



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 6.25 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, 15TH MARCH, 2023 at 6.30 pm.**

Chief Executive

AGENDA

14. Outside Bodies - Report by Appointees (Pages 5 - 14)
Report by Head of Governance (attached).

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

7.03.23

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 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile take the first right, BEC is about $\frac{1}{2}$ 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.



Agenda Item 14

REPORT TO: COUNCIL
Date: 15 MARCH 2023
OUTSIDE BODY: LGA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REPORT BY: CLLR CAROLINE LEAVER

1. ACTIVITY

- 1.1 The LGA General Assembly is held every year, at the start of the LGA Conference. In 2022 this event took place in Harrogate.

2 PURPOSE

- 2.1 The LGA is the national membership body for local authorities that works on behalf of member councils to support, promote and improve local government. It is a politically led, cross party organisation that works on behalf of councils to ensure that local government has a strong, credible voice with national government, aiming to set the political agenda on issues that matter to councils so they can deliver local solutions to nation problems. North Devon Council is a member of the LGA and as a district council has the right to appoint one representative and has one vote at the General Assembly.
- 2.2 The General Assembly is a formal meeting which is part of the LGA's political governance structure. It meets annually and takes place alongside the LGA's Annual Conference. Membership of the General Assembly is restricted to elected members. Individual authorities in LGA membership directly appoint members to the General Assembly.
- 2.3 The General Assembly runs in tandem with the LGA Conference, which is the biggest event in the local government calendar and one of the most well-attended political conferences of the year. The event is the largest and most important conference for Council Leaders and Chief Executives, senior officers, lead members and policy makers across all services provided by local authorities. It regularly attracts high numbers from partners across the wider public sector, the private and voluntary sectors. NDC does not fund attendance at the conference.
- 2.4 The General Assembly acts as both the 'parliament of Local Government' and as a formal annual meeting (similar to a council AGM). It considers strategic policy issues of national significance to local government in the England and Wales, as well as formal business such as appointment of Offices Holders of the Association and the annual accounts.

Agenda Item 14

2.5 The General Assembly is the only LGA decision making forum which all authorities in full membership are eligible to attend and to vote. Its responsibilities include:

- Debating motions submitted by local authorities in membership of the Association.
- Determining the terms of reference, delegated powers, size and political composition of the Association's governance structures.
- Electing the President and Office Holders of the Local Government Association.
- Noting Vice-President appointments.
- Receiving the audited accounts of the Association.
- Receiving an Annual Report from the Audit Committee.

3 Decisions at 2022 LGA General Assembly

3.1 The LGA General Assembly re-elected Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson as its new President, and Cllr James Jamieson (Central Bedfordshire Council) as Chair of the LGA for the forthcoming year together with four vice chairs – one each from the Liberal Democrat, Labour, conservative and Independent Groups – nine deputy chairs and numerous vice presidents.

3.2 The LGA Financial Statement for the 2021/2 year was received and the 2022 Annual Report of the Audit Committee was noted.

3.3 The minutes of the 2021 LAG General Assembly were agreed as a true record.

4 THE FUTURE

4.1 The General Assembly is Member Authorities' opportunity to consider strategic policy of national significance to local government by submitting a Motion for debate by the Assembly. All authorities in membership are invited to submit Motions for consideration before the deadline of 3 May 2023. The General Assembly will take place during the LGA conference in Bournemouth 4-6 July 2023.

4.2 The LGA is the national voice of local government, working with councils to support, promote and improve local government. Membership of the LGA gives NDC access to a wealth of networks, resources and membership of Boards that combine to work for the benefit of local government and communities across the country. Attendance at the General Assembly but not the accompanying LGA Conference is the most light touch form of engagement by a member council of the LGA.

4.3 The LGA is a political organisation because it is the elected representatives from all political parties that direct the organisation through the LGA's Boards and panels. These are:

- Children and young people Board

- City Regions Board
 - Community Well Being Board
 - Culture, Tourism and Sport Board
 - Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board
 - Fire Services Management Committee
 - Improvement and Innovation Board
 - LGA Board
 - People and Places Board
 - Resources Board
 - Safer and Stronger Communities Board
 - Executive Advisory Board
 - General Assembly
 - Councillors' Forum
 - Fire Commission
- 4.4 Significant efforts are made to agree a common cross-party position on issues and to speak with one voice on behalf of local government. The LGA aims to set the political agenda and speak in the national media on issues that matter to council members. It covers every part of England and Wales and includes county and district councils, metropolitan and unitary councils, London boroughs, Welsh unitary councils, fire, police, national park and passenger transport authorities.
- 4.5 The governance structure of the LGA is one the key mechanisms through which members of the organisation shape and direct decision making. Priorities for the coming year are:
- Funding for local government
 - Adult social care and health
 - Children, education and schools
 - Housing
 - Inclusive growth, jobs and devolution
 - Britain's exit from the EU
 - Supporting councils
- 4.6 Membership of the LGA also gives access to a range of practical support on either a free or subsidised basis to enable local authorities to exploit the opportunities that this approach to improvement provides. NDC has taken advantage of this support early in the last council year through the peer review process. Other improvement support available includes leadership programmes, benchmarking and programmes tailored to specific service areas such as culture, tourism, sport and planning services.
- 4.7 Local government is working in a highly challenging environment, facing major challenges coming out of the pandemic, the on-going budgetary pressures, and uncertainties coming out of the Levelling Up agenda and changes in local governance arrangements.

Agenda Item 14

4.8 Attendance at the LGA General Assembly and the authority's engagement with the LGA symbolises its potential to be a powerful force for good in the longer term, for the council and the people we serve.



REPORT TO: COUNCIL
Date: 15 March 2023
OUTSIDE BODY: NORTH DEVON & TORRIDGE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
REPORT BY: Cllr Caroline Leaver

1. ACTIVITY

- 1.1 The North Devon & Torridge Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is made up of statutory partners including North Devon Council, Devon & Cornwall Police, The NHS, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. There are also non-statutory members such as North Devon Against Domestic Abuse and North Devon Voluntary Services.
- 1.2 The CSP meets on a quarterly basis.

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1 The purpose of The Partnership is to bring local key agencies together to deliver multi-agency solutions by pooling resources, expertise and experience.
- 2.2 Involvement in the CSP helps North Devon Council's corporate priority of "Becoming Focused on Delivering the Best for All Our Citizens".

3. ACHIEVEMENTS

3.1 Safer Streets Bid

- 3.1.1 The CSP played an important role in the successful bid to HMG Safer Streets Fund. Activities included Street Marshalls in Barnstaple who patrol 7 days a week, as well as Marshalls attached to Fever Nightclub who operate after the club closes to help people leave safely.
- 3.1.2 Other activities included in the project are:
 - By-stander training to increase safety of women and girls
 - Self defence training for Petroc students
 - Improved CCVY coverage and street lighting

Agenda Item 14

Appendix d

3.2 Serious Violence Duty

- 3.2.1 The CSP has been part of Devon wide planning for our new duty to prevent serious violence. Our focus is violence amongst under 25 year olds and as part of this we are developing a programme for local schools to be delivered to 12 year olds.

3.3 Prevent

- 3.3.1 The partnership contributed to the production of the Devon Counter Terrorism Local Profile. An officer now attends the monthly Channel Panel which attempts to divert referred individuals away from terrorism.

3.4 Trauma-Informed Work

- 3.4.1 The CSP continue to have a focus on Trauma-Informed practice. Two officers have been trained to deliver inputs to others. We are working with local organisations to increase awareness of this in North Devon.

3.5 Bitesize

- 3.5.1 Following the end of covid restrictions, work has started on reintroduction of our popular Bitesize training series. It is likely that the first session will focus on illegal loaning by loan sharks.

3.6 Sub-Groups

- 3.6.1 The CSP continue to attend and contribute to the following Devon groups:

- Serious Violence Delivery Group – Chaired by the Police & Crime Commissioner
- The Devon & Torbay Prevent Partnership
- Devon Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

- 3.6.2 In addition, the North Devon & Torridge CSP have the following sub groups that meet on a quarterly basis.

- Road Safety
- Sexual Violence & Domestic Abuse Forum
- Anti-Social Behaviour Steering Group

4. THE FUTURE

- 4.1 By working together, the CSP allows for coordinated responses to local crime and disorder issues. North Devon remains one of the safest places to live in England, and joint working helps to maintain this.

- 4.2 The Council has a Statutory Duty to work together with partners to reduce crime, or the fear of crime in our local area.

North Devon Biosphere Foundation Current projects

Devon Woods Status is Green

We aspire to plant 158 hectares of new woodland, which will relate to 45 kilometres of riverside enhancement, contributing to an improvement in overall river health.

Using nature-based solutions to improve water quality throughout Devon. Extending across the whole of Devon from the highlands of Dartmoor, down the river valleys and beyond, the project aims to improve water quality, flood management and biodiversity within the catchments of the rivers: Tamar, Torridge, Taw, Teign, Exe and Otter.

The project ran a free tree scheme for small projects not easily eligible for grant aid. Approximately 60,000 trees have been distributed.

CRITTER Status Amber

The land advisors on the CRITTER Project work with landowners and land managers to improve water quality, reduce flood risk, increase the health of local soils, create areas of new saltmarsh, all supported through a simple small grant scheme process. Focus areas Water Quality, Coastal Habitat/Saltmarsh Creation, Land Management. We are working with MoD and Gaia Trust on potential sites for intervention.

Farm related work is going well. There is a problem in recruiting for a coastal habitat advisor. The roles may be now linked to the marine project coordinator. The slow progress to deliver the new intertidal areas places the project at some risk and will require some negotiation with EA to continue the project and funding from them.

DRIP (Devon Resilience Innovation Project) Status Green

An exciting pilot project local to the Little Dart, Huntacott Water and Sturcombe River catchments consists of two complimentary strands designed to help unlock new natural flood management funding for landowners by installing watercourse soil moisture and chemistry sensors throughout the catchment alongside 1:1 advice towards natural flood management measures.

3C coastal coordination; Status: Amber. We have just received confirmation of the funding for this. £15K is on offer which will be partly used to fund the accreditation scheme below. It has already been agreed by the board that funds in the restricted funds will be used to make a one year contract for a marine projects coordinator to be appointed. This post will support the development of key projects such as aquaculture, coastal habitats, marine nature recovery and a revision of the estuary strategy. The post has been advertised and there are a number of interested applicants.

Marine Wildlife Aware Accreditation Scheme

The North Devon Marine Wildlife Aware Accreditation Scheme was developed as part of the EU funded 'BioCultural Heritage Tourism' project (BCHT) to recognise the amazing local coastal/marine businesses of North Devon operating along our coastline, to support and enhance their marine wildlife encounters. Face to face training will be given in mid March 2 boat owners and other stakeholders at two locations in Bideford and Ilfracombe

Agenda Item 14

Appendix e

DEFRA Facilitation Fund Status Amber awaiting decision

Although we have just finished a 6 year project we hope to start a new farmers/landowners group in June 2023

Benefits to joining the group include additional points for Countryside Stewardship applications, provide help and advice with Countryside Stewardship applications. Organise free workshops and training in agriculture, forestry, grants etc, with the subject matter being identified by Facilitation Group members. Give general advice, support, and opportunities for joint working.

Pledge for Nature Status Green

Pledge for Nature is a campaign to galvanise community action for nature's recovery across the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere and beyond. Our aims are to make North Devon a better place for nature, with more community action to protect for the future. Working with community groups, school children, youth groups and individuals to do their bit to protect the natural world. We are developing a Climate action Fund application that will be a follow on to this project, with other partners in the Biosphere Reserve.

Biosphere Business Partner Eco-Accreditation Scheme Status Green

Our plan to create positive change for North Devon. The UNESCO World Biosphere designation is our unique selling point as a region. The Biosphere Business Partner Scheme provides the opportunity for businesses to share that they are proud to be part of this world class area, by being part of a sustainable business network that looks after the very assets that attract 80% of the visitors, as well as each other.

Visit.Invest.Protect Status Amber

Visit our area. Invest in nature. Protect our environment! The North Devon UNESCO Biosphere welcomes over 5m visitors every year, who come to enjoy our golden sands, rugged coastline and rich heritage. We're asking our visitors to help us give nature a helping hand in protecting what we all love by donating to help fund a variety of projects. Your donation could help the water vole reintroduction to Braunton Marsh or to restore the ancient woodlands across our biosphere! We have applied as a charity for gifted status, however, this appears to take some time with HMRC.

Sustainable Tourism Status Green

Our web app 'North Devon Explorer' aims to draw visitors away from the hotspots and find the hidden gems across our Biosphere. In conjunction with Torridge District Council, we're helping tourism providers showcase our area's abundance of natural assets and adventure activities, in turn, helping to increase their year-round offer. We also offer 1:1 support sessions for tourism businesses, to give advice and guidance on sustainability, increasing year-round offer and/or creating authentic Biosphere experiences. The current licence for the app expires in July 2023, the annual fee is 6000 pounds. At the moment the app does not have enough traffic to warrant this licence fee. We will be looking for other platforms on which we can develop the app such as Mendix which means we could provide the service in a much more cost-effective way.

We are using funds from Torridge District Council and North Devon District Council along with funds recovered from the Interreg project to sustain the position held by our tourism officer for a further two years

Applications in the Pipeline

DEFRA Facilitation Fund Status Amber awaiting decision

Although we have just finished a 6 year project we hope to start a new farmers/landowners group in June 2023

Benefits to joining the group include additional points for Countryside Stewardship applications, provide help and advice with Countryside Stewardship applications. Organise free workshops and training in agriculture, forestry, grants etc, with the subject matter being identified by Facilitation Group members. Give general advice, support, and opportunities for joint working.

Defra ELMS Test and Trials Status Amber awaiting decision by end of March

We have applied for a test and trials that follows from the first phase done with Natural England, This test will work in the same 4 landscape areas (Hartland, Upper and Lower Torridge, Taw Valley and Whistland Pound reservoir) with 25 farms to explore stacked and blended finance, combined offers from farmer groups, local fund governance and use of the NCM to deliver the above. We will have a decision by the end of March. The ask is to pay for the NCM operation and development and the land management advice as well as challenge papers about additionality rules.

Biosphere Foundation CIC Projects

Smart Biosphere

The Smart Biosphere is a programme from the Digital Biosphere concept. It is testing a range of sensors and the information it can tell us about the current state but also predict (and hopefully prevent) flooding and pollution events. The project is being expanded from the Umber catchment to the Little Dart and having sentinel samplers on the estuaries. We are also testing the approach in rivers outside of the biosphere reserve (Axe and Somerset Levels) to test its more universal application.

Smart Biosphere is a key plank of the commercial activity of the CIC. It is receiving a lot of positive attention from the Institute of Chartered Engineers, Department of Business, Innovation and Science, Ordnance Survey and the UN. These have been examples of best practise in applying digital technology in the environment and also side projects to develop further capacity and research for expanding and enhancing the services of the smart biosphere.

As a programme it has been developed through various phases attached to different funding programmes such 1 with LEP funds, 1a with some EA funds, 2 CRF and Estuary, 3 DRIP Umber, 4 Part of DRIP in the Little Dart, and about to be developed more with 5 Environment Living Labs in testing some Somerset Catchments for Phosphate)

Axe catchment: Status Green.

This is a short term project looking with West Country Rivers Trust 2 apply monitoring and a sub catchment where farms will be engaged to use the various approved methodologies and test their efficacy. Funding is secured in the current financial year

Agenda Item 14

Appendix e

to prepare the project with an aspiration for funding for the next two years from the Environment Agency.

Environment Living Labs Status: Green. The environment living labs project is a multi-partner project hosted by the satellite applications catapult. The project start date is September 2022 and will include eligible spend from that date going forwards to March 2025. There is a considerable matching fund requirement for this project that needs to be documented. we have negotiated that sensors bought after the start date and a reasonable depreciation of value of that along with the work in the little dark valley with the drip project, and funds aligned to the Axe project can be used as eligible match. The licence from Siemens tech will also be used as a match. The cash benefit 2 the CIC is £350,000. This will be spent on more sensors, development of the SMART Biosphere platform and the use of Mindsphere to work in different catchments and develop tradeable credits as a model. By working with satellite applications catapult we will be also developing other data sources that can support the monitoring of ecosystem service benefits arising from change.

Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) Status is RED

The Foundation is part of this work to test approaches for marketing various benefits arising from saltmarsh and intertidal habitat creation projects. There is also some allowance for developing monitoring systems for the benefits arising from the projects so that they can be monetised in support of project implementation. Due to a delay in a viable saltmarsh code being developed which was due last year, it has been hard to progress this work and a revisiting of the business case and business plan is needed. This project is important part of the funding of the NCM over the coming 12 months.