

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

A MEETING of the MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL will be held remotely on Wednesday, 24 February 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, 28 April 2021 at 6.00 pm]

STEPHEN WALFORD

Chief Executive

16 February 2021

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:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93791465294?pwd=ckI3TEFUVFNlUjB0IRMHpQWjVybUI2QT09>

Meeting ID: 937 9146 5294

Passcode: 874379

One tap mobile

08002605801,,93791465294#,,,,*874379# United Kingdom Toll-free

08003582817,,93791465294#,,,,*874379# United Kingdom Toll-free

Dial by your location

0 800 260 5801 United Kingdom Toll-free

0 800 358 2817 United Kingdom Toll-free

0 800 031 5717 United Kingdom Toll-free Meeting ID: 937 9146 5294

Passcode: 874379

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/adFee7N4QL>

AGENDA

1 Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 Protocol for Remote Meetings (Pages 9 - 14)

Members 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 15 - 26*)

Members to consider whether to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting held on 6 January 2021.

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 564 – (Councillors Miss E Wainwright and Miss J Norton)

The following motion (1-3 and 5-7) had been referred to the Standards Committee for consideration and report

Council resolves to:

1. Practice equality, fairness and inclusion, and to play its part in creating an equal society for all. There is no place for sexism, racism, bigotry, discrimination or intolerance of any form in our society.
2. Acknowledge that language is a powerful tool for change and inspiration, as well as ignorance, oppression and damaged relationships, and should be used thoughtfully and respectfully. Many people who do not have a voice in the public domain have to suffer the consequences of inaccurate or insulting language.
3. Review and, if needed, update member training, to equip all members with the language and tools needed to actively promote diversity and inclusivity.

5. Ask that the Chairs of the Equality Forum and Community PDG identify and discuss approaches to reaching hard-to-reach communities in Mid Devon.
6. Show leadership by creating a diversity and inclusion strategy, and seek input from residents and local organisations that have expertise, to ensure the council is inclusive towards diverse and hard-to-reach communities in its recruitment, member representation and service provision. As part of this, review and update the MDDC equalities policy.
7. Explore further opportunities to increase inclusivity, diversity and representation in Mid Devon District Council, including but not limited to amongst women, minority ethnic communities, young people, and carers.

(1) The Fawcett Society and Local Government Information Unit report, 'Does Local Government Work for Women?' found that structural and cultural barriers hold back women's participation in local government. The practices and protocols of local government create unnecessary barriers to participation particularly for women with caring responsibilities. <https://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/does-local-government-work-for-women-final-report-of-the-local-government-commission>

The Standards Committee at its meeting on 3 February 2021 considered the Motion and following discussion **RECOMMENDED** to Council

- a) Motion 564 (1-3 and 5-7) be supported; and
- b) In addition, that point (3) of the motion should include members and officers and the review should include all Council conventions and that in relation to point (5) the Equality Forum and the Community Policy Development Group should be consulted as a whole and not just the Chairs.

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

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

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.

The Cabinet at its meeting on 4 February 2021 considered the Motion and following discussion **RECOMMENDED** to Council that Motion 566 **not be supported** as the timeline proposed within the motion was not achievable, there were already strands of work taking place with a planned programme already set out.

(3) MOTION 568 - (COUNCILLOR A WILCE – 8 FEBRUARY 2021)

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

That, to prevent further ambiguity by making the wording more concise, this Council resolves to amend Rule 14.4 (Automatic reference to Committee) by removing the reference to '**Council**' and replace it with '**Chairman**' and to insert after 'report' '**unless an alternative proposition is put forward and is accepted**'

So as to read:

14.4 Automatic Reference to Committee

If the subject matter of any Motion, of which notice has been duly given, comes within the province of the Cabinet or any Committee or Committees it shall, upon being formally moved and seconded, shall stand referred, without the mover or seconder of the Motion speaking on the substance of the Motion and without any other discussion, to the Cabinet or such Committee or Committees, or to such other Committee or Committees as the **Chairman** may determine, for consideration and report, **unless an alternative proposition is put forward and is accepted**; and that the mover (or in his absence, the seconder) of the Motion should be invited to the Meeting of the Cabinet, Committee or Committees to amplify the Motion, but without any right to vote except as a Member of such Committee. Provided that the Chairman may, if he considers it convenient and conducive to the despatch of business allow the Motion to be dealt with at the meeting, at which it is brought forward.

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.

(4) MOTION 569 - (COUNCILLOR A WILCE – 8 FEBRUARY 2021)

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

That this Council resolves to ask the Standards Committee to review Rule 14.4 (Automatic Reference to Committee) and to recommend whether this Council should either:

- a) completely remove rule 14.4 or
- b) amend the rule to re-enable the Member putting a Motion forward, and the Member Seconding that Motion, to speak to that Motion (and for any further discussion to take place on that Motion that the Chairman may see fit), before that Motion shall stand referred to a Committee or
- c) make no changes

In accordance with Procedure Rule 14.4, the Chairman of the Council

has decided that this Motion (if moved and seconded) to be dealt with at this meeting.

(5) MOTION 570 - (COUNCILLOR A WILCE – 8 FEBRUARY 2021)

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

That, to improve local planning consultation processes and to regularise current Planning Committee practises, this Council resolves to amend Rule 27.5 as follows:

After (Appendix J to the Constitution), is inserted: in addition, the Chair will also permit the following to speak for no more than 3 minutes, without prior notice being required,

1 Adjacent Ward Members

2 Any Member having previously submitted a comment to that application that permission to speak being limited solely to the raising of material planning considerations relating to directly their Ward, or else to any relevant planning policy or plan appertaining to this Council.

So as to read:

27.5 Any Councillor may attend any meeting of a committee of the Council and may speak on any agenda item for that meeting. However, in relation to the Planning Committee, the right to speak on a planning application, enforcement item, or other report relating to a particular ward of the Council shall be limited to the rights of a Ward Member to speak as set out in paragraphs 9.2 and 9.3 of the Protocol of Good Practice for Councillors Dealing in Planning Matters (Appendix J to the Constitution); *in addition, the Chairman will also permit the following to speak for no more than 3 minutes, without prior notice being required:*

1 Adjacent Ward members

2 Any Member having previously submitted a comment to that Application that permission to speak being limited solely to the raising of material planning considerations relating to directly their Ward, or else to any relevant planning policy or plan appertaining to this Council.

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 Standards Committee unless there is an alternative proposition.

9 **Reports (a) (Pages 27 - 212)**

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

(1) Cabinet

- 7 January 2021
- 4 February 2021

- 18 February 2021 – to follow

10 **Council Tax Resolution 2021/2022** (*Pages 213 - 224*)

To consider a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (S151) setting out the formal Council Tax Resolution for 2021/22.

11 **Reports (b)** (*Pages 225 - 292*)

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

2) Scrutiny Committee

- 18 January 2021
- 15 February 2021 – to follow

3) Audit Committee

- 26 January 2021

4) Environment Policy Development Group

- 12 January 2021

5) Homes Policy Development Group

- 19 January 2021

6) Economy Policy Development Group

- 14 January 2021

7) Community Policy Development Group

- 26 January 2021

8) Planning Committee

- 13 January 2021
- 10 February 2021

9) Standards Committee

- 3 February 2021

12 **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.

13 **Leader's update to Council** (Pages 293 - 322)

The Leader will address the Council.

14 **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.

15 **Governance Working Group Update** (Pages 323 - 324)

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

16 **Questions to Cabinet Members**

Cabinet Members will answer questions from Members on their Portfolios.

17 **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