

CABINET – DECISION NOTICE

8 January 2025

Present:-

Councillors J McInnes (Chair), A Davis (Vice-Chair), R Croad, R Gilbert, S Hughes, A Leadbetter, L Samuel, A Saywell, P Twiss and P Bullivant

Members attending in accordance with Standing Orders 8 and 25

Councillors T Adams, J Brazil, P Sanders, D Thomas, C Whitton (in person attendance)
Councillor C Leaver and M Wrigley (remote attendance)

* 3

Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2024 be signed as a correct record.

* 9

Target Budget and Service Targets for 2025/2026

(Councillors Brazil, Leaver and Whitton attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).

RESOLVED

(a) that the revenue budget targets as set out in Table 1 to be incorporated in the Draft Budget for 2025/26 be approved;

(b) that the capital programme be determined by Cabinet on 14th February 2025; and

(c) that the information relating to the Local Government's Finance Settlement for 2025/26 be noted.

* 10

Budget Monitoring - Month 8

(Councillors Brazil, Leaver and Whitton attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).

RESOLVED

(a) that the Month 8 budget monitoring forecast position and the Safety Valve Intervention programme update be noted;

(b) that the Budget movements to date as set out in Appendix 1 and the forecast reserves position also be noted; and

(c) that Council's seeks further engagement with government on SEND provision

* 11 **A361 Barnstaple to Ilfracombe Safer Roads Fund Phase 1 Scheme Approval**

(Councillors Leaver and Whitton attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).

RESOLVED

(a) that the artificial intelligence and speed enforcement cameras scheme on the A361 corridor between Ilfracombe and Barnstaple, as shown in Appendices 1 and 2, be approved for delivery, at an estimated cost of £1 million;

(b) that approval is given to commence the acquisition of land through negotiation and/or a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for any land required for the scheme; and

(c) that the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highway Management and the local Member, to make minor amendments to the scheme details as necessary.

* 12 **Civic Agreement Between DCC and DALC**

(Councillors Brazil, Leaver and Whitton attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).

RESOLVED that the proposed Civic Agreement between the Council and Devon Association of Local Councils be approved.

* 13 **Partnerships Protocol with NHS Devon- Placements for Children and Young People**

(Councillors Leaver and Whitton attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).

RESOLVED

(a) that an oversight group be created, tasked with producing an operating framework for NHS Devon and Devon County Council; and

(b) that a number of specific task and finish groups be established, with responsibility for producing joint Standard Operating Procedures.

* **14** **Childcare Sufficiency Assessment - Annual Return**

(Councillors Brazil, Leaver, Whitton attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).

RESOLVED that the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Report be approved for publication to the Council's website.

* **15** **Children's Scrutiny Committee - Fostering Task Group (Cabinet Response)**

(Councillors Adams, Leaver, Sanders and Whitton attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).

RESOLVED that the Cabinet response to the recommendations of the Children Scrutiny Fostering Task Group Report be approved.

* **16** **Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee - Cost of Living Spotlight Review (Minute 195 of 28 November 2024)**

RESOLVED that Cabinet write to Government outlining the concerns of the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee regarding the anomalies between the new state pension scheme and the preceding state pension scheme.

17 **Notices of Motion**

(a) Control of Local Bus Services

- **RESOLVED** that Council be recommended to;

(a) Welcome the increased focus on improving local bus services;

(b) Build on the success of the current Devon Enhanced Partnership by closer working with Torbay Council and other strategic partners through the new Combined Authority; and

(c) Ask Officers to review content of the Buses Bill currently proceeding through Parliament to see what future options are available for the new Combined Authority.

(b) Children's Social Care Policy Statement

RESOLVED that Council be recommended to;

(a) Note that on the 17th December 2024, the Government published the “Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill” which sets out the proposed legislative framework for achieving these changes. A specific focus of the policy statement and the bill is the management of and improvements to the care market for children in care and, as such, requests a Report from the Director of Children and Young People’s Futures on the implications of the measures contained within the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill;

(b) Note and welcome that over the last 12 months, Children’s Services have increased the provision of residential care for children (both respite care for children with disabilities and mainstream children’s home provision) and of supported accommodation for care experienced people;

(c) Welcome the ongoing work with local providers to improve relationships and to provide “Devon Placements for Devon’s Children”, noting the specific focus on reducing the use of unregistered children’s homes;

(d) Welcome the new powers for Ofsted to investigate multiple homes being run by the same company, acting on the recommendations made in response to stop abuse from happening in children’s homes;

(e) Continue to improve the residential care opportunities in Devon to keep children in care near families, friends, and their school where appropriate;

(f) Increase the number of in-house residential care facilities and use not-for-profit providers, and, become involved in the setting up of Regional Care Co-operatives;

(g) Continue to reduce the number of children in unregistered children’s homes; and

(h) Where possible, provide or use not-for-profit homes where children and care experienced young people have access to properly trained staff who are able to give them the support, skills, and connections to friends and relatives that will continue to support them throughout their life.

* 18 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the following be endorsed. There were no recommendations to Cabinet requiring approval.

Interviewing - Farms Estate Committee - 16 December 2024

* 20 **Forward Plan**

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

* 21 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act namely the financial or business affairs of persons tendering for the provision of council goods or services and of the County Council, in both cases, 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.

* 22 **Community Equipment Service - Part 2**

(Councillor Bullivant declared a personal interest in this matter by virtue of being a Trustee of an organisation who have delivered these services, noting there had been no involvement in the tender process, but withdrew from the meeting during its consideration).

RESOLVED that the Cabinet acknowledges the completion of due diligence checks relating to the award of a 7-year contract as outlined in the recommendation of the Report and that the successful bidder has satisfied the due diligence checks, and confirms the decision to award the contract, as agreed by Cabinet on 9 October 2024.

* 23 **Children's Home Feasibility Study - Part 2**

RESOLVED that the recommendations as outlined in the Report be approved with the addition of one recommendation as stated and agreed in the meeting.