

CHAIRMAN`S ANNUAL REPORT 2018

May

The Group had before it a draft Litter and Dog Bin Policy.

It was RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet that Council be asked to approve the Litter and Dog Bin Policy.

July

Motions from Council

That this council should adopt a policy of ensuring that play areas in the district that contain play equipment aimed at pre-school or primary school age children are enclosed to facilitate the health and safety of its young users.

It was RECOMMENDED to Council that Motion 537 not be supported.

November

Motion from Council

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 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.

It was RESOLVED that a working group be put in place to further investigate grass cutting pricing methodology and charging recovery. Following a meeting of the working group It was RECOMMENDED to Cabinet:

- a) That notification to Town and Parish Councils regarding grass cutting should confirm the number of cuts undertaken with dates; this notification should take place on a monthly basis or as applicable if no cuts occurred during a month.

- b) That the Grounds Maintenance team price all work on the basis that it should recover the full cost incurred by them carrying out that work.

- c) That Town and Parish Councils be informed that a full cost recovery pricing model for grass cutting would be implemented over 3 years starting in the 2018/19 financial year. However any increase in cost will be tapered to allow for them to make provision regarding other providers and/or any required increase to their budgets.

The Group also had before it a report * from the Director of Operations regarding Parks and Open Spaces, 10 year Management Plans and Design Principles. This was the third time that the report had been put before the Group and it now contained amendments that they had requested along with suggestions from the Community Policy Development Group.

The report was recommended to cabinet.

January

The Group had before it and NOTED an update on the budget from the Director of Finance, Assets and Resources setting out the revised draft budget changes identified. It was necessary to fine tune our future budgets

The Group then went through line by line to see where we could reduce costs or increase income, we were able to make minimal improvements where possible, bearing in mind our statutory duties.

The Group has also met informally to discuss areas such as the 10 year Management Plans for Open Spaces and the future of recycling services, including a trip to East Devon.

The Group had before it, Motion 542 for consideration. After a presentation from Waste Management informing us of the cost implications, a lengthy discussion followed, the Group then recommended the Motion go back to Cabinet, to resolve not to support.

The Group Manager for Street Scene and Open Spaces, provided a six monthly Waste and Recycling Service update, which informed us our performance, by and large, was ahead of the game. Moving to Carlu, Hitchcocks has proved to have been a success and helped to contribute to our improved performance.

As the Chair of the Environment PDG, I would like to thank all the Members of this PDG for their contribution throughout this last year. Also this PDG would like to extend our gratitude to the officers for their support, particularly Julia Stuckey who has a wealth of knowledge and guidance to keep us on the straight and narrow.

Ray Radford

Chair of Environment PDG.