

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **COMMUNITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP** held on 16 November 2021 at 2.15 pm

Present Councillors

Mrs C Collis, W Burke, L J Cruwys, J M Downes, B Holdman, S Pugh and Mrs E J Slade

Apologies Councillors

Mrs E M Andrews

Also Present Councillors

Mrs M E Squires, Mrs C P Daw, R M Deed, R Evans, D J Knowles and B G J Warren

Present Officers:

Richard Marsh (Director of Place), Jill May (Director of Business Improvement and Operations), Paul Deal (Corporate Manager for Finance), Lisa Lewis (Corporate Manager for Business Transformation and Customer Engagement), Simon Newcombe (Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing), Lee Chester (Leisure Manager), Clare Robathan (Policy and Research Officer) and Carole Oliphant (Member Services Officer)

25 **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (0.04.49)**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs E M Andrews and Mrs M E Squires attended remotely. The Vice Chairman was in the Chair.

26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT (0.05.14)**

Members were reminded of the need to make declarations where appropriate.

27 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (0.05.37)**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st September 2021 were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Chairman.

28 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (0.05.59)**

There were no members of the public present.

29 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (0.06.29)**

The Vice Chairman reminded Members of the special meeting being held on Monday 20th December to agree the recommendations from the Strategic Grants Working Group.

30 **CUSTOMER CARE POLICY (0.07.09)**

The Group had before it a *report from the Corporate Manager for Digital Transformation and Customer Engagement presenting the revised Customer Care Policy and Standards.

The officer explained that there were no significant changes to the policy and that the standards had been presented in a separate document.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Cabinet that revised Customer Care Policy and Standards be approved.

(Proposed by Cllr L J Cruwys and seconded by Cllr B Holdman)

Reason for the decision: The Policy underpinned the core values of Mid Devon District Council, as stated in the Corporate Plan around People, Performance, Pride and Partnership.

Note: *Report previously circulated and attached to the minutes.

31 **AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN (0.09.05)**

The Group had before it a *report from the Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing providing the revised corporate Air Quality Action Plan following a recent completion of external and public consultation.

The officer explained that this was a full review and revision of the existing plan and that the PDG had agreed the process for internal and external consultation in March 2021. There were 25 new or updated measures being proposed which included traffic management and electric vehicle charging.

Consideration was given to:

- The report looked at where all air pollution was coming from and had identified that in Crediton and Cullompton transport was the largest contributor
- The health costs stated were the national figure
- The low response from the public consultation although it had been advertised on the website, through the Parish Councils and placed in the local newspapers
- The cost figures stated for the Cullompton distributor road were from the March report and would be investigated to see if there had been any movement and updated accordingly

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to recommend that the Cabinet:

1. That the updated Air Quality Actions Plan attached in Annex 1 be adopted;
2. That the details and timelines for the adoption of the updated Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document via the Planning Policy Development Group as set out in section 5.3 of the report be **NOTED**

(Proposed by Cllr W Burke and seconded by Cllr B Holdman)

Reason for the decision: The adoption and implementation of an Air Quality Action Plan (where an authority has designated one or more Air Quality Management Area's) is a statutory requirement

Note: *report previously circulated and attached to the minutes

32 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP WORKING GROUP (0.23.09)**

The Group had before it a *report from the Community Safety Working Group presenting its recommendations.

The Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing explained that the working group had been formed due to Members concerns regarding sexual violence against women and that the working group had subsequently looked at the wider priorities of the Community Safety Partnership.

Consideration was given to:

- The Council did liaise with the Police through the Community Safety Partnership
- The Police and Crime Commissioner had recently updated her Police and Crime Plan which put domestic violence at the forefront of policing
- The Tiverton Police Desk was due to be opened imminently
- Tiverton High School students had been looking at domestic violence

It was therefore **AGREED:**

1. That members have the opportunity to complete the Mental Health First Aid Training in order to enhance and support their community liaison role within communities
2. That members have the opportunity to receive a regular Community Safety Partnership (CSP) quarterly updates to assist them keep abreast of current CSP themes, projects and achievements.
3. Officers to provide members with a briefing on Modern Slavery with a local flavour by March 2022
4. Members agreed that that officers review Mid Devon District Council becoming a 'Trauma Informed Council' and potentially adopt a trauma informed approach to future service delivery, which may be based on the Plymouth Trauma Informed City model or other examples and provide a subsequent paper for members to review at its January meeting

(Proposed by Cllr C Collis and seconded by Cllr B Holdman)

Reason for the decision: If the Council does not engage with the Community Safety Partnership there is a risk of failing to meet statutory duties

Note: *report previously circulated and attached to the minutes

33 **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN - GENERAL FUN (GF), HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME (0.36.46)**

The Group had before it, and **NOTED**, the *Medium Term Financial Plan from the Deputy Chief Executive (S151) which covered the period 2022/2023-2026/2027 and provided options available in order for the Council to set a balanced budget.

The Corporate Manager for Financial Services reported the following headlines from the recent Chancellors budget:

- There would be a 3.8% increase in departmental spending but there were be competing demands on this.
- Current Referendum Limits would be retained at 2% or £5.
- A number of changes to Business Rate Reliefs were highlighted but due to current legislation the Council was unable to benefit from them as it was prevented from claiming relief on its own property.
- The Chancellors budget covered three years but there was no indication as to whether the settlement for local Government covered three years or one year.
- Public sector pay would no longer be frozen.

The Corporate Manager for Financial Services explained that the Council was currently looking at a budget shortfall of £1.06m in the next financial year and he asked Members for their feedback on the proposals in front of them and any new options that the committee felt that Cabinet should be exploring.

The PDG **AGREED** to revisit the draft budget at the special meeting on 20th December when Members would have investigated the figures fully and would bring forward suggestions for amendments.

Note: *Plan previously circulated and attached to the minutes

34 **ACCESS TO INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (0.49.18)**

The Vice Chairman indicated that discussion with regard to the next item, may require the Policy Development Group to pass the following resolution to exclude the press and public having reflected on Article 12 12.02(d) (a presumption in favour of openness) of the Constitution. This decision may be required because consideration of this matter in public may disclose information falling within one of the descriptions of exempt information in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The Policy Development Group would need to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption, outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the next item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 respectively of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

(Proposed by the Chairman)

35 **LEISURE PRICING REVIEW - 2022-2023 (0.51.16)**

Members discussed the Pricing Review and:

RESOLVED to delegate the decision on fees and charges for Leisure Services to the Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

36 **WORK PLAN (0.52.32)**

The Group had before it, and **NOTED**, the *Work Plan

Members discussed the Vulnerability Policy Proposal Form and **AGREED** for officers to develop a policy and bring this back to the Community Policy Development Group for approval.

(Proposed by Cllr L J Cruwys and seconded by Cllr B Holdman)

Note: *Work Plan previously circulated and attached to the minutes

(The meeting ended at 3.39 pm)

CHAIRMAN