

TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCILCOMMUNITY & RESOURCES MEETINGTown Hall - Bridge Street, Bideford, EX39 2HSMonday, 3 June 2024 - 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor R Hicks (Chair)
Councillor A Dart (Vice-Chair)

Councillors D Brenton, L Bright, P Hames, C Hodson, K James,
C Leather, R Lock, T Tinsley, L Piper and J Whittaker

ALSO PRESENT

S Hearse	- Chief Executive
S Kearney	- Head of Communities & Place
G Bryant	- Finance Manager (S151 Officer)
A Redwood	- Major Projects Manager
P Gilbert	- Public Health & Community Safety Manager
S Cawsey	- Democratic Services Officer

Councillors C Hawkins, W Lo-Vel and P Pennington

430. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chair welcomed Councillor Tinsley to the Committee.

An apology for absence was received from Staci Dorey, Head of Legal & Governance (& Monitoring Officer).

Councillor Hames stated that in order to be transparent and democratic this Committee should include all Group Leaders and hoped this would be resolved at the next Full Council meeting.

Councillor Brenton advised that following the last Full Council meeting, an agreement had been reached for the Independents to lose one of their Members temporarily to ensure all Groups are represented on this Committee. He expressed his disapproval at an email sent following that meeting, which stated that three of the Groups would stick to the status quo. Following further comments made, the Chief Executive advised it is a Full Council matter and not a matter to be discussed at this Committee.

431. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 APRIL 2024

It was proposed by Councillor Leather, seconded by Councillor Lock and -

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2024 be signed as a correct record.

(Vote: For 10, Abstentions 2)

432. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

There were no public contributions.

433. FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan was noted.

434. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were made when the specific agenda items to which they related were under discussion.

435. AGREEMENT OF AGENDA BETWEEN PARTS I AND II

The Chair informed Members that Agenda items 9 and 14 had been deferred.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Piper and –

Resolved:

That the Agenda as circulated, subject to the above amendments, be agreed.

(For – Unanimous)

436. URGENT MATTERS OF INFORMATION TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR AND THE COMMITTEE

There were no urgent matters brought forward.

437. THE DEVON, CORNWALL AND ISLES OF SCILLY ADAPTATION STRATEGY - RECOMMENDATION FROM INTERNAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the report, presented by the Head of Communities & Place, was for Members to receive a recommendation from Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Adaptation Strategy.

During the discussion comments/concerns raised included:

- Councillor Pennington disputed the agricultural figures for Devon and Cornwall set out in the Strategy and questioned how the writers of the report had arrived at those figures. Councillor James reported that when the Strategy had been considered at the previous Community & Resources Committee, concerns had been raised in relation to the disclaimer suggesting that RSK writers of the report, would not stand by the information in the report. This he said was not acceptable.
- Councillor James was concerned to note that within the report there was no reference or information in relation to Torridge. In terms of flood risk and coastal erosion these are big issues for the area, as is the rise in sea levels at Westward Ho!

The Chief Executive explained that Members should be considering the report to either go with the previous decision by this Committee to note the document or to endorse the document as recommended by Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee. If the vote to endorse fails and the decision is to note, it will go to Full Council for consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Hames and -

Resolved:

That the recommendation of Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee to endorse the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Adaptation Strategy be approved.

(Vote: For 7, Against 5)

438. URGENCY PROCEDURE REPORT

This item had been deferred.

439. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Hicks, seconded by Councillor Leather and –

Resolved:

That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of exempt information by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 and paragraph 10 of Part 2 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

(Vote: For - Unanimous)

440. PART II (CLOSED SESSION)

441. ADDITIONAL 'EXCEPTIONAL' FUNDING TO DELIVER DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT ADAPTATION

The public Health and Community Safety Manager presented the report, the purpose of which was to seek approval for up to £10,000 additional 'exceptional' funding in order to deliver a Disabled adaptation – as set out in section 10 of Torridge District Council's Housing Assistance Policy for the Better Care Fund (BCF).

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Whittaker and -

Resolved:

That additional exceptional grant funding to meet the shortfall of funding for this case be approved.

(Vote: For – Unanimous)

442. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY

The Major Projects Manager presented the report, the purpose of which was to obtain Member support for the purchase of an additional residential property.

Prior to the presentation of the report, the Major Projects Manager informed the Committee of the following update:

“Following publication of the report, further renovation works have been identified. The further works will involve an increase in renovation costs of £20-£25k. This to be reflected in the purchase price”.

During the debate and following an enquiry raised, the Major Projects Manager explained where on the site the additional works are required and confirmed the remainder of the property/site was not in any way affected. Clarification was given on the reasons why the Authority would want to acquire this property and the history to the whole site.

Given that the figures stated in the report had changed, the Committee requested an amendment to the recommendation.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Leather and -

Resolved:

That Officers be authorised to acquire the property at a cost not exceeding £320k.

(Vote: For – Unanimous)

443. TORRIDGE LEVELLING UP PROJECTS

The item had been deferred.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED)

It was proposed by Councillor Leather, seconded by Councillor Whittaker and –

Resolved:

That the press and public be readmitted.

(Vote: For - Unanimous)

The meeting commenced at 18.00 and closed at 18.52.

Chair:

Date: