

County Council
Thursday, 26th May, 2022



You can view the agenda at
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/democracy/>
or use a smart phone camera and scan the code above.



DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

To: Members of Devon County Council

County Hall
Exeter
EX2 4QD

18 May 2022

Your attendance is requested at the Meeting of Devon County Council to be held in the Chamber at County Hall, Exeter on Thursday, 26th May, 2022 at 2.15 pm.

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

Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Election of Chair**
3. **Appointment of Vice-Chair**
4. **Appointment of Deputy Leader of the Council**
5. **Cabinet Members and Allocation of Remits**

The Leader of the Council to move:

"that the Council note that Members shown in the Appendix circulated to Members with the agenda of the meeting will be appointed to hold office until the date of the Annual Meeting in 2023, together with the remits shown therein.

6. Minutes

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2022.

7. Announcements

8. Items Requiring Urgent Attention

9. Appointment of Committees (Pages 1 - 24)

Councillor Hughes to move:

(a) that in accordance with Standing Order 21 the County Council appoints those Committees, Joint Committees and Working Parties/Panels as shown in the Appendix circulated prior to the meeting and uploaded to the website with terms of reference set out in the Council's Constitution or set out therein for the period expiring at the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2023;

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

(c) that, as in accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the County Council appoints the total numbers of voting (v) or non-voting (nv) members to those Committees, Joint Committees and Working Parties/Panels referred to (a) above as thus denoted in the Appendix (the Council's voting scheme) circulated with the agenda for the period expiring at the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2023;

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

(e) that additional Members of Scrutiny Committees, Highways and Traffic Orders Committees, the Standards Committee and the Farms Estate Committee as detailed in the aforementioned Appendix (or to be nominated by those bodies listed thereon) be appointed for the period expiring at the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2023 or as otherwise shown (subject to any change notified by the nominating body) or, in the case of parent governor representatives on the Children's Scrutiny Committee, following a ballot of eligible parent governors.

10. Appointment of Chair's and Vice-Chair's of Committees

Councillor Hughes to move:

‘that Members shown in the Appendix circulated prior to the meeting and uploaded to the website be elected Chair and Vice-Chair of those Committees as indicated therein to hold office until the date of the Annual meeting of the Council in 2023’.

11. 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.

12. Petitions from Members of the Council

13. Questions from Members of the Council

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

FRAMEWORK DECISION

NIL

OTHER MATTERS

14. Cabinet Member Reports

To consider reports from Cabinet Members.

15. Minutes

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

- (a) Audit Committee - 24 February 2022 (Pages 25 - 28)
- (b) Investment and Pension Fund Committee - 25 February 2022 (Pages 29 - 36)
- (c) Appeals Committee - 7 March 2022 (Pages 37 - 38)
- (d) Appeals Committee - 25 April 2022 (Pages 39 - 40)
- (e) Public Rights of Way Committee - 10 March 2022 (Pages 41 - 44)
- (f) Standards Committee - 22 March 2022 (Pages 45 - 60)

Including approval of Minute 15 and the adoption of the Council's revised Code of Conduct, attached.

(g) Development Management Committee - 30 March 2022 (Pages 61 - 62)

(h) Appointments, Remuneration and Chief Officer Conduct Committee - 14 April 2022 (Pages 63 - 64)

Including approval of minute 21 relating to the appointment of the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport.

(i) Children's Scrutiny Committee - 15 March 2022 (Pages 65 - 74)

(j) Children's Scrutiny Committee (Special Meeting) - 6 April 2022 (Pages 75 - 78)

(k) Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee - 17 March 2022 (Pages 79 - 84)

(l) Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee - 24 March 2022 (Pages 85 - 92)

(m) Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee (Special Meeting) - 10 May 2022 (Pages 93 - 96)

16. Scrutiny Annual Report 21-22 (Pages 97 - 100)

To receive the Scrutiny Annual Report, a copy of which can be viewed on the website at

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13628&path=13626> and is attached to this agenda.

NOTICES OF MOTION

17. 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’.

18. 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’.

19. Neonicotinoid Ban (Minute 90 of 17 February 2022)

To receive and consider the recommendations of the Cabinet (Minute 131(a)) as an amendment to the following Notice of Motion submitted previously to the Council by Councillor Brazil and referred thereto in accordance with Standing Order 8(2), namely:

‘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’.

Having had regard to the aforementioned, any factual briefing/position statement on the matter set out in Report (CSO/22/06) and other suggestions or alternatives considered at that meeting the Cabinet subsequently **resolved**:

'that Council be recommended to endorse the spirit of this Notice of Motion given the significant environmental concerns relating to the use of neonicotinoids and calls on Government to carefully review its consideration of emergency use applications to ensure consistency with the objectives of the National Pollinator Strategy and the 25 Year Environment Plan. It will continue to pursue relevant action in line with its Pollinator Action Plan'.

20. Devon's Cost Of Living Crisis (Minute 91 of 17 February 2022)

To receive and consider the recommendations of the Cabinet (Minute 131 (b)) 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 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	Number of households fuel	Proportion of households fuel poor (%)
	poverty		
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

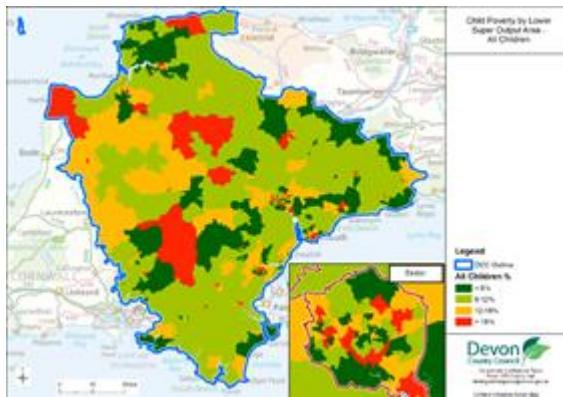
Low income households spend a larger proportion than average on energy and food, and will therefore be relatively more affected by increases in prices. **The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)** say that low-income families may have to spend, on average, **18%** of their income on energy bills, which rises 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.

Having had regard to the aforementioned, any factual briefing/position statement on the matter set out in Report (CSO/22/06) and other suggestions or alternatives considered at that meeting the Cabinet subsequently **resolved:**

'that Council be recommended to

(a) note that one the Council's Strategic Plan priorities for 2021 to 2025 is to make Devon a fairer place, address poverty, health, and other inequalities, and ensure support for those people and families struggling most;

(b) agree that the Annual Plan for 2022/23 should include measures to address poverty in the light of current increases in the costs of living; and

(c) work with Plymouth City Council, Torbay Council and Team Devon in the forthcoming devolution deal negotiations with Government to devolve flexibilities and responsibilities which will help to address issues described in the Notice of Motion.'

21. Motion for the Ocean (Minute 92 of 17 February 2021)

To receive and consider the recommendations of the Cabinet (Minute 131(c)) as an amendment to the following Notice of Motion submitted previously to the Council by Councillor Aves and referred thereto in accordance with Standing Order 8(2), namely:

'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.

Having had regard to the aforementioned, any factual briefing/position statement on the matter set out in Report (CSO/22/06) and other suggestions or alternatives considered at that meeting the Cabinet subsequently **resolved**:

‘that Council be recommended to:

- (a) support the adoption of the ‘Motion for the Ocean’, based around the model motion advocated by the Ocean Conservation Trust, as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report; and

(b) that the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport writes to the Secretary of State for the Environment to urge Government to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030.

22. **Better Buses For Devon**

Councillor Hannaford to move:

That this Council:-

- a) Notes with great concern **the huge reduction in the bus network across Devon**, that has taken place **since privatisation, deregulation, and under funding**.
- b) Believes buses are essential to freeing up congested road space, to cleaning up the air that we all breathe and above all to connecting people to jobs, friends and life opportunities.
- c) Records the specific ongoing problems that our local **school pupils and college students** have in properly attending their places of education across Devon through inaccessible public transport.
- d) **Concludes that the bus service in Devon now presents itself as a failed model, to the extent that it no longer has widespread public confidence, because of its serious long term poor performance and post pandemic dysfunctionality.**
- e) Notes the completely unacceptable regional imbalances in funding for public transport services which prioritise the South East of England, and believes this must be radically reformed, and central government must do more to provide significant funding to revitalise local transport in the South West.
- f) **Wants to develop, design and achieve a good public transport system that runs where people need it, when people need it and at a price that is affordable.**
- g) Understands that the Government's impact assessment of **the *Bus Service Act (2017)*** highlighted that public control would better address **six out of seven Local Transport Authority objectives** compared to an enhanced partnership and was the only method likely to deliver a “significant increase in patronage”.
- h) **Supports exercising powers to bring Devon’s bus services back under local control via franchising, at the earliest practicable date.**
- i) Acknowledges that the costs of franchising cannot be estimated accurately until a “**notice of intent**” has been released and the associated statutory powers to access bus operators' commercial data is employed.

Therefore, this Council requests that the Administration:-

- (i) To conduct **a statutory assessment of franchising** at the earliest possible opportunity in 2022.
- (ii) Explore **a notice of intent to prepare a franchising assessment** at the earliest opportunity.

23. First Homes Not Second Homes

Councillor Hannaford to move:

In response to Devon's serious and ongoing housing crisis council supports the following measures :

- 1) New powers from Government for Councils to progressively raise taxes on holiday lets and unused second homes, up to a quadrupling of council tax, where homes are left empty for much of the year.
- 2) A licensing regime for second homes, Airbnbs and holiday lets - with a minimum of 51% of homes in any community being for local people. Councils should have the powers to raise this level to reflect local circumstances.
- 3) A " Last Shop in the Village Fund" - powers for local councils to introduce a Community Infrastructure Levy on holiday lets and Airbnbs, administered by local authorities, to support local shops, pharmacies, post offices and pubs.
- 4) Commitment to build affordable homes and social housing across the South West with a priority for local people.
- 5) Lock in the discount of new homes for future renters and buyers to ensure affordable homes are not lost after the first families move on.

Council therefore resolves to formally write to the Government, including the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, requesting the appropriate changes in legislation to secure these much needed changes as a matter of urgency.

Furthermore Council resolves to formally write to all our local Devon Members of Parliament advising them of the Councils decision, urging them to also urgently propose, lobby for, support and crucially vote for these vital measures in Parliament.

24. MOT Certification Scheme

Councillor Letch to move:

'This Council recognises the value of the MOT Certificate scheme to assure roadworthiness of vehicles and will investigate the way to introduce an MOT Certificate scheme for the County's roads to assure everyone that they are fit for use by us all.'

25. Implementation Process of 20mph Roads and Zones

Councillor Hodgson to move:

'In light of the level of response to the recent call by DCC for Town and Parish Councils to nominate roads for 20mph speed limits and zones, the Council will seek to investigate, support and implement at least 50% of the applications in this financial year, and consider the remainder for implementation in 2022/23'.

MEETINGS INFORMATION AND NOTES FOR VISITORS

Getting to County Hall and Notes for Visitors

For SatNav purposes, the postcode for County Hall is EX2 4QD

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

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

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

Visitors to County Hall are asked to report to Main Reception on arrival. If visitors have any specific requirements, please contact reception on 01392 382504 beforehand.

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](#)

Public Participation

The Council operates a Public Participation Scheme where Members of the public can interact with various Committee meetings in a number of ways. For full details of whether or how you can participate in a meeting, please [look at the Public Participation Scheme](#) or contact the Clerk for the meeting.

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

Webcasting, Recording or Reporting of Meetings and Proceedings

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

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

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.

WiFi

An open, publicly available Wi-Fi network (i.e. DCC) is normally available for meetings held in the Committee Suite at County Hall.

Fire

In the event of the fire alarm sounding leave the building immediately by the nearest available exit, following the fire exit signs. If doors fail to unlock press the Green break glass next to the door. Do not stop to collect personal belongings, do not use the lifts, do not re-enter the building until told to do so. Assemble either on the cobbled car parking area adjacent to the administrative buildings or in the car park behind Bellair.

First Aid

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

Mobile Phones

Please switch off all mobile phones before entering the Committee Room or Council Chamber

Alternative Formats

If anyone needs a copy of an Agenda and/or a Report in another format (e.g. large print, audio tape, Braille or other languages), please contact the Customer Service Centre on 0345 155 1015 or email: committee@devon.gov.uk or write to the Democratic and Scrutiny Secretariat in G31, County Hall, Exeter, EX2 4QD.

Induction Loop available

