

A MEETING of the **MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL** will be held in the Phoenix Chambers, Phoenix House, Tiverton on Wednesday, 21 February 2024 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 in Tiverton on Wednesday, 24 April 2024 at 6.00 pm]

Please Note: this meeting will take place at Phoenix House and members of the Public and Press are able to attend via Teams. If you are intending to attend in person please contact the committee clerk in advance, in order that numbers of people can be appropriately managed in physical meeting rooms.

The meeting will be Hybrid and an audio recording made and published on the website after the meeting

[To join the meeting online, CLICK HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 341 529 063 417

Passcode: PCYyV4

STEPHEN WALFORD

Chief Executive

13 February 2024

Members are reminded of the need to make declarations of interest prior to any discussion which may take place

AGENDA

1 Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 Public Question Time

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

3 Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct

To record any interests on agenda matters.

4 Minutes

To consider whether to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting held on 20th December 2023

5 Chairman's Announcements

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

6 Petitions

To receive any petitions from members of the public.

7 Notices of Motions

1. Motion 602 (Cllr Lance Kennedy)

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

Motion on Posthumous awards to emergency service workers

This council supports the National campaign to award emergency services workers killed on duty a posthumous medal to recognise the sacrifice given on our behalf and requests the Chief Executive and Chairman of the council to write to Rt.Hon. Chris Philp MP, Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire expressing our support.

2. Motion 603 (Cllr Lance Kennedy)

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

Motion on Dangerous toys & packaging

In the interest of animal welfare this council supports the banning

of toys and packaging, such as hollow Frisbee type rings and multiple plastic drink can-rings, which can become lodged around the necks of seals, birds and other animals causing unnecessary suffering and death various animals including endangered species. This Council therefore resolves this to be the policy of the Council.

3. **Motion 604 (Cllr Beckett Fish)**

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

Motion on Proportional Representation

First Past the Post (FPTP) originated when land-owning aristocrats dominated parliament and voting was restricted to property-owning men. In Europe, only the UK and authoritarian Belarus still use archaic single-round FPTP for general elections. Internationally, Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect the parliaments of more than 80 countries. These countries tend to be more equal, freer and greener. PR ensures all votes count, have equal value, and that seats won match votes cast. Under PR, MPs and Parliaments better reflect the age, gender, and protected characteristics of both local communities and of the nation.

MPs better reflecting the communities they represent in turn leads to improved decision-making, wider participation, and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken. PR would also end minority rule. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote produced a government with 56.2% of the seats and 100% of the power. Fair, proportional votes also prevent 'wrong winner' elections such as occurred in 1951 and February 1974. PR is the national policy of the Labour Party, Liberal Democrats, Green Party, SNP, Plaid Cymru, Reform UK and Women's Equality Party along with a host of Trade Unions and pro-democracy organisations. PR is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Its use should now be extended to include Westminster.

This Council therefore resolves to write to H.M. Government calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws and to enable Proportional Representation to be used for UK general elections.

8 **Report of minutes held between 5th December 2023 to 13th February 2024** (Pages 7 - 488)

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

1. Cabinet

12th December 2023

9th January 2024

6th February 2024- To Follow

(Recommended to Council the Business Rates Tax Base, 2024/25 Capital Strategy and 2024/25- 2028/29 Capital Programme, Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2024/25, 2024/25 Budget, Pay Policy, Policy Framework, Homes Safety Policy)

2. Scrutiny Committee

18th December 2023

15th January 2024

3. Audit Committee

16th January 2024

(Recommendation to Council the Revision of the Financial Regulation)

4. Community Policy Development Group

23rd January 2024

5. Environment Policy Development Group

04th January 2024

6. Homes Policy Development Group

16th January 2024

7. Economy Policy Development Group

04th January 2024

8. Planning Committee

10th January 2024

9 **2024/25 Council Tax Resolution** (Pages 489 - 508)

To consider a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (S151) on the Council Tax Resolution for 2024/25.

10 **Devolution** *(Pages 509 - 512)*

To receive a report on devolution from the Chief Executive.

The Devon and Torbay Devolution Deal was approved for consultation by Devon County Council and Torbay by their respective cabinets/executives on 2nd February. The consultation went live on 12th February. All information can be found either in the reports that went to DCC's cabinet or at the webpage here:

<https://www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk/>

It is recommended that council approves the response (as published) to the consultation, and that delegated authority is given to the Chief Executive in conjunction with the Leader to add to this if required following district-level briefing by the team at DCC.

11 **Seat Allocation- To Follow**

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 **Special Urgency Decisions**

To note any decisions taken under Rule 16 (of the Constitution) Special Urgency

14 **Questions to Cabinet Members**

To receive answers from the Cabinet Members to questions on their portfolios from other Members.

15 **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.

Meeting Information

From 7 May 2021, the law requires all councils to hold formal meetings in person. The Council will enable all people to continue to participate in meetings via Teams.

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. Notification in this way will ensure the meeting runs as smoothly as possible.

Please note that a reasonable amount of hardcopies at the meeting will be available, however this is a limited number. If you are attending the meeting and would like a hardcopy of the agenda we encourage that you notify Democratic Services in advance of the meeting to ensure that a hardcopy is available. Otherwise, copies of the agenda can be found on our website.

If you would like a copy of the Agenda in another format (for example in large print) please contact Laura Woon on: lwoon@middevon.gov.uk

Public Wi-Fi is available in all meeting rooms.