

Date: 19 December 2011
Contact name: Debbie Meakin
Contact number: 01395 517540
E-mail: dmeakin@eastdevon.gov.uk



To: Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(Mike Allen, Peter Bowden, Graham Brown, Peter Burrows,
Derek Button, David Chapman, Deborah Custance Baker,
Vivien Duval Steer, Roger Giles, Mike Howe,
Stuart Hughes (Chairman), John Humphreys (Vice Chairman),
Sheila Kerridge, David Key, John O'Leary, Brenda Taylor,
Graham Troman, Tim Wood, Eileen Wragg, Claire Wright, Tom Wright)

East Devon District Council
Knowle
Sidmouth
Devon
EX10 8HL

DX 48705 Sidmouth

Tel: 01395 516551

Fax: 01395 517507

www.eastdevon.gov.uk

Portfolio Holders
Other Members of the Council for Information
Chief Executive
Deputy Chief Executives

Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 5 January 2012 – 6.30pm

Council Chamber, Knowle, Sidmouth

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting.

- A period of 15 minutes has been provided at the beginning of the meeting to allow members of the public to raise questions.
- In addition, the public may speak on items listed on the agenda. After a report has been introduced, the Chairman of the Committee will ask if any member of the public would like to speak in respect of the matter and/or ask questions.
- All individual contributions will be limited to a period of 3 minutes – where there is an interest group of objectors or supporters, a spokesperson should be appointed to speak on behalf of the group.
- The public is advised that the Chairman has the right and discretion to control questions to avoid disruption, repetition and to make best use of the meeting time.

Councillors and members of the public are reminded to switch off mobile phones during the meeting. If this is not practical due to particular circumstances, please advise the Chairman in advance of the meeting.

AGENDA

Page/s

1. **Public question time** – standard agenda item (15 minutes)
Members of the public are invited to put questions to the Committee through the Chairman. Councillors also have the opportunity to ask questions of the Leader and/or Portfolio Holders during this time slot whilst giving priority at this part of the agenda to members of the public
2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 24 November 2011 and 9 December 2011. 4 - 17

3. To receive any apologies for absence.
4. To receive any declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda.
5. To consider any items which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be dealt with as matters of urgency because of special circumstances.
(Note: Councillors please notify the Chief Executive in advance of the meeting if you wish to raise a matter under this item, who will then consult the Chairman).
6. To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded. There are **no** items that the officers recommend should be dealt with in this way.
7. Decisions made by the Cabinet called in by Members for scrutiny in accordance with the Overview Procedure Rules under Part 4.5 of the Constitution. There are **no** items identified.
8. **Cabinet Agenda**
Members are asked to notify in advance the Chairman or the Democratic Services Officer any Cabinet items they wish to debate.
Members to debate any issues of concern on the current Cabinet agenda in order for the Chairman to feed this back to the Cabinet at its meeting on the 11 January 2012. The website link to the Cabinet agenda will be e-mailed to Members on 23 December 2011.
Please refer to Cabinet agenda
9. **Northern Devon Healthcare NHS**

Representatives from the Northern Devon Healthcare will present their case for becoming a Foundation Trust. The consultation on becoming a Foundation Trust runs until the 16 January and the views of the Committee will be fed into that consultation.

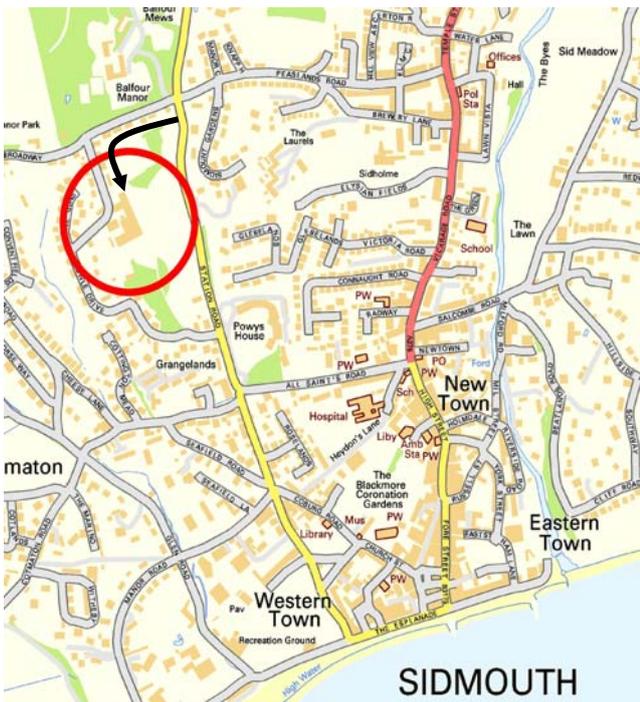
For more information on the consultation or to individually submit your view, please visit:
<http://www.northdevonhealth.nhs.uk/ft/consultation/>
Attached consultation document
10. **Update from Portfolio Holder for Strategic Development**
Councillor Andrew Moulding, Portfolio Holder for Strategic Development and Partnerships

Councillor Moulding will verbally update the Committee on his work as Portfolio Holder and his longer term aims for the role.
11. **Forward Plan**
Members are asked to note the Forward Plan and any suggestions for further additions are welcomed.
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Members remember!

- ❑ You must declare the nature of any personal or prejudicial interests in an item whenever it becomes apparent that you have an interest in the business being considered.
- ❑ Where you have a personal interest because the business relates to or is likely to affect a body of which you are a member or manager as an EDDC nominee or appointee, then you need only disclose that interest when (and if) you speak on the item. The same rule applies if you have a personal interest in relation to a body exercising functions of a public nature.
- ❑ Make sure you say the reason for your interest as this has to be included in the minutes.
- ❑ If your interest is prejudicial you must leave the room unless
 - a) you have obtained a dispensation from the Council's Standards Committee or
 - b) where Para 12(2) of the member Code of Conduct applies. [Para 12(2) allows a Member with a prejudicial interest to stay for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business but only to the extent the public are allowed the same rights. If you do remain for these purposes, you must not exercise decision-making functions or seek to improperly influence the decision; you must leave the meeting room once you have made your representation, answered questions or given evidence.]
- ❑ The Code states that any member of the Cabinet or other decision-making committee or joint committee or sub-committee attending Overview and Scrutiny committees has a prejudicial interest in any business where that member was a member of the committee at the relevant time **and** present when the decision was made or other action was taken (whether or not implemented). Members with prejudicial interests should declare them and are allowed to remain in the meeting for the limited purposes set out in the Code para 12(2) – see last paragraph.
- ❑ You also need to declare when you are subject to the party whip before the matter is discussed.

Getting to the Meeting – for the benefit of visitors



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From Exeter – 52A, 52B

From Honiton – 52B

From Seaton – 52A

From Ottery St Mary – 379, 387

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The Committee Suite has a separate entrance to the main building, located at the end of the visitor and Councillor car park. The rooms are at ground level and easily accessible; there is also a toilet for disabled users.

For a copy of this agenda in large print, please contact the Democratic Services Team on 01395 517546

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the
Overview and Scrutiny Committee held
at Knowle, Sidmouth on 24 November 2011

Present:

Councillors:
Stuart Hughes (Chairman)
Mike Allen
Peter Bowden
Graham Brown
Peter Burrows
David Chapman
Deborah Custance Baker
Roger Giles
Mike Howe
Sheila Kerridge

David Key
John O'Leary
Brenda Taylor
Graham Troman
Tim Wood
Eileen Wragg
Claire Wright
Tom Wright

Officers:
Simon Davey – Head of Finance
Denise Lyon – Deputy Chief Executive
Debbie Meakin – Democratic Services Officer
Sulina Tallack – Section 106 Monitoring Officer
Janet Wallace – Environmental Health Officer
Mark Williams – Chief Executive
Andy Wood – Project Director

Also Present

Councillors:
David Atkins
Trevor Cope
Peter Halse
David Cox
Peter Sullivan
Jill Elson
Iain Chubb
Stephanie Jones

Philip Skinner
Pauline Stott
Steve Gazzard
Ray Bloxham
Ken Potter
Frances Newth
Christine Drew

Apologies:

Committee Members:
Derek Button
John Humphreys
Vivien Duval Steer

Councillors:
Steve Hall
Andrew Moulding

The meeting started at 6.30pm and ended at 9.50pm.

*42 Public Question Time

There were no questions from the public. The Chairman asked the Portfolio Holder for Environment if he was aware of an agreement to have a free hour of parking at Sidford car park. The Portfolio Holder was not immediately aware of this and the Chairman requested that if the free parking was to go ahead, appropriate signage at the car park would be needed.

*43 Minutes

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 October 2011 were confirmed as a true record.

*44 Declarations of Interest

Councillor/ Officer	Minute number	Type of interest	Nature of interest
Cllr Stuart Hughes	45	Personal	Devon County Council Portfolio Holder for Highways & Transportation; Snow Warden for Sidmouth
Cllr Trevor Cope	51	Personal	Son works for Leisure East Devon
Cllr David Cox	51	Personal	EDDC representative on LED Monitoring Group
Cllr Peter Sullivan	51	Personal	EDDC representative on LED Monitoring Group
Cllr Roger Giles	51	Personal	EDDC representative on LED Ottery St Mary Group
Cllr Claire Wright	51	Personal	EDDC representative on LED Ottery St Mary Group
Cllr Pauline Stott	51	Personal	EDDC representative on LED Exmouth Group
Cllr Peter Bowden	51	Personal	EDDC representative on LED Broadclyst Group
Cllr Mike Howe	48	Prejudicial	Sub-post master
Cllr Mike Allen	52	Personal	Employee of SSDC

*45 Cabinet Agenda

The Chairman raised one item for discussion from the Cabinet agenda for 20 November 2011.

Ice/Snow/Frost Treatment Plan

The Cabinet report set out the terms of the plan, recognising that it was not possible to treat all areas. The plan set out the priority for clearing snow and ice covering key car parks, to enable access to Council's own buildings, and other specified high risk areas based on intensity of use and/or vulnerability of users.

Previous discussion took place on this report at the Committee on 27 October. The Chairman still had concerns about the report. He wanted to see a clear indication of how the District Council would work with the Snow Wardens.

Simon Davey, Head of Finance, updated on the current position with the County Council. Officers were in active discussion about the relationship with Snow Wardens, but the position was not yet clear as to which Towns and Parishes would be signing up, what the role of the Snow Warden would entail, and what equipment would be available. Until that detail was known, a definitive explanation of how the Council would work with the Snow Wardens was not possible to set out in the report. The intention of the report at this stage was to highlight the minimum the Council had to undertake to satisfy the Council's legal obligations for its own land.

*45 Cabinet Agenda (continued)

RESOLVED that the Chairman would feedback his concern on the Ice/Snow/Frost Treatment Plan at the Cabinet meeting on 30 November 2011.

*46 New revised bathing water quality directive

The Chairman welcomed Janet Wallace, Environmental Health Officer, who was joined by Richard Gilpin from South West Water (SWW), and Brian Grant from the Environment Agency (EA).

The report outlined the requirements of the new Directive. This used a new system to assess water quality based on measurements of Escherichia coli and intestinal enterococci, considered to be a better indicator of health risks to bathers. From 2016 the classification of bathing waters would be based on results over the previous four years, described as “Excellent, Good, Sufficient and Poor”. The “Sufficient” classification is considerably tighter than the current “Pass Mandatory” standard.

The new directive also set out:

- Improved public information on signage at bathing waters
- More stringent monitoring

The change to monitoring would be likely to lead to only two bathing waters meeting the “Excellent” standard unless further improvements were made. Working with landowners to improve the quality of agricultural run-off and investigating other reasons for contamination are the priorities for the agencies involved.

Members asked a number of questions relating to water quality, and discussed with the agency representatives issues including:

- Heavy rainfall impact on quality readings;
- Pinch points in sewer systems, such as at the Maer in Exmouth;
- Location of signs about water quality – budget provision allowed for one sign per beach, placed at the most heavily used access point to the beach;
- Working with Ladram Bay holiday camp owners on water quality at that site;
- Positive results aided local tourism;
- DEFRA funding to SWW was currently set to facilitate works to bring all beaches to “Sufficient” standard nationally;
- “Missed connections” – where small scale development had connected to the sewers or only to surface water for discharge. Some examples of these were outlined to Members by Brian Gant from the EA;
- Request for additional funding from SWW to make improvements to the current infrastructure;
- EA involvement as a statutory consultee on planning applications.

Councillor Tom Wright, Member Champion for Beaches and Foreshores, welcomed the report as a “good news story” that should receive publicity to highlight the excellent quality of the beaches in the District. He is working with officers to create a Beach and Foreshore Forum to tackle local issues, and linking it with the towns and parishes along the District coastline as well as the main agencies. He will report back to the Committee with updates once the Forum is set up.

*46 New revised bathing water quality directive

- RESOLVED**
1. that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcomed the report on the New EC Revised Bathing Water Directive and the setting up of a Beach and Foreshore Forum;
 2. that a press release be issued about resolution 1.

*47 Update on Section 106 Planning Obligations and Introduction of Community Infrastructure Levy

Sulina Tallack, Section 106 Monitoring Officer, highlighted recent improvements in this area of service, including a new Open Space Policy, database formation of all agreements (including historical agreements) and risk assessment.

She reminded Members of the purpose of a section 106 agreement and some recent projects that had been completed with section 106 funds. She had regular contact with Town and Parish Councils to update them on their own areas.

Andy Wood, Projects Director, outlined the procedural issues needed to set up an operational Community Infrastructure Levy. A levy could raise funds from developers to fund a wide range of infrastructure from an effectively pooled fund. Section 106 agreements could still be used once the Levy is operational, but the CIL regulations would tighten up on the use of section 106 agreements and make the tests legally binding. If funding for an infrastructure improvement is collected through the Levy it cannot also be the subject of a section 106 agreement.

Collecting funds under the levy would provide greater flexibility on their use in that they would not be tied to specific infrastructure improvements through a legal agreement as is the case with the current section 106 regime. However this does present fresh challenges on deciding what it would be spent on – the regulations associated with the Levy do not cover governance arrangements and these need to be determined locally. The Department for Communities and Local Government was also currently consulting on what proportion of the Levy should go directly to local communities in the form of parish and town councils.

Members raised concern about the introduction of the levy, including:

- Recognition of competing demands – how could local communities compete for funds against bodies like the County Council for education provision or road infrastructure?;
- No percentage of fund for local communities had been announced by the Government yet;
- Would Neighbourhood Plan wish lists be compromised by levy funds being primarily put into major infrastructure?;
- Health must be involved in the stakeholders for consulting on the levy, as well as consideration made to the New Homes Bonus;
- Productive Think Tank held on section 106 agreements had led to earlier Ward Member involvement in section 106 agreements – could Ward Members be proactive and prepare with their local communities their “wish list” for future agreements?;
- Needs link to the Local Plan.

*47 Update on Section 106 Planning Obligations and Introduction of Community Infrastructure Levy (continued)

- RESOLVED**
1. that a Task and Finish Forum is set up on the Community Infrastructure Levy to construct recommendations to aid the Council in both the transitional stage and the introduction of the Levy;
 2. that the TaFF on CIL is comprised of:
Graham Troman
Peter Bowden
Mike Allen
Mike Howe
Tim Wood
Sheila Kerridge
Claire Wright

*48 Update on Post Office Pilot Scheme

Councillor Ken Potter, Member Champion for Rural Communities, updated the Committee on the pilot scheme in the District.

The Post Office are piloting 45 new branch models across four areas. East Devon as three branches undertaking the pilot scheme: Feniton Post Office; Musbury Post Office; and Rivermead Avenue Post Office in Exmouth. These will become Post Office "Local", a combination of a retail outlet with many of the core Post Office services being available over a longer number of hours per day than usual post office opening hours.

Councillor Potter reminded the Committee of his meeting with the Minister, and brought them up to date on a recent meeting with County representatives covering the other pilots in the Devon area.

Mark Wright from Post Office Limited will attend the Committee on the 26 January 2012 to update on progress of the three pilot post offices.

Councillor Potter's overriding concern was the remaining 5,500 post offices, mainly in rural communities, that were not included in the Post Office scheme for revitalising the post office network. Those post offices converted to a "Local" would see the post master salary reduced by two thirds and he questioned if that was a viable option for those individuals.

Members debated the issues around the post office network, including:

- Longer hours in a post office "Local" helps the public carry out post office transactions outside normal post office hours;
- Locating a post office inside a commercial store may lead to a lack of training in staff and the loss of the skills and public trust in the service;
- Many in rural communities, despite efforts to increase broadband coverage, do not or want to access such services using information technology;
- Social benefits of a local post office will be lost;
- Main post offices will only have employees paid per transaction, not a salary.

*48 Update on Post Office Pilot Scheme (continued)

The Committee strongly felt that further lobbying should take place on the proposed changes to the post office network, with suggestions of further letters to the Minister and starting a petition online. As the trial was underway, the Committee felt, on reflection, that such action should be deferred until the Committee received the update on the trials from Mark Wright from Post Office Limited on the 26 January.

The Chairman, along with many other Members of the Committee, thanked Councillor Potter for his continued dedicated work as Member Champion for Rural Communities.

(Councillor Mike Howe declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting for this item).

*49 Quarterly Monitoring of Performance – Second Quarter 2011/12

The report covered key issues for the quarter and how they are being addressed.

Members raised the following issues:

- How has the “paperless office” project progressed? An update from Chris Powell was reported to the meeting. The project, alongside Members’ IT, as been combined onto one project that is currently having a business case formed. The implementation of the combined project will commence from April 2012 and will be largely dependent on how long it will take to bring each Member up to speed with training and necessary equipment. If budgets allow, implementation may start prior to April 2012;
- Flytipping was on the increase in East Devon but did not appear to be increasing in the rest of the County, following the introduction of charges for certain types of waste at recycling centres. Streetscene were investigating how other authorities were successful in tracking down flytippers and the possible use of RIPA to do so. A specific area in Exmouth was highlighted as suffering from repeat flytipping. DAWRAC would monitor the levels in the coming months and assess what action would be needed;
- General unawareness of the Economic Strategy referred to in the report and concern that this was being consulted on before being considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Strategy is one of a suite of three that supports the Council Plan and the Committee will have the opportunity to debate the strategy on the 26 January 2011.

*50 Draft Customer Strategy

Members looked at the outline of the draft strategy and debated what could be added and improved.

The draft strategy covered areas such as:

- Access to services – how access was available and the quality of that contact;
- Access to information – availability on website and different formats to cater for all sections of the community;
- Access to engagement and feedback – taking consultation to a new, improved level, again catering for all sections of the community.

*50 Draft Customer Strategy (continued)

Members discussed the draft strategy, including:

- Managing expectation of the public as to what to expect from their Ward Member, as there was no “job description” for a Member but they were often a vital link between residents and officers;
- With many references to the website, when was the redesign going live – Denise Lyon updated the Committee on the recent decision by the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services to bring the website into an integrated project covering communications. Customer identified improvements have already been made to the existing site.
- Members were keen to stress that it was still important to develop the customer strategy to cater for face to face and telephone contact so that all sections of the community could find a way to get in touch that suited them.

51 Leisure East Devon Task and Finish Forum Final Report

Councillor Tim Wood presented his final report from the Forum set up to review the functioning of Leisure East Devon and examine how well its activities related to the needs and requirements of the Council. The Forum comprised of Councillor Tim Wood as Chairman, and Councillors Geoff Chamberlain, David Chapman, Vivien Duval Steer, and Sheila Kerridge.

He told the Committee of how the Forum had interviewed the Chief Executive of LED and the LED Monitoring Group – Councillors David Cox and Peter Sullivan. Issues that came to light included the friction between schools and sites used for school PE lessons; and the maintenance of some of the facilities that remained Council owned.

The Committee considered the recommendations put forward in the report.

- RECOMMENDED**
1. that the Chief Executive of Leisure East Devon be congratulated and supported for his innovative leadership and drive to seek opportunities for growth, increase profit and reduce costs during difficult trading times;
 2. that the dedicated and effective work of the Monitoring Group and LED Trustees be acknowledged;
 3. that LED be assured that the Council was positive about LED’s approach to identifying and progressing innovative and proactive leisure activities, which reflected local demand and leisure ‘trends’, to protect the viability of the service provided within the terms of the Service Level Agreement;
 4. that East Devon District Council and LED review and, where necessary, modify and update the Service Level Agreement made on the setting up of LED as to the role and responsibilities of LED in relation to the provision of leisure services in East Devon. The review should be carried out by the end of 2012 with any financial implications being included in the preparation of the Council’s 2013/2014 budget;

51 Leisure East Devon Task and Finish Forum Final Report (continued)

5. that, in addition to the review outlined in (4) above, the long term dual- use arrangements with schools/colleges should be reviewed as soon as the position in respect of their Academy status is clarified. Both the Council and LED need to be proactive in investigating how satisfactory the dual role arrangements continue to be in each case;
6. that LED provide the Monitoring Group with additional accounting detail, including a breakdown of income and expenditure from specific activities within the centres to help inform judgements of the LED Board and the Council regarding any proposed changes to future provision;
7. that LED provide the Monitoring Group with accounting details for their information to show the effect that subsidies have on the profitability of activities/classes;
8. that central office overheads be proportionally allocated across the LED portfolio realistically to reflect profit and losses within budget heads;
9. that LED give consideration to improvements to the current catering arrangements at some Centres to generate additional income;
10. that LED should consider whether to widen the marketing of the East Devon Tennis Centre to increase the knowledge and usage of the facility;
11. that Members generally be made aware of the significant contribution of £2M per year the Council makes to the provision of sport and leisure within the district through support to LED and the cost of on-going maintenance/repair of the 11 Centres.

The Chairman thanked the Forum for their detailed report and welcomed the recommendations going forward to Cabinet.

*52 Review of shared services and second tier management costs/savings

Simon Davey, Head of Finance, took the Committee through the report to explain the costs and savings over the five year period of 2009/10 to 2014/15. In answer to a question, he advised that the 2.5% increase on the South West Audit Partnership contract is under negotiation.

The Committee felt it would be helpful to see further projected savings in the lower management tiers.

*52 Review of shared services and second tier management costs/savings (continued)

Some Committee Members highlighted their concerns of how the sharing of services happened. The Chief Executive appreciated that there would always be differing views on the sharing arrangements and he informed the Committee of continued approaches to other authorities on sharing arrangements. He reassured the Committee that savings had been achieved at the next tier of management, with a reduction from ten Head of Service posts down to seven via natural wastage, and no salary increase for those posts.

*53 Forward Plan

Members noted the forward plan. The Chairman highlighted the next meeting for the Committee on the Local Plan, on the 9 December at 10.00am.

Chairman Date

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL
Minutes of a Special Meeting of the
Overview and Scrutiny Committee held
at Knowle, Sidmouth on 9 December 2011

Present:

Councillors:

Stuart Hughes (Chairman)
John Humphreys (Vice Chairman)
Mike Allen
Peter Bowden
Derek Button
David Chapman
Roger Giles

Brenda Taylor
Eileen Wragg
Tom Wright

Officers:

Matt Dickins – Planning Policy Manager
Kate Little – Head of Economy
Debbie Meakin – Democratic Services Officer

Also Present

Councillors:

David Atkins
Ray Bloxham
Iain Chubb
Alan Dent
Martin Gammell
Steve Gazzard
Stephanie Jones

Andrew Moulding
Frances Newth
Helen Parr
Ken Potter
Philip Skinner
Mark Williamson

Apologies:

Committee Members:

Deborah Custance Baker
Vivien Duval Steer
Mike Howe
Sheila Kerridge
David Key
John O'Leary
Graham Troman
Claire Wright

Councillors:

Geoff Chamberlain

The meeting started at 10.05am and ended at 12.50pm.

*54 Public Question Time
There were no questions from the public.

*55 Declarations of Interest

Councillor/ Officer	Minute number	Type of interest	Nature of interest
Cllr Peter Bowden	57	Personal	Ownership of an orchard outside Whimble's building line, in the area identified in the plan.
Cllr Derek Button	57	Personal	Member lives in a Conservation Area and Listed Building
Cllr Roger Giles	57	Personal	Member is Governor of King's School and a Devon County Councillor.

*56 Postponement of scrutiny of local plan production

The Chairman told the Committee that he had decided to postpone the item on the Local Plan production to a later meeting in the New Year. His reason for this postponement was to allow the Local Plan to undergo consultation and response analysis before the Committee started to scrutinise how the plan was produced. He did not wish for any scrutiny undertaken at that point to in any way cast doubt on the plan out for consultation, particularly after the extensive work undertaken by the Local Development Framework Panel as part of that production.

*57 Local Plan – consultation on the Vision

The Chairman outlined the purpose of the meeting to feed back the Committee's view on the overall vision for the District, during the consultation period. He reminded Ward Members of their right to respond directly to the consultation on matters relating specifically to their own ward.

Vision for East Devon

Clarification was given relating to housing figures for the Cranbrook development.

The Committee raised concern or suggested amendment on the following:

- Wording of paragraphs 3.9 and 3.10 of the Local Plan could be interpreted as significant growth only being at the West End, with this area being over-emphasised. Suggested re-wording of the document was put forward and agreed by the Committee: replacing para. 3.9 "East Devon" with "In the West End"; and replacing para 3.10 "East Devon" with "In the rest of the District" to make clear that other growth was planned in the remainder of the District;
- The map showing "At a glance guide to the latest development proposals" contained an error in the Ottery St Mary box and the words "new high-quality" should be replaced with "improved";
- Paragraph 3.8 should now reference the Localism Act as 2011, not 2012;
- Councillor Button felt the housing figures were still too high for the District;
- Councillor Giles expressed his view that the housing figure for Ottery St Mary was too high.

*57 Local Plan – consultation on the Vision (continued)

Overall Spatial Strategy for Development in East Devon

The Committee raised concern, appreciation, or suggested amendment on the following:

- Councillor Button re-iterated his view that the housing figures were too high for the District and suggested an overall figure of 12,500 was more appropriate;
- Councillor Giles paid tribute to, and recognised the issues faced by, the LDF Panel in trying to balance the competing demands between protecting the environment, and providing growth with development. He agreed that the overall housing figure was still too high;
- There was recognition that the plan was a living document, and depending on the economic climate, be reviewed to reflect changing housing numbers. Should this review be highlighted in the plan to make the public aware that the figures would be revised as necessary in the future?
- The plan worked to clearly define where in the district development was not wanted;
- The plan gave the District the opportunity to be ready for development once the economic climate improved;
- Move and improve paragraphs 6.12 and 6.13, to be placed alongside paragraphs 6.2 and 6.3 to create a link.

Scale and Distribution of Development in East Devon

The Committee raised concern, or suggested amendment on the following:

- Devon County Council input as the Education Authority was needed to provide specific detail on education requirements for each settlement – would education provision be enough for the growth predicted?
- With recent changes – such as status schools, school catchments areas, GP commissioning, Police and Fire Service restructures – the Committee recognised that each settlement needed careful monitoring. Ward Members must feed back local needs to the LDF Panel;
- The Westclyst site when developed could bring about traffic problems;
- Land identified within the plan as a longer term indication (that is after 2026) should not be included in the plan as this could lead to confusion;
- Protection of land adjacent to airport, as homes built too close to it would lead to noise complaints.

Proposed employment land allocations

The Committee raised concern, or suggested amendment on the following:

- The Devon County Council response to the Issues and Options paper was that provision of employment land away from the West End could be prejudiced by the strong provision at the West End;
- Classification of employment land should be clear; many settlements wanted more B1 (office) to bring in higher paid jobs. Members heard of two examples of B8 (warehouse) uses, where extraction of goods was a very technical operation, and more sophisticated than the normal perception of such “shed” employment land;
- Current market investment for employment land centered around B8 classification;

*57 Local Plan – consultation on the Vision (continued)

- Views of Town Councils and Chambers of Commerce was valued during the consultation, although it was accepted that not all business were represented by a Chamber of Commerce.

Built-up Area Boundaries

In response to a question about neighbourhood plans, the Committee was reminded of the process that a settlement would have to take if they wanted development outside the built up boundary. This included the neighbourhood plan surviving inspection and 50% of the electorate agreeing with the change – this would then lead to a revision of the boundary.

The Committee also felt that there existed a common misconception that a town or parish could amend their housing allocation (in the example quoted, to a higher figure) purely by creating a neighbourhood plan with their desired figure. This could be dispelled during this consultation period.

Many of the Committee felt that the retention of built up boundaries was important to help ensure growth was regulated whilst enabling communities to retain their amenity areas.

Sustainable Development

Generally the Committee was in agreement with the draft strategy on sustainable development proposed.

Concern was raised for settlements where no sizeable development was proposed. If these settlements could not raise money from developments for social facilities, there were very limited options to raise money. Often communities had to undertake fundraising.

Balanced Communities

In answer to a question about development type to retain young families, Matt Dickins responded with some of the options that could be used. These included an element of affordable housing, housing types, and location of development being close to areas of employment. Most homes would always be on the open market and subject to market forces, so it was a difficult task to retain young families.

Financing sheltered housing development was also discussed. The limitations of financing, such as a section 106 funds needing a direct link, or the priority pulls on Community Infrastructure Levy, were outlined.

The Committee welcomed the strong emphasis in the plan both on young people, and the elderly. Some examples of the need to help people to stay within their community throughout their lives were shared with the Committee. Housing for the elderly in villages was identified as a serious problem by the Committee and the Chairman agreed for this to be added to the forward plan for future debate.

*57 Local Plan – consultation on the Vision (continued)

Protection and enhancement of the environment

The Committee was generally happy with the draft strategy proposed, and suggested amendment on the following:

- Include special areas of conservation and other wildlife sites under (6);
- Expand the strategy to incorporate more of chapter 18 from the plan, bringing the principles of the AONBs to the rest of the District.

The Chairman thanked the Committee for their debate, and informed them that the minutes from the meeting would be fed directly into the consultation. He thanked, on behalf of the Committee, Councillor Mike Allen for his work as Chairman of the Local Development Framework Panel. He recognised that it had been a difficult job in analysing the evidence and taking into account the views of both Members and Town and Parish Councils.

Councillor Mike Allen, in response, thanked the LDF Panel; the Head of Economy; and the Planning Policy Manager and his team for their work. The Committee completed the meeting by applauding those involved in the preparation and production of the Local Plan.

Chairman Date

Forward Plan for Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Month	Topic
18 Jan 2012	All day Service Plan and Budget meeting starting at 9.00am
26 Jan 2012	Update on Post Office Pilot Scheme from Post Office Ltd. Update from Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Homes and Communities
1 Mar 2012	Consultation on the Council Plan and supporting strategies to the Council Plan: Housing and Community; Economy and Tourism; and Environment. Quarterly Monitoring of Performance – 3 rd Qtr 2011/12 Update from Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services Update from Portfolio Holder for Economy
29 Mar 2012	Strategic Commissioning NHS Devon Flood Management Act implementation – update from Devon County Council (tbc) Update on Equalities Action Plan Review of Car Parks
26 Apr 2012	

Topics for scoping and allocation to the Forward Plan:

- Transfer of assets to Towns and Parishes
- On-street parking financial detail
- Update on the Localism Act resource implications
- Shortage of housing for elderly in rural communities
- consider the implications, including cost and control, of allowing the recording of council meetings

Task and Finish Forums Update

- Community Infrastructure Levy – to begin early 2012
- HRB Taffs are continuing.