

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2026** AT 7.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT

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

Councillors B Bailey A Gibbs
L Cooke (Deputy Mayor) A Hall
D Corney-Walker M Joyce
C Davieson C Parker (Mayor)

In attendance: Sam Scott - Deputy Town Clerk & RFO
Pierre Doutreligne - Projects & Strategy Officer
Nigel Canham - Communications Advisor

By invitation Freeman Mike Hocking
Sector Inspector Sean Roper, Devon & Cornwall Police
PCSO Joshua Bailey, Devon & Cornwall Police

382. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received on behalf of Phil Rowe – Town Clerk and Linda McGuirk - Principal Administrator.

Councillor P Bullivant did not attend.

383. INTERESTS

None.

384. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 22nd October 2025 were received and signed as a correct record.

385. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

386. PRESENTATION - POLICE

The Chair welcomed Sector Inspector Sean Roper and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Joshua Bailey to the meeting to provide an update on recent policing matters within Newton Abbot.

Their first presentation covered:-

- force / sector number of crimes for the period November 2025 – January 2026;
- figures for the top 10 offences for the same reporting period;
- latest Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) figures; and

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- Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) and Community Protection Orders (CPOs);

During discussion, the following matters were raised by Members:

- difference between Home Office statistics and ASB statistics;
- perceived lack of police reactivity against unauthorised encampments; and
- vulnerable people living in or around Osbourne Park.

The second presentation focused on Hotspot Policing and covered:-

- the Hotspot Policing Action Fund;
- the fundamental basis of Hotspot Policing;
- the theory underpinning Hotspot Policing;
- the Hotspot Policing outputs for Newton Abbot for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st December 2025; and
- Devon and Cornwall Hotspot Policing outcomes.

Following this second presentation, the following matters were discussed:

- the need to be accurate about the areas that require Hotspot Policing;
- funding for the scheme;
- the expectation that action will be taken against e-scooter and e-bike offenders;
- the intimidating atmosphere by the multi-storey at night; and
- section 59, which empowers police to stop and seize vehicles driven in an anti-social manner.

Members expressed thanks to Insp. Roper and PCSO Bailey for their presentations, which Insp. Roper advised would be circulated to Members by the Projects & Strategy Officer.

387. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Chairperson invited members that are representatives on outside bodies to report on meetings they had attended.

Councillor L Cooke reported on the recent meeting of the Bradley Community Association, noting:-

- the inappropriate nature of the location (a pub);
- the lack of detail in the accounting records provided to members; and
- the urgent need for a clear vision of where the centre is going.

Councillors M Ryan and C Parker reported that the Newton Abbot Twinning Association, instead of folding, had approved a new committee at their recent AGM.

Reporting on Citizens Advice, Councillor C Parker noted:-

- the overall capacity reduction at Citizens Advice Teignbridge;
- the outreach services in Dawlish and Teignmouth;
- the impact of the LGR on CA funding;
- how two trustees had stood down;

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- how CA Teignbridge was being run by two joint chairpersons;
- the financial deficit of £70,000 (forecast to be £30,000 this year);
- how CA Teignbridge was doing well nationally; and
- that CA could be offered a stall at the next Annual Town Meeting.

The Communications Advisor suggested that the Mayor could launch a public appeal for two new trustees for CA Teignbridge.

388. **POLICIES**

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

The policies under consideration were as follows:

- Committee Membership Policy (*New*)
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy (*New*)
- Capability Procedure (*New*)
- Deductions from Pay Policy (*New*)
- Firewall Policy
- Internet & Email Policy
- Password Policy
- Mobile Phone Policy
- Social Media & Civility & Respect Policy
- Training & Development Policy
- Town Crier Recruitment, Conduct & Review Procedure (*New*)

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

RESOLVED that the following policies be approved and adopted:

- a) Committee Membership Policy
- b) Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy
- c) Capability Procedure
- d) Deductions from Pay Policy
- e) Firewall Policy
- f) Internet & Email Policy
- g) Password Policy
- h) Mobile Phone Policy
- i) Social Media & Civility & Respect Policy
- j) Training & Development Policy
- k) Town Crier Recruitment, Conduct & Review Procedure

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389. **NEWTON ABBOT INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN**

The Chairperson and the Projects and Strategy Officer reminded Members of the context for the presence of the draft Newton Abbot Town Centre Masterplan on the agenda, further remarking on:-

- Teignbridge District Council’s approach to this Council seeking a collaborative approach towards the greater good of Newton Abbot; and
- the impracticality of discussing such a complex matter within the time and agenda constraints of the Policy & Resources Committee.

Consequently, it was:

RESOLVED that an Infrastructure Plan Working Group be set up and that Policy & Resources Committee Members wishing to join the Working Group should notify Newton Abbot Town Council officers in writing.

390. **NEWTON ABBOT TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN**

The Chairperson introduced the item by remarking on her unpleasant experience at the consultation event held at Sherborne House in December, where staff on hand failed to show due respect or interest. The Projects & Strategy Officer, who manned the consultation venue for several shifts over the three-day event, assured Members that, while the Chairperson’s experience was highly regrettable, it was thankfully not representative of the event as a whole.

Councillor C Parker and the Projects & Strategy Officer provided Members with an update of the recent initial meeting of the Town Centre Project Board meeting, highlighting: -

- the decision to extend the consultation period until June 2026;
- the possibility of publicising the consultation at the next Annual Town Meeting; and
- the decision to broaden the Project Board membership to include external representatives e.g. the Police, Education South West and the Rotary.

Councillor L Cooke welcomed the idea of using the Annual Town Meeting for additional consultation with town residents and traders; she also highlighted the importance of cleanliness and the provision of litter bins in the town centre. Remarking on the context of the Local Government Reorganisation, Members stressed the need to think about the Town Centre Masterplan from a Newton Abbot Town Council point of view.

The Communications Advisor noted the potential confusion caused by the various ‘plans’ for Newton Abbot (Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plan, Masterplan, Infrastructure Plan); the Projects & Strategy Officer offered to work with Teignbridge officers on a concise document which would provide clarity to Members.

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391. MINUTES OF PROJECT BOARDS AND WORKING GROUPS

- a) The Minutes of the Meeting of the What's In Store Project Board held on 28th October 2025, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Ryan were noted.
- b) The Minutes of the Meeting of the Local Government Reorganisation Working Group held on 11th December 2025, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Joyce were noted.
- c) The Minutes of the Meeting of the What's In Store Project Board held on 16th December 2025, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Ryan were noted.

392. 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 31st December 2025.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure statement for the Period 1st April 2025 to 31st December 2025 be hereby approved.

393. LATE CORRESPONDENCE

None.

394. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 17th June 2026.

Meeting closed at 20:24

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

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