

**MINUTES** of a **MEETING** of the **CABINET** held on 2 April 2024 at 5.15 pm

**Present**

**Councillors**

L Taylor (Leader)  
S J Clist, J Lock, N Bradshaw,  
J Buczkowski, S Keable and D Wulff

**Apologies**

**Councillor(s)**

J Wright

**Also Present**

**Councillor(s)**

D Broom, E Buczkowski, G Cochran, A Cuddy, G  
Duchesne, C Harrower, L Knight

**Also Present**

**Officer(s):**

Andrew Jarrett (Deputy Chief Executive (S151)), Maria De  
Leiburne (Director of Legal, HR & Governance (Monitoring  
Officer), Richard Marsh (Director of Place & Economy),  
Matthew Page (Corporate Manager for People,  
Governance and Waste), Simon Newcombe (Corporate  
Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing), Dean  
Emery (Corporate Manager for Revenues, Benefits and  
Recovery)(online), Dr Stephen Carr (Corporate  
Performance and Improvement Manager)(Online), Jason  
Ball (Climate and Sustainability Specialist), Tristan Peat  
(Forward Planning Team Leader)(online), Laura Woon  
(Democratic Service Manager) David Parker ((Democratic  
Services & Policy Research Officer)

**Councillors  
Online**

P J Colthorpe, L Cruwys, G Czapiewski, A Glover, F Letch

**130. APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Cllr J Wright.

**131. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**Nick Quinn**

The Appendix 2 - Corporate Risk Register shows a number of risks. I wish to ask questions about two of these:

**CR9** (*Delivery of the 3 Rivers Closedown Plan*) - The accompanying text states that the Banksia Close property is being purchased by the Council and that the Haddon Heights Development, at Bampton, will complete in February 2024. It also states that marketing of the remaining five units continues and is now likely to extend past 31 March 2024.

**Question 1:**

Has the purchase of the Banksia Close property been completed?

**Response from Cabinet Member for Finance:**

Yes.

**Question 2:**

Has the Haddon Heights Development been completed?

**Response from Cabinet Member for Finance:**

Yes, with the final landscaping taking place when weather allows.

**Question 3:**

Were the five unsold units transferred to the Council by 31 March 2024?

**Response from Cabinet Member for Finance:**

Yes.

**Question 3(a):**

Will the Council continue to actively market these units, for sale, itself?

**Response from Cabinet Member for Finance:**

No – they will continue to be marketed by the current estate agents.

**CR9a** (*Reputational Impact of 3 Rivers*) - The accompanying text states that the reputational risk is mainly down to unhelpful and inaccurate statements being made about the Company and the consequential impact on the Council.

**Question 4:**

Does the Cabinet consider that the lack of proper information being provided by the Council, about the Company and its situation, may have contributed to such speculation?

**Response from Cabinet Member for Finance:**

This administration has been open and transparent with all elected members at all times, elected members that represent their community, at a level not seen with previous administrations; external reports and professional advice has been shared, along with updates and progress. As much of this as possible has been put into the public domain, but to protect the Councils financial interest, and in turn our residents interests, some of this information has been withheld from public domain.

**Question 5:**

Even though there has been a considerable loss of public money, is the Council hoping that the final closure of the Company will, by itself, restore the reputation of the Council?

**Response from Cabinet Member for Finance:**

Reputation is very much earned and while the final closure of the company in its self may not restore some of the confidence lost by previous administrations, the fact that this administration has done what it said would, i.e. not invest in further projects, seek professional advice, and close the company with the best possible return for the Tax Payer, in a timely and professional way to limit any further exposure, clearly demonstrates the integrity of the Leader and his cabinet, and in turn will further reinforce the trust our residents have in this Liberal Democrat Administration and support the restoration of this council's reputation under our stewardship.

**Paul Elstone**

This administration has repeatedly stated that it will be more open and transparent. However, it is noted that the results of the Residents Survey have been manipulated. This so as not to reflect the seriously worsening position related to this Council and its Councillor's lack of trust.

See sections 2.6 thru 2.8.

Yet a further example of why resident trust is increasingly eroding under this administration. What the published survey results don't show is:

That the trust in this Council has dropped from 50% to 40% over the last 12 months  
That the trust in Councillors has dropped from 55% to 49% over the same period.

Seven (7) of those months when this administration has been in control and despite what this administration would perhaps like to argue against or even politicise.

**Question 1:**

Will the Council Leader ensure the Residents Survey is re-issued with all information, this including last year's reference data fully revealing this deteriorating level of trust?

Why is public trust in this Council and its Councillors in rapid decline and something that has become very much worse over the last few months?

Some examples.

- The attempted full-frontal assault in preventing or suppressing the public from asking questions or making statements at committee meetings.
- As statement by the Scrutiny Committee Chair no less. One which they would not retract, about "*cooking the books*" related to 3 Rivers financial losses. A statement I and others fully support, this as more information becomes available.
- A virtual complete lack of appropriate Statutory Officer oversight in regards to 3 Rivers. This has recently identified by the Grant Thornton Audit.
- A complete failure to hold those primarily responsible for the gross 3 Rivers failings to account and by any measure. In fact, all too frequently singing their praises.
- The apparent cover up culture that seems to pervade this Council, and with irrefutable evidence available.

- Awarding Statutory Officers extortionate pay awards based on increased role responsibilities when there is good evidence to show these officers failed in exercising their previous roles. Even a dereliction of duty it's believed.
- The back pedalling on the Committee System.
- The hypocritical approach to proportional representation. The Lib Dems holding all committee chair's including Scrutiny. Having all seats on external committees. Making up 100% of Cabinet. This despite having only 48% of the electoral vote.
- There are others.

## **Question 2**

A fundamental Sigma 6 continuous improvement principle is Stakeholder Engagement, something the Leader will know full well. Will the Council Leader fully consider calling a public stakeholder meeting this to get everything into the open, to clear the air?

### **Supplementary Question:**

You have the full opportunity come May to realign some of the committees, particularly Scrutiny where it has previously been suggest your marking your own homework. Would you give full consideration to at least Scrutiny and perhaps adding an opposition to Cabinet.

### **Response from the Leader of the Council:**

There are always things taken into consideration and will be discussed.

### **Leader of the Council made a comment:**

The public trust is an important part of the Council and the results in May last year were 48%. Were in a First Past the Post (FPTP) not in proportional representation. I would prefer a proportional representation unfortunately we are not in that system and Mid Devon District Council does not have the ability legally to change this. I will always be an advocate and campaigner for proportional representation.

### **Barry Warren**

In the 'Risk Description' it says "A decision has now been made to soft close the company, so the remaining reputational risks are that public debate in future inadvertently damages the value of assets by hindering the remaining sales."

### **Question 1:**

Do Cabinet consider that just closing the company will stop any debate about the reputation of the council when perfectly proper questions have been asked - but not answered openly and honestly, over a considerable time?

### **Question 2:**

Do Cabinet consider that the closure of the company will reinstate the reputation of the council given the history of the setup of 3 Rivers and taking four years and a new administration to finally get senior officers to commission reports from external agencies which resulted in some 33 recommendations being made for improvement?

### **Question 3:**

Public money has been, and is being, used to cover the losses on 3 Rivers. This means the projects the money would have been spent on, will be delayed or lost completely. Are Cabinet expecting the public to ignore what has happened and forget about it whilst those losses are made good?

**Question 4:**

St. George's Court will still have the potential to cause problems, even under HRA Management, and there will be knock on effects with regard to the handling of Post Hill, Knowle Lane and other sites taken on from 3 Rivers. If accurate and complete information is not made available regarding these sites, and members of the public have to repeatedly ask questions to try and get the truth, this will continue to damage the reputation of the council. What are Cabinet putting in place to ensure that this does not happen?

**Question 5:**

The notes state: "Any remaining reputational influences relate predominantly to external instigators who may choose to oppose the council activity or policy direction" Was the attempted introduction of restrictions on public speaking into the Constitution an indication that the Chief Executive would like to prevent or restrict public involvement?

**Question 6:**

There is little doubt that harm has been caused to the reputation of the Council as evidenced in the recent public survey. What are the Cabinet doing to ensure that those hard working officers who are providing excellent day to day service in regards to refuse collection, recycling, Customer First and Leisure Services, to name but a few, are not demoralised by the shortcomings within senior management?

**Gwen Duchesne**

**Question**

I'd like to ask a question about Devon County Council application DCC/4358/2023 for landfill at Greenway, Halberton.

I recognise MDDC is a consultee along with many others for this application I know MDDC will not be determining the application that responsibility lies with Devon County Council.

If this application is approved by DCC it will permit 6 metre-long vehicles to travel through Sampford Peverell, Halberton, Uplowman and Braid Park every 15 minutes from 8 am to 5 pm, 5.5 days a week. These vehicles are huge, and will be laden with aggregate brought from all over and outside of the county. They will be bruising the kerbs and battering the newly built roads along Enterprise Avenue, we already see it happening. They will be brushing past the newly opened play area for the little children there; they will push through nearby busy lanes. They will be fighting with buses and tractors along the recently narrowed roads around Sampford Peverell, at Uplowman Cross and through the priority signage at Halberton. The whole area will be under siege with our roads, verges and hedgerows as collateral damage.

Children's access to fresh air and exercise will be cancelled, adults will be similarly affected, cycling and walking will stop and only the bravest would entertain walking the route. Our beautiful bit of countryside will be turned into an industrial landscape. Indeed we are being industrialised and there is no upside. There will be no amenity here.

The above is a distillation of the many comments I have received from affected parties. It reflects the sadness and despair along with, it has to be said, and a fair amount of anger that this application has given rise to. Greed, not need is a common refrain. I haven't even touched upon other aspects of this application that give rise for concern or even the potential this application might have on the future development of Junction 27 and economic prosperity that might flow from it.

I am grateful for the work that so many MDDC councillors and officers have put into the updated consultation response to reflect legitimate concerns. I appreciate the limits of our power.

Devon County Council will determine the application. I can only hope that Devon County Council will view and give weight to the many comments and concerns that have been raised some of which have been reflected here today.

**Question 1:**

Can I be assured that MDDCs response to DCC is as robust as it can be, that it reflects the views of residents and the potential detrimental impact on the communities affected.

**Response from Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration:**

You are quite right that this is an application which is with Devon County Council for determination, rather than Mid Devon. I appreciate that this might be confusing for some residents who are used to seeing us, at Mid Devon, determine planning applications, but this application is with Devon because it relates to a Waste use - and they (Devon) are the Authority responsible for planning matters relating to Waste and Minerals.

However, it should not be confusing for seasoned politicians who, as I understand have been distributing deliberately misleading and wrong information calculated to alarm local residents. Attention should focus upon the Conservative administration at County Hall and the local Conservative County Councillor as it is they who will determine this planning application.

In these circumstances we, Mid Devon as the Local Planning Authority (LPA) are, as you suggest Cllr DuChesne, simply a consultee in relation to the application and are invited to make a consultation response to it.

In terms of the points and concerns you raise; I personally recognise and understand the fears you raise on behalf of your residents. However, you will appreciate that the officers representing the LPA are necessarily required to provide technical responses which are based wholly upon material planning considerations, are objective and focused within their areas of expertise or within the areas of expertise of other council employees who support Planning in preparing these consultation responses.

I have seen the response that has been issued by officers on behalf of the Mid Devon LPA and believe that our officers have put forwards a robust and thorough consultation response in response to the application - notably objecting to the application and querying issues and information relating to key issues such as air quality and the proposed use of this site within the context of DCC's adopted Waste Plan. They have also asked that DCC take full account of the many comprehensive and detailed responses provided by our residents in response to this application.

Clearly we, as elected members, are also able to continue to voice our views and opinions in relation to this application and continue to encourage our residents to do likewise. The best way to do this is by responding to DCC's consultation on the application and I would encourage those who wish to have their say to do so by lodging their own comments with DCC so that these can be fully considered through the determination process by Devon County Council.

### 132. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

No interests were declared under this item. Members were reminded of the need to make declarations of interest where appropriate.

### 133. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING ON 5 MARCH 2024**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were approved as a correct record and SIGNED by the Leader.

### 134. **SILVERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cabinet had before it a report \* from the Director of Place and Economy on the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration outlined the contents of the report with Particular reference to the following:

- The Silverton Neighbourhood Plan was subject to a local referendum held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024, at which persons eligible to vote in the neighbourhood plan area (Silverton Parish) were asked the following question: *“Do you want Mid Devon District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Silverton to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”*
- The result of the referendum was as follows: Number cast in favour of a yes recorded vote 459, number cast in favour of a no recorded vote 37, number of spoilt ballot papers recorded was 11. The total number of votes cast 507
- Since 90.53 % of voters who voted are in favour of the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan the plan had become part of the statutory development plan for the area. It had attained the same legal status as a local plan (and other documents that form part of the statutory development plan).
- Applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Policies of the Neighbourhood Plan would be used alongside policies in the adopted Mid Devon Local Plan, and the Devon Minerals and Waste Plans, to help guide planning applications submitted to the Council for determination in the Silverton area and the decisions made on those.
- The Council must now formally adopt the Plan as soon as reasonably practicable after the referendum was held, and not later than 8 weeks from that date.
- The Council may refuse to make the Plan if it considers that making it would be a breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any remaining EU obligations or any human rights obligations. Council officers hold the view that the making of the Plan would not breach these obligations (as set out within

the Council's Decision Statement). The Council must decide whether to make, or refuse to make, the Plan.

- There is no opportunity at this stage to seek to amend the contents of the plan or make further representations to it.
- The Silverton Neighbourhood Plan was the fourth neighbourhood plan to pass a local referendum and come into force as part of the statutory development plan in Mid Devon, and there are three other Neighbourhood Plans (for Willand, Newton St Cyres and Lapford) that are also currently been prepared by their local communities. The Council encourages local communities to prepare neighbourhood plans that would help them have a greater say in the future planning of their local areas.

**RESOLVED** that:

That Cabinet **RECOMMENDS** to Council that:

1. The Silverton Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix 1) is 'made' (adopted) and brought into force as part of the statutory development plan for the Silverton area:
2. The Silverton Neighbourhood Plan Adoption Decision Statement (Appendix)
3. Is published to meet the publicity requirements in the Regulations.

(Proposed by Cllr S Keable and seconded by Cllr S Clist)

Note: \* Report previously circulated.

Reason for Decision:

There is a need for the Council to 'make' (adopt) the Silverton Neighbourhood Plan, following its local referendum, under Section 38A (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and to publish a statement setting out the decision and the reasons for making this decision under the Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

### 135. **THE COUNCIL'S STATUTORY DUTY TOWARDS BIO DIVERSITY AND NATURE**

Cabinet received, and **NOTED** a verbal update on the Council Statutory Duty towards Bio Diversity and Nature.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change made particular reference to the following:

- First consideration went to Cabinet in January.
- The Council Statutory duty towards Bio diversity and Nature has been presented to the Policy Development Groups (PDGs) and Planning Policy Development Group for everyone to beware.
- The planting of trees, working on wildlife and green spaces, river and seas motion to Scrutiny, water quality and nature.
- Great ideas from the State of District debate and this would feed into the consideration of performance towards Biodiversity.
- For all members to bring forward their ideas.

The Climate and Sustainability Specialist made particular reference to the following:



- The engagement through the PDGs and thanked Members for the feedback.
- The Government had asked for an action plan every five years to report back.
- The action plan would be created following the feedback from the PDGs for example promoting the good things that are already happening and sustainable farming and local food systems.
- Engagement with tenants regarding this issue needed to continue and be progressed. Other ideas included awareness training and improving access to the green areas when developing housing estates.
- The planting of community orchards and how this had already been a success.

Discussions took place regarding:

- The idea of planting a tree for each baby born in Mid Devon, including stillborn babies as there was a similar scheme in Somerset.

### 136. RESIDENTS SURVEY

Cabinet had before it and **NOTED** a report \* from the Deputy Chief Executive (S151) Officers on the residents survey.

The Leader of the Council outlined the contents of the report with particular reference to the following:

- There was no significant change to the resident survey.
- The 43% trusted their local Council to make decisions about local services, compared to 2% trust for the Government.
- Percentage of residents that think the media has viewed local Councils positively in the last few months.

The Deputy Chief Executive (S151) Officer outlined in the report with particular reference to the following:

- The Council conducted a combined residents' and budget setting survey in November/December 2023.
- Many of the responses, and those for the LG Inform survey, had seen a deterioration in their scores/feedback, which may of had some bearing on the national challenges that had been faced currently.
- Resident feedback enables the Council to focus on the key concerns/messages, whilst also providing an important baseline, which can be utilise in order to measure feedback against in future years and assess the direction of travel.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The disappointment in the amount of respondents to this year survey.
- To engage more with the residents of the Council.
- The responses in regards to climate change and the wording around fairly or very important.
- Details of the percentages to see where improvements could be made.

- Mid Devon households pay on average £225.40 in Council Tax per year (£4.32 per week) in 2023/24 to the Council.

Note: \* Report previously circulated.

### 137. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

Cabinet had before it and **NOTED** a report \* from the Corporate Manager for People, Governance & Waste and Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager on the Corporate Performance Plan.

The Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager on the Corporate Performance Plan outlined the contents of the report with Particular reference to the following:

- Appendices 1-5 provided Members with details of performance against the Corporate Plan and local service targets for quarter 3, financial year 2023/24. This spans the period October 2023 to December 2023.
- The Corporate Plan had four themes: Homes, Environment, Economy, and Community. Climate Change is a cross cutting theme of the Plan. Alongside the performance reported of the Corporate Plan, the Council presented performance information on a wide range of corporate performance indicators, these are detailed in Appendix 5.

Note: \* Report previously circulated.

### 138. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD

Cabinet had before it and **NOTED** a presentation \* from the Corporate Manager for People, Governance & Waste and Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager on the Corporate Performance Plan.

The Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager on the Corporate Performance Plan outlined the contents of the presentation with particular reference to the following:

- The dashboard at a glance provided an overall annual target as a pie chart.
- The performance measures and finance measures were highlighted and the RAG rating of the red, amber and green.

Discussions took place regarding:

- The agency spend versus budget and if there was a budget for the agency or if the Council was £53k above it.
- Council tax on the report was amber and an update as of today for last year for 97.5% and business rates at 99.4% and a fantastic results.

### 139. CORPORATE RISK REPORT

Cabinet had before it and **NOTED** \*report from the Corporate Manager for People, Governance & Waste and Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager on the Corporate Performance Dashboard.

The Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager outlined the contents of the report with particular reference to the following:

- The Corporate Risk Register contains the strategic risks which are most likely to impact the corporate priorities of the Council.
- It would be reviewed at least quarterly by Corporate Managers and the Leadership Team and updated as required. It is then presented to the Audit committee and to Cabinet. Risks are managed on the council's corporate performance and risk management system, SPAR.
- The corporate risks are presented on a risk matrix (heat map), Appendix 1. Information on each risk is presented in a standard template, Appendix 2.

Discussions took place regarding:

- The current risk on CR10 Cullompton Town centre relief road and CR1b Cullompton Garden Village – Delay/ impact to project arising from infrastructure delays as these would impact one another and the scoring is different.
- CR2 the cyber security risk rating level at high and the likelihood that a cyber-attack could happen. What is being done to support a cyber-attack with these sorts of threats?
- The processes of risk, the Council would identify a risk, accessing the severity and likelihood then the rating, it would be helpful if the mitigation could be included in the future reporting.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. Cabinet Members review the Corporate Risk Register and feedback any areas of concern.

#### 140. **NEW CORPORATE PLAN**

Cabinet had before it and **NOTED**, a verbal update from the Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager on the new Corporate Plan.

The Leader of the Council outlined the contents of the update with Particular reference to the following:

- The current Corporate plan is from the previously administration.
- The new Corporate Plan will be presented to Council and set an ambitious manifesto to deliver and put into practice.
- The closure of 3 rivers and would like to progress further than the targets set.
- The current administration has worked with members of the Council and the PDGs on the Corporate Plan.

The Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager outlined the contents of the update with Particular reference to the following:

- The aims of the new the Corporate Plan and a draft will be presented to Cabinet in June and based on five Thematic Areas as follows:  
Planning, Environment & Sustainability;

Community, People & Equalities;  
Homes;  
Economy & Assets;  
Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement

- The recent Standards Committee agreed to take a report to Council for the Proposed Changes to PDGs to align with the thematic areas.
- This Council moves to a more robust implementation of the Hybrid system, utilising the PDGs and the Programming Panel to better develop policy and set strategic direction.
- Members will work closely to set out the draft thematic areas to align with the policy development group.

#### 141. **SINGLE EQUALITIES POLICY AND EQUALITY OBJECTIVE**

Cabinet had before it a report\* from the Corporate Manager for People, Governance & Waste and Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager on the Single Equalities Policy and Equality Objective.

The Cabinet Member for Working Environment outlined the contents of the report with Particular reference to the following:

- To provide Members with an update on action taken to help meet the Council's statutory duties under the Equality Act (2010).
- A change to our approach to Equality Objectives from 2024/25 is proposed to make them more specific and measurable whilst retaining the ambitious outcomes we wish to deliver.
- The Equality Objectives for 2024/25 are arranged by six themes, and proposed measurement is provided in parentheses. They have been discussed by the Equality Diversity Inclusion Group.

**RESOLVED** that:

Cabinet **APPROVED** the Single Equality Scheme together with the Equality Objectives for 2024/25.

Proposed by Cllr J Lock and seconded by Cllr S Keable)

**Reason for Decision:**

Approving the Single Equality Scheme and Equality Objectives helps to ensure the council meets its legal responsibilities in relation to the Equality Act (2010).

#### 142. **REPORT OF THE CAR PARKING WORKING GROUP**

Cabinet had before it a report \* from the Environment and Enforcement Manager and the Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste providing recommendations from the Parking Consultation Working Group.

The Cabinet Member for Finance outlined the contents of the report with Particular reference to the following:

- These are the first proposals put forward to the Cabinet for ratification by the recently formed Car Parking Consultation Group.
- The Working Group was made up of town, business and community representatives and the purpose was to ensure that future parking and permit tariffs and issues had the input of local people and leaders before they are considered by members.
- It was led by Cllr Guy Cochran and had the assistance of both Luke Howard, Environment Enforcement Manager and Matthew Page, Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste,
- The first two sets of proposals are for a new three hour tariff to be introduced in our long stay car parks to encourage residents and visitors to be able to spend longer in our District and Town Centres.
- The second is for five free Car Parking Saturdays to be agreed in the build up to Christmas 2024 so local communities and businesses can plan ahead accordingly for this important time of year.
- The Economy PDG have carefully considered these proposals and are very happy to send them to Cabinet for ratification this evening. You will see from the report that a wide set of terms of reference have been established and I look forward to bringing future recommendations from the group forwards over the coming months.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. For Cabinet to **APPROVE** the proposed tariff changes that have come from the Car Parking Consultation Working Group and been recommended for approval by Economy PDG for ratification.
2. For Cabinet to **APPROVE** five free Saturdays for parking at the Multi Storey car park, Tiverton, High Street (St Saviours), Crediton and Station Road, Cullompton in the lead up to Christmas 2024.

(Proposed by Cllr J Buczkowski and seconded by Cllr S Keable)

**Reason for the Decision:**

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 regulates how changes can be implemented. Any decisions need to have consideration for this act and requirements for amendments.

**143. THE DEVON SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY**

Cabinet had before it a report \* from the Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing on the Devon Serious Violence Strategy.

The Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure outlined the contents of the report with Particular reference to the following:

- The Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy was a new strategy which outlined the Safer Devon Partnership's framework for preventing and reducing serious violence in Devon.
- It was grounded in a public health response to violence which was recognised that addressing the root causes of violence is crucial for prevention. It outlined the overall vision, priorities and intended impacts for work to prevent violence.

A delivery plan exploring work towards these priorities and its impacts would accompany the strategy and provide details about specific actions and activities.

- This Preventing Serious Violence Strategy outlines our collective ambition for keeping people, families and communities in Devon safe from the risk and experience of violence.”
- Here, violence is defined as “the intentional use of physical, sexual or psychological force or power (including threats of violence, and including coercive and controlling behaviour).”
- Work was completed last year through the Safer Devon Partnership to commission the Special Needs Assessment and agreed five core strategy components: Overall vision, Definition of violence, Priorities and intended impacts for work to prevent violence, Focus areas, and Principles and timeline for a delivery plan.
- These components were agreed at the Safer Devon Partnership Executive meeting including all Community Safety Partnerships across Devon in November last year.
- The strategy vision has been further refined within the final publication version as: “Our vision is for people, families and communities in Devon to thrive, safe from the risk and experience of violence.”
- The report set out the three stages of prevention and the core priorities which have been simplified and are now set out across seven areas, separated into core and cross-cutting approaches.
- For the next steps, all Community Safety Partnerships will be working with the Safer Devon Partnership to define achievable actions, outputs, outcomes and impacts, with the subsequent long-term changes we aim to see in our communities, in an overarching strategy delivery plan. This will be developed during 2024 following publication of the Strategy.
- In order to discharge our duties under the Serious Violence Duty we are required to agree publish a strategy and governance arrangements that underpin delivery going forward. The Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy has been developed by the Safer Devon Partnership including East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership as Safer Devon Partnership Executive members. The strategy utilises a public health approach over the next five years to address the key areas identified through the Special Needs Assessment.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The unfortunate language used in the report when referring to children in care as it appeared they were being demonised.
- The definition of violence and the wording “intentional” use of physical, sexual or psychological force or power (including threats of violence, and including coercive and controlling behaviour).

**RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that:

1. The adoption the Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy 2024-29 as attached in Annex A to enable delivery by as appropriate by the Council's Community Safety Partnership (as a specified authority under the Serious Violence Duty).

(Proposed by Cllr D Wulff and seconded by Cllr J Buczkowski)

**Reason for Decision:**

The overarching vision and aims underpinning the strategy is for residents, families and communities in Devon to thrive, safe from the fear and experience of violence. It sets out to work with our communities to prevent harms as early as possible, address the impacts of harms that have occurred, and work to strengthen people's wellbeing, resilience and opportunities in life.

Note: \* Report previously circulated.

**144. ACCESS TO INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Leader proposed to continue the meeting in public session following a discussion.

**145. CONTRACT FOR THE UNLICENSED ASBESTOS SURVEYING AND REMOVAL WORKS 2024 - 2028**

Cabinet had before it a report \* from the Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing on the Contract for the Unlicensed Asbestos Surveying and Removal Work 2024-2028.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Property Services outlined the contents of the report with Particular reference to the following:

- Advised Cabinet Members on the results for the tendering of the Measured Term Contract for the Removal of Unlicensed Asbestos 2024 – 2028.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. It is recommended that the new Measured Term Contract for the Removal of Unlicensed Asbestos 2024 – 2028, be awarded to Contractor 7.
2. Delegated authority be granted to the S151 Officer (in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Property Services) to complete the associated Measured Term Contract for the Removal of Unlicensed Asbestos 2024 – 2028.

(Proposed by Cllr S Clist and seconded by Cllr J Lock)

**Reason for the Decision:**

We have a legal duty to meet the Decent Homes Standard, and maintain the health and safety of our employees and tenants. The conditions of engagement are based on a standard JCT Measured Term Contract. This provides a robust framework for

managing and controlling the performance of the contractor to meet our legal obligations.

Note: \* Report previously circulated.

#### 146. **CONTRACT FOR THE LICENSED ASBESTOS SURVEYING AND REMOVAL WORKS 2024 - 2028**

Cabinet had before it a report \* from the Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing on the Contract for the Licensed Asbestos Surveying and Removal Work 2024-2028.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Property Services outlined the contents of the report with Particular reference to the following:

- Advised Cabinet Members on the results for the tendering of the Measured Term Contract for the Removal of Licensed Asbestos 2024 – 2028.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. It is recommended that the new Measured Term Contract for the Removal of Licensed Asbestos 2024 – 2028, be awarded to Contractor 2.
2. Delegated authority be granted to the S151 Officer (in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Property Services) to complete the associated Measured Term Contract for the Removal of Licensed Asbestos 2024 – 2028.

(Proposed by Cllr S Clist and seconded by Cllr J Lock)

**Reason for the Decision:**

We have a legal duty to meet the Decent Homes Standard, and maintain the health and safety of our employees and tenants. The conditions of engagement are based on a standard JCT Measured Term Contract. This provides a robust framework for managing and controlling the performance of the contractor to meet our legal obligations.

Note: \* Report previously circulated.

#### 147. **NOTIFICATION OF KEY DECISIONS**

The Cabinet had before it and **NOTED** the notification of Key Decisions.

The Democratic Services Manager added the New Corporate Plan to June's Cabinet meeting.

Note: \* Notification of Key Decisions previously circulated.

(The meeting ended at 19.01pm)

**CHAIRMAN**



