



## Public Document Pack

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

K. Miles  
Chief Executive.

### **POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Policy Development Committee will be held in the Barum Room - Brynsworthy on **THURSDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2022 at 10.00 am.**

**(NOTE: A location plan for the Brynsworthy Environment Centre is attached to the agenda front pages. For meetings held at Brynsworthy only, you can join the meeting virtually via Microsoft Teams. There are also limited spaces to attend the meeting in person. Please check the Council's website for the latest information regarding the arrangements that are in place and the requirement to book a place 2 working days prior to the meeting. Taking part in meetings (northdevon.gov.uk)**

Members of the Policy Development Councillor D. Spear (Chair)  
Committee

Councillors Campbell, Bulled, Hunt, Jenkins, Luggar, Mackie, Roome, Walker and York

### **AGENDA**

6. Coastal deprivation: To discuss issues currently being faced in coastal communities. (Pages 5 - 6)  
Presentation and update by the Head of Planning, Housing and Health.
  - (a) Representation from Councillor Wilkinson (attached).

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

31.08.22



### **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 sign in using the Track and Trace App and follow the signage and instructions in order to access the Meeting Rooms. Alternatively, dial 8253 for Corporate and Community Services if you have any problems.





## POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022

### REPRESENTATION FROM COUNCILLOR WILKINSON IN RELATION TO ITEM 6 ON THE AGENDA

#### Coastal deprivation: To discuss issues currently being faced in coastal communities

Deprivation in coastal communities can be seen in many different forms:

- HEALTH:

Professor Chris Whitty clearly outlined the health problems within coastal communities in his CMO Annual Report 2022. They explore the benefits of coastal living. The coast has much to offer with research suggesting that there is a protective effect to health and wellbeing from living on the coast. Running through the report is the fact that coastal communities have multiple, overlapping but addressable health problems. If we are serious about improving the health of the nation, coastal communities are a good place to start.

We have wards in our authority that are amongst the 10 most deprived areas in the country.

- HOUSING:

One of the main problems being faced within the coastal community is the massive disparity between house prices and the average wage packet of the residents. In my home village of Woolacombe, the cheapest residential property is over £500,000 and the average pay for workers is £10 an hour! How can locals afford to buy in the village that they were born? We currently have approximately 50% of the properties owned as second homes. This skews the price of housing with many being well over £1 million.

The knock on effect is that coastal communities are dying.

Regeneration should not just be seen as **financial** but also about **community**. It is vital that we build affordable housing in rural and coastal areas. We have a CLT scheme coming before the planners in November to build 21 dwellings in Woolacombe. It is being welcomed with unanimous support by the local population. The land is being made available by the National Trust as an exception site and they have made a caveat that it will only be for social rent with no open market housing or right to buy.

- **STAFFING:**

There is a massive problem with staff. Many businesses are operating well below capacity as they cannot recruit sufficient staff. This season has seen several restaurants and pubs close on Mondays during the summer and for several weeks during winter. The main reasons for the difficulty are lack of staff accommodation and poor (non-existent!) public transport during the evening. The emergence of Airbnb has practically wiped out affordable accommodation to rent.

- **EXAMPLES OF THE WAY FORWARD:**

1. In Barcelona tighter controls were launched in 2016 in an attempt to control the rapid proliferation of short-term lets, which officials fear are effecting the city's character.
2. In Paris, since 2017 landlords must register with the City Hall before advertising short-term lets.
3. Earlier last month Edinburgh became the first place in Scotland to launch a clampdown on short-term city lets. Residents within a short-term let "control area" must apply to the council to change residential accommodation to a short-term let.
4. Wales has recently tripled the council tax on second homes.

I fully realise that our laws don't allow us to implement some of these measures but I welcome the debate. It is vital that something is done to arrest the decline of a healthy and vibrant coastal community.

Councillor Malcolm Wilkinson