

Mid Devon District Council

Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 21 May 2018 at 2.15 pm
Exe Room, Phoenix House, Tiverton

Next ordinary meeting
Monday, 18 June 2018 at 2.15 pm

Those attending are advised that this meeting will be recorded

Membership

Cllr F J Rosamond
Cllr Mrs H Bainbridge
Cllr Mrs F J Colthorpe
Cllr Mrs C P Daw
Cllr Mrs G Doe
Cllr Mrs S Griggs
Cllr T G Hughes
Cllr Mrs B M Hull
Cllr F W Letch
Cllr Mrs J Roach
Cllr T W Snow
Cllr N A Way

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 **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**
To elect a Vice Chairman for the Municipal Year 2018/19.
- 3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT**
Councillors are reminded of the requirement to declare any interest, including the type of interest, and reason for that interest, either at this stage of the meeting or as soon as they become aware of that interest.
- 4 **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.

5 **MEMBER FORUM**

An opportunity for non-Cabinet Members to raise issues.

6 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** *(Pages 5 - 12)*

Members to consider whether to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting held on 16 April 2018.

The Committee is reminded that only those members of the Committee present at the previous meeting should vote and, in doing so, should be influenced only by seeking to ensure that the minutes are an accurate record.

7 **DECISIONS OF THE CABINET**

To consider any decisions made by the Cabinet at its last meeting that have been called-in.

The decision of the Cabinet made on Thursday 10th May 2018 with regard to Crediton Office has been called in by the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee and will be discussed at agenda item 15.

8 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

9 **PARTNERSHIP WORKING GROUP UPDATE** *(Pages 13 - 26)*

To receive a report of the work of the Partnership Working Group.

10 **COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME** *(Pages 27 - 50)*

To consider a briefing paper providing an update on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme from the Director of Finance, Assets and Resources as requested at the previous meeting.

11 **FORWARD PLAN** *(Pages 51 - 64)*

Members are asked to consider any items within the Forward Plan that they may wish to bring forward for discussion at the next meeting.

12 **SCRUTINY OFFICER UPDATE** *(Pages 65 - 70)*

To receive an update from the Scrutiny Officer with regard to his work to date.

13 **START TIME FOR MEETINGS**

To consider the start time of the meetings for the municipal year 2018-19.

14 **ACCESS TO INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

During discussion of the following item(s) it may be necessary 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 may be required because consideration of this matter in public may disclose information falling within one of the descriptions of exempt information in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The Cabinet will need to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption, outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

To consider passing the following resolution so that financial information may be discussed.

Recommended that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the next item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 respectively of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) .

15 **THE FUTURE OF CREDITON OFFICE - CALL IN** (*Pages 71 - 158*)

To consider the decision of the Cabinet made on 10th May 2018 with regard to the sale/disposal of the Crediton Office.

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee has called in the following decision of the Cabinet: that subject to contract, to dispose of the Crediton office building to buyer 2 on the terms set out in paragraph 3.5 of the report for the following reasons:

1. the decision appears to have been made, not in haste, but without full recognition of the potential for:
 - further negotiations to take place with Crediton Town Council to see whether a more acceptable offer could be achieved. There is, despite the known financial pressures in local government, no deadline by which the decision had or has to be made - other than the need for a disposal to take place before the end of the 18-month protected period which applies to disposals of assets of community value in order to avoid a further moratorium.
 - the central and valued location of the building to Crediton which, if it were to be transferred to Crediton Town Council, could sustain the well-being and social cohesion of the town
2. it is unclear how the Cabinet took into account the following Corporate Plan objectives:
 - working with local communities to encourage them to support

- themselves, including retaining and developing their local facilities and services
- working with town and parish councils

16 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Members are asked to note that the following items are already identified in the work programme for the next meeting:

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

Stephen Walford
Chief Executive
Friday, 11 May 2018

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 Sally Gabriel on:

Tel: 01884 234229

E-Mail: sgabriel@middevon.gov.uk

Public Wi-Fi is available in all meeting rooms.