

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **CABINET** held on Thursday 30 October 2014 at 2.15pm

Present

Councillors: C J Eginton (Leader),
R J Chesterton, N V Davey, P H D Hare-
Scott, Mrs B M Hull, C R Slade and R L
Stanley

Also Present

Councillors: Mrs J R Rendle, Mrs J Roach and Mrs N
Woollatt

Also Present

Officers: K Finan (Chief Executive), A Jarrett (Head of
Finance), A Tregellas (Head of Communities
and Governance), J Guscott (Head of
Planning and Regeneration), S Warren
(Conservation Officer) and S Gabriel
(Principal Member Services Officer).

Member	Minute No	Type of Interest
N V Davey	63	Personal
C J Eginton	63	Personal
Mrs N Woollatt	61	Personal

58 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public present.

59 **MINUTES (00-00-43)**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 October 2014 were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Chairman.

60 **MATTERS REFERRED BY NON-EXECUTIVE BODIES OF THE COUNCIL (00-01-34)**

a) Audit Committee - 23 September 2014

Arising from a report of the Head of Finance, the Audit Committee had recommended that the revised Corporate Debt Collection Policy be approved.

The Chairman of Scrutiny raised an issue regarding Council Tax collection which the Head of Finance agreed to look into and discussion took place regarding data sharing between council departments.

RESOLVED that the Corporate Debt Collection Policy be adopted.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Note: *Report previously circulated; copy attached to the signed Minutes.

61 **CULLOMPTON ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION REVIEW (00-11-08)**

The Cabinet had before it a report * from the Head of Planning and Regeneration submitting information on the review of the Article 4 for public consultation.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration outlined the contents of the report stating that in 2009 as part of the Cullompton Conservation Area Management Plan, an Article 4 Direction was introduced. The Direction covered dwelling houses in the whole Conservation Area and removed certain categories of permitted development. The categories of permitted development removed were: insertion of roof lights to front roof slopes, removal of chimneys, demolition of walls, the addition of porches and replacement of windows and doors to elevations fronting highways, waterways and open spaces.

A Ward Member from Cullompton North had raised issues via a motion to Council regarding the appropriateness of the blanket cover. A review of the Article 4 Direction by outside consultants followed. Properties were identified highlighting different features and photographic evidence was also gathered. The consultant's report outlined an Article 4 Direction for individual items on individual properties. Planning Officers felt that this was too bureaucratic and difficult to manage and therefore suggested 6 different maps of the area based on the concentration of properties with specific values:

- Roof lights and solar panels
- Chimney control
- Porches
- Boundary walls
- Front doors
- windows

It was therefore intended that the 6 maps go forward for consultation.

Discussion followed with regard to possible design guidance to be distributed to the residents following the consultation process. The Chairman read a message from one of the Ward members unable to attend the meeting.

It was therefore:

RESOLVED that:

- a) information on the review of the Article 4 Direction in Cullompton Conservation

Area be submitted for public consultation together with proposed amendments as follows:

- To control insertion of roof lights, solar and photovoltaic panels to front roof slopes for almost the whole Conservation Area in accordance with Appendix 2, Map 1;
- To control the demolition of chimneys throughout the Conservation Area in accordance with Appendix 2, Map 2;
- To control the addition of porches to 5 terraces of houses in accordance with Appendix 2, Map 3;
- To control the demolition of boundary walls within discrete areas identified in Appendix 2, Map 4;
- To control the replacement of doors in discrete areas identified in Appendix 2, Map 5;
- To control the replacement of windows in discrete areas identified in Appendix 2, Map 6.

- b) That an additional area of control over the demolition of boundary walls be included in proposals. This relates to part of Middle Mill Lane where a small group of three properties with boundary walls that contribute to the character and appearance of the conservation area have been identified.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

- Notes: i) Cllr Mrs N Woollatt declared a personal interest as she lived within the Conservation Area discussed
- ii) *Report previously circulated; copy attached to the signed Minutes.

62 **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (00-26-22)**

The Cabinet had before it a report * of the Head of Finance producing an updated Medium Term Financial Strategy which took into account the Council's key strategies and demonstrated that it had the financial resources to deliver the Corporate Plan. Included within the over-arching strategy was a Medium Term Financial Plan which modelled potential changes in funding levels, new initiatives, unavoidable costs and proposed service savings

The Cabinet Member for Finance outlined the contents of the report stating that there were difficult decisions to be made in the future, he explained that the MTFP helped to strategically plan for next year's annual budget setting process, but of equal importance gave management and Members an overview of future budget gaps so that strategic decisions could be made over levels of future spending, Council Tax levels, policies for

fees/charges and asset investment or disposal. The MTFP also reviewed the affordability of the Council's capital programme over the same 5 year period. It predicted that required capital projects (in the main focusing on essential asset replacement and health & safety items) matched against potential capital receipts and grant funding.

Discussion followed regarding savings already found for the 2015/16 budget and targeted savings for the future identified within the report. Issues were raised regarding budgeting for redundancy costs and the role of the Head of Paid Service with regard to staffing issues.

It was therefore:

RESOLVED that: the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved and that the proposals outlined in the report be endorsed.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Note: * Report previously circulated; copy attached to the Minutes.

63 **HALF YEARLY INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE AND REVIEW OF TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2014/15 (00-48-19)**

The Cabinet had before it a report * of the Head of Finance informing Members of the treasury performance during the first 6 months of 2014/15 and requesting it to agree the ongoing deposit strategy for the remainder of 2014/15.

The Cabinet Member for Finance outlined the contents of the report highlighting the detailed list within the report of deposits and short term investments. Members were provided with a paper detailing cash balances held at the end of the financial year which highlighted the 5 main reserves which included earmarked reserves for specific projects.

It was **AGREED** that these figures be made available to all Members and that they form part of future reports.

RESOLVED that: the existing policy for investments with banks and building societies be continued.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Notes (i) Cllr N V Davey declared a personal interest as he received a pension from the Royal Bank of Scotland;

(ii) Cllr C J Eginton declared a personal interest as he received a pension from Lloyds Bank;

(iii) * Report previously circulated; copy attached to the Minutes.

64 **FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR THE SIX MONTHS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2014 (00-54-20)**

The Cabinet had before it a report * of the Head of Finance presenting a financial update in respect of the income and expenditure so far in the year.

The Cabinet Member for Finance outlined the contents of the report stating that the shortfall against budget had increased mainly due to the costs required to implement individual electoral registration. It was hoped that the shortfall could be clawed back. He identified the capital programme which included £1,029k for the delivery of 10 new Housing Revenue Account properties at St Andrews Street. This project had now been further enhanced and remodelled to enable the provision of 14 new units. The revised budget was now £1,500k; however it would receive £280k funding from the Homes and Communities Agency; which would therefore reduce the amount required to fund the project from the Housing Maintenance Fund.

Cabinet Members reported on their individual services.

RESOLVED that:

- a) the financial monitoring information for expenditure and income so far for the 2014/15 financial year be **NOTED**;
- b) The revised Capital Programme budget required for St Andrews Street be approved.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Note: * Report previously circulated; copy attached to the Minutes.

65 **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS (01-05-45)**

The Cabinet had before it a draft schedule of meetings for 2015/16.

RECOMMENDED that the schedule of meetings for 2015/16 be approved

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Note: * Report previously circulated; copy attached to the Minutes.

66 **NOTIFICATION OF KEY DECISIONS (01-06-24)**

The Cabinet had before it, and **NOTED**, its rolling plan * for November 2014 containing future key decisions.

Note: * Plan previously circulated; copy attached to the signed Minutes.

(The meeting ended at 3.23pm)

CHAIRMAN