

Executive

Statement of Decisions

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Executive held on Tuesday 8 November 2016. Decisions made by the Executive will be subject to call-in. Recommendations made to the Council are not subject to call-in. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Sarah Selway, Democratic Services (Committees) Manager on 01392 265275 or email sarah.selway@exeter.gov.uk

Staffing within the Housing Development Team

Agreed	That a temporary increase in the establishment of the Housing Development Team of a Housing Development Officer Grade 8 until 31 October 2017 be approved.
Reason for Decision:	As set out in the report.

Exeter City Council's Council Tax Support Scheme for 2017-18

Agreed	<p>That it is recommended that Council:-</p> <p>(1) the revised Exceptional Hardship policy be approved;</p> <p>(2) the following changes to the local Council Tax Support Scheme be approved;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to reduce "good cause" backdating to one month as originally proposed and to link the Council Tax Support date of claim to the date a claimant is first made liable for Council Tax where the delay in issuing a bill is not caused by the claimant b) Using a minimum income for self-employed earners after 1 year's self-employment c) Reducing the period for which a person can be absent from Great Britain and still receive Council Tax Support to 4 weeks d) Removing the Work Related Activity Component in the calculation of the entitlement for new applicants e) Removing entitlement to the Severe Disability Premium where another person is paid Universal Credit (Carers Element) for looking after them f) Removing entitlement to the additional earnings disregard for Universal Credit customers in work;
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	<p>(3) the implementation of change 2e) above be delayed to 1 April 2018 if the policy is introduced to Housing Benefit from a date after 1 April 2017; and</p> <p>(4) limiting the number of dependent children within the calculation for Council Tax Support to a maximum of 2 not be adopted.</p>
Reason for Decision:	As set out in the minutes.

Discretionary Housing Payments Policy

Agreed	That it is recommended that Council approve the Discretionary Housing Payments policy.
Reason for Decision:	In order that the Council can make awards of Discretionary Housing Payments to Housing Benefits and Universal Credit customers who need additional help with housing costs. The aim of this policy is to ensure awards are made fairly and lawfully, supporting the Council's priority of meeting housing need for residents of the City.

Creation of part time temporary post for Housing Needs Administration

Agreed	<p>That:-</p> <p>(1) the creation of a temporary part time post in the Housing Needs Team be approved; and</p> <p>(2) the post uses existing funding from within the department.</p>
Reason for Decision:	Access to information about a person's previous applications to the Council for Housing is relevant in understanding the needs of the customer. This information is best available alongside existing records where we can be confident that it is up to date and relevant. This requires the existing paper files to be sorted, scanned and catalogued appropriately.

Proposed Greater Exeter Growth and Development Board

Agreed	<p>That:-</p> <p>(1) an in principle setting up of the proposed Greater Exeter Growth and Development Board together with the local authorities covering the Greater Exeter functional economic area, namely East Devon District Council, Exeter City Council, Mid Devon District Council and Teignbridge District Council be approved. The Board will be a Joint Committee under s101 (5), 102 Local Government Act 1972 and s9EB Local Government Act 2000 and pursuant to the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012; and</p> <p>(2) the unwillingness of Devon County Council to support this step at present be noted.</p>
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Reason for Decision:	As set out in the minutes.

Review of Staffing - Democratic & Civic Support

Agreed	That it is recommended to Council that:- 1) the Administrative Assistant post within the Democratic Services (Committees) team be extended to be full time; and (2) the Council's budget be adjusted accordingly.
Reason for Decision:	As set out in the minutes.

Urgent Decision - Zero Energy Buildings Catalyst Project

Agreed	that the urgent decision be noted.
Reason for Decision:	As set out in the minutes.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Exclusion of Press and Public

Agreed	That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1,2, 3 and 4 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Act.
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The Future of Older Person's Services for Housing

Agreed	That:- (1) feedback from the consultation process on the draft business case and the petition from some residents of Rennes House, together with officers' responses be noted; And the following be approved:- (2) the final Business Case and the proposals it contains for the restructure of Exeter City Council's older persons' housing and housing-related support services; (3) the ending of the warden service from 31 March 2017; (4) the appointment of three Older Persons' Property Services Officers to provide an enhanced management service to the Council's older persons' housing from 1 April 2017 and the levying of an appropriate service charge to pay for these posts;
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	<p>and</p> <p>(5) the continued provision of an emergency alarm system to those tenants who currently benefit from such an arrangement and who do not pay for it until such time as a change of tenancy takes place.</p>
Reason for Decision:	As set out in the minutes.

The decisions indicated will normally come into force 5 working days after publication of the Statement of Decisions unless called in by a Scrutiny Committee. Where the matter in question is urgent, the decision will come into force immediately. Decisions regarding the policy framework or corporate objectives or otherwise outside the remit of the Executive will be considered by Council on 13 December 2016.