

NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of NORTH DEVON COUNCIL held at Barum Room - Brynsworthy on Wednesday, 26th February, 2020 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Members:

Councillor Biederman (Chair)

Councillors Barker, Bushell, Campbell, Cann, Chesters, Crabb, Davis, Davies, Fowler, Gubb, Henderson, Hunt, Jenkins, Knight, Lane, Leaver, Lovering, Lofthouse, Ley, Luggar, Mack, Mackie, Patrinos, Pearson, Prowse, Roome, D. Spear, L. Spear, Topham, Topps, Tucker, Turton, Walker, Wilkinson, Worden, Yabsley and York

Officers:

Chief Executive, Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive, Solicitor and Ilfracombe Harbour Master

103. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bulled, Orange, Phillips and Saxby.

104. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH JANUARY 2020 (ATTACHED)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2020 (circulated previously) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

105. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed the Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge Team to the meeting.

106. BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY OR WITH THE CONSENT OF THE CHAIR

There were no items of business brought forward by or with the consent of the Chair.

107. REPLIES TO ANY QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC AND/OR TO RECEIVE PETITIONS UNDER PART 4, COUNCIL PROCEDURES RULES, PARAGRAPHS 8 AND 9 OF THE CONSTITUTION

(a) **Funding for South Molton Swimming Pool**

Kilmeny MacBride presented a petition to Council containing 1132 valid signatures stating “We the undersigned petition the Council to reinstate funding for South Molton Swimming Pool in order to at least restore previous opening hours for public swimming” and addressed Council.

Councillor Worden advised that consideration of the petition could be referred to the Strategy and Resources Committee. However the Council needed to receive 1610’s business plan prior to consideration by the Committee and therefore suggested that it be considered by the Committee at its meeting on 6th April 2020. A meeting with officers was also due to take place in the next couple of weeks to discuss options for alternative sources of funding.

It was moved by Councillor Worden and seconded by Councillor Yabsley “that the petition be referred to the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee on 6th April 2020 for consideration”.

RESOLVED that the petition be referred to the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee on 6th April 2020 for consideration.

108. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 4, COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES, PARAGRAPH 11 OF THE CONSTITUTION

(a) **To consider the following notice of motion from Councillor Knight**

Councillor Davis declared a personal and prejudicial interest and left the room during the consideration thereof as Devon County Council’s Lead Member for Infrastructure.

Councillor Biederman declared a personal interest as a Member of Devon County Council.

Councillor Knight presented his notice of motion to Council excluding (iii).

It was moved by Councillor Knight and seconded by Councillor Lofthouse that:

- I. “An immediate meeting with all parties concerned regarding the routing of the construction traffic, to try and resolve the issues that have been highlighted.
- II. The County Council and planning department to provide a new realistic time scale for the works to be completed.
- III. The County Council to consider urgent action at the next HATOC meeting to expedite changes to the bus gate.

- IV. The County Council to evaluate the proposal of a slip lane (marked in red) out of the bottom of Old Torrington Road, to aid the traffic trying to leave the area. (diagram/map attached)
- V. The Council in conjunction with the County Council, need to formulate an action plan suggesting ways to deliver the highway infrastructure improvements that are already detailed in the local plan.”

Councillor Yabsley declared a personal interest as the Chair of Devon County Council North Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) An immediate meeting with all parties concerned regarding the routing of the construction traffic, to try and resolve the issues that have been highlighted;
- (ii) The County Council and planning department to provide a new realistic time scale for the works to be completed;
- (iii) The County Council to consider urgent action at the next HATOC meeting to expedite changes to the bus gate;
- (iv) The County Council to evaluate the proposal of a slip lane (marked in red on the plan) out of the bottom of Old Torrington Road, to aid the traffic trying to leave the area;
- (v) The Council in conjunction with the County Council, need to formulate an action plan suggesting ways to deliver the highway infrastructure improvements that are already detailed in the local plan.

109. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were announced:

Councillor Biederman	Item 6: Personal interest as a Member of Devon County Council.
Councillor Davis	Item 6: Personal and prejudicial interest as Devon County Council Lead Member for Infrastructure.
Councillor Knight	Item 6: Personal interest as lived in Old Torrington Road and Member of Devon County Council Highways and Traffic Orders Committee.
Councillor York	Item 13 (a): Personal interest as attended meetings of the Traders Committee in her own capacity.

110. CHAIR'S REPLIES TO ANY QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL BY MEMBERS SUBMITTED UNDER PART 4, COUNCIL PROCEDURES RULES, PARAGRAPH 10 OF THE CONSTITUTION

There were no questions submitted to Council by Members under Part 4, Council Procedures Rules, Paragraph 10 of the Constitution.

111. REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Council noted a report by the Leader of the Council (circulated previously) regarding work that had been undertaken since the last Council meeting.

In response to questions, the Leader advised that progress was being made on the Vanguard review of the Waste and Recycling service. A number of improvements were required. A number of minor improvements were currently in the process of being implemented. A report would be brought to Council in due course on the outcomes of the review. The Head of Service had also recently resigned. The Leader was pleased that Ilfracombe Ward Members were actively being involved in the process for securing a solution for the location of the Watersports Centre in Ilfracombe.

112. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The following questions were submitted in advance of the meeting and responses provided by the Leader were circulated separately:

- (a) Question to Councillor Worden from Councillor Andrea Davis "This meeting is being held in a location not accessible by public transport, the majority of other meetings open to the public are also at this location. This Council last year, Signed a Climate Change Declaration....can the Leader of the Council outline the steps being taken to make these meetings accessible by public transport, not only would this reduce carbon emissions but also would make the meetings accessible to residents who do not have access to a motor car." Councillor Worden's response "Thank you Cllr Davis for your question. It is unfortunate that Brynsworthy is not well served by public transport and as I have said for some time I would like to make the meetings more accessible to the public. This has been recognised by the council which runs a mini bus service for officers to encourage people to use means other than private vehicles. We have also had discussions with DCC over cycle routes and footpaths but have not been able to move this forward. There is a bus - Bus routes 71 and 72 stop at the bus stop at the end of the lane to Brynsworthy Environment Centre. The bus travels from Barnstaple and stops at 9.54, 13.04 and 16.04. The bus travels in the opposite direction (i.e. from Torrington to Barnstaple) and stops at 13.18, 14.18 and 17.30. The reason why the Council moved from the Civic

Centre must also be borne in mind. By moving to BEC we saved around £300k per year which was necessary because with around 40% being cut by the government from our total income to continue at the Civic Centre was unaffordable. We would like to explore what else we can do, with our partners at DCC, in the future to encourage more bus routes to access this area and to perhaps encourage the extension of the cycle route over the A39 at Roundswell so that it serves the offices. As you know we already hold our planning meetings at Barnstaple Rugby Club because of the number of people who wish to attend.” In response to a supplementary question, Councillor Worden advised that the Council would be exploring other methods for communicating with the public and to make Council meetings more accessible to the public.

- (b) Question to Councillor Worden from Cllr Paul Henderson “Can the Leader confirm that Commercial Waste collection customers have not been invoiced for their collections for a period of time and what action is being taken to rectify this situation.” Councillor Worden’s response “Thank you Cllr. Henderson, this was a concern. The invoicing to some businesses had fallen behind schedule and it has taken some time to get all customer arrangements and associated delivery tickets collated to ensure that the invoices are a true reflection of the services customers have received. Invoicing has now been brought up to date in November 2019 and all customers affected have now received their customer accounts. Improved controls have been put in place to ensure this does not materialise again. Moving forwards we plan to carry out a full review of our Commercial Waste business; we will be liaising with customers to ensure that the service matches their expectations as we want this to be an efficient service that we can be proud of.”
- (c) Question to Councillor Worden from Councillor Jeremy Yabsley “How many outstanding Planning Enforcement issues has this Council open on its books at present and how many are being determined within the guideline time scale?.....Does the Enforcement Service have sufficient capacity to deliver this requirement.” Councillor Worden’s response “Thank you Cllr Yabsley for your question. The planning enforcement function currently has just over 600 open cases which is too many and apologies for the long answer but you will see that we are working to improve the situation. The caseload has steadily risen over the last 4 years, mainly due to periods of under capacity. In March 2018 the team lost 2 officers, leaving just the team leader. Although both posts were filled neither candidate had any planning or investigative experience so needed extensive support and training. This again impacted on the outstanding work which has been rising since 2018 - 462 new investigations were raised in 2018 and 539 in 2019. One of the new recruits left the team in 2019 after not settling to the work. An internal candidate was appointed and started with the team September 2019 and inherited a large backlog. Similarly, the other team member has a large

inherited backlog which impacts on the team's ability to respond to new demands. When the team has had reduced numbers, the caseload has risen and even with the team at full strength it will take two years to get the number of outstanding cases to a manageable 200. Unfortunately, the detailed reports for how many are being determined within the guideline time scale are not yet available from the new IT system, however, the team acknowledges that timescales, as published in our compliance and monitoring plan, have not been met. On a more positive note the team are now dealing with new requests in a timely manner and complaints to feedback have dropped off. It is worth highlighting that the planning enforcement function in this Council is delivered differently than in some others. Rather than the function being delivered by a single team, the enforcement team registers new enforcement cases, carries out the initial investigation, and then passes the case onto a planning officer for their view on the planning merits of the case. The case then goes back to the enforcement team for pursuing the action agreed with the planning officer. Legal services are also involved in the drafting of enforcement notices and prosecutions, should the case reach that stage. I highlight these dependencies because capacity in these teams has a direct impact on the delivery of the enforcement service and both have had their own challenges over recent years. In response to our current situation the team is undertaking a process review. The enforcement team have led the way in using the new planning software as a case management tool and are on the verge of a paperless environment system, subject to mobile working. The team are also looking to rebrand the service and review approaches to compliance and monitoring. A leaflet is being produced to better inform the public of what the team does. It is intended to publish monthly bulletins to inform the public on common planning issues that result in enforcement investigations with the aim of educating and thereby reducing workload. The enforcement officers have begun to draft decision instructions to speed up the process and relieve some of the pressure from the planning officers and the team leader has been drafting enforcement notices without reference to legal services, with their agreement. The team has been at the forefront of developing joint and closer working with colleagues in other services such as council tax, housing and environmental health and has been chosen to be part of a pilot collaboration as part of the transformation work. The team leader has been trained as a Financial Intelligence Officer under the Proceeds of Crime Act. The new team member is authorised under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme and the other two team members are in the process of achieving the same. Drones are being considered corporately as an additional tool to assist in the work. All of these activities and measures are designed to improve our communication and interaction with the public and professionalise the team."

The Chief Executive advised that a summary of the rules for question time as contained in the Constitution would be circulated to all Members.

113. PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT QUARTER 3 OF 2019/20

Council considered the Performance and Financial Management report for Quarter 3 of 2019/20 to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 3 February 2020 (circulated previously).

(a) **Report of the Policy Development Committee**

Councillor Spear, Chair of the Policy Development Committee presented the Committee's report on the Performance and Financial Management for Quarter 3 of 2019/20 (circulated previously).

In response to a question in relation to paragraph 4.1.3 of the report, the Head of Resources confirmed that the target included within the budget for salary vacancy savings had been exceeded.

(b) **Report of meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee**

Councillor Worden, Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee reported the recommendations of the Strategy and Resources Committee on the Performance and Financial Management for Quarter 3 of 2019/20 (circulated previously).

It was moved by Councillor Worden and seconded by Councillor D. Spear that "minute 93 (f) of the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee on 3 February 2020 be adopted".

RESOLVED that minute 93 (f) of the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee on 3 February 2020 be adopted.

114. REVIEW OF CHARGES AND FEES FOR SERVICES 2020/21

Council considered the Review of Charges and Fees for Services 2020/21 to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 3 February 2020 (circulated previously).

In response to questions, the Head of Resources advised that the Building Control fees had been considered by the Building Control Joint Committee and it was not recommended that the fees be increased as it was important that the service remained competitive.

Councillor Lane declared a personal interest as a builder.

(a) **Pannier Market Traders Committee consultation response**

Council considered the Pannier Market Traders Committee consultation response (circulated previously).

The Head of Resources advised that it was recommended that the 3% increase in Pannier Market fees (£5,000) be earmarked to be spent on the Pannier Market. The Council had committed to spend £0.5m to repair the roof to ensure that the market remained vibrant and to enable other types of events to be held there. The project had been included within the capital programme and would be delivered during 2020/21. The Barnstaple Vision work had also identified the Pannier Market as an important asset and it was anticipated that the Market would form part of the High Streets Fund bid.

Councillor York declared a personal interest as attended meetings of the Traders Committee in her own capacity.

In response to questions, the Head of Resources advised that it was proposed that the additional £5,000 income would be earmarked for planned maintenance, however this could be changed and ringfenced for an alternative use such as the refurbishment of the existing traders toilets. The savings achieved following the closure of the pannier market overnight was not available at the meeting, however the information could be forwarded to Members. The traders toilets were not open to the public. The provision of public toilets in the market would be the subject of a separate decision.

It was moved by Councillor York and seconded by Councillor Davis "that minute 94 of the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 3 February 2020 be adopted subject to the additional £5,000 received from the increase in Pannier Market fees being earmarked and spent on the refurbishment of the existing traders toilets at the Pannier Market".

(b) **Report of meeting of Harbour Board**

Councillor Fowler, Chair of the Harbour Board presented the Board's report of the meeting held on 4 February 2020 (circulated previously).

Councillor Fowler declared a personal interest as a boat owner and trustee of the Yacht Club.

(c) **Report of the Policy Development Committee**

Councillor Spear, Chair of the Policy Development Committee presented the Committee's report on the Review of Charges and Fees for 2020/21 (circulated previously).

(d) **Report of meeting of the Strategy and Resources**

Committee

Councillor Worden, Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee reported the recommendations of the Strategy and Resources Committee on the Review of Charges and Fees for Services 2020/21 (circulated previously).

Councillor Worden confirmed that he would take on board Councillor York's proposal in his motion. It was moved by Councillor Worden and seconded by Councillor D Spear "that minute 94 of the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 3 February 2020 be adopted subject to the additional £5,000 received from the increase in Pannier Market fees being earmarked and spent on the refurbishment of the existing traders toilets at the Pannier Market".

RESOLVED that minute 94 of the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 3 February 2020 be adopted subject to the additional £5,000 received from the increase in Pannier Market fees being earmarked and spent on the refurbishment of the existing traders toilets at the Pannier Market.

115. REVENUE BUDGET 2020/21, CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2020-2024

Council received a presentation by the Head of Resources regarding the Revenue Budget 2020/21, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/24 and highlighted the following:

- Government settlement December 2019. The confirmed 2020-21 settlement (included the Rural Services Delivery Grant) was £3.317m. In cash terms this was £48,000 more than 2019/20 (1.5% increase) in line with last year. The Fair Funding Review had been delayed by one year until April 2021. The New Homes Bonus in-year allocation had been allocated for 2020/21 only. There were no legacy payments on the 2020/21 allocation. The Government was intending to consult on the future of housing incentive in Spring 2020 to move towards a new, targeted approach. The Rural Services Delivery Grant matched the 2019/20 level. Council Tax levels for District Councils could be increased by up to 2% or £5 whichever was higher. The referendum in relation to Council Tax levels for Town and Parish Councils had been deferred.
- The reduction in Government funding for 2012/13 to 2020/21. Funding had reduced from £28.1bn to £18.5bn (34%) to 2019/20. There were potential significant changes to core funding from the Government from 2021/22 onwards and the Council needed to put plans in place to become more commercial and improve efficiencies across the whole Council.
- Medium Term Financial Plan (2019-23) approved by Council in February 2019 was based on a number of financial assumptions about the future which included: funding from Central Government, retained Business Rates income and future Council Tax levels, cost pressures and saving plans, and contributions to and

from reserves (e.g. vehicle replacement). The forecast budget gap as at this time last year from 2021/22 onwards was outlined.

- New Homes Bonus changes introduced in 2017 and potential changes for 2021/22 year onwards.
- New Homes Bonus provisional level of funding to 2020/21. The level of funding for 2019/20 was £1,445,670. The Medium Term Financial Plan assumed £1.446m, therefore there was an additional £391,000. It was recommended that £250,000 be placed into a reserve for transformation and delivery of the corporate plan. For 2021/22 the projected income was £814,531, therefore was a potential reduction of over £1m funding on the current level. For 2022/23 the projected income was £434,860, therefore was a potential reduction of over £1.4m funding on the current level. There was uncertainty around future funding and design of the new scheme for 2021/22.
- The 2020/21 Business Rate retention forecast income was £1.986m. The 2020/21 draft budget (above baseline funding) included £1.658m income. Reform of Local Government funding from 2021/22 onwards.
- Local Government Finance funding reforms which included: Spending Review for the period 2021/22; a review of relative needs and resources; Business Rates retention pilots; Business Rates baseline reset; Fair Funding review; New Homes Bonus review; reforms to Local Government funding would change the level of resources available and impact on the revenue budget; indicative allocations would be announced in Autumn 2020.
- Council Tax levels for 2019/20 Band D properties had been increased by £5.33 (equivalent to 2.99%). For 2020/21 Rural Councils could increase levels by up to 2% or £5 (whichever higher). By increasing the level by £5 for 2020/21 would increase NDC's proportion of Council Tax for Band D properties from £183.35 to £188.35 (increase of 2.73%). Devon County Council could increase its proportion of Council Tax by up to 2% and an additional 2% for Adult Social care.
- Strategic Grants (Appendix B) – it had been recommended that the level of strategic grants not be reduced. The Medium Term Financial Plan supported the principle of a planned reduction for 2020/21 of around 9%, however the Government finance settlement had been slightly better than forecast, therefore no reduction was recommended for 2020/21.
- Draft Revenue Budget 2020/21 which included: cost pressures and savings; options to balance the budget and how it would be funded. Business rates retention and New Homes Bonus were both at risk of change for 2021/22 year onward.
- Draft Revenue Budget 2020/21 (Appendix A) showed a balanced budget and assumed:
 - o 2.73% (£5.00) increase in Council Tax (each 1% equated to circa £63,000).
 - o Strategic Grants have not been reduced as originally planned.
 - o Parish Grants removed following report and decision made by Strategy and Resources Committee on 4 November 2019 and replaced with new Climate and Environment Grants scheme for smaller Parish Councils outlined in January 2020.
- Additional one-off core Government funding placed into a Transformation Reserve to deliver the Corporate Plan.

- Reserves (Appendix C). General fund balance forecast level at 31 March 2021 was £1.161m (8.7% of net budget). The recommended level was between 5-10%. Earmarked reserves forecast level at 31 March 2021 was £3.336m. In compliance with the Local Government Act 2003, the Chief Financial Officer assured the Committee of the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
- Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-24 was based on a number of financial assumption about the future which included: funding from Central Government; retained Business Rates income and future Council Tax levels; cost pressures and savings plans; and contributions to and from reserves (e.g. vehicle replacement). Paragraph 5.1.5.6 outlined the assumption on loss of core funding and New Homes Bonus. Paragraphs 5.1.5.8 and 5.1.5.11 in the report provided further detail on the budget gap and what was not included. Appendix D detailed the modelled financial projections.
- Capital Programme for 2019/20 to 2022/23. Investment plans for 2019/20 to 2021/22 totalled £31.276m. 5 business cases for capital funding had been submitted. The cost to the Council was £1.936m. The Project Appraisal Group had scored all of the business cases as “high”. The Watersports Centre potential funding bid had not been included and would be presented to a future Committee. Business cases had been submitted for the following projects:
 - o Online consultation software system
 - o ICT projects 22-23
 - o Vehicle replacement
 - o Boyton House re-furbishment
 - o Disabled Facility Grants
- The projects would be funded by earmarked reserves (£0.553m) and the borrowing need would increase by £1.383m.
- Future year borrowing costs had been included in the Medium Term Financial Plan. The borrowing costs would increase to £1.278m by 2023-24 (an increase of £0.578m). Borrowing costs increase would be offset by the Leisure Centre maintenance savings and new Leisure Centre contract revenue subsidy income (£0.496m). Without any further capital receipts in addition to the amount that had been forecast already, it was estimated that borrowing costs could increase to £1.480m in 2029-30 due to additional future year vehicle and ICT replacements.
- Draft Capital Programme (Appendix E). The total Capital Programme 2019-20 to 2022-23 was £34.191m which would be recommended to Council for approval on 26 February 2020.
- How the total Capital Programme 2019-20 to 2022-23 would be funded.
- Projected underlying need to borrow in accordance with the 10 year Capital Strategy.
- Risks identified that could affect financial plans.
- Timeline – Council at its meeting on 15 January 2020 approved the Council Tax base; the budget and capital programme had been considered by the Strategy and Resources Committee on 3 February 2020 and Policy Development Committee on 13 February 2020; Council on 26 February 2020 to consider the approval of the budget and capital programme and setting of Council Tax.

Council thanked the Head of Resources and his team for their work in producing a balanced budget for 2020/21.

In response to questions, the Head of Resources advised the following:

- The overall budget for the Chairman of the Council had decreased by £10.
- A review of the relative needs and resources would form part of the Government's Fair Funding review. A review of Business rates retention and New Homes Bonus would be included within the Fair Funding Review. It had been assumed that the Council would receive less funding from the Government in the future.
- Employees and associated costs within the budget had been reallocated from the Ilfracombe and South Molton Community Offices to the core Corporate Communications team. There had been no reduction in the number of employees.
- The increase in budget for the Senior Management Team was due to an inflationary increase and in central recharges and other costs. There had been no increase in the number of employees.
- Car park income had increased by approximately £50,000. Car parks expenditure had increased slightly due to the increase in costs for supplies, machine costs and maintenance.
- Corporate Communications costs had increased as a result of staff transferring from the South Molton and Ilfracombe Community offices. There was not an increase in costs overall for Corporate Communications.
- The overspend of £80,000 within the Waste and Recycling Service was as a result of the decrease in the value of recyclable materials and the inefficiencies of the Trade Waste service. A review of the Trade Waste service was in the process of being undertaken with the aim to make the service more efficient, optimise rounds to increase capacity to generate more income and improve customer satisfaction. Reports would be brought forward for consideration in due course.
- Planning fees were set nationally. The number of larger planning applications received had decreased, which had resulted in a reduction in income.
- The forecast reduction of costs from the CCTV service was a result of the planned creation of a CCTV hub during 2020/21 which would change how the service was delivered and reduce costs. The Town Centre Manager had presented a report to the Strategy and Resources Committee in September 2019. Once the timeline had been determined, Members would be informed.
- The timing of any future borrowing was dependent on how the authority managed its treasury activity and due to current low interest rates and reduced returns on investments it was prudent for the Council to 'internally borrow' and use these monies to fund the Capital Programme.

The Chief Executive advised that a briefing for Members would be arranged prior to the next meeting of Council on 1st April 2020 to provide an update on the progress of delivery of the Council's corporate priorities.

(a) **Report of the Policy Development Committee**

Councillor Spear, Chair of the Policy Development Committee presented the Committee's report on the Revenue Budget

2020/21, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-24 (circulated previously).

(b) **Report of meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee**

Councillor Worden reported the recommendations of the Strategy and Resources Committee on the Revenue Budget 2020/21, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-24 (circulated previously).

Council noted that in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 which came into force on 25 February 2014 and that the Constitution, Council was required to take a recorded vote when setting its budget and Council Tax.

It was moved by Councillor Worden and seconded by Councillor Prowse "that the recommendation in minute 95 (f) to (i) of the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 3 February 2020 in relation to the Revenue Budget 2020/21, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-24 be adopted".

Voting on the motion:

Voting for the motion:

Councillors Barker, Biederman, Bushell, Campbell, Cann, Chesters, Crabb, Davies, Fowler, Gubb, Henderson, Hunt, Jenkins, Knight, Lane, Leaver, Ley, Lofthouse, Lovering, Luggar, Mack, Mackie, Prowse, Roome, D. Spear, L. Spear, Topham, Topps, Tucker, Turton, Walker, Wilkinson, Worden, Yabsley and York.

Voting against the motion:

None.

Voting against the motion:

None.

Totals: 35 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstained.

The motion was carried.

RESOLVED that the recommendation in minute 95 (f) to (i) of the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 3 February 2020 in relation to the Revenue Budget 2020/21,

Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-24 be adopted.

116. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2020/21

Council considered the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020/21 report to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 3 February 2020 (circulated previously).

(a) **Report of the Policy Development Committee**

Councillor Spear, Chair of the Policy Development Committee presented the Committee's report on the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020/21 (circulated previously).

(b) **Report of meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee**

Councillor Worden, Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee reported the recommendations of the Committee on the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020/21 (circulated previously).

It was moved by Councillor Worden and seconded by Councillor Roome that "minute 99 of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 3 February 2020 in relation to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020/21 be adopted".

RESOLVED that minute 99 of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 3 February 2020 in relation to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020/21 be adopted.

117. 10 YEAR CAPITAL STRATEGY 2020-2030

Council considered the 10 Year Capital Strategy 2020-2030 report to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 3 February 2020 (circulated previously).

(a) **Report of the Policy Development Committee**

Councillor Spear, Chair of the Policy Development Committee presented the Committee's report on the 10 Year Capital Strategy 2020-2030 (circulated previously).

(b) **Report of meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee**

Councillor Worden reported the recommendations of the Strategy and Resources Committee on the 10 Year Capital Strategy 2020-2030 (circulated previously).

It was moved by Councillor Worden and seconded by Councillor Prowse that "minute 100 of the Strategy and

Resources Committee held on 3 February 2020 in relation to the 10 Year Capital Strategy 2020-2030 be adopted”.

RESOLVED that minute 100 of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 3 February 2020 in relation to the 10 Year Capital Strategy 2020-2030 be adopted.

118. COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTIONS 2020/21

Council considered a report by the Head of Resources (circulated previously) regarding the Council Tax Resolution 2020/21.

The Head of Resources advised that since publication of the agenda, Devon County Council had met on 20 February 2020 and approved a Council Tax increase of 3.99% (included 2% for adult social care services) and Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority had met on 18 February 2020 and approved a Council Tax increase of 1.99%.

Council noted that in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 which came into force on 25 February 2014 and the Constitution, Council was required to take a recorded vote when setting its budget and Council Tax.

It was moved by Councillor Henderson and seconded by Councillor Lane “that the formal Council Tax Resolutions for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix A of the report be approved.”

Voting on the motion

Voting for the motion:

Councillors Barker, Biederman, Bushell, Campbell, Cann, Chesters, Crabb, Davies, Fowler, Gubb, Henderson, Hunt, Jenkins, Knight, Lane, Leaver, Ley, Lofthouse, Lovering, Luggar, Mack, Mackie, Prowse, Roome, D. Spear, L. Spear, Topham, Topps, Tucker, Turton, Walker, Wilkinson, Worden, Yabsley and York.

Voting against the motion:

None.

Abstained from voting:

None.

Totals: 35 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstained.

The motion was therefore carried.

RESOLVED that the formal Council Tax Resolutions for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix A of the report be approved.

119. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER IN AND AROUND ILLFRACOMBE HARBOUR

Council considered a report by the Harbourmaster (circulated previously) regarding Public Spaces Protection Order in an around Ilfracombe Harbour.

It was moved by Councillor Fowler and seconded by Councillor Wilkinson “that North Devon Council makes a Public Spaces Protection Order for a period of 3 years in relation to Ilfracombe Harbour and roads adjacent to it, as per the Order attached at Appendix A”.

In response to a question regarding the previous decision made by Council, the Chief Executive advised that if the issuing of £100 penalty notices were referred to the Harbour Board for consideration, then there would be no sanction. He advised that the wording of the letters sent to all boat owners clarifying the Council’s position regarding enforcement was included within the decision made by Council at its meeting in March 2019.

The decision made by Council on 13 March 2019 was read to Council.

In response to a question, the Harbourmaster advised that no fixed penalty notices had been issued within the past year.

RESOLVED that North Devon Council makes a Public Spaces Protection Order for a period of 3 years in relation to Ilfracombe Harbour and roads adjacent to it, as per the Order attached at Appendix A.

120. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL/NORTH DEVON COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE DECLARATION

Council considered a report by the Lead Member for Climate Change (circulated previously) regarding Devon Council Council/North Devon Council’s response to the Climate Declaration.

The Lead Member for Climate Change brought Council’s attention to the Climate Week which was taking place 21-28 March 2020 and advised that a dedicated email address had been set up climate@northdevon.gov.uk.

121. APPOINTMENT OF A DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chief Executive advised that the Heart of Local Enterprise Partnership had appointed a Joint Scrutiny Committee with representatives from Devon and Somerset Local Authorities. There were currently 17 Members that sat on the Joint Committee and one vacancy for a non-Executive District representative from the

Devon Districts Forum. A representative from West Devon Borough Council and East Devon District Council had been sought, however no representative had been nominated to date. It was recommended that a Member be nominated to the Devon District Forum to fill the vacancy subject to the position not being filled by a Member from West Devon Borough Council or East Devon District Council.

It was moved by Councillor Worden and seconded by Councillor Tucker “that Councillor Prowse be nominated to the Devon District Forum to fill the vacancy on the Local Enterprise Partnership Scrutiny Committee subject to the position not being filled by a Member from West Devon Borough Council or East Devon District Council”.

The Chief Executive advised that at the next Council meeting, a briefing would be provided on the strategic roles of external bodies such as the Local Enterprise Partnership and Heart of South West.

RESOLVED that Councillor Prowse be nominated to the Devon District Forum to fill the vacancy on the Local Enterprise Partnership Scrutiny Committee subject to the position not being filled by a Member from West Devon Borough Council or East Devon District Council.

122. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) **Building Control Joint Committee**

RESOLVED that the following minutes of the Building Control Joint Committee (circulated previously) be noted and adopted as follows:

(i) 23 January 2020

(b) **Governance Committee**

RESOLVED that the following minutes of the Governance Committee (circulated previously) be noted and adopted as follows:

(i) 7 January 2020

(c) **Harbour Board**

RESOLVED that the following minutes of the Harbour Board (circulated previously) be noted and adopted as follows:

(i) 4 February 2020

Minute 42: Ilfracombe Harbour – Charges Review 2020-21
(NOTE: This recommendation had been considered under minute 114 (b) on the agenda)

(d) **Licensing and Community Safety Committee**

RESOLVED that the following minutes of the Licensing and

Community Safety Committee (circulated previously) be noted and adopted as follows:

(i) 14 January 2020

(e) **Policy Development Committee**

RESOLVED that the following minutes of the Policy Development (circulated previously) be noted and adopted as follows:

(i) 9 January 2020

(ii) 13 February 2020

(f) **Strategy and Resources Committee**

RESOLVED that the following minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee (circulated previously) be noted and adopted as follows:

(i) 6 January 2020

(i) Minute 86 (c): Approval and Release of Section 106 Space Funds – Instow and Braunton

(ii) 3 February 2020

(i) Minute 98 (d): Approval and Release of Section 106 Space Funds – Berrynarbor.

(ii) Minute 101: Council Tax Discounts

Chair

The meeting ended at 8.41 pm

NOTE: These minutes will be confirmed as a correct record at the next meeting of Council.