

Section 2 – Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At Full Council in September 2024, the Council had set before it (for the first time) a Motion (Motion 605). The Motion suggested that:
- a) Mid Devon District Council recognises and notes the huge contribution made by our farmers, growers and the drink industry to the local economy, environment, and rural economies.
 - b) Mid Devon District Council commits to further enhancing our partnerships alongside our arable, livestock and dairy farmers to enhance our beautiful countryside.
 - c) Mid Devon District Council also commits to supporting our local farmers and growers and the food and drink sector by, where possible, ensuring that all food and drinks provided at council organised events is sourced from local suppliers, to always include meat and dairy as well as plant-based produce.
 - d) As part of tackling the environmental priorities for Mid Devon District Council; the Council will consider ways to encourage our residents, where possible, to shop locally, taking full advantage of home-grown, affordable and nutritious produce, including meat, dairy and plant-based options, thus reducing food miles to our tables and boosting the economy.
- 1.2 During debate, consideration was given to;
- a) Concerns over paragraphs b & d in that there was no detail of what the Council would try to achieve and how it would get there. And;
 - b) Whether in paragraph c, the words “organic where possible” could be included within the Motion after the words “local suppliers”.
- 1.3 An amendment was put that the Motion be brought to this PDG (the Planning, Environment and Sustainability Policy Development Group), for review before the Motion was re-presented to Council for consideration. This Motion was subsequently voted on and was carried.
- 1.4 This PDG is therefore now invited to discuss the wording of the Motion and to consider any refinements or developments to it in order to ensure that it meets the expectation and requirements of Councillors. Any updated wording can then be recommended by this PDG back to Full Council.

- 1.5 To support discussions, it is suggested that members reflect on the following relevant points in relation to the Motion:
- a) That agriculture and food production is a considerable part of the economy of Mid Devon.
 - b) That this Council has recently chosen to support various local food and drink producers and suppliers through the Shared Prosperity and Rural England Fund programmes and that investment has also been directed to other initiatives – such as around Regenerative Agriculture.
 - c) That the Council does regularly seek to engage local businesses, both large and small, through the regular work of the Economic Development team.
 - d) That the number of Council run events involving food and drink provision is very low and that, when it does host events, it does typically seek to utilise local suppliers.
 - e) That Economic Development initiatives continue to be focused on supporting our residents to ‘shop locally’. And;
 - f) That Mid Devon’s Biodiversity Duty encourages us to seek opportunities to work with farmers on sustainability initiatives.

Financial Implications

Financial implications associated with this report and the Motion are very limited given the level of potential spend involved. The Council will need to abide by any procurement requirements in future procurement of any suppliers.

Legal Implications

There are not considered to be any significant legal implications arising from this report.

Risk Assessment

There are no major risks associated with this report.

Impact on Climate Change

The Motion has the potential to create small positive impacts upon climate change in terms of minimising food miles and enhancing requirements about produce from sustainable/organic sources.

Equalities Impact Assessment

No negative equalities impacts are expected.

Relationship to Corporate Plan

The work of this PDG will supports a wide range of corporate objectives and the corporate plan as a whole.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett
Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151
Date: 13th November 2024

Statutory Officer: Maria DeLeiburne
Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 13th November 2024

Chief Officer: Stephen Walford
Agreed by Chief Executive
Date: 13th November 2024

Performance and risk: Steve Carr
Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager
Date: 14 November 2024

Cabinet member notified: yes

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Richard Marsh, Director of Place and Economy
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Telephone:

Background papers: