

WEST DEVON COUNCIL



West Devon
Borough
Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **West Devon Council** held on **Tuesday, 30th March, 2021 at 4.00 pm via Teams**

Present: **Councillors:**

Chairman Cllr Leech
Vice Chairman Cllr Mott

Cllr Ball	Cllr Bolton
Cllr Bridgewater	Cllr Cheadle
Cllr Coulson	Cllr Crozier
Cllr Davies	Cllr Daniel
Cllr Edmonds	Cllr Ewings
Cllr Heyworth	Cllr Hipsey
Cllr Jory	Cllr Kemp
Cllr Kimber	Cllr Moody
Cllr Moyse	Cllr Musgrave
Cllr Pearce	Cllr Ratcliffe
Cllr Renders	Cllr Ridgers
Cllr Samuel	Cllr Sellis
Cllr Southcott	Cllr Spettigue
Cllr Vachon	Cllr Wood
Cllr Yelland	

In attendance:

Officers:
Senior Leadership Team
Monitoring Officer
Head of Human Resources
Democratic Services Manager

38. **Apologies for Absence**

CM 38

There were no apologies for absence received for this meeting.

39. **Confirmation of Minutes**

CM 39

It was moved by Cllr N Jory, seconded by Cllr R Cheadle and, upon the motion being submitted to the Meeting, was declared to be **CARRIED**

and "**RESOLVED** that the Council agree the minutes of the 16 February 2021 Meeting as a true and correct record."

40. **Declarations of Interest**

CM 40

The Mayor invited Members to declare any interests in the items of business to be considered during the course of the meeting. These were recorded as follows:

Cllr T G Pearce declared a personal interest in Item 9f: 'Minutes of Committees: Hub Committee Meeting – 16 March 2021' and specifically 'Recommendation HC 67: Community Housing – Brentor and Lamerton' (Minute CM 42f below refers) by virtue of being the Chairman of Brentor Parish Council and remained in the meeting during the debate and vote on this recommendation.

41. **Business brought forward by or with the consent of the Mayor**

CM 41

In expressing some disappointment, the Mayor advised that 16 Members had yet to put forward a nomination for his Mayoral Recognition Awards. To provide one further opportunity for nominations to be submitted, the Mayor informed that he had now extended the deadline for receipt to 5.00pm on Thursday, 1 April 2021.

42. To receive the Minutes of the following Committees, to note the delegated decisions and to consider the adoption of those Recommendations which require approval:

CM 42

a. Audit Committee Meeting - 9 February 2021

It was moved by Cllr M Davies, seconded by Cllr P Vachon and upon being submitted to the Meeting was declared to be **CARRIED** and "**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the 9 February 2021 Committee Meeting be received and noted."

b. Development Management Committee Meeting - 16 February 2021

It was moved by Cllr J Yelland, seconded by Cllr T Pearce and upon being submitted to the Meeting was declared to be **CARRIED** and "**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the 16 February 2021 Committee Meeting be received and noted."

c. Council Tax Setting Panel Meeting - 23 February 2021

It was moved by Cllr T Leech, seconded by Cllr S Hipsey and upon being submitted to the Meeting was declared to be **CARRIED** and "**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the 23 February 2021 Panel Meeting be received and noted."

d. Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting - 2 March 2021

It was moved by Cllr M Ewings, seconded by Cllr P Kimber and upon being submitted to the Meeting was declared to be **CARRIED**

and **“RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the 2 March 2021 Committee Meeting be received and noted.”

e. Standards Committee Meeting – 9 March 2021

It was moved by Cllr T Leech, seconded by Cllr J Yelland and upon being submitted to the Meeting was declared to be **CARRIED** and **“RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the 9 March 2021 Committee Meeting be received and noted, with the exception of Recommendation SC 4.”

In respect of the Recommendation:

SC 4: LGA Model Code of Conduct

It was moved by Cllr T Leech, seconded by Cllr J Yelland and upon being submitted to the Meeting was declared to be **CARRIED** and **“RESOLVED** that, with effect from the date of the next Annual Council meeting, the LGA Model Code of Conduct (as set out in Appendix C of the agenda report presented to the Standards Committee meeting) be adopted.”

f. Hub Committee Meeting - 16 March 2021

It was moved by Cllr N Jory, seconded by Cllr L Samuel and upon being submitted to the Meeting was declared to be **CARRIED** and **“RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the 16 March 2021 Committee Meeting be received and noted, with the exception of Recommendations HC 66, HC 67, HC 68, HC 70 and HC 71.”

In respect of the Recommendations:

HC 66: “Better Homes, Better Lives” Adoption of South Hams and West Devon Housing Strategy 2021/2026

It was moved by Cllr N Jory, seconded by Cllr L Samuel and upon being submitted to the Meeting was declared to be **CARRIED** and **“RESOLVED** that the “Better Homes, Better Lives” – South Hams and West Devon Housing Strategy for 2021-2026 (as set out at Appendix 1 of the presented agenda report to the Hub Committee meeting) be adopted.”

HC 67: Community Housing – Brentor and Lamerton

It was moved by Cllr N Jory, seconded by Cllr L Samuel and upon being submitted to the Meeting was declared to be **CARRIED** and **“RESOLVED** that:

5. expenditure of £85,000 be approved from the Innovation Fund (Invest to Earn) Earmarked Reserve to undertake detailed design, specification and tendering of the Brentor scheme, subject to a successful planning decision.”

HC 68: Month 10 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020/2021 (to the end of January 2021)

It was moved by Cllr N Jory, seconded by Cllr L Samuel and upon being submitted to the Meeting was declared to be **CARRIED** and **"RESOLVED** that:

2. the business rates pooling gain of £100,000 for 2020/21 be transferred into the Business Rates Retention Earmarked Reserve and £200,000 of the 2020/21 projected surplus into a Recovery Plan and Corporate Strategy Earmarked Reserve; and
3. £80,000 of salary savings from 2020/21 be transferred into a Salary Savings Earmarked Reserve, to be ringfenced to support salary costs in 2021/22 as set out in section 1.8 of the presented agenda report."

HC 70: Public Space Protection Orders – Dog Controls

In discussion, the following points were raised:-

- (a) Some Members were of the view that Dartmoor National Park Authority should be requested to urgently review its current 'pick up' policy;
- (b) The importance of enforcement and a rigorous communications campaign were both highlighted;
- (c) Some Members were still to be convinced that the proposed approach was appropriate and would only lead to an increased number of dog bags being left in the Borough. Furthermore, some Members requested that the use of single use plastics be kept under constant review.

It was then moved by Cllr N Jory, seconded by Cllr L Samuel and upon being submitted to the Meeting was declared to be **CARRIED** and **"RESOLVED** that the Public Space Protection Order 2021 (as outlined at Appendix 1 of the agenda report presented to the Hub Committee Meeting) be adopted. To come into immediate effect, the Order will introduce the following Borough-wide provisions that require dog walkers to:-

1. carry the means to pick up and to pick up;
2. keep dogs on leads on land designated as a Dogs on Lead Area and on roads with speed zones up to 30mph;
3. comply to put and keep dogs on leads if so directed (by an authorised officer); and
4. prevent dogs from accessing a dog exclusion zone."

HC 71: Recommendations Arising from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 2 March 2021

It was moved by Cllr N Jory, seconded by Cllr L Samuel and upon being submitted to the Meeting was declared to be **CARRIED** and **"RESOLVED** that the draft Community Consultation & Engagement Strategy be adopted (as set out at Appendix B of the presented agenda report to the Hub Committee Meeting)".

43. **Leisure - Fusion Support on Re-Opening**

CM 43

Consideration was given to a report that recommended that the £85,493 of the National Leisure Recovery Fund (NLRF) that had been received by the Council should be passported through to Fusion.

In discussion, a number of Members highlighted that the Council was in a long-term relationship with Fusion and it was essential that the Council did all it could to support its leisure partner. Furthermore, the health and wellbeing implications that were linked to the partnership were reiterated by Members.

It was then "**RESOLVED** that the £85,493 of the National Leisure Recovery Fund (NLRF) funding, be passported through to Fusion to enable them to meet the costs of preparing and carrying out the re-opening schedule from 12 April 2021 onwards, in line with the national roadmap."

44. **2021/22 Capital Strategy; 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy; and 2021/22 Investment Strategy**

CM 44

The Council considered a report that sought approval of the draft Capital Strategy; Investment Strategy; and Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22, together with their associated prudential indicators.

In discussion, reference was made to the Council having declared a Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency and the emphasis in the draft Strategies to ethical investments was questioned. In response, it was noted that this was a particularly specialised area of work and the Council's External Advisors had been asked to do some research during the course of the year. Whilst it was hoped that ethical investment opportunities would be increasingly taken into account in the equivalent 2022/23 draft strategies, Members also asked that they be kept updated on progress.

It was then "**RESOLVED** that:

1. approval be given to the:
 - i) 2021/22 Capital Strategy (as attached at Appendix A of the presented agenda report);
 - ii) 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy (as attached at Appendix B of the presented agenda report);
 - iii) 2021/22 Investment Strategy (as attached at Appendix C of the presented agenda report); and
2. delegated authority be given to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Hub Committee

Member for Finance, to make any minor amendments to these Strategies if required throughout the 2021/22 Financial Year.”

45. **Pay Policy Statement and Pay and Reward Strategy**

CM 45

Members considered a report that sought adoption of the Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22 and the Pay and Reward Strategy for 2021/22.

In his introduction, the Leader made reference to two errors in the published agenda report. For clarity, these errors were corrected as follows:

- Section 3.4: ‘The annual median salary of all employees is £29,577’; and
- Section 3.6: ‘The relationship between the remuneration of the Head of Paid Service and the median salary of all employees is 4.17%’.

In discussion, reference was made to:-

- (a) any gender pay gap. When questioned, officers confirmed that there was not a significant gender pay gap within the organisation and the exact details would be circulated to Members in due course;
- (b) officers being shared across two councils. A number of Members paid tribute to the calibre of staff employed by the Council and South Hams District Council and recognised the amount of work that was being carried out by officers.

It was then “**RESOLVED** that:

1. the Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22 be adopted (as set out at Appendix A to the presented agenda report); and
2. the Pay and Reward Strategy for 2021/22 be adopted (as attached at Appendix B of the presented agenda report).”

The Meeting concluded at 5.30 pm

Signed by:

Chairman
