

## **NORTH DEVON COUNCIL COUNCIL:**

**23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2025**

### **DRAFT REPORT OF THE VICE CHAIR OF THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

This is the first annual report on the activities of the Policy Development Committee, which provides an overview of the work of the Committee from March 2024 onwards.

Each time we meet the Committee reviews and updates its future work programme, which was initially planned and developed in March 2024. As well as the scheduled reports in relation to council performance and treasury management, the work programme updates also include:

- Agreeing the scoping reports from task groups on special areas of work, and
- Periodic feedback on the special pieces of work undertaken by the committee.

During the year 2024/25 the Committee held two special meetings in relation to issues of significant importance and concern to the local community and residents that they represented. The special meetings focussed on the areas of dentistry and agriculture, which followed on from the successful special meeting in the previous year 2023/24 in relation to water quality.

The special meetings involved a panel of experts providing information to help the committee decide on any future action that North Devon Council could usefully take. As these issues were invariably of equal concern to Torridge District Council the members of their External Overview and Scrutiny Committee also participated.

A summary of the subjects covered in each meeting is shown below:

- February 2025:
  - Citizen Advice Bureau reported, leading to a recommendation to S&R on the allocation of some strategic grants.
  - Performance report.
  - Budget, capital strategy North Devon Council fees & charges reports
  - Treasury management.
- January 2025:
  - Service Plans.
  - Off Street Parking Order.
- December 2024:
  - One North Devon on health inequalities

- November 2024:
  - Water quality.
  - Performance report.
  - Treasury management.
  
- September 2024:
  - Performance report.
  - Treasury management.
  
- July 2024 (special)
  - Dentistry.
  
- July 2024:
  - Performance report.
  - Treasury management.
  
- May 2024 (special):
  - Agriculture.
  
- May 2024:
  - Material recover facility update.
  
- April 2024:
  - Water quality actions.
  
- March 2024:
  - Work programme formulation