

Cabinet
10 March 2021

**Notices of Motion (referred from Council, 18 February 2021)
Suggested recommendations:**

(a) Voting Systems (Councillor Shaw)

That Council

(a) notes the various voting mechanisms in place and the lack of consistency across various organisations and throughout the UK;

(b) welcomes the current campaign that has been designed to encourage candidates to stand in the Election and also the investment made to promote the Elections and increase public participation through voting safely in person, by post or by proxy;

(c) welcomes any future legislative changes that increases participation in democratic processes; and

(d) in light of the public being given the opportunity to vote to change the current voting system in 2011 and the referendum being lost, the Council take no further action on the Notice of Motion.

(b) Elections – Campaigning (Councillor Shaw)

(a) that Council support the work of the Cabinet Office in developing online postal voting and furthermore supports any mechanism which gives choice to the electorate in terms of voting, but also notes that any changes would not be possible for the forthcoming Elections on the 6th May 2021, given the legislative changes required; and

(b) that in light of the new guidance issued by the Cabinet Office, which states that from the 8th March people campaigning in support of the electoral success of candidates or political parties will be allowed to deliver leaflets and canvass electors in relation to the elections, Council be recommended to take no further action on the Notice of Motion.

(c) Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (Councillor Hodgson)

That Council be recommended to endorse the Notice of Motion and encourage local MPs to support the Bill. In doing so, Council will ask local MPs to work with Government colleagues to provide a national framework of necessary legislative changes and additional resources to facilitate the unprecedented levels of behaviour change, skills development, technology deployment and investment that will be necessary to meet Paris Agreement commitments.

**(d) Beach Breaks, Mental Health and Support of Initiatives
(Councillor Biederman)**

That Council be recommended to

(a) ask Public Health Devon explore with the Devon Local Nature Partnership (LNP) and/or other partners to conduct a pilot study examining possible options to increase engagement with green and blue spaces in children, young people, and families on low income;

(b) further ask Public Health Devon work with the Devon LNP and Active Devon to review and if necessary develop resources to promote local opportunities for walks or activities in green/blue space for to a wide variety of users e.g. family friendly, pram friendly, wheelchair accessible etc; and

(c) increase communications using a social marketing approach that are targeted and relatable to improve confidence and allay anxieties about accessing the natural environment and facilitate behaviour change.

**(e) Sustainable future funding for Local Welfare Assistance
(Councillor Atkinson)**

That Council be recommended to:

(a) maintain the Team Devon Financial Hardship scheme to support, as far as the resources permit, residents facing financial crisis for 2021/22;

(b) campaign for a new funding allocation for councils from central government to provide schemes to address financial hardship and economic vulnerability be made available at the next comprehensive spending review and protected in real terms over the following years;

(c) write to the Chancellor, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to request that they make such a funding allocation available to local authorities; and

(d) continue to work and engage partners as necessary to create the appropriate climate for job creation in the County to improve its prosperity.

(f) Use of Neonicotinoids (Councillor Wright)

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.