

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **CABINET** held on 15 October 2024 at 5.15 pm

**Present
Councillors**

L Taylor, S J Clist, J Lock, J Buczkowski,
G Duchesne, S Keable, J Wright and
D Wulff

**Apologies
Councillor(s)**

N Bradshaw

**Also Present
Councillor(s)**

S Robinson, D Broom and L Knight

**Also Present
Officer(s):**

Stephen Walford (Chief Executive), Andrew Jarrett (Deputy Chief Executive (S151)), Maria De Leiburne (Director of Legal, People & Governance (Monitoring Officer)), Richard Marsh (Director of Place & Economy), Matthew Page (Head of People, Performance & Waste), Simon Newcombe (Head of Housing & Health), Paul Deal (Head of Finance, Property & Climate Resilience), Dean Emery (Head of Revenues, Benefits & Leisure), Andy Mackie (Leisure Services Manager), Tristan Peat (Forward Planning Team Leader), Darren Beer (Operations Manager for Street Scene) and Laura Woon (Democratic Services Manager)

Lisa Turner (Planning Officer, Blackdown Hills Landscape Devon County Council)

**Councillors
Online**

G Czapiewski and A Glover

Officers Online

Kelly Lee (Leisure Business Manager)

65. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr N Bradshaw.

66. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None received.

67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT 03:37:00

Cllr S Clist referred to item 6, the Blackdown Hills National Landscape Management Plan, and declared that he resided in the area.

Cllr L Taylor referred to item 11 and confirmed that he had a membership for Mid Devon Leisure Centre.

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

68. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 04:10:00

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th September 2024 were **APPROVED** as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Leader.

69. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN- 04:30:00

The Cabinet had before it a report * from the Deputy Chief Executive (S151) presenting the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

The Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk outlined the contents of the report with particular reference to the following:

- The Policy Development Groups (PDGs) had been presented with the budget options for the first round.
- The report sought approval of the green and amber budget options within appendices 1 and 2.
- The Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk proposed that the red cost pressures in Appendix 1 and agreed red saving options 23, 24, 26, 35, 37, 44, 54 in Appendix 2 be progressed within the 2025/26 Budget.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The disappointment in the uptake of the 'Let's Talk Mid Devon'
- The impact and the potential strains with regards to appendix 2, savings options 35 and 37.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Green and Amber pressures within Appendix 1 be approved.
2. The Green and Amber savings options within Appendix 2, with the exception of number 8, (Let's Talk Mid Devon) that would be held at this time as requested by the Community, People and Equalities PDG be approved.
3. The red cost pressures in Appendix 1 be agreed and red saving options 23, 24, 26, 35, 37, 44, 54 in Appendix 2 be progressed within the 2025/26 Budget.
4. That officers take forward options 55-64 on appendix 2 for further work and consideration to identify possible future benefits and report back to Cabinet with some tangible numbers, and that Cabinet request that the Policy

Development Groups identify further savings options and recommend back to Cabinet for approval.

5. That officers hold an 'all Member' budget briefing, followed by an open discussion where Members are encouraged to come forward with ideas.

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

Note: * Report previously circulated.

70. **BLACKDOWN HILLS NATIONAL LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN- 17:30:00**

The Cabinet had before it a report * from the Director of Place and Economy on the Blackdown Hills Landscape Management Plan.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration introduced Lisa Turner the Planning Officer from the Blackdown Hills Landscape (DCC) before he outlined the contents of the report with particular reference to the following:

- The wards affected within the report were incorrect and would be corrected to Upper Culm and Lower Culm wards.
- The Blackdown Hills National Landscape Management Plan, part of Mid Devon District, was situated within the area covered by the Blackdown Hills National Landscape, formerly known as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) requires the Council together with other relevant local authorities to produce a management plan.
- The Blackdown Hills National Landscape Partnership had performed the duty on behalf of the Council and the other relevant local authorities, which included Somerset Council and East Devon District Council.

Discussion took place regarding:

- How to promote consultation and engagement with the public.
- The communication team to include the upcoming consultation in press releases.
- The length of time as suggested in the report and the possible extension beyond the 6 weeks to ensure parishes had the opportunity to engage.
- The Blackdown Hills National Landscape website was out of date.
- Would like to see more openness about how the project was funded.
- The carbon capture and if the Council could contribute further.

RESOLVED that:

The Blackdown Hills National Landscape Partnership undertakes a public consultation on the reviewed Blackdown Hills National Landscape Management Plan for 2025 – 2030 (Appendix 2 to this report).

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

Note: * Report previously circulated.

71. MID DEVON HOUSING- REVIEW OF THE ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN- 41:12:00

The Cabinet had before it a report * from the Head of Housing and Health on the Mid Devon Housing review of the Asbestos Management Plan.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Assets and Property and the Deputy Leader outlined the contents of the report with particular reference to the following:

- Mid Devon Housing (MDH) had a legal requirement to maintain health and safety and had an up to date Asbestos Management Plan.
- The recent changes to statutory consumer regulation standards produced by the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH), imposed reporting and other changes which required the plan to be updated.

RESOLVED that:

That the updated Mid Devon Housing (MDH) Asbestos Management Plan be **ADOPTED** as recommended by Homes Policy Development Group (PDG).

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

Note: * Report previously circulated.

72. MID DEVON HOUSING- REVIEW OF THE HOARDING POLICY- 43:10:00

The Cabinet had before it a report * from the Head of Housing and Health on the Mid Devon Housing review of the Hoarding Policy.

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

- A hoarding disorder was where someone acquired an excessive number of items and stored them in a chaotic manner, usually resulting in unmanageable amounts of clutter.
- The Care Act 2014 required local authorities to protect individuals from self-neglect, it also required housing providers to ensure the health and safety of tenants, their neighbours and staff.
- The additional requirements set out in several statutory consumer standards published by the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) to address hoarding/tenant wellbeing, alongside ensuring safe and well-maintained houses, those requirements must be met.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Reference to Children's Social Care to be added to 6.8 of the Policy.

RESOLVED that:

The updated Mid Devon Housing Hoarding Policy and Equality Impact Assessment contained in Annexes A and B respectively as recommended by the Homes PDG,

with the addition of the amendment to paragraph 6.8 to include Children's Social Care be **ADOPTED**.

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

Note: * Report previously circulated.

73. MID DEVON HOUSING- REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE POLICY- 47:40:00

The Cabinet had before it a report * from the Head of Housing and Health on the Mid Devon Housing review of the Repairs and Maintenance Policy.

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

- The Regulator of Social Housing's (RSH) statutory Safety and Quality Standard required that providers must provide an effective, efficient and timely repairs, maintenance and planned improvement service for the homes and communal areas for which they were responsible.
- Registered providers were expected to have in place and comply with, effective policies, procedures and processes in relation to repairs, maintenance and planned improvements that would take into account tenants' views and diverse needs.

RESOLVED that:

Cabinet **RECOMMENDS TO FULL COUNCIL** the Mid Devon Housing Repairs and Maintenance Policy and Equality Impact Assessment as recommended by the Home Policy Development Group (PDG) be **ADOPTED**.

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

Note: * Report previously circulated.

74. ACCESS TO INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC- 50:15:00

The Leader stated that discussion with regard to the next two items, required Cabinet 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 was required because consideration of this matter in public would disclose information falling within one of the descriptions of exempt information in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The Cabinet decided, in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption, outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That, in accordance with Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the next item, for the reason set out below:

Information under paragraph 3 (contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the authority holding that information).

(Proposed by the Leader).

75. LEISURE PRICING STRATEGY 2025- 51:02:00

The Cabinet had before it a report * from the Head of Revenues, Benefits and Leisure on the change to the Leisure Pricing Strategy 2025.

The Cabinet Member for Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement outlined the contents of the report. Following discussion and having returned to open session, the Cabinet:

RESOLVED that:

The charges proposed in section 1.22 of the report as recommended by the Service Delivery and Continuous Improvements Policy Development Group (PDG) be approved.

(Proposed by Cllr J Wright and seconded by Cllr J Buczkowski)

Note: * Report previously circulated.

76. STREETSCENE DEPOT - ADDITIONAL LEASE- 52:00:00

The Cabinet had before it a report * from the Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer), Head of Finance, Property and Climate Resilience and Head of People, Performance and Waste on the additional lease.

The Cabinet Member for Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement outlined the contents of the report. Following discussion and having returned to open session, the Cabinet:

RESOLVED that:

The lease of an additional unit at Hitchcocks Business Park, Willand, for the expansion of the Street Scene depot for a period of 15 years as outlined in the report be approved.

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

Note: * Report previously circulated.

77. NOTIFICATION OF KEY DECISIONS- 52:30:00

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

The Clerk identified the changes that had been made to the list since it was published with the agenda. This included the following:

- The 2024/2025 Quarter 2 Treasury Management Report and 2024/2025 Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring Report had been added to 12 November 2024 meeting.
- The Tax Base Calculation had been added to 12 November 2024 meeting.
- The updating of Election Fees had been added to 10 December 2024 meeting.
- The update on Future EPR (Extending Producer Responsibility for packaging) would be added to 10 December 2024 meeting.
- The Information Security Policy and Information Security Incident Management Policies had been added to 7 January 2025 meeting.
- The Business Rates Tax Base had been added to 4 February 2025 meeting.
- The 2024/2025 Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring Report had been added to 4 March 2025 meeting.

Note: * Key Decisions report previously circulated.

(The meeting ended at 18:37)

Leader