



## Exeter City Council

A meeting of **EXETER CITY COUNCIL** will be held at the **GUILDHALL, HIGH STREET, EXETER** on **TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2023**, on the rising of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council which commences at 6.00 pm, at which you are hereby summoned to attend.

This meeting is open to the public and those addressing the Council under the public speaking provisions in agenda item 3, but any members of the public wishing to attend the meeting should contact the Democratic Services Team [committee.services@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:committee.services@exeter.gov.uk) in advance. Priority will be given to those addressing the Council under the public speaking provisions.

The meeting will be live streamed on YouTube.

[Democratic Meetings - YouTube](#)

If you have an enquiry regarding any items on this agenda, please contact Mark Devin, Democratic Services Team Leader on 01392 265477.

The following business is proposed to be transacted:-

	Pages
1 Minutes	
To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Ordinary Council held on 13 December 2022 and of the Extraordinary Council held on 20 December 2022.	5 - 24
2 Official Communications	
	Pages
3 Public Questions	
Details of questions should be notified to the Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support at least three working days prior to the meeting - by 10am on Thursday 16 February 2022. Further information and a copy of the procedure are available from Democratic Services (Committees) (Tel: 01392 265115) with details about speaking at Council to be found here: <a href="#">Public Speaking at Meetings</a> .	

To receive minutes of the following Committees and to determine thereon:-

4 Licensing Committee - 31 January 2023	25 - 28
5 Strategic Scrutiny Committee - Special - 12 December 2022	29 - 36
6 Strategic Scrutiny Committee - 19 January 2023	37 - 44
7 Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee - 2 February 2023	45 - 72
8 Combined Strategic Scrutiny and Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee - 9 February 2023	73 - 82

9	Exeter Harbour Board - 15 December 2022	83 - 86
10	Strata Joint Scrutiny Committee - 5 January 2023	87 - 90
11	Strata Joint Executive Committee - 17 January 2023	91 - 92
12	Executive - 10 January 2023	93 - 104
13	Executive - 7 February 2023	105 - 120 Pages
14	Notice of Motion by Councillor M. Mitchell under Standing Order No. 6 Council Tax exemptions and discounts	

Request Exeter City Council to lobby both of our local Members of Parliament, the Local Government Association and the Department for Communities and Local Government to require central Government to include in future annual Local Government financial settlements full reimbursement to Local Authorities, Police and Crime Commissioners and Fire and Rescue Services for losses of council tax income due to nationally legislated exemptions and discounts.

Pages

- 15 Notice of Motion by Councillor Read under Standing Order No. 6

**The Council notes:**

In July 2019 Exeter, along with hundreds of other Councils, declared a climate emergency. This declaration was strengthened in April 2021 by including biodiversity. The Rivers Trust says 'Rivers are in the forefront of our climate and nature crisis. For habitats to adapt and recover from climate shocks, we need healthy rivers'. The Council has an obligation to protect its rivers and the City Council's Harbour Board has, as one of its core values "We will lead in environmental stewardship of the Port." The Exe Estuary has the highest protection status afforded to it and is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Protection Area because it supports internationally important populations of birds such as the Slavonian Grebe and the Avocet, as well as Dunlin, Oystercatcher, Blacktailed Godwit and more.

The issue of sewage pollution of rivers and the sea is rightly high on the public and political agenda as the Environment Agency recently revealed that not one English waterway, including rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters is in good ecological and chemical health at present. Pollution from water treatment plants and agriculture are the key sources of the damage. Meanwhile the Environment Agency recently shockingly announced that the target to clean up the majority of England's rivers, lakes and coastal waters has been pushed back 36 years, from 2027 to 2063. To date, only stretches of two rivers in the UK have been granted bathing status, a section of the Wharfe and of the Thames.

**This Council resolves to:**

1. Recognise that there is clear evidence of poor water quality in the Exe due to cumulative impact of multiple sewage discharge events or 'sewage overload'.
2. Request from South West Water that an evidence base is compiled that

assesses the cumulative impact of sewage discharge on ecological river health, and in addition the impact of polluted water on wildlife and biodiversity along the banks of the river should be monitored.

3. Ask the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee to invite the Chief Executive of South West Water plus senior representatives from the Environment Agency and Natural England/Natural Resources Wales to attend a meeting to answer questions on the current levels of sewage discharge.
4. Ask the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee to contact the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the regional director of the National Farmers' Union for clarification on action being taken by local farmers to prevent agricultural waste flowing into the river.
5. Ask South West Water from this date onwards, in its planning consultation responses for major development, to clarify which treatment works will be managing the sewage; whether it has the information available to assess the impact on the number or duration of sewage discharges into local rivers or seas, and if it does have this information to share it (noting that this can only be requested not required).
6. Request Exeter City Council to lobby both our local Members of Parliament, the Local Government Association and the Department for Communities and Local Government to ban sewage discharges into swimming areas and where protected wildlife lives.

Pages

16 Appointment of new permanent Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service  
To consider the report of the Council Leader.

121 - 124

17 Questions from Members of the Council under Standing Order No. 8  
A plan of seating in the Guildhall is attached as an annexe

Date: Monday 13 February 2023

Karime Hassan MBE  
Chief Executive & Growth Director