

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

A **MEETING** of the **MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL** will be held remotely on Wednesday, 6 January 2021 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 is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 24 February 2021 at 6.00 pm]

STEPHEN WALFORD

Chief Executive

23 December 2020

Important - this meeting will be conducted and recorded by Zoom only. Please do not attend Phoenix House. The attached Protocol for Remote Meetings explains how this will work.

To join this meeting, please click the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/95816834394?pwd=am11Q251N2VKUXFuZnorMGFIZW8zdz09>

Meeting ID: 958 1683 4394

Passcode: 738422

One tap mobile

08000315717,,95816834394#,,,,,0#,,738422# United Kingdom Toll-free

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0 800 358 2817 United Kingdom Toll-free Meeting ID: 958 1683 4394

Passcode: 738422

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/acM5LxYYkz>

AGENDA

1 **Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 **Protocol for Remote Meetings** (*Pages 7 - 12*)

To note the Protocol for remote meetings.

3 **Public Question Time**

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

4 **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.

5 **Minutes** (*Pages 13 - 24*)

Members to consider whether to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting held on 28 October 2020.

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.

6 **Chairman's Announcements**

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

7 **Petitions**

To receive any petitions from members of the public.

8 **Notices of Motions**

(1) **Motion 565 – (Councillors: G Barnell and LD Taylor – 17 December 2020)**

The Council has before it a **MOTION** submitted for the first time:

This Council understands that an updated Business Case from 3RDL will be submitted to Cabinet in February or March. The recent financial information provided to members on the financial performance of the Company and, in particular, on the substantial losses arising from the development of the St George's Court site in Tiverton, do not give confidence that the Company has a future as a viable entity or that further investment of taxpayers money is warranted.

This Council agrees that members must have independent and expert advice on all the options open to the Council about the future of 3RDL and that this advice be made available to all members of the Council at the same time as the new business case is presented .

In order to inform the wider-decision making of the Council beyond the shareholder function performed by Cabinet, this Council, therefore, resolves to:-

1. Commission an independent appraisal of the Company's new business plan by a company or by individuals experienced in the business of speculative property development.

2. Commission an independent report on the options for the liquidation or winding up of the Company from a suitable professional entity experienced in such matters.
3. Ensure the presentation of the new 3RDL Business Case is made at the same time as the above reports both to the Council's Audit Committee and also to the Scrutiny Committee before the matter is subject to Cabinet consideration and decision

In accordance with Procedure Rule 14.4, the Chairman of the Council has decided to allow this motion (if moved and seconded) to be dealt with at this meeting.

(2) Motion 566 – (Councillors: G Barnell and S J Clist – 17 December 2020)

The Council has before it a **MOTION** submitted for the first time:

This Council agrees to commission, as a matter of urgency, a plan based on evidence of local housing need for the delivery of affordable rented and social rented housing across Mid Devon. This plan should make best use of the Government's Affordable Housing programme 2021/26 and be presented to Council by June 2021.

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.

(3) Motion 567 – (Councillors: J Wright and Miss E Wainwright, R Dolley and Mrs C P Daw – 18 December 2020)

The Council has before it a **MOTION** submitted for the first time:

This Council:

- Welcomes and appreciates the work that has gone in to developing our climate action plan so far, especially in the context of the Covid pandemic, which stretched capacity and resources.
- Welcomes the recruitment of a Climate and Sustainability Officer, to develop our work.
- Requests that once in place, the new Climate and Sustainability Specialist focuses on further development to our climate action plan, so that it shows the priority actions for the short, mid and longer term, covering the entire period to 2030 and beyond. Plans should outline the strategic actions we need to take to be on track to meet this target.
- Requests that officers explore opportunities to develop the Net Zero Advisory Group, so that it has more authority and responsibility for our climate strategy, and so that the public can access it (e.g. via agendas published online, and being able to

attend meetings).

- Requests that budget be created and ring-fenced for developing our climate work -- through a mixture of funding bids; income generation; prioritisation; partnerships; and 'spend to save' schemes.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 14.4, the Chairman of the Council has decided to allow this motion (if moved and seconded) to be dealt with at this meeting.

9 **Reports** (*Pages 25 - 164*)

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

(1) Cabinet

- 29 October 2020
- 3 December 2020

(2) Scrutiny Committee

- 9 November 2020
- 14 December 2020

(3) Audit Committee

- 17 November 2020

(4) Environment Policy Development Group

- 3 November 2020

(5) Homes Policy Development Group

- 10 November 2020

(6) Economy Policy Development Group

- 5 November 2020

(7) Community Policy Development Group

- 17 November 2020
- 8 December 2020

(8) Planning Committee

- 4 November 2020
- 13 November 2020
- 2 December 2020

10 **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.

11 **Special Urgency Decisions**

Decisions taken under Rule 16 (of the Constitution) Special Urgency – since the previous meeting.

There have been no such decisions in this period.

12 **Independent Remuneration Panel Report** *(Pages 165 - 186)*

To receive a report of the Head of Legal(Monitoring Officer) setting out the Independent Remuneration Panel's views for consideration by Council to set a Scheme of Allowances from 1 April 2021 until 31 March 2022.

13 **Outside Body Appointments**

To seek nominations and appoint:

- One Member of the Council to the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership Joint Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Richard Chesterton (the Terms of Reference state that this must not be a Cabinet member or a County Councillor). The Joint Scrutiny Committee will provide a strategic overview and scrutiny of the activities of the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).
- One Member of the Council to the Mid and East Devon Children's Centres Advisory Board to replace former Councillor Mrs Irene Hill who resigned in June 2020.

14 **Governance Working Group Update** *(Pages 187 - 188)*

To receive and consider a paper from the Chairman of the Working Group

15 **Questions to Cabinet Members**

Cabinet Members will answer questions from Members on their Portfolios.

16 **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.

Covid-19 and meetings

The Council will be holding some meetings in the next few weeks, but these will not be in person at Phoenix House until the Covid-19 crisis eases. Instead, the meetings will be held remotely via Zoom and you will be able to join these meetings via the internet. Please see the instructions on each agenda and read the Protocol on Remote Meetings before you join.

If you want to ask a question or speak, email your full name to Committee@middevon.gov.uk by **no later than 4pm on the day before the meeting**. This will ensure that your name is on the list to speak and will help us ensure that you are not missed – as you can imagine, it is easier to see and manage public speaking when everyone is physically present in the same room. Notification in this way will ensure the meeting runs as smoothly as possible.

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:

E-Mail: sgabriel@middevon.gov.uk