

## Mid Devon District Council

### Environment Policy Development Group

Tuesday, 5 September 2017 at 2.00 pm  
Exe Room, Phoenix House, Tiverton

Next ordinary meeting  
Tuesday, 7 November 2017 at 2.00 pm

Those attending are advised that this meeting will be recorded

## Membership

Cllr R F Radford  
Cllr D R Coren  
Cllr Mrs C P Daw  
Cllr R Evans  
Cllr Mrs E J Slade  
Cllr J D Squire  
Cllr R Wright  
Cllr F W Letch

## A G E N D A

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

### 1 **Apologies and substitute Members**

To receive any apologies for absence and notices of appointment of substitute Members (if any).

### 2 **Public Question Time**

To receive any questions relating to items on the Agenda from members of the public and replies thereto.  
Note: A maximum of 30 minutes is allowed for this item.

### 3 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (Pages 5 - 16)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting.

### 4 **Chairman's Announcements**

To receive any announcements that the Chairman may wish to make.

### 5 **Grass Cutting** (Pages 17 - 36)

To receive a report from the Director of Operations setting out Devon County Council Highway's grass cutting arrangements for verges as delivered by Mid Devon District Council and subsidised by the Parish and Town Councils.

## 6 **Motions from Council**

At the last meeting of the Group Cllr Mrs J Roach agreed that this Motion be deferred to the following meeting in order that enquiries could be made.

### Motion 538 (Cllr Mrs J Roach – 1 June 2017)

Mid Devon District Council is concerned that the present level of grass cutting across the district is the subject of much criticism.

The Mid Devon District Council therefore resolves to urgently review;

1. Whether the budget is sufficient and if it isn't to put forward a request to Council for a supplementary budget to meet the cost of providing an effective service.

2. If it is impossible to provide extra funding the the Council should consider asset transfers to Parish Councils and/or individuals.

Taxpayers are now facing the second year of a grass cutting regime which leaves the grass uncut for long periods.

***Please note: Having considered the above Motion the Policy Development Group are asked to consider whether this Motion should either be supported or rejected. This decision will be referred back to full Council on 30 August 2017.***

## 7 **Parks and Open Spaces 10-year Management Plans and Design Principles**

To receive a verbal update from the Director of Operations regarding a report that was discussed at the previous meeting regarding potential landscape design principles for parks and open spaces.

At the last meeting of the Group Members resolved to ask the Community PDG to review the report giving consideration to health and wellbeing. Members of that PDG resolved that the Environment PDG be asked to ensure that the Parks and Open Spaces 10 Year Management Plan be clear that:

a) Play areas must be fenced when necessary for health and safety reasons, as the health, safety and wellbeing of children was of paramount importance:

b) Play England criteria be used;

- c) When work was undertaken to remove fences or other items such as benches, the work must be undertaken safely and no hazards left:
- d) That communication and clear consultation must take place with all parties being updated.

**8 Waste and Recycling Regular Update**

To receive a verbal update regarding Waste and Recycling Services – including an update on developing the waste transfer station with Devon County Council.

**9 Performance and Risk (Pages 37 - 44)**

To provide Members with an update on performance against the corporate plan and local service targets for 2017-18 as well as providing an update on the key business risks.

**10 Financial Monitoring (Pages 45 - 62)**

To receive a report from the Director of Finance, Assets & Resources presenting a financial update in respect of the income and expenditure so far in the year.

**11 Identification of Items for Future Meetings**

Note: This item is limited to 10 minutes. There should be no discussion on the items raised.

Review of Bereavement Services  
District Officer Discretionary Time update  
Performance and Risk  
Financial Monitoring  
Grass cutting and the HRA

**Stephen Walford**  
Chief Executive  
Monday, 28 August 2017

Anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings may do so unless the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting or there is good reason not to do so, as directed by the Chairman. Any filming must be done as unobtrusively as possible from a single fixed position without the use of any additional lighting; focusing only on those actively participating in the meeting

and having regard also to the wishes of any member of the public present who may not wish to be filmed. As a matter of courtesy, anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chairman or the Member Services Officer in attendance so that all those present may be made aware that is happening.

Members of the public may also use other forms of social media to report on proceedings at this meeting.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to discussion. Lift access the first floor of the building is available from the main ground floor entrance. Toilet facilities, with wheelchair access, are also available. There is time set aside at the beginning of the meeting to allow the public to ask questions.

An induction loop operates to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter. If you require any further information, or

If you would like a copy of the Agenda in another format (for example in large print) please contact Julia Stuckey on:

Tel: 01884 234209

E-Mail: [jstuckey@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:jstuckey@middevon.gov.uk)

Public Wi-Fi is available in all meeting rooms.