

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING** OF THE **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 18th JUNE 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 B Bailey A Gibbs
L Cooke A Hall
D Corney-Walker M Joyce
C Davieson C Parker (Mayor)

Councillor N Yabsley attended the meeting

In attendance: Sam Scott – Deputy Town Clerk & RFO
Pierre Doutreligne - Projects & Strategy Officer
Linda McGuirk - Principal Administrator

By invitation Freeman Mike Hocking

Also, present District Councillor Rob Hayes

69. **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE 2025/26**

Nominations were received for the election of the Chairperson of the Policy & Resources Committee for the year 2025/2026.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Laura Wood be elected Chairperson of the Policy & Resources Committee for the year 2025/2026.

70. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

A valid reason for absence was received from Councillor P Bullivant. An Apology was also received on behalf of Phil Rowe, Town Clerk.

71. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE 2025/26**

Nominations were received for the appointment of the Vice Chairperson of the Policy & Resources Committee for the year 2025/2026.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Mike Ryan be appointed Vice Chairperson of the Policy & Resources Committee for the year 2025/2026.

Chair initials.....

72. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

73. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 12th February 2025 were received and signed as a correct record.

74. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

75. **COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee gave due consideration to the Terms of Reference for the Policy & Resources Committee, circulated prior to the meeting.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference for the Policy & Resources Committee be hereby, approved and adopted.

76. **REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

- Councillor M Joyce reported that he had attended a meeting of the Newton Abbot Security Trust (NAST). Key topics discussed included ongoing safety initiatives within the town and consideration of the amount of time NAST provide CCTV services to the Police, which was placing a strain on resources and finance.
- Councillor C Parker also attended a meeting of NAST, as well as a meeting of the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). He reported that CAB is currently experiencing increased financial pressures.

Councillor A Hall raised a query regarding the cost of manpower associated with security services and asked whether a calculation of the amount of free hours granted to Police support had been made. Members recognised the service provided by NAST for public safety is immeasurable.

- Councillors Mike Ryan and Alex Hall also confirmed their attendance at the recent Court Leet meeting.

Councillor L Wood informed Members that she is no longer acting as the Council's representative to an organisation due to the short notice of meeting notifications. Councillor Hall echoed these concerns, having had similar experiences.

Chair initials.....

Members discussed the lack of reports received from outside organisations or invitations to meetings from the organisations they represent. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Mayor's Secretary would contact the organisations to confirm whether they wish to retain Council representation.

77. **POLICIES**

The Chairperson introduced the policy documents, as previously circulated:

- Menopause Policy, a new policy to the Council.
- Member Officer Protocol
- Model Publication Scheme
- Sexual Harassment Policy, a new policy to the Council.

Members discussed the importance of the Member Officer Protocol and reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining positive and respectful working relationships between elected members and officers. Councillor L Cooke addressed the Council, emphasising the principles of dignity and respect. She referred to current world affairs as a reminder of the need for compassion and integrity in public service. Councillor Cooke encouraged all members to reflect on their own behaviour, to lead by example, and to uphold the highest standards of conduct in their interactions, both within the Council and in the wider community.

Following a review of the policy documents among Members, it was:

RESOLVED that the policies in relation to the:

- a) Menopause Policy
- b) Member Officer Protocol
- c) Model Publication Scheme
- d) Sexual Harassment Policy

be hereby, approved and adopted.

78. **SUB- COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/FORUMS**

- a) The Minutes of the Meeting of the Old Forde House Task & Finish Group held on 17th March 2025, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor A Hall were noted.
- b) The Minutes of the Meeting of the What's In Store Project Board held on 8th April 2025, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Ryan were noted.
- c) The Minutes of the Meeting of the Local Government Reorganisation Working Group held on 30th April 2025, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Joyce were noted.

Chair initials.....

d) The Minutes of the Meeting of the Local Government Reorganisation Working Group held on 22nd May 2025, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Joyce were noted.

79. **ACCOUNTS INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

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

Councillor B Bailey asked questions relating to website costs and noted the Omega Support Costs were over budget.

Accordingly, it was:

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

80. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

81. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 3rd September 2025.

Meeting closed at 19:37

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

Chair initials.....