MINUTES OF THE **MEETING** OF THE **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2026** AT 7.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT: Councillor C Parker (Chairperson) Presiding
L Wood (Vice Chairperson)

Councillors B Bailey, P Bullivant, L Cooke (Mayor), D Corney-Walker, C Davieson, A Hall, A Ineson (Deputy Mayor), M Joyce, M Ryan

In attendance: Phil Rowe – Town Clerk
Sam Scott - Deputy Town Clerk & RFO
Linda McGuirk - Principal Administrator

178. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

A valid reason for absence had been received from Councillor A Gibbs.

Apologies were noted from the Communications Advisor, Nigel Canham.

179. **INTERESTS**

Councillor M Joyce declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 13b, Old Forde House, by virtue of his position as Vice Chairperson of Newton Abbot Civic Society.

180. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 17th June 2026 were received and signed as a correct record.

181. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

182. **REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Chairperson invited Members who served as representatives on outside bodies to provide updates on meetings they had attended.

Councillor L Cooke reported on a meeting of the Bradley Community Centre attended in July. She raised concerns regarding the availability of financial information and accounts, the operation and use of the Centre, and the absence of a business plan to support applications for funding. She noted that, in her view, there had been limited progress over the previous three years.

Councillor Cooke also reported that she had agreed to become a Trustee of Community Transport.

Councillor P Bullivant reported on a meeting of the Bradley Community Centre, which he had attended as a Trustee. He advised that the Centre had undergone a substantial refurbishment, including the provision of new toilet facilities, and was being used regularly throughout the week, with the exception of Mondays. He confirmed that the Centre's accounts were available online and had been published and advised that an application for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding would be submitted.

Councillor Bullivant also reported on his attendance at the monthly Chamber of Commerce meetings and commented positively on the Projects & Strategy Officer's contribution to the Chamber and the town.

Councillor C Parker reported on a Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) Board meeting that he had attended. The Board had discussed the organisation's finances and its strong working relationship with Newton Abbot Town Council, including the Council's annual financial support.

He advised that CAB was facing a period of uncertainty arising from Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and that discussions had taken place regarding the potential amalgamation of CAB organisations.

Councillor Parker also reported concerns regarding the CAB's location at Market Walk, including rental costs and accessibility for service users, particularly in relation to lift access.

183. **POLICIES**

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

The policies under consideration were as follows:

- Equality & Diversity Policy
- GDPR Daya Protection & Privacy Policy
- Vexatious Complaints Policy
- Premises Use Policy

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

RESOLVED that the following policies be approved and adopted, subject to a minor amendment to the Equality & Diversity Policy to remove duplicated wording and to ensure compliance with the relevant provisions of the Employment Rights Act 2025 coming into effect in October 2026:

a) Equality & Diversity Policy
b) GDPR Daya Protection & Privacy Policy
c) Vexatious Complaints Policy
d) Premises Use Policy

184. **MINUTES OF PROJECT BOARDS AND WORKING GROUPS**

a) The Minutes of the Meeting of the Infrastructure Plan Working Group held on 9th June 2026, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor P Bullivant were noted.

b) The Minutes of the Meeting of the What's In Store Project Board held on 23rd June 2026, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Ryan were noted.

c) The Minutes of the Meeting of the Infrastructure Plan Working Group held on 7th September 2026, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor P Bullivant were noted.

185. **ACCOUNTS INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

The Committee received the overview of Income and Expenditure statement for the Policy and Resources Committee for the Period 1st April 2026 to 31st July 2026.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure statement for the Period 1st April 2026 to 31st July 2026 be hereby approved.

186. **PAUSING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN DEVON**

Members discussed the recent announcement regarding the pause in Local Government Reorganisation in Devon and noted a letter from the Minister for Local Government, Devolution and Regional Growth issued to council leaders across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay.

The Mayor advised that she and the Projects & Strategy Officer would continue to visit local councils to build relationships and prepare for potential future clustering arrangements.

Members expressed the hope that the pause would provide an opportunity for changes to be made to the current proposals.

187. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

188. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 21st October 2026.

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

Due to the confidential 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.

190. **ASSETS**

Town Clerk reported:

a) Asset Acquisition opportunity

The agent acting in respect of the potential asset acquisition on Wolborough Street had been advised that the Town Council would not be progressing with the acquisition due to significant issues identified with the building.

The Town Clerk reported that an alternative location had been identified and that a feasibility study and business plan would be presented to the Council for consideration in due course.

b) Old Forde House

Two groups have expressed an interest in Old Forde House, one group has sought support from the Town Council, including the appointment of a Council representative as a Trustee. Further information would be presented to Full Council in due course.

Meeting closed at 19:50

Chairperson…… Date……