

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

A MEETING of the **MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL** will be held in the Phoenix Chambers, Phoenix House, Tiverton on Wednesday, 6 November 2019 at 6.00 pm

ALL MEMBERS of the **COUNCIL** are summoned to attend for the purposes of transacting the business specified in the agenda which is set out below:

[The next meeting (an extraordinary meeting) is scheduled to be held in Tiverton on Wednesday, 4 December 2019 at 6.00 pm]

STEPHEN WALFORD

Chief Executive

29 October 2019

Members are reminded of the need to make declarations of interest prior to any discussion which may take place

Reverend Godfrey Bell (retired) will lead the Council in prayer.

AGENDA

1 Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 Public Question Time

To receive any questions relating to items on the agenda from members of the public and replies thereto.

3 Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct

Councillors are reminded of the requirement to declare any interest, including the type of interest, and the reason for that interest, either at this stage of the meeting or as soon as they become aware of that interest.

4 Minutes (Pages 7 - 14)

Members to consider whether to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting held on 11 September 2019.

The Council is reminded that only those Members present at the previous meeting should vote and, in doing so, should be influenced only by seeking to ensure that the minutes are an accurate record.

5 **Chairman's Announcements**

To receive any announcements which the Chairman of the Council may wish to make.

6 **Petitions**

To receive any petitions from members of the public.

7 **Notices of Motions**

(1) Motion 558 (Councillor J M Downes – 29 July 2019)

The following Motion had been referred to the Cabinet for consideration and report:

That this council should lobby government to bring forward a revised council tax scheme that seeks to encourage a system linked to emissions. The scheme should be able to vary council tax to overtly incentivise the construction of properties that can demonstrate high levels of sustainability and energy efficiency, while acting as a penalty for those that don't. Methods to encourage investment in retrofitting to existing properties should also be explored, given the largest proportion of housing emissions will come from existing housing stock rather than new build.

The Cabinet at its meeting on 17 October 2019 considered the Motion and following discussion, Councillor Downes in accordance with Procedure Rule 16.4, suggested that the Motion be amended to read:

That this council should lobby government **to change the council tax scheme to one** that seeks to encourage a system linked to emissions. The scheme should be able to vary council tax to overtly incentivise the construction of properties that can demonstrate high levels of sustainability and energy efficiency, while acting as a penalty for those that don't. Methods to encourage investment in retrofitting to existing properties should also be explored, given the largest proportion of housing emissions will come from existing housing stock rather than new build.

The Cabinet therefore recommended that the Motion (as amended) be supported.

(2) Motion 559 (Councillor R B Evans – 22 October 2019)

It is well known that the planting of trees has an extremely positive effect in the fight against reducing carbon within the atmosphere, each trees sequestration process is known to benefit carbon reduction as each individual **tree** can absorb as **much** as 48 pounds of **carbon** dioxide per year and can **sequester** 1 ton of **carbon** dioxide by the time it reaches 40 years old. Given the above and the climate crisis declared by this council and its stated ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030 I ask that

the following motion be supported by all members.

This council agrees to use any and all land within the ownership of the authority that is not suitable for development, for the planting of native British trees.

This council agrees to undertake an area wide audit with the assistance of members and land owners to identify suitable sites both within MDDC ownership and private ownership to maximise opportunities for such activity, to be completed within no more than twelve months from the date of this motion , if approved.

This council agrees to work alongside community groups and schools whenever possible to encourage community ownership and sense of place and wellbeing within our communities.

This council agrees that any and all opportunities should be sought to obtain trees from organisations such as government agencies and relevant charitable organisations. (Woodland Trust, Plant Life, DEFRA / Forestry Commission seeking any funding that may be available).

In accordance with Procedure Rule 14.4, the Chairman of the Council has decided that this Motion (if moved and seconded) will be referred without discussion to the Environment Policy Development Group.

(3) Motion 560 (Councillor R J Chesterton – 23 October 2019)

Review of Development Management Policies on Parking

This Council requests that officers start work on undertaking a review of Mid Devon's development management policies regarding parking on our new estates. These should include the number of parking spaces per property as well as how development management can help ease the transition to electric or hybrid vehicles in the future.

In addition to this, this Council requests that at the earliest available opportunity, and no later than three months after this motion is agreed, a paper is brought to the Planning Policy Advisory Group and Cabinet highlighting some of the possible changes members might have to consider and the best mechanism to bring these about.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 14.4, the Chairman of the Council has decided that this Motion (if moved and seconded) will be referred without discussion to the Cabinet.

8 Reports (Pages 15 - 144)

To receive and consider the reports, minutes and recommendations of the recent meetings as follows:

- (1) Cabinet

- 19 September 2019
- 17 October 2019
- 2) Scrutiny Committee
 - 30 September 2019
 - 28 October 2019 - (to follow)
- (3) Audit Committee
 - 8 October 2019
- (4) Environment Policy Development Group
 - 24 September 2019
- (5) Homes Policy Development Group
 - 1 October 2019
- (6) Economy Policy Development Group
 - 26 September 2019
- (7) Community Policy Development Group
 - 8 October 2019
- (8) Planning Committee
 - 18 September 2019
 - 25 September 2019
 - 23 October 2019
- (9) Standards Committee
 - 9 October 2019

9 **Questions in accordance with Procedure Rule 13**

To deal with any questions raised pursuant to Procedure Rule 13 not already dealt with during the relevant Committee reports.

10 **Special Urgency Decisions**

Decisions taken under Rule 16 (of the Constitution) Special Urgency – between July and September 2019.

There have been no such decisions in this period.

11 **Appointment of IRP Member** (*Pages 145 - 148*)

To consider a report of the Group Manager for Legal Services and Monitoring Officer seeking approval of the recommended appointment to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Members' Allowances in Mid Devon.

12 **GESP Member Reference Group**

To consider the appointment of an Independent Group Member to the GESP Member Reference Forum.

13 **Questions to Cabinet Members**

Cabinet Members will answer questions from Members on their Portfolios.

14 **Members Business**

To receive any statements made and notice of future questions by Members.

Note: the time allowed for this item is limited to 15 minutes.

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 Chairman. Any filming must be done as unobtrusively as possible from a single fixed position without the use of any additional lighting; focusing only on those actively participating in the meeting and having regard also to the wishes of any member of the public present who may not wish to be filmed. As a matter of courtesy, anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chairman or the Member Services Officer in attendance so that all those present may be made aware that is happening.

Members of the public may also use other forms of social media to report on proceedings at this meeting.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to discussion. Lift access to the first floor of the building is available from the main ground floor entrance. Toilet facilities, with wheelchair access, are also available. There is time set aside at the beginning of the meeting to allow the public to ask questions.

An induction loop operates to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter. If you require any further information, or

If you would like a copy of the Agenda in another format (for example in large print) please contact Sally Gabriel on:

Tel: 01884 234229

Fax:

E-Mail: sgabriel@middevon.gov.uk

Public Wi-Fi is available in all meeting rooms.

