

# WEST DEVON HUB COMMITTEE



West Devon  
Borough  
Council

## Minutes of a meeting of the **West Devon Hub Committee** held on **Tuesday, 30th June, 2020 at 2.00 pm via Skype**

Present: **Councillors:**

**Chairman** Cllr Jory  
**Vice Chairman** Cllr Samuel

Cllr Edmonds  
Cllr Leech  
Cllr Moody  
Cllr Sellis

Cllr Mott  
Cllr Cheadle  
Cllr Pearce

### **In attendance:**

Councillors:  
Cllr Daniel  
Cllr Yelland

Cllr Ewings

Officers:  
Chief Executive  
Deputy Chief Executive  
Director of Place & Enterprise  
Director of Governance & Assurance  
Section 151 Officer  
Head of Strategy & Projects  
Head of Finance  
Head of Democratic Services  
Specialist – Democratic Services

78. **Declarations of Interest**  
\*HC 78  
Members were invited to declare any interests in the items of business to be discussed and none were made
79. **Confirmation of Minutes**  
\*HC 79  
The Minutes of the Hub Committee meeting held on 28 January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

80. **Public Questions**

\*HC 80

There were no questions submitted by the Public

81. **Hub Committee Forward Plan**

\*HC 81

Members were presented with the Hub Committee Forward Plan setting out items on the agenda for Hub Committee meetings for the next four months.

The contents of the Forward Plan were agreed subject to the following amendments:

- Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) being deferred to a Committee meeting in October/November 2020;
- In the light of the Recovery Plan, if agreed, Forward Plan (FP) to be reviewed and brought to next Hub Committee meeting;
- The Commercial Investments Update agenda item to be reassigned to Portfolio Area of Council with Lead Member therefore being Cllr Jory.

82. **Council Response and Recovery to the Covid-19 Crisis**

\*HC 82

At the Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 23 June 2020, consideration was given to a report titled: 'Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response and Draft Recovery and Renewal Plan (the report and four parts of the Appendix that were initially presented to the Meeting were outlined at Appendix A of the published agenda report). The Meeting had considered at length both the Response and Draft Recovery and Renewal Plan and the key discussion points were outlined in parts 1 to 4 of the recommendation and Appendix B of the published agenda report;

The Leader introduced the report and invited Member questions and comments.

Following Member discussions, it was agreed that, due to the potential overlap, the Council's adopted Corporate Strategy should be reviewed in light of the emergent Recovery Plan and the two plans amalgamated to one single document to take the Council forward. Officers confirmed that an Extended Leadership Team lead officer for the proposed Business theme would be appointed soon.

The Chairman moved the recommendations on block and these were seconded by the Vice-Chairman.

It was then declared **CARRIED** by unanimous vote that:

1. the Council's response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic to date be noted and endorsed and the Town and Parish Councils and other Community Groups be thanked and congratulated for their response and actions to the COVID-19 Pandemic;

2. Officers develop a Recovery and Renewal Plan in-line with the Framework and Objectives that are outlined in Appendices A2, A3 and A4 of the presented agenda report;
3. the conclusions of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on the priority areas for the Strategic Framework for Recovery and Renewal (as summarised at Appendix B) be taken into account;
4. an update on progress against the development of the Plan be presented back to a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 1 September 2020; and

That, in light of the discussions at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting:

5. A series of Recovery and Renewal Theme-Based Member Workshops be convened in advance of the Meeting that is to be held on 1 September 2020.

83. **Revenue Budget Monitoring for April and May 2020**

\*HC 83

Members were presented with a report that outlined the impact on the Council's Budget following the lockdown caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Lead Member introduced the monitoring report which was the first since the outbreak of the pandemic. It was confirmed that there would be monthly reporting to Members going forward with an amended budget to be brought to Council in September. When questioned, it was confirmed that regular meetings of the Financial Stability Review Group would be arranged once the definitive financial announcement had been received from Central Government.

Members were informed that the financial accounts were nearly completed for 2019/20, with a report presenting the accounts to be brought to the Audit Committee in July. Also, a Member Budget Setting workshop would be set up during August and would follow the same format as previous years. It was then intended that a draft amended Budget for 2020/21 would then be presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on 1 September, on to the Hub Committee meeting to be held on 15 September, and then on to Council for ultimate approval at its meeting to be held on 22 September.

Cllr Edmonds moved the recommendations on block and these were seconded by Cllr Mott.

It was then unanimously **RESOLVED** that:-

- i) the significant forecast income and expenditure variations for the 2020/21 financial year and the overall projected overspend of

£1.028 million (14.3% of the total Budget £7.212 million) be noted.

- ii) the loss of income streams already experienced by the Council in April 2020 and May 2020 of £0.371 million in total as shown in Section 6 of the presented agenda report be noted.
- iii) an Amended Budget for 2020/21 be presented to the September cycle of Committee meetings, setting out recommendations as to how the projected losses could be financed and what action could be taken. This is in order to achieve a balanced budget for 2020/21, in light of the Covid 19 pandemic.
- iv) a comprehensive review be undertaken into all of the Council's Earmarked Reserves.

***(NOTE: THESE DECISIONS WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE FROM WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2020 UNLESS CALLED IN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULE 18).***

The Meeting concluded at 2.57 pm

**Signed by:**

**Chairman**

---