

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held on 17 October 2022 at 2.15 pm

Present

Councillors

S J Clist (Chairman)
G Barnell, L J Cruwys, Mrs S Griggs,
P J Heal, F W Letch, S Pugh, R F Radford
and Mrs E J Slade

Also Present

Councillor(s)

J Buczkowski, Mrs C P Daw, R M Deed and B G J Warren

Also Present

Officer(s):

Richard Marsh (Director of Place), Jill May (Director of Business Improvement and Operations), Maria De Leburne (Interim Monitoring Officer), Lisa Lewis (Corporate Manager for Business Transformation and Customer Engagement), Angharad Williams (Development Management Manager), Joanna Williams (Planning Obligations Monitoring Officer), Clare Robathan (Policy and Research Officer) and Carole Oliphant (Member Services Officer)

34 **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (0.03.53)**

There were no apologies or substitute Members.

Cllrs Mrs E J Lloyd and A Wilce attended virtually.

35 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT (0.04.56)**

Members were reminded of the need to make declarations where appropriate

36 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (0.05.14)**

There were no questions from members of the public present.

37 **MINUTES (0.05.34)**

The minutes of the meetings held on 25th July 2022 and 21st September 2022 were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Chairman.

38 **DECISIONS OF THE CABINET (0.12.06)**

The Committee **NOTED** that none of the decisions made by the Cabinet on 4th October 2022 had been called in.

39 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (0.12.20)**

The Chairman announced that the Policy and Research Officer was leaving the authority and this was her last meeting. A replacement officer would be advised in due course but Members should be aware that there was not currently a resource to continue with any outstanding items.

Members gave a vote of thanks to the officer for her work in assisting the Scrutiny Committee.

40 **ANNUAL REPORT OF COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS (0.13.25)**

The Committee had before it, and **NOTED**, a *report from the Corporate Manager for Business Transformation and Community Engagement providing the Annual Report on Compliments, Comments and Complaints.

The officer outlined the contents of the report and highlighted that there had been an increase in the number of complaints received which was due in part to resourcing and capacity issues.

Consideration was given to:

- There has been a change in the recording of housing complaints
- More detail would be provided on homelessness, housing repairs and tenant issue complaints
- More detail would be provided on complaints raised by Members
- An update would be provided at the January meeting
- A Project Officer had been recruited which would enable greater analysis of the complaints data
- Officers would provide more frequent reporting and analysis via Continuous Improvement

Note: *report previously circulated and attached to the minutes

41 **S106 AGREEMENTS (0.31.25)**

The Committee had before it, and **NOTED**, a *report from the Development Management Manager on the process for formulating S106 agreements for major developments.

The officer outlined the contents of the report and highlighted that the process was a legislative one and had to meet the statutory tests for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations 122.

Consideration was given to:

- The Governments White Paper 'Planning for the Future' dated August 2020 had yet to be brought into legislation
- There were certain criteria which triggered the requirement for the S106 Board to meet which included over £10k in unallocated monies or competing demand over unallocated monies

- S106 Governance was due to be reviewed and a report will be presented to Cabinet early next year
- There were opportunities to enhance the process with strategic development opportunities and engagement with statutory consultees
- Allocated monies stayed within the local area to the development apart from district wide pots such as affordable housing allocations
- A members expressed a view that scrutiny of S106 agreements before decisions being made should be the remit of the Planning Committee
- It was not unusual for unallocated S106 monies to remain unspent but the Authority worked proactively with communities to ensure they were utilised to the benefit of those communities and that the Council was pro-active in ensuring monies collated were spent on appropriate infrastructure
- The Authority had a published Infrastructure Plan

Note: *report previously circulated and attached to the minutes

42 **DOES LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORK FOR WOMEN - UPDATE (1.25.21)**

The Committee had before it, and **NOTED**, a *report from the Interim Monitoring Officer providing an update with the recommendations made from the spotlight review 'Does Local Government Work for Women'.

The Policy and Research Officer outlined the contents of the report and highlighted that most of the recommendations would be picked up by the Equality Forum.

Consideration was given to:

- The recommendations were a work in progress and more work was required to reach out to potential future councillors
- A new Member induction programme was being worked on with input from previous Members
- Ultimately it was down to the electorate who they voted onto the Council

Note: *report previously circulated and attached to the minutes

43 **WORK PROGRAMME (1.49.26)**

The Committee had before it, and **NOTED** the *Forward Plan and the *Scrutiny Work Plan.

The Policy and Research Officer gave the following updates:

- A Spotlight Review into Participatory Budgeting would be conducted in November
- A visit to an out of district Anaerobic Digester was being arranged and engagement from East Devon District Council was being sought

The following were proposed as possible future work streams:

- Impact of the cost of living crisis on constituents

- Role for Parish Council's in the Planning Process

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

(The meeting ended at 4.10 pm)

CHAIRMAN