

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING** OF THE **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2025** AT 7.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT: Councillor L Wood (Chairperson) Presiding
M Ryan (Vice Chairperson)

Councillors A Hall C Davieson
P Bullivant A Gibbs
L Cooke (Deputy Mayor) M Joyce
D Corney-Walker

In attendance: Phil Rowe - Town Clerk
Pierre Doutreligne - Projects & Strategy Officer
Linda McGuirk - Principal Administrator
Nigel Canham - Communications Advisor

By invitation Freeman Mike Hocking
Police Sergeant, Neighbourhood Team - Toby Leetham

239. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

A valid reason for absence was received from Councillors B Bailey and C Parker (Mayor). An Apology was also received on behalf of Sam Scott - Deputy Town Clerk & RFO.

240. INTERESTS

None.

241. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 3rd September 2025 were received and signed as a correct record.

Cllr A Hall abstained from voting.

242. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair welcomed Police Sergeant Toby Leetham to the meeting to provide an update on recent policing matters within Newton Abbot.

Sgt Leetham outlined his role as Neighbourhood Beat Manager and informed Members that a new Specialist Problem Solver would be joining the team in November 2025, with two additional PCSOs expected to take up their posts in early 2026. The Neighbourhood Team would continue to maintain a visible presence within the town as much as possible.

Sgt Leetham reported that between August and September 2025, there were 33,107 recorded volume crimes across the wider policing area, of which 855 occurred within

Chair initials.....

Newton Abbot. He advised that it had been a very busy summer period, with the team managing several unauthorised encampments.

In response to the increasing use of electric scooters and bikes, targeted enforcement activity is planned in Newton Abbot, along with a focus on youth ASB in the vicinity of the Multi-Storey car park. Members were reassured that the Police are aware of the issue and are working to manage it effectively.

During discussion, the following matters were raised by Members:

- how many of the 855 crimes involved repeat offenders.
- expressed concern regarding public perception and frustration when reports made to the Police appear not to be followed up.
- requested further context to assist in understanding the statistics presented.
- noted that Newton Abbot remains a statistically low-crime area overall.
- emphasised the importance of considering the impact on victims.
- raised concerns regarding traveller's vehicles, particularly in relation to taxation and insurance
- asked whether young people demonstrate respect for the Police.

Members expressed their thanks to Sgt Leetham for attending the meeting.

243. **REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Chairperson invited members that are representatives on outside bodies to report on meetings they had attended. There were no reports presented at this meeting.

244. **POLICIES**

The Chairperson introduced the policy documents, which had been previously circulated to Members.

Members were advised that the new Drivers, Mental Health, Contractors, and Fire Policies had been identified as high priority during the recent Health and Safety Audit. The policies under consideration were as follows:

- Health & Safety Manual
- Drivers Policy (*New*)
- Mental Health Policy (*New*)
- Equality & Diversity Policy
- Lone Working Policy
- Contractors Policy (*New*)
- Fire Policy (*New*)

Following a review and discussion of the documents, it was:

RESOLVED that the following policies be approved and adopted, subject to minor amendments:

- a) Health & Safety Manual

Chair initials.....

- b) Drivers Policy
- c) Mental Health Policy
- d) Lone Working Policy
- e) Equality & Diversity Policy
- f) Fire Policy

It was agreed that the Contractors Policy be deferred to allow amendments to be made, with the revised version to be considered at the Full Council meeting on 12th November 2025.

Cllr L Cooke abstained from voting on the Fire Policy.

245. WHAT'S IN STORE PROJECT

The notes of the What's In Store Project, providing a detailed update on progress, as circulated prior to the meeting, were received and noted.

Members acknowledged that the application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund had been successful, and that the Museum has been awarded £818,653 to create a new, accessible, state-of-the-art museum store.

246. NEWTON ABBOT TOWN CENTRE MASTER PLAN

The Projects & Strategy Officer informed Members about the District Council's proposal to create a Newton Abbot Town Centre Masterplan Project Board and a Newton Abbot Town Centre Project Team, in partnership with the Town Council.

Newton Abbot Town Centre Masterplan would aim to achieve the following: -

- Deliver town-centre housing to meet identified local needs, including affordable and specialist homes e.g. additional care. (There is potential to deliver approximately 300 homes on sites allocated in the Local Plan in the town centre.)
- Support town centre vitality through increased footfall, extended activity hours, and enhanced safety.
- Enable sustainable living with proximity to services, transport, and amenities.
- Regenerate under-utilised public assets to unlock housing and mixed-use development.
- Introduce a new transport hub to improve connectivity and encourage more walking and cycling into and around the town.
- Enhance public realm and civic spaces to create a more inclusive and attractive town centre, helping people connect with nature.

The jointly owned Masterplan will be overseen by a Project Board comprising councillors and senior officers from both Councils (TDC and NATC) as well as key community representatives, supported by a Project Team consisting of officers from TDC, DCC and NATC.

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There are one-off costs associated with the preparation of the Masterplan. These primarily arise from structural surveys, feasibility studies, consultation and engagement activities, and design work.

The Projects & Strategy Officer advised that membership of the Project Board should include the Town Clerk, Chairperson of the Planning Committee – Councillor Nick Yabsley and the Mayor – Councillor Colin Parker.

It was further suggested that the Projects & Strategy Officer joins the Project Team.

Members were invited to consider this collaborative approach and the required membership, as previously stated.

A discussion took place regarding the proposed membership of the Newton Abbot Town Centre Masterplan Project Board. Concerns were raised by Members in relation to the proposed composition of the Board.

Arising from the discussion, it was:

RESOLVED that:

- a) In principle, the Town Council supports the development of a Newton Abbot Town Centre Masterplan;
- b) Councillors Colin Parker and Nick Yabsley, together with the Town Clerk, be appointed to sit on the Newton Abbot Town Centre Masterplan Project Board;
- c) The Projects and Strategy Officer be appointed to sit on the Newton Abbot Town Centre Masterplan Project Team.

247. ACCOUNTS INCOME & EXPENDITURE

The Committee received the overview of Income and Expenditure statement for the Policy and Resources Committee for the Period 1st April 2025 to 30th September 2025.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure statement for the Period 1st April 2025 to 30th September 2025 be hereby approved.

Members were invited to consider the budget requirements for 2026/27 for submission to the Strategic Planning Forum (SPF) to be included in its budget.

There were no items put forward for consideration.

248. LATE CORRESPONDENCE

None.

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249. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 11th February 2026.

250. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Due to the sensitive nature of the business to be transacted, it was:

RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

251. **ASSET ACQUISITION OPPORTUNITY**

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update on a potential asset acquisition opportunity.

It was noted that due diligence on the lease is ongoing, and that a formal planning application has been submitted.

Members were informed that a public survey will be included in the forthcoming edition of Newton's Cryer. A copy of the survey was displayed at the meeting.

Members were reminded that the public consultation process is a requirement in relation to the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) application.

Meeting closed at 20:20

Chairperson.....Date.....

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