

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held on 27 January 2020 at 2.15 pm

Present Councillors

W Burke, R J Chesterton, L J Cruwys,
Mrs C P Daw, R Evans, Mrs I Hill,
B Holdman, B A Moore, R L Stanley,
B G J Warren and A Wilce

Apologies Councillor(s)

F W Letch

Also Present Councillor(s)

R M Deed, D J Knowles and A White

Also Present Officer(s):

Joanne Nacey (Group Manager for Financial Services), Simon Newcombe (Group Manager for Public Health and Regulatory Services), Catherine Yandle (Group Manager for Performance, Governance and Data Security), Lee Chester (Leisure Manager), Clare Robathan (Scrutiny Officer) and Carole Oliphant (Member Services Officer)

109 **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (00.00.26)**

Apologies were received from Cllr F W Letch who was substituted by Cllr L Cruwys.

The Chairman asked for a Member to act as Vice Chairman for the meeting and Cllr A Wilce was nominated to the role for the meeting.

110 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT (00.01.13)**

There were no declarations made.

111 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (00.01.22)**

There were no members of the public present.

112 **MEMBER FORUM (00.02.23)**

There were no issues raised under this item.

113 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (00.02.37)**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 6th January were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Chairman.

114 **DECISIONS OF THE CABINET (00.03.21)**

The Committee **NOTED** that none of the decisions made by the Cabinet on 16th January had been called in.

115 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (00.03.36)**

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

116 **CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY WELL-BEING REPORT (00.03.43)**

The Committee had before it and **NOTED** a *report from the Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing outlining performance in the services areas he was responsible for.

He provided highlights of his portfolio including:

- Strategic Grants
- ICT Services
- Gazetteer Management Services
- Leisure
- Public Health

Members discussed and received answers to the following:

- The current status of the migration of S106 data
- An issue with the back door at Exe Valley Leisure Centre
- The introduction of the Noise App
- Congratulations to the Food Safety Team for a recent prosecution
- Drug busting visits

The Cabinet Member informed Members that he had attended the opening of the Culm Valley Leisure suite that morning.

Note: *report previously circulated and attached to the minutes.

117 **DRAFT BUDGET (00.22.41)**

The Committee had before it and **NOTED** the *draft budget report from the Deputy Chief Executive (S151) presented by the Group Manager for Finance.

She informed Members that the present budget gap was £234k and that it was not recommended that reserves were used to plug the gap.

She confirmed that there had been no monies set aside in the budget for future Climate Change specific projects. She explained that a business case and action plan detailing the projects required and costings would need to be agreed and approved.

Members gave consideration to the following:

- The current year's budget deficit
- The cost of the cancellation of the Tiverton Town Centre Regeneration Project due to committed expenditure
- Renewable energy transactions
- Major repairs allowance
- Garage rents
- Planned maintenance programme for Council Housing Stock

Note: *draft budget report previously circulated and attached to the minutes

118 **WHISTLEBLOWING 6 MONTH UPDATE (00.51.09)**

The Group Manager for Governance, Performance and Data Security explained to the Committee that there had been no whistleblowing instances in the previous 12 months.

119 **PERFORMANCE AND RISK (00.51.57)**

The Committee had before it and **NOTED** a *report of the Group Manager for Performance, Governance and Data Security presenting Members with an update on performance against the corporate plan and local service targets for 2019-20 as well as providing an update on the key business risks.

She explained that the reports had been seen by the PDG's. She also explained that a request to benchmark the Council Carbon Footprint against neighbouring authorities would not be advisable as the Council were not directly comparable to other authorities.

She explained that additional measures would be introduced once the Corporate Plan had been adopted.

Note: *Report previously circulated and attached to the minutes.

120 **SCRUTINY OFFICER UPDATE (01.00.52)**

The Scrutiny Officer provided Members with an update on the 5G Spotlight review currently ongoing with Devon County Council and explained that over 1200 responses had been received to date to their public survey. She informed Members that DCC would now be holding focus groups with the respondents, before holding a final panel with experts, and that this would take a few months to complete. Members agreed that it would be prudent to wait for the outcome of the Spotlight review before deciding to complete any MDDC review into the issue. Members requested that any investigation completed by the Scrutiny Officer was provided to them.

She explained that an all Member briefing on the procurement process was planned for 19th March and that once Members had attended they could confirm if any further investigation into the processes used was required.

121 **FORWARD PLAN (01.02.55)**

The Committee had before it and **NOTED** the *Forward Plan.

Members requested that the 3 Rivers Development Ltd – Additional Governance Report be presented to Scrutiny before being presented to Cabinet.

Note: *Forward Plan previously circulated and attached to the minutes.

122 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS (01.05.23)

No items were identified.

(The meeting ended at 3.22 pm)

CHAIRMAN