

NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the EXECUTIVE held at the Brynsworthy Environment Centre, Barnstaple on Monday 9th April 2018 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT: Members:

Councillor Brailey (Leader)

Councillors Barker, R. Cann, Edgell, Jones, Lane, Luggar, Moores and Yabsley.

Also Present:

Councillors Biederman, Edmunds, Greenslade and Moore.

Officers:

Chief Executive, Head of Resources, Head of Corporate and Community, Barnstaple Town Centre Pannier Market and CCTV Manager and Senior Corporate and Community Services Officer (BT).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

2 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2018 (circulated previously) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader advised that in relation to item 10 on the agenda, he had written to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Officer last week requesting an update regarding proposals for the future provision of the CCTV Service. He advised that a response had now been received and had been tabled.

The Head of Corporate and Community advised that as item 10 was in Part B on the agenda, the tabled response from the Police and Crime Commissioner's office could not be disclosed to the public and press.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

5 RMB CHIVENOR

The Executive considered a report by the Economic Growth Manager (circulated previously), the options and/or alternatives and other relevant facts set out in the report regarding RMB Chivenor.

Councillor Greenslade, in his capacity as Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee addressed the Executive. He referred to the previous lobbying of the Government that had been undertaken jointly by North Devon Council, Torridge District Council and Devon County Council during the 1990's following the decision to relocate the RAF from Chivenor due to the impact on the local economy. There was a need to receive a credible update regarding the impact of the Marines leaving Chivenor on the local economy and also on the local schools. He advised that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was also considering this issue and had supported the need to continue to make representations to the Government before any final decisions were made on the future of the military base and alongside this to also consider possible future uses for the base should Marines vacate the site. There could be issues with the development of the site in terms of flooding and pollution. He suggested that the Government should be asked for funding to be made available to enable the site to be developed should the Marines vacate the site.

During the debate, the Executive considered the following issues:

- That by working with other local authorities it may weaken the case for North Devon and the future development of the site should the Marines vacate. The impact on the environment also needed to be taken into account should the site be developed and concern was expressed that the Government could dispose of the site having no regard to the environment.
- The base was located on a sensitive site and alternative sites should be identified for the provision of housing and employment.

DECISIONS

- (a) That representations be made to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) that it should consult with local authorities before making any final decisions on the future of military bases in North Devon, and to call on the MoD to explicitly consider the impact on local communities and economies as part of that process and that this representation ideally be made jointly with Devon County Council;
- (b) That the Council begin work jointly with Devon County Council and other local partners to analyse options for potential future uses of the Chivenor site as detailed in paragraph 4.14 of the report and that this work should seek to identify options that could provide a sustainable economic future for the local community in the event that

the base is closed. It should be noted that this could form part of a joint study with Somerset County Council and Plymouth City Council.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

- (a) These actions seek to ensure maximum information is available with regard to the MoD's position on RMB Chivenor, and with regard to the impacts of any decisions concerning the site. Such information will assist North Devon Council in future decision making regarding the future of RMB Chivenor.
- (b) These recommendations support the Council in pursuing its corporate objective 'Growing North Devon'.

6 COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR GRANTS STRATEGY 2018-2023

The Executive considered a report by the Senior Corporate and Community Services Officer (circulated previously), the options and/or alternatives and other relevant facts set out in the report regarding the adoption of a Community Councillor Grants Strategy for 2018-2023.

In response to a question, the Head of Corporate and Community Services confirmed that the rolling forward of unallocated Community Councillor funds by Councillors from one year to the next had ceased a number of years ago.

The Head of Resources confirmed that unallocated funds could not be rolled forward to the next financial year as the Community Councillor grants was a revenue budget and therefore funds needed to be allocated and any commitments accounted for on an annual basis.

Councillor Greenslade suggested that if a Councillor had a project that would take a long period of time to deliver, then the Executive could consider it if a solid evidence based case was provided.

DECISION

That the updated Community Councillor Grant Strategy 2018-23 as detailed in Appendix A be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION

To improve the way the Council processes Community Councillor Grants by increasing transparency of the scheme and clarify the criteria and procedure for determining applications for applicants.

Councillor Edgell abstained from voting.

7 NORTH DEVON+ ANNUAL REPORT

The Executive considered a report by the Economic Growth Manager (circulated previously), the options and/or alternatives and other relevant facts set out in the report regarding an annual update in relation to North Devon+ governance and activities.

DECISION

That the annual update regarding North Devon+ be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION

The activity of North Devon+ contributes to North Devon Council's corporate objective to support the growth of the North Devon economy.

8 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS AND RESTRICTION OF DOCUMENTS

RESOLVED:

- (i) That under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended), as made under the Local Government Act 2000, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that the items shown on the copy notice of private meeting attached to the agenda would, if considered in public require the disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) noted against each of those items in the table(s) incorporated in the notice.
- (ii) That all documents and reports relating to the item be confirmed as "Not for Publication".

9 CCTV SERVICE

The Executive considered a report by the Barnstaple Town Centre, Pannier Market and CCTV Manager (circulated previously), the options and/or alternatives and other relevant facts set out in the report regarding the future delivery of the CCTV service.

A copy of a report by the Police and Crime Commissioner was tabled.

The Barnstaple Town Centre, Pannier Market and CCTV Manager advised that it was anticipated that the final report detailing the costed options for a North Devon hub would be received from the Office of the Police and Crime

Commissioner by the end of May 2018. Therefore it was anticipated that a report would be presented to the Executive earlier than detailed within the report.

Councillor Greenslade declared a personal interest as a Devon County Councillor appointed to the Barnstaple Town Centre Management and as his son-in-law was a Police Officer for Ilfracombe.

Councillor Greenslade, in his capacity as Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee addressed the Executive. He advised that he would take the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration. He expressed concern regarding cameras not being monitored during the early hours and with the reduction in police resources there was not sufficient manpower available to respond to incidents.

In response, the Barnstaple Town Centre, Pannier Market and CCTV Manager advised that this has been taken into consideration when the review had been undertaken of the service. She advised the Executive of the proposed hours that the cameras would be monitored.

During the debate, the Executive considered the following issues:

- That the CCTV cameras should be monitored 24 hours per day to provide information and intelligence.
- Concern expressed regarding the apparent lack of progress made since the meeting of the Executive in October 2017.
- Concern that minimal funding would be provided by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for a North Devon hub.
- A meeting would be held with the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner on 11th May 2018 and that Councillors Jones and Lane be invited to attend that meeting.
- Update on the progress that had been made and meetings held since the meeting of the Executive in October 2017.
- The reduction of the number of third party contracts to monitor CCTV cameras.
- That the detailed costings report to be presented to a future Executive should also include costings for the provision of an in-house service.

Councillor Edmunds expressed concern regarding the lack of monitoring CCTV cameras in Ilfracombe and that no progress had been made over the past 15 years.

In response, the Barnstaple Town Centre, Pannier Market and CCTV Manager advised that a North Devon hub would also include the monitoring of CCTV cameras in Ilfracombe.

In response to a question from Councillor Greenslade, the Barnstaple Town Centre, Pannier Market and CCTV Manager advised that the outcomes of the review of the service had been discussed with Barnstaple Town Centre Management.

DECISIONS

- (a) That the findings of the review be noted until a clear indication of the way forward had been identified;
- (b) That options 3 and 4 (as outlined in section 5 of the report) be investigated further and a report with detailed costings be considered at a future meeting within 3 months.
- (c) That whilst these options are being explored further option 2 be implemented including:
 - (i) reducing the operating hours of the service from 1st May 2018 in line with the findings of the review and an appropriate staffing structure be put in place to deliver the reduced service.
 - (ii) reducing the number of cameras from 1st May 2018 in line with the findings of the review.
- (d) That a new arrangement be put in place to deliver the Council's Standby service during the hours that the CCTV service is not manned from 1st May 2018;
- (e) That Councillors Jones and Lane attend future meetings with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the North Devon hub.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

- (a) The specification has been drawn up as a result of an extensive review and public consultation and is appropriate to the needs of the community, affordable and resilient.
- (b) To ensure best value for the Council.
- (c) To enable cost savings to be realised immediately and to ensure compliance with the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice 2012 that states that systems should be: in pursuit of a legitimate aim; necessary to meet a pressing need, proportionate; effective and compliant with any relevant legal obligations.
- (d) To enable Members of the Executive to be informed of the outcomes of discussions undertaken with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 11.04 a.m.

NOTE: The above decisions shall not take effect until the five clear working days have elapsed from the date of publication: 11th April 2018.