



## Public Document Pack

North Devon Council  
Brynsworthy Environment Centre  
Barnstaple  
North Devon EX31 3NP

K. Miles  
Chief Executive.

To: All Members of the Council  
and Chief Officers

**NOTE: PLEASE NOTE THAT PRAYERS WILL BE SAID AT 5.55 P.M. PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL MEETING FOR ANY MEMBER WHO WISHES TO ATTEND**

### **COUNCIL MEETING**

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** to attend a meeting of **NORTH DEVON COUNCIL** to be held in the Barum Room - Brynsworthy on **WEDNESDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER, 2019** at **6.00 pm.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Miles', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

**Chief Executive**

### **AGENDA**

13. Questions by Members (Pages 5 - 6)  
Questions to the Leader or the Chair of a Committee submitted under Part 4, Council Procedure Rules, paragraph 10.4 of the Constitution.

**If you have any enquiries about this agenda, please contact Corporate and Community Services, telephone 01271 388253**

12.11.19

## **GUIDANCE NOTES FOR RULES OF DEBATE AT MEETINGS OF COUNCIL**

### Part 4, Council Procedure Rules of the Constitution

#### **The basics**

At a meeting of Full Council, Members shall stand when speaking unless unable to do so and shall address the Chair.

While a Member is speaking, other Members shall remain seated unless rising for a point of order, a point of information or in personal explanation.

No speeches may be made after the mover had moved a proposal and explained the purpose of it until the motion has been seconded.

Unless notice of motion has already been given, the Chair may require it to be written down and handed to him before it is discussed.

When seconding a motion or amendment, a member may reserve their speech until later in the debate.

Speeches must be directed to the question under discussion or to be personal explanation or point of order.

A speech by the mover of a motion may not exceed 5 minutes without the consent of the Chair.

Speeches by other Members may not exceed 3 minutes without the consent of the Chair, unless when the Council's annual budget is under discussion, the leader of each political group on the Council may speak for up to 5 minutes or such longer period as the Chair shall allow.

#### **The rules of Question Time**

At a meeting of the Council, other than the Annual meeting, a Member of the Council may ask the Leader or the chair of a committee any question without notice upon an item of the report of a committee when that item is being received or under consideration by the Council.



### **North Devon Council protocol on recording/filming at Council meetings**

The Council is committed to openness and transparency in its decision-making. Recording is permitted at Council meetings that are open to the public. The Council understands that some members of the public attending its meetings may not wish to be recorded. The Chairman of the meeting will make sure any request not to be recorded is respected.

The rules that the Council will apply are:

1. The recording must be overt (clearly visible to anyone at the meeting) and must not disrupt proceedings. The Council will put signs up at any meeting where we know recording is taking place.
2. The Chairman of the meeting has absolute discretion to stop or suspend recording if, in their opinion, continuing to do so would prejudice proceedings at the meeting or if the person recording is in breach of these rules.
3. We will ask for recording to stop if the meeting goes into 'part B' where the public is excluded for confidentiality reasons. In such a case, the person filming should leave the room ensuring all recording equipment is switched off.
4. Any member of the public has the right not to be recorded. We ensure that agendas for, and signage at, Council meetings make it clear that recording can take place – anyone not wishing to be recorded must advise the Chairman at the earliest opportunity.
5. The recording should not be edited in a way that could lead to misinterpretation or misrepresentation of the proceedings or in a way that ridicules or shows a lack of respect for those in the recording. The Council would expect any recording in breach of these rules to be removed from public view.

#### **Notes for guidance:**

Please contact either our Corporate and Community Services team or our Communications team in advance of the meeting you wish to record at so we can make all the necessary arrangements for you on the day.

For more information contact the Corporate and Community Services team on **01271 388253** or email **memberservices@northdevon.gov.uk** or the Communications Team on **01271 388278**, email **communications@northdevon.gov.uk**.

North Devon Council offices at Brynsworthy, the full address is:  
Brynsworthy Environment Centre (BEC), Roundswell,  
Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 3NP.

Sat Nav postcode is EX31 3NS.

At the Roundswell roundabout take the exit onto the B3232, after about ½ mile take the first right, BEC is about ½ a mile on the right.

Drive into the site, visitors parking is in front of the main building on the left hand side.

On arrival at the main entrance, please dial 8253 for Corporate and Community Services.



## NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

COUNCIL 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019

### QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER OR THE CHAIR OF A COMMITTEE SUBMITTED UNDER PART 4 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES, PARAGRAPH 10.4 OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. Question from Councillor Lane to Councillor Pearson

“With the need to recycle more. Can you confirm when we will meet the 50% target set for 2020?”

**Councillor Lane, thank you for your question. I cannot confirm that we will meet the 50% target set for 2020. As you will be aware the Works and Recycling service commenced a full systems review of the service at the start of October. The purpose of the review is to create service and financial stability, reducing missed collections and the reliance on overtime to complete the work. Once this review has been completed and changes have been implemented and monitored to ensure stability, Officers will report to Members on the options for future service delivery which will deliver increased recycling performance that will both meet and exceed the 50% target.**

2. Question from Councillor Lane to Councillor Roome

“With waste and recycling employees increasing in overspend in the first 2 quarters £89,000.increasingto £229,000. Can you confirm that waste and recycling will be back on budget going forward?”

**Councillor Lane, thank you for your question. As outlined in the Quarter 2 Performance and Financial Management report under item 15 on tonight’s agenda the increased forecast in employee spend has materialised from increased levels of missed collections and higher levels of sickness absence. These levels are unacceptable and the Head of Operational Services has been targeted with reducing these levels as soon as possible.**

**The main reason for the increased spend has come from additional use of agency staff and overtime and the Head of Operational Services has outlined his plans to reduce these inefficiencies as set out in the report above; these being (1) Introducing new working patterns within the vehicle workshop to reduce the amount of time vehicles are off the road in core working parts of the day (2) Challenging resources within the wider Operational Services team to re-allocate to priority areas to reduce the reliance on agency staff and (3) Work closely with Human**

**Resources and have a pro-active approach to reducing sickness absence levels. I have been assured these actions will be closely monitored and reported through as part of budget monitoring to the Senior Management Team on a monthly basis.**

**I agree with you that there is a need to ensure the appropriate control measures are in place so that costs can be reduced for the remainder of the financial year and we need a stable position moving forwards for next year's budget.**

**3. Question from Councillor Tucker to Councillor Worden**

**"There is no area of search for on-shore wind turbines in the North Devon and Torridge adopted local plan, and no progress has been made in identifying any such development opportunities through the neighbourhood planning process. Given the Council's commitment to address climate change and its encouragement of renewable energy development, would the leader ensure that this omission is reviewed without delay either as part of an early review of the local plan or in a single issue development plan document so as to enable individual proposals to be determined on their own merits in areas suitable for their use."**

**Thank you Cllr. Tucker for your question. In October 2015 and as part of the process for adopting a joint Local Plan, a wind energy policy options paper was prepared followed by a draft policy which was published in February 2016. Whilst there was support from statutory consultees, the draft policy attracted a large number of public objections and members decided not to proceed. As a result the Local Plan has no recognised area of search at present. As you rightly point out the Council has a commitment to encourage measures to address climate change and all avenues to do so need to be explored including the use of on-shore wind turbines. For example, in addition to the environmental issues, small turbines to help provide power for local businesses may become increasing more important in a very competitive economic market. However, this is a sensitive issue in areas of outstanding nature beauty and so some areas may be more suited than others to on-shore wind turbines.**

**National policy has also not changed and does not currently provide strong support for on shore wind energy development.**

**That should not be an excuse to do nothing and as you rightly say the current situation should be reviewed. The evidence from 2015 still exists and could be used to provide support for a new planning policy but the correct approach would be to do this through a Development Plan Document developed jointly with Torridge. I would suggest that officers, and members, explore the possibilities to do this initially through the Local Plan Working Group.**