



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 G107, 1st Floor, South West Institute Development Building, Petroc, Barnstaple - Petroc College on **WEDNESDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 2025 at 6.30 pm.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Miles", written in a cursive style.

Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To approve as correct records the minutes of the meetings held on 9 and 15 January 2025 (attached) (Pages 15 - 32).
3. Chair's announcements.
4. Business brought forward by or with the consent of the Chair.
5. 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) To consider the following question submitted by Tanya Rebel to the Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Climate and Biodiversity

“How does the 5G rollout, which has a considerable Carbon and Ecological Footprint, square with the NDDC Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration and what measures are being taken to protect Humans (in particular the Electro Hypersensitive) as well as Wildlife from harm caused by Electrosmog? Biological harm from non-ionising Electromagnetic radiation (EMR) has been verified in tens

of thousands of peer-reviewed studies.

NB: The average consumption of a 5G monopole is similar to that of approximately 74 domestic houses.”

(b) To consider the following question submitted by Glynis Walker to the Leader of the Council

“Why were the 5G Masts rolled out at Sainsburys and NDDH without informed Consent, which is necessary in UN Law. Stop ruling by Government Narrative and listen to us. I was at a well attended meeting of the North Devon Residents Association on Wednesday, all those present voted against 5G Lloyds of London will not cover any EMF Damages. Former President of Microsoft Canada Frank Clegg says there are no safety studies regarding Health Implications and not a single study stating that 5G is safe.

I need a copy of the Independent Strategic Health & Environmental Impact Assessment from you.”

6. 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 Williams

Motion: support for our MP Ian Roome’s campaign and North Devon District hospital.

“This Council recognises the vital work that North Devon District Hospital (NDDH) plays in providing essential healthcare services to our communities. Since completion in 1979 NDDH has been the Uks most isolated mainland hospital serving not only North Devon but our friends across Exmoor, Torridge and North Cornwall. Over decades it has won awards for its dynamic and flexible to an ever changing demographic and political landscape.

However, the hospitals ageing infrastructure now presents significant barriers to meeting the growing healthcare needs of our residents. The 2019 pledge to rebuild NDDH was welcome, but whilst we respect that these were promises made in haste and without funding, we must respect that the remoteness of our hospital deserves to be a serious consideration when prioritising rebuilding and renovating efforts.

Now 6 years after an election promise that North Devon would see one of the 40 new hospitals. We find that we must wait upwards of 2 decades to see delivery of this vital infrastructure and investment in our community. In light of these concerns this Council fully supports Ian Roomes campaign to expedite the redevelopment of North Devon District Hospital. Delays risk further straining local services, exacerbating workforce challenges (including the workforce of NDC)and compromising patient care.

This Council believes that the government has a duty to ensure that rural communities like ours are not left behind in healthcare provision. A revitalised modern NDDH is essential for improving outcomes, addressing health inequalities and attracting and retaining the skilled healthcare professionals we so urgently need.

Therefore this Council resolves to:

1. Write to the Health Minister Mr Wes Streeting MP, cc'ing Cllr Ian Roome MP in order to express the urgent need to reconsider the timescale involved in supplying genuine changes to our hospital.
2. Commit to working with healthcare partners, local MPs and community representatives to highlight the importance of timely action to rebuild NDDH
3. This council reaffirms its commitment to advocating for the health and wellbeing of all its residents in North Devon. This Council owes it to our community, our healthcare professionals and future generations to ensure that NDDH remains a centre of excellence, with modern facilities that match the dedication of those who work there. This is not just an investment in infrastructure but an investment in the health and resilience of `North Devon.”

(b) To consider the following notice of motion from Councillor Caroline Leaver

Motion on Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI)

“Council notes that:

- The 1995 Pensions Act increased the State Pension age for women from 60 to 65, with the 2011 Pensions Act increasing it again to 66.
- The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) found the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) was guilty of maladministration, through its failure to properly inform women of the changes, which left them little time to make alternative retirement plans.
- Approximately 3.6 million women born in the 1950s were affected, including 66,550 across Devon, with 6,820 of those women living in the North Devon Council area.
- The worst affected individuals received only one year’s notice of a six-year increase to their State Pension age, throwing the retirement plans of many into chaos and leaving them with little time to make alternative arrangements.
- In March 2024, the PHSO instructed the UK Government to apologise to those affected and to pay compensation on Level 4 of their financial remedy scale (£1,000 - £2,950).
- The PHSO noted the DWP did not accept the findings of its report, and so laid its report before Parliament, instructing MPs to intervene and ensure a financial remedy is delivered.
- In May 2024, the cross-party Work and Pensions Select Committee wrote

to the then Work and Pensions Secretary, urging them to ensure a compensation scheme was urgently set up, a request which has been echoed by hundreds of MPs across all parties.

- In December 2024, the new UK Government apologised on behalf of previous administrations for the mistakes that were made but took the almost unprecedented step of ignoring the PHSO through its refusal to pay financial redress to those affected.
- As of January 2025, more than 300,000 women born in the 1950s have died waiting for justice, while the WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality) Campaign enters its tenth year.
- In January 2025, the House of Commons voted to compensate those affected, with a majority of 105 MPs, while a poll conducted by Yonder (7-9 January 2025) of 2,078 UK adults found that 74 per cent of the public support a compensation scheme for affected women.
- The General Election manifestos of the outgoing and new government included a commitment to resolving the problems faced by the WASPI women
- The government elected in July 2024 did not follow up its apology to WASPI women by measures to pay compensation detailed in the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman's (PHSO) instruction to government in March 2024.

Council believes that:

- The UK Government's decision to equalise the State Pension age for men and women was the right one, but the way it was carried out was wrong.
- Many women have been left in financial hardship as a result of failings by the DWP, which the current Government has not yet recognised.
- The DWP's decision to ignore the PHSO's instruction to compensate affected women creates a concern for the checks and balances on the executive and the public's faith in independent watchdogs to hold ministers to account.
- The negative impact on women in North Devon affected by the DWP's failure to inform women of changes to their State Pension age, because:
 - Women who would have looked after older relatives or partners are unable to afford to do so, with a knock-on impact on local social care.
 - Women who would have cared for grandchildren are having to continue working, increasing the childcare locally.
 - Women who have been left in poverty are struggling to meet their housing costs, with a knock-on impact on local housing provision.
 - Local voluntary services are missing out on able, active volunteers who would otherwise have been able to retire from full-time work as planned.
 - Our local economy is negatively affected by the reduced spending power and disposable income amongst those impacted by the changes.
- The problems faced by women in North Devon affected by this have an

impact on the services provided by North Devon Council including the Housing service.

- The Government was right to apologise to those affected by this injustice, but the DWP must urgently follow the PHSO's orders and set up a compensation scheme for those affected.
- In relation to the Government response of 17 December 2024, specifically that:
 - The vast majority of women were not aware of the changes, despite the Government's reference to a 2006 survey of around 200 women, which asked about general awareness of State Pension changes in the future – *not* about the impact on them as individuals. This cannot be reflective of 3.6 million peoples' experiences. Women did not know. This is the very reason why PHSO found the DWP was guilty of maladministration and identified wrongdoing.
 - As concluded by the PHSO, financial restraints are not an excuse for the non-payment of a financial remedy.
 - Resourcing and staffing issues within the DWP should not be a barrier to compensation – we elect governments to take difficult decisions and deliver challenging projects.
 - Writing to women earlier would have made a difference to awareness levels, evidenced by the Government writing letters to those having their WFA removed.

Council resolves:

- To publicly voice its disappointment with the previous and current governments to ensure women born in the 1950s received compensation and recognition of the problems arising from the lack of adequate notice of changes in pensionable age.
- To ask our North Devon MP to join the All-Party Parliamentary Group on State Pension Inequality for Women.
- To write to our North Devon MP asking them to contact the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to outline the effects of the injustice to the 6,820 women in North Devon born in the 1950s and to seek:
 - Proposals for a compensation scheme, in line with the PHSO's report, to be urgently brought forward by the DWP
 - An urgent debate and vote, in Government time in the House of Commons, on delivering compensation to affected women."

7. Declarations of Interest.

Please telephone the Corporate and Community Services team to prepare a form for your signature before the meeting. Interests must be re-declared when the item is called. A declaration of interest under the Code of Conduct will be a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, an Other Registrable Interest or a Non-Registrable Interest. If the item directly relates to your interest you must declare the interest and leave the room for the item, save in the case of Other Registrable Interests or Non-Registrable Interests where you may first speak on the item as a member of the

public if provision has been made for the public to speak. If the matter does not directly relate to your interest but still affects it then you must consider whether you are affected to a greater extent than most people and whether a reasonable person would consider your judgement to be clouded, if you are then you must leave the room for the item (although you may speak as a member of the public if provision has been made for the public to speak) or, if you are not, then you can declare the interest but still take part).

8. Chair's replies to any questions to Council by Members submitted under Part 4, Council Procedures Rules, Paragraph 10 of the Constitution.
9. To agree the agenda between Part 'A' and Part 'B' (Confidential Restricted Information).

PART A

10. Update on Local Policing Matters.

Superintendent Toby Davies, North and West Local Policing Area Commander to report.

11. Report of the Leader of the Council (Pages 33 - 34).

Report by Leader of the Council (attached).

12. Questions by Members.

Questions to the Leader or the Chair of a Committee submitted under Part 4, Council Procedure Rules, paragraph 10.4 of the Constitution.

13. Lead Member reports.

(a) Lead Member for Commercialisation and Resources (Pages 35 - 36)

Report by Lead Member for Commercialisation and Resources (attached).

14. Performance and Financial Management Q3 2024-25 (Pages 37 - 94).

Report by Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 3 February 2025 (attached).

(a) Report of the Policy Development Committee.

To receive the report for the Policy Development Committee held on 13 February 2025 (to follow).

(b) Report of meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee (Pages 95 - 96).

To receive the report of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 3 February 2025 (attached).

15. **Fees and Charges 2025-26** (Pages 97 - 166).
Report by the Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 3 February 2025 (attached).
- (a) Ilfracombe Harbour Charges Review 2025-26 (Pages 167 - 168).
To consider the recommendation of the meeting of the Harbour Board held on 11 February 2025 (attached).
 - (b) Report of the Policy Development Committee.
To receive the report of the Policy Development Committee held on 13 February 2025 (to follow).
 - (c) Report of meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee (Pages 169 - 170).
To receive the report of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 3 February 2025 (attached).
16. **Revenue Budget 2025-26, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2030-31** (Pages 171 - 222).
Report by Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 3 February 2025 (attached).
- (a) Report of the Policy Development Committee
To receive the report of the Policy Development Committee held on 13 February 2025 (to follow).
 - (b) Report of meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee (Pages 223 - 224)
To receive the report of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 3 February 2025 (attached).
17. **Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2025/26** (Pages 225 - 256)
Report by Head of Governance to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 3 February 2025 (attached).
- (a) Report of the Policy Development Committee
To receive the report of the Policy Development Committee held on 13 February 2025 (to follow).
 - (b) Report of meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee (Pages 257 - 258).
To receive the report of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 3 February 2025 (attached).

18. **10 Year Capital Strategy 2025 to 2035** (Pages 259 - 270).
Report by Head of Governance to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 3 February 2025 (attached).
- (a) Report of Policy Development Committee.
To receive the report of the Policy Development Committee held on 13 February 2025 (to follow).
- (b) Report of meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee (Pages 271 - 272).
To receive the report of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 3 February 2025 (attached).
19. **Council Tax Resolutions 2025/26** (Pages 273 - 282).
Report by Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive (attached).
20. **Member Training Programme 2025/26 - 2026/27** (Pages 283 - 294).
Report by Member Development Working Group (attached).
21. **Update to the Contract Procedure Rules (Part 4 Constitution) in light of the Procurement Act 2023** (Pages 295 - 354).
Report by Senior Solicitor and Monitoring Officer (attached).
22. **Statutory Pay Policy** (Pages 355 - 360)
Report by Head of Organisational Development (attached).
23. **Outside Body appointment - Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group**
To consider the appointment of a deputy Member to the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group to replace former Councillor Renshaw for the life of Council and that attendance at meetings be an approved duty.
24. **Minutes of Committees**
Council is recommended to note the schedule of Committee minutes and approve recommendations as listed below:
- (a) Building Control Joint Committee (Pages 361 - 366).
(i) 23 January 2025.
- (b) Joint Planning Policy Committee
(i) 24 January 2025 (to follow).

- (c) Policy Development Committee (Pages 367 - 376)
 - (i) 13 January 2025.
 - (ii) 13 February 2025 (to follow).

 - (A) Minute 68: Revenue Budget 2025-26, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2030-31 (to follow).

- (d) Strategy and Resources Committee (Pages 377 - 388)
 - (i) 3 February 2025.

PART B (CONFIDENTIAL RESTRICTED INFORMATION)

Nil.

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

18.02.25

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. Members of the public that attend meetings must be aware that these meetings are open to the public and so therefore both individuals and the Council itself have the right to record the meeting. The Council understands that some members of the public attending its meetings may not wish to be filmed. The Chair of the meeting will make sure any request not to be filmed 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 Chair 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 recording should leave the room ensuring all recording equipment is switched off.
4. Any member of the public has the right not to be filmed. We ensure that agendas for, and signage at, Council meetings make it clear that recording can take place – anyone not wishing to be filmed must advise the Chair at the earliest opportunity to allow them to be directed to an area in the room where they will not be caught on camera. Subject to paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 above, audio recordings shall be permitted at all times during public meetings.
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.

Room G107 is located on the first floor of the South West Institute Development building at Petroc, Old Sticklepath Hill, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 2BQ. A lift is available to the first floor.

The following page shows a location plan of Petroc.

G Block on the plan indicates the South West Institute Development building.

Parking

Point 5 on the plan indicates the short stay car park which is located adjacent to the South West Institute Development building which is free to park after 5.00 p.m.

Cycle Racks

Covered cycle racks are located on the grassed area opposite Petroc's main reception, before the Lifestyle building.

Bus Routes

Stops in **Sticklepath Hill** (East bound) bus service 310
Wrey Arms (West bound) bus services 5B, 21, 21A, 21C, 62C, 322, 386, 646, 815, 821, 903, 921
([Sticklepath, Barnstaple – Bus Times](#))

Fire evacuation procedures

Fire evacuation procedures - Upon hearing a constant 2-tone alarm, please leave the building via your nearest marked fire exit and make your way to the nearest assembly point which is the short stay car park (Point 5 on the map). Lifts are not to be used. Please do not take time to pick up personal belongings and leave the building promptly.

