliver against the strategic plan priorities. It was also envisaged that each Director would hold strategic responsibility for one of the Strategic Plan priorities.

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APPOINTMENTS, REMUNERATION AND CHIEF OFFICER CONDUCT COMMITTEE
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It was proposed that the consultation period would commence in mid February for a three week period. Following this decisions would be made and the revised leadership structure confirmed. New posts subject to external recruitment would be advertised, and any other recruitment processes needed would take place.

The Chief Executive emphasised this was a proposal and was subject to a consultation process as outlined above.

Members asked questions and raised the following matters in discussion

- the desire to see 'Performance' within a Director title (raised prior to the meeting by Councillor Connett and reported by the Chief Executive);
- the role of the Youth Service, the rationale for it remaining with the Communities portfolio and improved links to the Children's Scrutiny Committee;
- the role of the Communications team and the importance of capitalising on 'good news' stories;
- the new structures and their improved links with the newly approved Strategic Plan as well as the Cabinet remits; and
- the need to consider a formal deputy for the Chief Executive, not necessarily a new post, but a mechanism for resilience.

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

RESOLVED

(a) that the proposed re-configuration of Council services and the changes to the leadership of services be noted;

(b) that a period of consultation about the proposals for the new strategic level Leadership Team be agreed, noting:

(i) that the revised leadership team and leadership arrangements will supersede the current LG8/LG14 arrangements and will require new reporting arrangements for some LG14 members.

(ii) that the proposals will bring an end to the interim structural and reporting arrangements, some of which will have been in place since January 2021 pending the Council elections in May 2021.

(c) delegate authority to the Chief Executive to make the final decision on the structural proposals following consideration of consultation feedback; and

(d) that the commencement of the recruitment process for a new Chief Officer Integrated Adult Care be approved, given there are no changes proposed to the post.

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 2.15 pm and finished at 2.57 pm

PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

8 February 2022

Present:-

Councillors S Aves, F Biederman, A Connett, R Hannaford, J Hart, J Hodgson, S Hughes, C Leaver and J Trail BEM (Chair)

* **14** **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2021 be signed as a correct record.

* **15** **Items requiring urgent attention**

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

16 **Members Allowances - Report of the Independent Members Allowances Remuneration Panel**

The Committee considered the Report of the Independent Members' Allowances Remuneration Panel for 2022/23. The Chair of the Panel presented their Report, highlighting specifically that the conclusions and recommendations made had been based on sound evidence and that they had given consideration to the issues asked of them as well as the national position with COVID-19 and the impact on communities as well as the operations and finances of the Council. The Panel also expressed concern over the reports of hostility and abuse towards Elected Members, as reported to them throughout their enquiries.

Members welcomed the Panel's acknowledgment in the Report that while historically there had been little scope for improvement, the structure of the County Council's scheme remained fit for purpose with sound principles and noted that, in commending its Report to the Council, the Panel had not suggested any significant changes to the structure of the Council's scheme.

The Panel had recommended that allowances rise in line with the staff pay award for 2021/2022 (still being negotiated).

The recommended allowances from May 2022 (based on figures of 1.75%, 2% and 2.5%) were set out in Appendix 1 of its Report.

The Committee placed on record its thanks to the Panel for their comprehensive Report.

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

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2

PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

8/02/22

RESOLVED

(a) that the Report of the Independent Panel be welcomed and its Members be thanked for their work;

(b) that the Committee notes the Report's conclusions and asks the County Council to accept the recommendations outlined below.

(i) that the basic structure of the current scheme is endorsed and retained;

(ii) that Council does not depart from the panel's established formula of calculating the basic allowance and that the basic allowance continues to increase by the NJC Staff Pay Award for 2021/22 (still being negotiated at the time of writing this report) to take effect from May 2022 and the multipliers be recalculated accordingly;

(iii) that the overnight rate for London remains at £153.00, in line with the rates calculated by Price Waterhouse Cooper for the average daily rate (ADR) for London from 2019 (noting that the most recent figures are very much skewed due to the impact of the pandemic on the hospitality sector);

(iv) Careful consideration be given, in the future, to the levels of allowances to ensure they keep pace with the economy generally;

(v) that the sustained reduction in the number of SRA's be welcomed and that the levels be kept below the 50% threshold, as is currently the case;

(vi) that Group Leaders take a robust approach to the performance management of their Members and note the Panel's thanks for the levels of reassurance provided by Group Leaders for dealing with performance issues; and

(vii) that Council note the Panel's appreciation to Councillors for their Leadership throughout the pandemic, noting that Members had worked tirelessly in their communities, especially given concerns raised in paragraph 3.5 of the Report, and also adapted to remote working practices to ensure democratic processes continued.

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 10.30 am and finished at 11.04 am

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18 January 2022

Present:-

Councillors S Aves, J Bradford, J Brazil, G Gribble, R Hannaford (Chair), L Hellyer, F Letch MBE, L Samuel and J Wilton-Love and C Mabin (Church of England Diocesan representative)

Apologies:-

Councillors P Bullivant, J Hawkins, P Sanders and M Squires

Members attending in accordance with Standing Order 25

Councillor A Leadbetter

* 21

Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November and the minutes from the 9 December Standing Over Group meeting, be signed as a correct record.

* 22

Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There was no matter raised as a matter of urgency.

* 23

Public Participation

There were no oral representations from members of the public.

* 24

Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

The Committee were updated as to the Scrutiny Work Programme and it was agreed that the following items be added:

- A Spotlight Review on establishing a child friendly Devon

* 25

Front Door Review

The Committee received a report from the Chief Officer for Children's Services on the Front Door Priority Action Plan, which outlined the 8-week priority action and 8-week priorities progress around Early Help, MASH and Initial Response Teams (IRT).

Agenda Item 11.(g)

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
18/01/22

Front Door was a critical development of core business and was the starting point at getting it right for young people by connecting families and children to the right services at the earliest opportunities and in their own communities.

Member's discussions points with officers included:

- Concerns around the MASH Guardian IT system were raised. Scrutiny had been notified of some concerns around the security of the system on a recent site visit and had forwarded these concerns to Officers. Officers advised it was not an obvious issue and it had not been identified by two previous Ofsted visits. Officers were confident that the issues were now being addressed.
- Members were aware there were difficulties for the Health services within MASH to access office spaces due to work from home policies during lockdown. The MASH Strategic Group, made up of all relevant partners, was able to share and discuss these areas of concern.

* 26

Early Help Review

The Committee considered a Report of the Head of Children's Social Care and Head of Children's Health and Wellbeing on the Early Help Review which aimed to support families early, to transform the lived experience of children, young people and their families; work together earlier to support families build upon their strengths; integrate service delivery and invest in local communities to support children to thrive and deliver improved outcomes for children and families.

Benefits of the Early Help Programme included:

- Aligning Devon's Early Offer to bring to reality 'Right Support, Right Time, Right Person'.
- Children, young people and families would be supported to achieve outcomes in a timely manner.
- Provide financial security to Devon's Early Help Offer to develop a resilience workforce.
- More families supported within Early Help, reducing the number of children and families needing a social care assessment.
- Comprehensive and clear Early Help offer, supporting children stepping down from social care into Early Help.
- Helping Families early, building upon resilience and strengths.
- Provide strategic Early Help leadership and oversight, with the vision of one team approach.
- Reporting data used to inform responses and offer support.

Potential challenges faced in Devon included financial stability around the core early help budget, staff morale and recruitment; the commissioning of services and how these will meet the needs across Devon and how commissioning relationships could be developed; thresholds and criteria

including the level of need to be understood across the partnership to ensure children receive the right support at the right time; capacity and recruitment issues with a number of teams struggling with the volume of work even if fully resourced; changing perceptions and attitudes around thinking outside the box to achieve transformation and practice improvement through performance and people.

Members' discussion points with officers included:

- Savings in this Service area would come from a reduction in the number of children who required support, such as a reduction in the number of Child Protection Plans. Early Help was required to ensure families were supported at an early stage to build on their own resilience and ensure children did not re-enter the social care system again.
- There were multiple entry points into the system, such as through MASH or from local triage panels, which often led to delays. The Service was working to create a single-entry point with partners to respond to referrals in a timely way.
- The majority of work was focussed on 0-2 year age range which had been a significant risk during the pandemic; however the contract worked with children up to the age range 7-8years.
- Members were informed that the consequences of high profiles cases, as recently seen in the media, can cause significant anxieties amongst staff and partners as everything they do is to protect children. What would often happen as a result, is a drastic increase in referrals as individuals and practitioners do not feel confident to make assessments alone, making it harder to pick out those cases that are very serious and need further support from services.
- The Participation Team would advertise the proposals with children and families and ensure a child friendly version would be produced.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hannaford **SECONDED** by Councillor Aves and

RESOLVED that

- (a) the draft vision for Early Help in Devon and Officers exploration of an Early Help operating model and offer, including the financial aspects, be approved;
- (b) the Cabinet Member and Chief Officer consider the challenges that will need to be considered in achieving the vision for Early Help in Devon ; and,
- (c) the Cabinet Member and Chief Officer be asked to report back on the progression of the vision for Early Help in Devon at a future meeting.

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CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
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The Committee received the Report of the Chief Officer for Children's Services which provided a performance update on Children's Social Care including key data demonstrating levels of demand and response across help, care and protection. The Report outlined key points including a small dip in the number of referrals to children's social care which had been expected in the month of December, a decline in assessment timeliness due to increased volumes of work in the IRT teams, improvement in the timeliness of Initial Child Protection Conferences which had increased by 13% in the past month, timeliness of health checks had decreased slightly in part due to the pandemic and long term placement stability had increased by 1% whilst short term placements remained the same as the previous month.

The Report also included an Education and Learning Performance update, which provided an update on the current position regarding the COVID-19 context, highlighting that there had been a sharp increase in the number of positive cases in schools in the Autumn term. The peak was seen on 25th November when 1895 pupils in 214 schools were absent due to a positive Covid-19 test. As of this meeting, 2,156 children were absent due to a positive covid test and 306 were absent due to suspected cases. 152 staff were absent with a positive Covid case and 11 were absent with a suspected positive case. All children in Devon had higher than national average attendance.

Multi-Agency meetings had helped keep schools open and children physically attending and as a result attendance had remained above the National average, universally and for those in vulnerable groups. Members were also updated on the situation with regard to children's mental health, those pupils entitled to Free School Meals (FSM), permanent exclusions and the number of children accessing Early Years funded places.

Members raised the following discussion points and questions with Officers in response to the Report:

- The number of children recorded as leaving and entering the care system did not seem to add up to the headline figures of new children entering the system. Officers offered to investigate this anomaly for future reports.
- Members raised queries about the numbers of Care Leavers in unsuitable accommodation, how it compared with other local authorities and were advised where care leavers were living with parents or relatives this may have been unsuitable if a risk or overcrowded. Members welcomed that the report highlighted how many care leavers there were and what unsuitable accommodation they are in given it was an area raised by Ofsted.
- Regarding Free School Meals (FSM), 2020 had seen the highest number of requests received due to Covid and lockdowns, with families impacted by furlough. Numbers were now returning to pre-pandemic levels. Having reviewed the criteria of those FSM applications that

were rejected, the Service was able to identify that there had been a significant increase in the number of families claiming FSM but not eligible. Members were advised eligibility was a nationally set criteria linked to universal credit.

- Members considered the increase in the number of Fixed Term Exclusions (FTEs), however were advised schools were not seeing the usual corresponding reduction in the number of Permanent Exclusions, which were also increasing and was an area of concern.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hannaford **SECONDED** by Councillor Gribble and

RESOLVED that

The Children's Scrutiny Committee:

- a) Welcomes the Children's Services Performance Report as a continued opportunity to have oversight of the performance of the service, including areas of weakness recognised by Ofsted such as Care Leavers;
- b) recommends further discussion between Members and Officers on the content of the social care performance report to ensure they have a continued oversight including the inclusion of recruitment and retention figures, caseloads data and placement of the item on the agenda at future meetings;
- c) records its concern and recognises the challenges in ensuring dental health checks for children are on time and permanent exclusions; and,
- d) places on record it thanks to schools, teachers and all DCC Officers involved in the efforts to ensure children can learn in safe environments, including officers who have stepped into roles in schools to support those efforts.

* 28

Schools Covid Update

The Head of Education and Learning provided a verbal update on the situation in schools as at minute 27.

***DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 2.15 pm and finished at 5.05 pm

HEALTH AND ADULT CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20 January 2022

Present:-

Councillors S Randall-Johnson (Chair), C Whitton (Vice-Chair), T Adams, J Bailey, R Chesterton, D Cox, P Crabb, L Hellyer, P Maskell, S Parker-Khan, R Peart, R Scott, M Wrigley and J Yabsley

Apologies:-

Councillors I Hall and L Evans

Members attending in accordance with Standing Order 25

Councillor J McInnes

* 28

Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2021 be signed as a correct record.

* 29

Items Requiring Urgent Attention

No item was raised as a matter of urgency.

* 30

Public Participation

There were no oral representations from members of the public.

* 31

Engaging the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee in the Long-Term Plan for Devon

The Committee considered the Report from NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group on engagement of Members in the development of the Long-Term Plan and opportunities to influence, contribute and scrutinise.

The Report aimed to address Member engagement by setting out the key areas of the Long-Term change programme that were being accelerated and those which scrutiny committees input across the Integrated Care System (ICS) would be sought. It also offered an approach as to how the Clinical Commissioning Group could work together going forward with Members.

The development of a Long-Term Plan (LTP) for Devon had started in 2018 and was designed to tackle a host of complex issues facing the Devon health

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HEALTH AND ADULT CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
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and care system. There is an overarching Long-Term Plan for the NHS as a whole and this was being localised for Devon.

While work to progress the LTP slowed as the NHS focused all efforts on supporting patients and communities through the coronavirus pandemic, the challenges faced in Devon remained the same and had been exacerbated because of Covid-19.

Re-starting work on the Long-Term Plan had been a priority over the latter part of 2021 and tackling the issues the LTP aimed to address was essential for the Health and Care system in Devon.

The Long-Term Plan was still in the development phase, it was being shaped and was not fully formed. The CCG confirmed that elected Members had a key role in influencing, contributing, and scrutinising this programme of work in a way that acknowledged the voices of the communities and neighbourhoods they represented.

Members' observations and discussion points with the Deputy Chief Executive NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group, the Chief Executive of the South Devon and Torbay Hospital Trust, and Clinical Adviser South Devon and Torbay Hospital Trust included:

- the focus within the Plan on (i) protected elective capacity to address the exceptional number of people waiting for acute specialities which had reached 144,209 (noting that cancer and urgent care and emergency services had been maintained) which had exacerbated as a result of the pandemic; and (ii) Community Diagnostic Hubs reducing times for vital tests; and (iii) Community urgent and emergency care to help ensure that it was easy for people to navigate their way through to ensure everyone was seen in the appropriate setting;
- the engagement with clinical and care professionals across health and social care and developing engagement with the workforce;
- the willingness and value for further engagement with Scrutiny and other local authorities,
- the need for further and more detailed information in the drafts relating to timelines, finance and geography and strategy and with implementation plans to address the identified issues, using more accessible language and ensuring timely engagement with Scrutiny;
- the increased capacity at Axminster (on which further information was requested by the local Member);
- the contribution of the Nightingale hospital in Exeter in helping address the capacity issues in relation to orthopaedic and ophthalmology treatments;
- the significant workforce issues across the health and care system and development of training regimes nationally, alternative professional positions through such as Nursing Associates for example and international recruitment;
- the key role of the Integrated Care model within the developing the LTP;

- use of community hospitals as health and care hubs and care at home wherever safe and appropriate;
- the digital strategy to help improve capacity access health and social care; and
- the valuable role and work of the North Devon District Hospital serving a wide rural area and isolated communities across Northern Devon.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor S Randall Jonson; **SECONDED** by Councillor C Whitton and

RESOLVED that Masterclasses (open to all members of the Council) and the Standing Overview Group (with invitations to members of Torbay and Plymouth Councils as appropriate) be used as the opportunity to influence the development of the Long-Term Plan for Devon and with regular update reports to this Committee.

* 32 **Modernising Health and Care Services in the Teignmouth and Dawlish Area - update on referral to Secretary of State for Health and Social Care**

The Chair reported that there had been no development since the last meeting and the Committee was still waiting to hear from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

* 33 **Adults Social Care Reforms Briefing**

The Chair reported that this potentially was Jennie Stephens' (Director of Adult Care and Health) last meeting with this Committee and Members thanked Jennie for her support and work with Scrutiny over many years and they wished her well in her retirement.

The Committee considered the Report from the Chief Officer for Adult Care and Health, Devon County Council (ACH/22/144) on the Government's proposals for the reform of adult social care and ways to update Members as legislation developed, and engagement in the local response as legislation was passed.

The Report set out an overview (including resourcing concerns), timeliness, vision for the White Paper and policy positions including concerns relating to work force issues.

The White Paper set out a 10 year vision with three objectives:

- People have choice, control and support to live independent lives.
- People can access outstanding quality and tailored care and support.
- People find adult social care fair and accessible.

It encouraged investment and innovation and to make every decision about care a decision about housing and make a shift away from a 'reliance on

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residential care' to outstanding care in people homes that were safe and enabled independence.

The white paper however did not provide anything that would address the challenges in the health and care system in the here and now, or over the next two years that impacted on the people it served.

The Government previously announced £5.4 billion over 3 years solely for adult social care reform. The White Paper did not expand on the future allocation of funding from the Health and Social Care Levy, both in terms of money coming to Adult Social Care or the allocation within Adult Social Care e.g., would the £500M workforce fund be recurring to enable planning and longer-term investment? The concern remained that the NHS would be prioritised.

The total funding announcements in the white paper and through the Levy were modest and significantly below the figures the adult social care sector had long lobbied for and heard by the Health and Social Care Committee in 2020.

Key documents to this white paper were the current Health and Care Bill that was going through Parliament, and also the pending white paper on integration, that would set the wider conditions, landscape and arrangement for how much of the vision and policies would be delivered to help make the system better equipped to collaborate and innovate.

Members' observations and discussion points with the Locality Director North and East Devon (Adult Care and Health) included:

- the additional work volumes and likely staffing requirements as a result of the proposed reforms which would need to be carefully assessed in the near future and involving new systems and processes;
- the new inspection proposals which could assist as a driver for improvement across all the 152 local authorities with social care and health duties;
- the daily living costs which would not count towards the £86,000 personal care costs cap and it was likely - but not certain - that this would be set at £200 per week;
- whilst CQC would be given new powers of inspection, early indications were that Department for Health and Social Care would retain an assurance role; and
- a risk for Devon County Council was the potential impact of current (and future) self-funders applying for state aid and uncertainty at this stage of the implications for people as a result of the reforms, particularly those with little or no assets.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor S Randall – Johnson and **SECONDED** by Councillor R Peart and

RESOLVED that the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee:

(a) note the content of this report that sets out the main elements of the adult social care reform white paper that are subject to the on-going Parliamentary process;

(b) be kept informed between now and the commencement of the extended means test, the care cap and extended self-funding rights in Oct 2023 to include adding specific elements of the white paper to its work programme or using Masterclass sessions to explore engagement to shape the DCC response.

* 34 **Health and Care General Update**

The Committee received and noted the Joint report from Devon County Council and NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (ACH/22/143) on a response to specific questions or comments from previous meeting and updates on the latest news from the Devon Health and Care system.

Discussion points by Members with the Locality Director – North and East included:

- the example within the report of the excellent and award winning work carried out by Adult Care and Health and the independent sector;
- the high level of covid infection in the County which were the highest levels since February 2021 and currently 61 providers were closed to new admissions, both due to COVID19 infection and staff absence levels; and the work by the Service to support residential and nursing homes with additional funding from Government;
- the possible impact of unvaccinated care workers and the work to promote vaccinations (more information if available was requested by Members relating to the number in the work force with care duties who were exempt from vaccination);
- concern from the local Member in regard to the closure of the Coleridge Medical Centre branch surgery in Newton Poppleford, and the consultation processes and survey arrangements and the alternatives which had been offered for patients; and the Locality Director acknowledged that early consultation with the local Member should have taken place in this instance; and the Chair also noted that despite this not being a separate item on the agenda the briefing document which had been posted to Members could be made available to any interested party and was therefore in the public domain and information was also contained within this report; and
- the care staff winter benefit payment equivalent to about £500 per member of care staff to be paid by their employers and the processes of checks and audit in his area.

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* **35** **Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Charter**

In accordance with Standing Order 23(2) Councillor L Hellyer had asked that the Committee consider this matter recommending a reference to the Cabinet to ask the Council to adopt the Charter.

Members referred to other degenerative and incurable diseases and how they could be similarly addressed.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor L Hellyer, **SECONDED** by Councillor R Chesterton and

RESOLVED that the Cabinet be requested to approve the following:

(a) This Council adopts the Motor Neurone Disease Charter.

(b) This Council encourages the District Councils in Devon to adopt the Charter.

(c) This Council asks the relevant Cabinet Member(s) to ensure the Council's services and facilities are delivered in accordance with the Charter.

(e) The Council's communications team promotes the adoption of the Charter, and promotes how the Council's services and facilities are accessible.

* **36** **Scrutiny Committee Work Programme**

The Committee noted the current Work Programme subject to inclusion of topics arising from this meeting and the following topics:

(a) Carers Review: Engagement with GP and Primary Care Networks: Task Group Review/ Spotlight review; and

(b) Domestic Violence and Abuse as part of the Health and Social Care agenda.

[NB: The Scrutiny Work Programme was available on the Council's website at: Scrutiny Work Programme - Democracy in Devon]

* **37** **Information Previously Circulated**

The Committee noted the list of information previously circulated for Members, since the last meeting, relating to topical developments which have been or were currently being considered by this Scrutiny Committee.

(a) Regular Devon CCG Briefings on the Coronavirus Vaccination in Devon.

- (b) Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) presentation material.
- (c) Introduction to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Masterclass Presentation material.
- (d) Update on appointments to leadership roles in the Integrated Care System for Devon.
- (e) Information from the SWAST about assistance provided by Fire and Rescue Services both across the SWAST area and at Devon and Somerset levels.
- (f) Letter from the Devon ICS Chief Executive, providing an update on the System Oversight Framework (SOF) for Devon.

***DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 2.15 pm and finished at 3.55 pm

CORPORATE INFRASTRUCTURE AND REGULATORY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 January 2022

Present

Councillors A Dewhirst (Chair), C Slade (Vice-Chair), M Asvachin, J Berry, J Brook, P Bullivant, R Chesterton, P Crabb, M Hartnell, J Hodgson, J Morrish, I Roome and J Wilton-Love

Apologies

Councillors R Radford

Members attending in accordance with Standing Order 25

Councillor S Hughes

* **28** **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There was no matter raised as a matter of urgency.

* **29** **Public Participation**

There were no oral representations from members of the public.

* **30** **Scrutiny Work Programme**

The Head of Scrutiny updated the Committee as follows:

- The first meeting of the Loneliness Task Group would take place on 25 February and Members were still welcome to volunteer their involvement.
- The next Masterclass on Utility Companies would take place on 14 March.
- A Spotlight Review on Moving Traffic Offences would be established once Government guidance had been considered.

It was **RESOLVED** that Safety of Women at Night be added to the Work Programme, with Councillor Atkinson as project lead.

* **31** **COVID-19 update**

The Council's Chief Executive updated the Committee on the current position within Devon relating to the Covid-19 pandemic as follows:

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Prevalence

- As of yesterday, Devon had 940 cases per 100,000 population in the last 7 days, compared to an English average of 995 cases, with higher cases in Torbay and Plymouth of 1266 and 1064 respectively.
- Last week cases in Devon increased by 25%, with significant cases seen in most age groups, driven primarily by unvaccinated primary age school pupils, although rates were lower in the over 60s.
- As of yesterday, the number of patients in hospital with Covid was 270 across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay.
- Of those 270 patients, only 3 were in intensive treatment units, likely due to the high vaccination rates within Devon.

Vaccination

- Over 90% of the eligible population had had their booster vaccination.
- There was still work to do in encouraging the younger age group to be vaccinated.

Impact

- The expected disruption to public services feared at the start of the year had not so far happened, but the virus was still there and caution was advised.

Care homes

- As of yesterday, there were 20 significant outbreaks in care homes, including 13 in the Devon County Council area, an increase of 5 in the last week.

Resilience

- Message to staff was to continue to be circumspect for the next few weeks to keep services resilient, with a phased return hopefully during the Spring as the incidence of the virus reduced.

Members' questions and discussion included how staff may work in the future and the Chief Executive explained that following surveys, around 80% of staff would choose to continue working in the way they currently were with increased flexible working, and only 10% wished for a return to the office. Considering that a lot of large private and public sector organisations were moving towards a hybrid model, the Council was looking at its policies to continue to be an attractive organisation to work for. There were many issues to be considered.

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive for the briefing.

* 32

Treasury Management & Investment Strategy 2022/23

The Committee received the Report of the Director of Finance (DF/22/05) on the proposed Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2022/23 financial year, prepared in accordance with the revised Treasury Management Policy Statement and revised CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management, to be submitted to the Cabinet and the County Council for ratification following consideration by this Committee.

The Strategy set out the minimum revenue policy (MRP); capital expenditure funding; prudential indicators; the current treasury position; debt and investments; prospects for interest rates; the borrowing strategy; and the investment strategy. The key issues for 2022/23 were set out in the Overview section of the Report.

Following discussion and In response to Members' questions and comments, the Director of Finance undertook to provide information on the affordable housing element included within the investment portfolio and details on the devaluation of the shares in Exeter Science Park Ltd.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Brook, **SECONDED** by Councillor Dewhirst and

RESOLVED that the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2022/23 be endorsed and commended to the Cabinet.

* 33

Rural Road Safety

(Councillor Hughes attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(1) and spoke to this item at the invitation of the Committee.)

The Committee received the Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment (PTE/22/7) which provided a briefing to Members on rural road safety in Devon, with appendices that provided relevant data.

The Council had a large road network of almost 8000 miles, 7000 miles of which was rural. Over 6000 miles of the rural network was comprised of the more minor C-Class and Unclassified roads. Within the Council area, more road deaths, serious injuries and slight injuries occurred rurally than on urban routes.

As a local highway authority, the Council had a statutory duty under the Road Traffic Act 1998 to carry out studies into accidents arising out of the use of vehicles and, in the light of those studies, to take such measures to prevent such accidents. In performing this duty, the Council maintained records for all recorded road collisions across the authority and undertook a comprehensive annual review process.

Vision Zero South West (VZSW) was a regional road safety partnership for Devon and Cornwall, incorporating the combined local authority areas of Devon, Cornwall, Plymouth and Torbay, and regional trunk road routes managed by National Highways. Its current objective was to reduce killed and serious injuries by 50% by 2030 and to cut killed and serious injuries to zero by 2040.

Members' questions and comments included:

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- Awareness of recent changes to the Highway Code – following Government approval, it was confirmed that a press release would be issued.
- VZSW were making considerable investment into the capability of road enforcement, including public awareness activities to improve road user behaviour.
- The value of Community Speed Watch.
- Officers agreed to provide Members with further information on VZSW's five year financial plan.
- That VZSW Five Pillars of action should refer not to Safer Roads, but to Safer Routes that included pedestrians and cyclists, which would encourage behaviour change.
- Accident statistics came from the Police central database and, although data could be provided from Council records on accidents involving people with disabilities, it would not be as comprehensive as that collected from the Police.
- Current in-year data was not official until published by the Department of Transport, but in-year data was used by the enforcement teams and as intelligence for the behavioural change initiative.
- Updated interactive dashboard links on the A and B road route performance analysis shown at Appendix 6 of the Report would be made available for local Members to interrogate.
- Members welcomed the offer from Officers to attend local Highways and Traffic Orders Committees to demonstrate the information available from the interactive dashboard links.

The Chair thanked Officers for the informative report.

* 34 **Highways Performance Dashboard**

(Councillor Hughes attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(1) and spoke to this item at the invitation of the Committee.)

The Committee received the Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste (HIW/22/3) on the Highways Performance Dashboard, which provided an overview of the performance of Devon Highways in the following areas:

- Network condition
- Reactive works including potholes and drainage cleaning
- Winter service

In discussion, Members' questions and comments included:

- It was clarified that the graphs on page 69 of the Report provided information from area depots, rather than from the political areas.

- The Council had four Dragon Patchers that were working across the whole of County, contributing to the reduction in potholes and the improvement in the road condition indicator.
- It was explained that generally rural gullies were attended on an annual basis and urban ones every three years, as part of a cyclic programme, with known problem locations attended more frequently. In addition, a reactive service was also provided.

The Chief Officer undertook to provide Members with numbers of potholes filled and patching completed.

* 35

Standing Overview Group - Climate Change

The Committee received the report from the meeting of the Climate Change Standing Overview Group held on 17 January 2022, which highlighted key points discussed and agreed action.

Members' discussion included concern for the rurality of Devon and a desire to understand to what extent challenges in Devon had been considered. The Committee agreed with the suggestion that the Climate Assembly be approached to ascertain if a socioeconomic impact assessment had been conducted, and to explore this in a future Standing Overview Group.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Slade, **SECONDED** by Councillor Dewhirst and

RESOLVED that the report be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting held and that the outlined actions raised during discussion, including the addition of the highlighted issues of concern, be endorsed and added to the future work programme.

***DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 2.15 pm and finished at 4.38 pm

