



Exeter City Council

A meeting of **EXETER CITY COUNCIL** will be held at the **GUILDHALL - GUILDHALL** on **TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2018**, on the rising of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council which commences at 6.00 pm, at which you are hereby summoned to attend. The following business is proposed to be transacted:-

	Pages
1 Minutes	
To sign the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19 December 2017 and of the Extraordinary Meetings held on 12 October and 19 December 2017.	3 - 18
2 Official Communications	
To receive minutes of the following Committees and to determine thereon:-	
3 Planning Committee - 12 February 2018 - To follow	
4 Licensing Committee - 6 February 2018	19 - 20
5 People Scrutiny Committee - 4 January 2018	21 - 26
6 Place Scrutiny Committee - 11 January 2018	27 - 44
7 Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee - 25 January 2018	45 - 52
8 Strata Joint Executive Committee - 5 January 2018	53 - 56
9 Executive - 9 January 2018	57 - 60
10 Executive - 13 February 2018 - To follow	

A plan of seating in the Guildhall is attached as an annexe

Date: Monday 12 February 2018

Karime Hassan
Chief Executive &
Growth Director

NOTE: Members are asked to sign the Attendance Register

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THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF EXETER CITY COUNCIL

Guildhall
Thursday 12 October 2017

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor (Cllr Robson)
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Cllr Hannan)
Councillors Bialyk, Branston, Brimble, Denham, Edwards, Foale, Foggin, Gottschalk, Harvey, D Henson, Mrs Henson, Holland (part of meeting), Keen, Lamb, Lyons, Mitchell, Morris, Morse, Musgrave, Newby, Owen, Packham, Pearson, Prowse, Sheldon, Sills, Spackman, Sutton, Vizard, Wardle, Warwick and Wood

23 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ashwood, Baldwin, Hannaford, Leadbetter and Thompson.

24 **MINUTES SILENCE - CLIVE TARR**

The Council observed a minutes silence in memory of Clive Tarr a former Councillor who had recently passed away.

25 **LEISURE COMPLEX AND BUS STATION PROGRAMME BOARD - 28 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure Complex and Bus Station Programme Board - 28 September 2017 were taken as read.

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Communities and Sport presented the minutes of the Leisure Complex and Bus Station Programme Board - 28 September 2017.

The Leader proposed the recommendations from the Leisure Complex and Bus Station Programme Board 28 September 2017 in respect of the way forward for the Leisure Complex and Bus Station, with the amendment to recommendation (3) that the bus station will close by the end of February 2018, at the latest, as agreed with the bus company. This was seconded by the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Communities and Sport.

The Leader stated:-

- that the point of tonight's meeting was to discuss the Council's ongoing commitment to redeveloping the bus station and to outline how the Council would progress plans for the future of the site.
- The recent decision by Crown Estates to pull their retail scheme presented the Council with some challenges and tonight was an update on how the Council would deal with these challenges. The Council's commitment to building a new leisure centre and new bus station was as strong as ever. Some people were saying this was a time to stop and reconsider everything, but anyone who had seen the state of the bus station or used the Pyramids recently would know that these facilities were not good enough for Exeter, and were in desperate need of replacing.
- This was what the people of Exeter elected the Labour Group to deliver, and this is what the administration intended to do. Redeveloping this site had been Council policy for the last 20 years. It had taken this administration to get the plans to this stage, and it would be this administration that delivered it.

- The decision by the Crown Estates to pull out had presented the Council with some challenges but also some new opportunities. The Council now need to do some design work to change the interface between the developments and what the Crown Estates had planned. The Leader stated that he was very proud of the design of the new leisure centre and new bus station and this would not change. The Council would look to retender next spring to find a contractor, with work on the leisure centre and bus station starting in the winter of 2018, and opening to the public in 2020.
- The Council would be looking for new development partners for the longer term, and had already been contacted by interested parties and was no longer tied just to retail, as the Crown Estates wanted. The site lent itself to a mixed use development including offices, housing, social housing, retail, cafes and restaurants with some public open space and it would not be student housing. Whilst some people had called for the bus station to remain open for the foreseeable future if that happened all the momentum that had been built up would vanish and severely weaken the chances of anything happening at the site therefore there was a commitment to closing the bus station.
- The Council would de-risk the site, which meant demolishing the station, cleaning everything up and making it as attractive as it could be for future developers. The Council wanted to start this process straightaway and close the bus station at the end of October but this would not be possible and it would take at least three months to tender for contractors to demolish the bus station. Therefore, it would remain open until early next year, this had been agreed after a meeting with the Managing Director of Stagecoach
- This was the reason why there was an amendment to change recommendation (3) of the Leisure Complex and Bus Station Board to read 'that the bus station will close by the end of February 2018, at the latest, as agreed with the bus company'. The precise closing date would be revealed in the coming weeks.
- Demolishing the bus station and de-risking the site made it much more attractive to future developers, this was another example of the public sector working to attract major private sector investment into the city centre a strategy which had served the city so well over recent years. Exeter had become one of the fastest growing cities in the UK, with one of the most successful economies. This did not happen by chance. The Council was committed to protecting our city centre – where 20,000 people work - against all the threats it faces, from internet shopping and out of town development.
- Despite the recent disappointments the Council have had to deal with, it remained committed to seeing this through to delivering better leisure facilities, a better bus station and a better city centre. Everyone who cared about Exeter as much as the administration does should be working with it to ensure that this happened.

Councillor Newby proposed the following amendment to recommendation (3) "to keep the Bus Station open, and allow Stagecoach and other Operators to continue using it, until further notice". This was seconded Councillor Holland.

In supporting the amendment, some Members, whilst recognising that the Bus Station site needed to be redeveloped, felt that it should not be at any price and that the closing of the Bus Station should not have a time limit on it to ensure that the project was not rushed and all options could be considered.

Those Members not supporting the amendment felt that it was important to have a time table to work to and, by closing the Bus Station by the end of February 2018, it

would expedite the process with regards to de-risking the site by enabling tenders to be brought for the demolition of the Bus Station.

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Communities and Sport stated that it was anticipated that a recommendation would come back to Council in December this year with details of the contract and costs to demolish the Bus Station and de-risk the site. There was a good business case for the development of the site with the Leisure Complex bringing income into the Council by way of rent and business rates. The Pyramids Pool was in a poor state of repair and needed replacing, the Leisure Complex would be a sustainable Passivhaus building. It was important for the Council to maintain momentum and realise its vision to redeveloping this site.

The amended recommendation (3) was put to the vote and lost.

In accordance with Standing Order 27(1), a named vote on the amended recommendation was called for and the voting was as follows:

Voting for:

Councillors Henson D, Mrs Henson, Holland, Mitchell, Musgrave, Newby and Prowse.

(7 Members)

Voting against:

Councillors Bialyk, Branston, Brimble, Denham, Edwards, Foale, Foggin, Gottschalk, the Deputy Lord Mayor, Harvey, Keen, Lamb, Lyons, Morris, Morse, Owen, Packham, Pearson, Sheldon, Sills, Spackman, Sutton, Vizard, Wardle, Warwick and Wood.

(26 Member)

Abstain:

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor

(1 Member)

Absent:

Councillor Ashwood, Baldwin, Hannaford, Leadbetter and Thompson.

(5 Members)

The Leader, in supporting his proposed recommendation with the revised recommendation (3) to close the Bus Station by end of February 2018, stated that the administration was looking at future opportunities for the site and a full consultation had taken place on the plans to date. In response to Members' concerns regarding traffic congestion within the city whilst the Bus Station was closed he commented that, whilst the highway network was the responsibility of the County Council, this Council would work with the County Council to help address the traffic congestion issues. This was only a set back and was a knock on effect of 'Brexit'. He asked that all Members support his recommendation including the amendment to recommendation (3) to close the Bus Station by end of February 2018.

Whilst the majority of the Members supported the recommendation to close the Bus Station by the end of February to 2018 to ensure that good progress was made with the tendering process and de-risking the site, other Members felt that there should not be a time limit on the closure to give more time to consider the options for the site.

All Members supported recommendations (4), (5) and (6).

Council acknowledged that the Leisure Complex and Bus Station Programme Board held on 28 September 2017 had resolved to note:-

- (1) the position as regards Crown Estate/TH Real Estates, including the Development Agreement being set aside; and
- (2) the current procurement process to appoint a main contractor/builder is being stopped; and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure Complex and Bus Station Programme Board held on 28 September 2017 (as amended and set out below) be received and adopted:-

- (3) the bus station will close by the end of February 2018, at the latest, as agreed with the bus company;

This was carried: For 26 Members; Against 6 Members; Abstention 1 Member; Absent 6

- (4) to undertake an impact analysis of Crown Estates and TH/Real Estates withdrawal, including developing design solutions for the interface elements;
- (5) to investigate any opportunities for the interim use of the remaining site (subject to the need to de-risk the site for development); and
- (6) to look at a permanent solution for the remaining site.

In accordance with Standing Order 27(1), a named vote on the recommendations (4), (5) and (6) was called for and the voting was as follows:

Voting for:

Councillors Bialyk, Branston, Brimble, Denham, Edwards, Foale, Foggin, Gottschalk, the Deputy Lord Mayor, Harvey, Henson D, Mrs Henson, Keen, Lamb, Lyons, Mitchell, Morris, Morse, Musgrave, Newby, Owen, Packham, Pearson, Prowse, Sheldon, Sills, Spackman, Sutton, Vizard, Wardle, Warwick and Wood.

(32 Members)

Abstain:

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor

(1 Member)

Absent:

Councillors Ashwood, Baldwin, Hannaford, Holland, Leadbetter and Thompson.

(6 Members)

(The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and closed at 7.23 pm)

Chair

THE MEETING OF EXETER CITY COUNCIL

Guildhall
Tuesday 19 December 2017

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor (Cllr Robson)

Councillors Bialyk, Branston, Brimble, Denham, Edwards, Foale, Foggin, Hannaford, Harvey, D Henson, Mrs Henson, Holland, Leadbetter, Lyons, Mitchell, Morse, Musgrave, Newby, Owen, Packham, Pearson, Prowse, Sheldon, Sills, Sutton, Thompson, Vizard M, Vizard N and Warwick

66

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary and Extraordinary meetings held on 17 October 2017 were moved by the Leader and seconded by Councillor Sutton, taken as read and signed as correct.

67

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ashwood, Baldwin, Gottschalk, Keen, the Deputy Lord Mayor, Lamb, Morris, Wardle and Wood.

68

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Lord Mayor welcomed Councillor Matthew Vizard, the newly elected Councillor for the Newtown and St. Leonards ward, to his first Full Council meeting and wished him well for his term of office.

On behalf of the Council, the Lord Mayor thanked all those involved in preparing the successful bid to Sport England, where Exeter and the East Devon new town of Cranbrook, were one of only 12 places (out of an original 113 applications) to be awarded Local Delivery Partner status and the only location in the south west.

She also reported that Wellbeing Exeter, part of the Integrated Care Exeter programme, had been announced as a winner of one of the 23 Health Service Journal Awards for 2017. This was one of the most sought-after accolades in British Healthcare.

The Lord Mayor thanked all those involved.

The Lord Mayor also announced that, following research by the University of Exeter and RAMM, some bones discovered in Paul Street in 1983 could be the remains of the first ever turkey dinner in England - in the early 16th Century not long after the introduction of the bird into the country. The artefacts would be displayed at RAMM.

69

PLANNING COMMITTEE - 30 OCTOBER 2017

The minutes of the Planning Committee of 30 October 2017 were presented by the Deputy Chair, Councillor Lyons, and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 30 October 2017 be received.

70

PLANNING COMMITTEE - 4 DECEMBER 2017

The minutes of the Planning Committee of 4 December 2017 were presented by the Deputy Chair, Councillor Lyons and taken as read.

It was noted that, in respect of Minute 95, Councillor Denham requested that her declaration of a non-pecuniary interest refer to Min. No. 98 not 97. This would be corrected at the next meeting of the Planning Committee.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 4 December 2017 be received.

71

LICENSING COMMITTEE - 31 OCTOBER 2017

The minutes of the Licensing Committee of 31 October 2017 were presented by the Deputy Chair, Councillor Sheldon and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 31 October 2017 be received.

72

PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 2 NOVEMBER 2017

The minutes of the People Scrutiny Committee of 2 November 2017 were presented by the Deputy Chair, Councillor Foale, and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the People Scrutiny Committee held on 2 November 2017 be received.

73

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 9 NOVEMBER 2017

The minutes of the Place Scrutiny Committee of 9 November 2017 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Sills, and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 9 November 2017 be received.

74

CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 23 NOVEMBER 2017

The minutes of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee of 23 November 2017 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Sheldon, and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee held on 23 November 2017 be received.

75

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 6 DECEMBER 2017

The minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee of 6 December 2017 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Vizard, and taken as read.

In respect of Minute 33 (Internal Audit Plan), the Chair stated that the recommendation was for Council to approve a supplementary budget of £7,800 to provide any additional staffing resources required to cover staff sickness in order to deliver the approved audit plan.

RESOLVED that Council approve a supplementary budget of £7,800 to provide any additional staffing resources required to cover staff sickness in order to deliver the approved audit plan.

RESOLVED that the minutes of Audit and Governance held on 6 December 2017 be received and, where appropriate, adopted.

76

STRATA JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 30 NOVEMBER 2017

The minutes of the Strata Joint Scrutiny Committee of 30 November 2017 were presented by Councillor Lyons and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Strata Joint Scrutiny Committee held on 30 November 2017 be received.

77

EXECUTIVE - 14 NOVEMBER 2017

The minutes of the Executive of 14 November 2017 were presented by the Leader, Councillor Edwards, and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of Executive held on 14 November 2017 be received and, where appropriate, adopted.

78

EXECUTIVE - 12 DECEMBER 2017

Councillors Hannaford and Prowse declared interests as members of the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority.

The minutes of the Executive of 12 December 2017 were presented by the Leader, Councillor Edwards, and taken as read.

In respect of Minute 109 (Members' Allowances 2018/21), Councillor Denham stated the importance of responding to recent, negative media coverage on the issue. The matter of Members' Allowances was one which often engendered emotive but uninformed comments which failed to accurately reflect the reality of public service. In general, Councillors were hard working, committed to their communities and with growing workloads. Many made significant career and family sacrifices to commit to public service and such competing demands often discouraged people from becoming Councillors. Difficulties in becoming a Councillor, especially in times of austerity, impacted on the makeup of Councils and had led to an under representation from certain groups such as younger people, single parents and minority groups.

The majority of Members supported these views, commenting on an over concentration of older and/or retired Members in some Councils and referring to some Members who lost out financially because of their Council commitments. Many Members expressed the view that an independent body rather than Council's should set the level of allowances. The general low level of Councillor remuneration was considered a barrier to civic participation and it was also noted that the proposed allowance for Exeter was low compared to other Councils.

Some Members stated that they could not support the recommendations of the Panel, one Member stating that, whilst sympathetic to the views expressed he was unable to support the suggested increase because of the low level of pay increases proposed for council employees; another commenting that it was inappropriate for the Council to set its own level; with others referring to the disproportionate increase compared with other authorities.

The Leader moved the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel and it was seconded.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) the basic structure and principles of the current Members' Allowances scheme be retained for 2018/19;
- (2) the principle be set that Special Responsibility Allowances be paid to no more than 50% of the overall number of councillors;
- (3) the principle that any Member qualifying for more than one Special Responsibility Allowance is paid the higher allowance only, should be retained, including, and if appropriate, for the Chair of the HRA Management Board (as per recommendation (11) below) if they are an elected Member;
- (4) the Councillors' Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances including the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor's Expenses Allowances, should be linked to the average allowance per resident, in the agreed comparator group of authorities, with this figure being set at £1.87 per resident for the three year period of 2018/19 – 2020/21;
- (5) that, as a consequence of (4) above, the basic allowance for 2018/19 be set at £5,400 per annum (an increase of £350), with this sum being increased by a further £350 per annum in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years (to £5,750 and £6,100 respectively);
- (6) that an additional Special Responsibility Allowance be paid to each Member Champion, with this being set at one quarter of a basic allowance (£1,350 in 2018/19), with such an allowance only payable during the life span of the particular task, and would be pro-rata for part-yearly terms;
- (7) Travel and Subsistence allowances available for staff continue to apply to Exeter City Councillors, where appropriate;
- (8) the current Dependants' Carers' Allowance scheme be maintained, with the continuation of the level of allowance matching the Living Wage of £8.44 per hour or part of (retaining the uplift of the standard rate of income tax to £10.13);
- (9) the sum of £50 paid to the Independent Persons affiliated to the Audit and Governance Committee for up to four hours work, and £100 for four hours and over, payable to each of the two Independent Persons (up to a maximum of £500 per person in any one year) be retained;
- (10) in respect of the Performance Scrutiny Panel, a sum equivalent to £10 per meeting be paid to each Member (this to be funded from the Housing Revenue Account); and
- (11) in respect of the proposed Housing Revenue Account Management Board:-
 - a) the principle of an allowance being paid to each Independent Member of the Board be agreed;
 - b) the principle of a Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chair of the Board be agreed;
 - c) the exact amounts for these allowances be considered and agreed by the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances, once the position of the Management Board within the Council's governance arrangements is agreed; and

- d) any payments made as a consequence of (a) and (b) above be funded from the Housing Revenue Account

In accordance with Standing Order 27(1), a named vote on the recommendation was called for, and the voting recorded as follows:

Voting for:

Councillors Bialyk, Branston, Brimble, Denham, Edwards, Foale, Foggin, Hannaford, Harvey, Lyons, Mitchell, Morse, Owen, Packham, Pearson, the Lord Mayor, Sheldon, Sills, Sutton, Vizard M, Vizard N and Warwick.

(22 Members)

Against:

Councillors Holland, Leadbetter, Musgrave, Newby, Prowse and Thompson.

(6 Members)

Abstain:

Councillors Henson, D. and Mrs Henson.

(2 Members)

Absent:

Councillors Ashwood, Baldwin, Gottschalk, the Deputy Lord Mayor, Keen, Lamb, Morris, Wardle and Wood.

(9 Members)

In respect of Minute 119 (Freedom of the City), the Leader reiterated the Council's indebtedness to the emergency services and to the appreciation of their work in protecting and supporting the Citizens of Exeter. It was not however considered appropriate for the Freedom of the City to be granted to these bodies as their areas of responsibilities were not limited to the City but covered Devon and neighbouring Counties. The criteria for Freedom of the City status would, however, be reviewed.

The Leader moved that it was not appropriate for the Council to offer the Freedom of the City to the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, and the South West Ambulance Service Trust, this was seconded by Councillor Sutton.

The motion was put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED that to offer the Freedom of the City to the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, and the South West Ambulance Service Trust was not the appropriate way forward.

In respect of Min. No 120 (Cowick Barton Tennis Court Refurbishment) and in response to a Member, the Portfolio Holder for Place advised that a strategic approach was being adopted to upgrade play facilities across the City. The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Communities and Sport also commented that avenues of funding from national bodies to help fund improvements to sports and

recreational facilities were investigated. Members welcomed the improvements to this well used community facility.

RESOLVED that the minutes of Executive held on 12 December 2017 be received and, where appropriate, adopted.

79

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Leader, seconded by Councillor Sutton, moved the following changes to appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies.

RESOLVED that the following appointments be agreed:-

Licensing

Councillor M. Vizard

Councillor Owen to be appointed Chair

Planning Committee

Councillor M. Vizard

Planning Member Working Group

Councillor Denham to replace Councillor Morse

Outside Bodies

St Sidwell's Parish Lands and Other Charities

Councillor M. Vizard.

80

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR BIALYK UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 6

Councillor Bialyk, seconded by Councillor Prowse, moved a Motion in the following terms:-

Exeter City Council continues to support the City's Fairtrade Town status, and regrets the decision of J. Sainsbury to withdraw from active support of Fairtrade and the internationally recognised Fairtrade Mark system, by setting up their own scheme for "fairly traded" tea. This, we and many concerned with Fairtrade believe, would remove the ability of tea producers to determine their own business and community preferences via the Fairtrade Premium, and would undermine the secure pricing structure.

Councillor Bialyk explained that Sainsbury's had introduced a pilot scheme in its stores branded "Fairly Traded" which, although similar to Fair Trade, was not considered to be as great a benefit to those farmers overseas producing tea. Fair Trade produce was still available in its stores but at a premium which it was believed undermined the concept behind the original scheme. He also urged Members to participate in Fair Trade fortnight in February 2018.

All Members fully supported this motion.

The Notice of Motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

**NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR SHELDON UNDER STANDING ORDER
NO. 6**

Councillor Mitchell declared a prejudicial interest as an employee of the National Health Services (NHS) and left the meeting during discussion of the item.

Councillor Sheldon, seconded by Councillor Packham, moved a Motion in the following terms:-

This Council calls on the Government to end the pay cap for all public sector workers. We also call on the Government to fully fund pay rises for all public sector workers and not pass on the cost to Local Government and other public sector employers.

Finally, we call for an end to Government interference in bargaining arrangements for all public sector pay.

In presenting the Notice of Motion, Councillor Sheldon referred to a number of national studies which had shown that the last seven years had witnessed cuts in real pay and a lowering of standards of living and that this could be attributed largely to the Government freeze on public sector pay allied to the impact of inflation. He believed that a pay increase for public sector workers would be of overall benefit to the economy and he called for an end to Government interference in the negotiating process. He referred to the role of Unions and Pay Review Bodies in the process, regretting the apparent lack of true independence of the latter.

Councillor Sutton referred to her personal experience of the public sector within the health service and to the exceptional high standards of commitment and professionalism she had witnessed. She felt that the work of health personnel was undervalued as reflected in their pay levels and was concerned that many might look to change careers for more lucrative work.

Other Members referred to the continuing concerns over the impact of austerity measures which had also been expressed on a cross party basis, one Member suggesting that these had continued for too long and had diverged from the original intention of a short, sharp remedy. He was not convinced however that successive Governments could resist influencing the negotiating process whether at a local or national level.

Employees within the public sector were experiencing hardship on a daily basis reflecting in some undertaking additional part time employment to supplement their incomes, others with inadequate accommodation and, in some cases, nurses resorting to food banks to achieve a basic standard of living.

The Notice of Motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

In accordance with Standing Order 27(1), a named vote on the recommendation was called for, and the voting recorded as follows:

Voting for:

Councillors Bialyk, Branston, Brimble, Denham, Edwards, Foale, Foggin, Hannaford, Harvey, D. Henson, Mrs Henson, Holland, Leadbetter, Lyons, Morse, Musgrave, Newby, Owen, Packham, Pearson, the Lord Mayor, Sheldon, Sills, Sutton, Thompson, Vizard M, Vizard N and Warwick.

(28 Members)

Absent:

Councillors Ashwood, Baldwin, Gottschalk, the Deputy Lord Mayor, Keen, Lamb, Morris, Wardle and Wood.

(9 Members)

Councillors Mitchell and Prowse declared prejudicial interests.

(2 Members)

82 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER STANDING ORDER
NO. 8**

In accordance with Standing Order No. 8, the following questions were put by Councillor Prowse to the Leader.

Exeter Boot Sale

The Exeter boot sale is an event that is part of the fabric of this City. Recent visits confirm that it is suffering poor patronage.

What does the Leader suggest to rejuvenate this weekly event?

Is the Leader able to confirm that there are sufficient charities that still wish to perform marshalling duties given the drop in income that they now benefit.

If the Leader is unable to propose any impetus is it not time to given the event to a franchise on an experimental basis?

RESOLVED that the questions be referred to Place Scrutiny Committee.

83 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - EXCLUSION
OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED 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 item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Act.

84 **PYRAMIDS POOL AND LEISURE FACILITY**

The Leader stated that an urgent decision was required in order to take immediate action to allocate funds to undertake vital remedial works to the Pyramids Pool and Leisure Centre to ensure that it would be suitable for use up to the proposed closure in 2020/21.

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Communities and Sport reported that, without urgent investment in the mechanical and electrical systems, and some improvements in building fabrics and finishes, the facility could become unfit for purpose in relation to operational safety and environmental health. A breakdown in any component, or a further deterioration in the fabric resulting from poor performance of the mechanical systems, could render the building unsafe. This would result in unplanned closure of the facility prior to the planned timeframe of 2020/21.

The Portfolio Holder undertook to arrange site visits for Members to both the Pyramids and Riverside Leisure Centres.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) a funding provision of up to £950,000 for essential works to the Pyramids Leisure Centre to ensure that the general standards of operational safety, environmental health and customer privacy and comfort are achieved for the remainder of the lifetime of the facility; and
- (2) a detailed report on the exact nature of the essential works to be carried out and options for discretionary elements of building and fabric finishes be presented to Executive for approval.

(The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and closed at 8.30 pm)

Chair

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THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF EXETER CITY COUNCIL

Guildhall
Tuesday 19 December 2017

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor (Cllr Robson)

Councillors Bialyk, Branston, Brimble, Denham, Edwards, Foale, Foggin, Hannaford, Harvey, D Henson, Mrs Henson, Holland, Leadbetter, Lyons, Mitchell, Morse, Musgrave, Newby, Owen, Packham, Pearson, Prowse, Sheldon, Sills, Sutton, Thompson, Vizard M, Vizard N and Warwick

28

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ashwood, Baldwin, Gottshalk, the Deputy Lord Mayor, Keen, Lamb, Morris, Wardle and Wood.

29

FREEDOM OF THE CITY - MR RON CRABB BEM

The Leader moved the recommendation that Mr Ron Crabb be awarded the honour of Freedom of the City in recognition of his outstanding service to and promotion of the City of Exeter and the Community; in acknowledgement of his contribution as a Football League Referee; his dedication whilst working at the Exeter Prison; his outstanding service in promoting the city during his time as Mace Sergeant and his support for charities as well as being a Mentor to the Royal Marines at CTCRM, Lymptone.

Councillor Thompson seconded the recommendation.

RESOLVED that, in pursuance of its powers under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council do confer on Mr Ron Crabb BEM Freedom of the City Status in recognition of his outstanding service to the City Exeter and the community of Exeter, in a professional, charitable and personal capacity and in acknowledgement of his contribution as a Football League Referee, his outstanding service in promoting the city, his support for charities and as mentor to the Royal Marines at Lymptone.

[The foregoing resolution was passed unanimously]

(The meeting commenced at 8.31 pm and closed at 8.34 pm)

Chair

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LICENSING COMMITTEE

6 February 2018

Present:

Councillor Keith Owen (Chair)

Councillors Branston, Brimble, Hannan, D Henson, Holland, Mitchell, Sills and Vizard M

Apologies:

Councillors Sheldon, Foale, Keen, Newby and Pearson

Also present:

Environmental Health and Licensing Manager, Litigation Solicitor, Principal Licensing Officer and Democratic Services Officer (Committees) (MD)

1 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 2017 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

2 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made by Members.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976

3 **Licensing Fees and Charges**

The Principal Licensing Officer presented the report for the proposed licensing fees and charges for 2018/19. He explained that it was a statutory obligation to set the fees.

He informed Members that if there were no increase in fees this would put the Council at risk of being unable to recover the costs for services and activities which it was permitted to charge for. The fees were monitored each year to ensure that they were reasonable, but any change was not for the purpose of generating revenue.

The taxi fees would be advertised for 28 days in the Civic Centre reception and in newspapers and would be approved in March 2018 if no representations were made. However, any challenge to the fee changes would require that they be brought back to the Licensing Committee in March 2018.

In response to Members' questions, the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager and Principal Licensing Officer explained that:-

- The Gambling and Licensing Act fees are set by legislation;
- Other Licensing fees must be justified through different legislation and adhere to the European Union Services Directives;
- Fees are calculated based upon the cost to deliver the service, policy amendments and consultations and the costs associated with the licensing committee.

A Member expressed appreciation for the hard work undertaken by the Licensing team and considered the increase to be modest.

RESOLVED that the proposed Fees and Charges for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 be approved as set out in the report.

The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 5.45 pm

Chair

PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday 4 January 2018

Present:

Councillor Wardle (Chair)
Councillors Foggin, Holland, Morris, Thompson and Vizard N

Apologies:

Councillors Foale, Branston, Hannan and Hannaford

Also present:

Director (BA), Service Lead Housing Customers, Scrutiny Programme Officer, Technical Accounting Manager, Principal Accountant Corporate, Service Improvement Lead (Benefits) and Democratic Services Officer (Committees) (HB)

1 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of People Scrutiny Committee held on 2 November 2017 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as correct.

2 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE EXECUTIVE

3 **IMPACT OF AND PREPARATION FOR UNIVERSAL CREDIT ROLL OUT**

The Benefits and Welfare Lead spoke to the presentation on the full service roll out of Universal Credit (UC) September 2018 highlighting the impact on customers, City Council services and external organisations and the preparations being done to support UC customers. He also covered those areas of the City Council which would be directly affected including housing benefit administration, payments and collections, customer service and housing advice and homelessness prevention. The circulated report informed Members that the Full Service rollout of UC in Exeter would commence from September 2018 and that, from that point on, all claims to legacy benefits would instead be claims to UC.

The Government's intention was to simplify and streamline the benefits system, improve work incentives, tackle poverty among low income families, and reduce the scope for fraud and error. Around 7 million individuals and families were expected to receive UC when it was fully introduced. Universal Credit Live Service had been in Exeter since November 2015 for single jobseekers with no dependent children. The rollout of the Full Service would vastly increase the rate at which households moved onto UC and would expand the groups who would be affected.

The Director (BA) emphasised that it was not possible to precisely predict the extent of the impact on demand, where this extra demand would be felt or how the staff skill base needed to change. No permanent change in resources was being recommended until further data on the impact was available. If appropriate, a further report would be brought to Members identifying the resourcing issues.

The following responses were given to Members' queries:-

- the Council was a member of the Devon wide Universal Credit Ambassadors' Group which had met twice. Valuable technical advice was available through the group and it was a useful forum for meeting other landlords;
- discretionary payments for both housing benefit and universal credit were a key tool to help prevent homelessness but there was concern that the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) budget would be insufficient to support the Council's work;
- with an estimate of only 13% of private landlords willing to accept universal credit clients, the Council would be increasing its outreach to this group through mailshots etc. with a Benefit Support Team set up to further develop this work;
- with the DWP referring clients with money problems to the Civic Centre, the Council would be signing up as a delivery partner and support was already available through the Personal Budget Support Scheme. The Council would also benefit through increased rent collections; and
- alternative payment arrangements were available for certain households with problems such as domestic violence and it was up to the customer to ask for these arrangements to be put in place.

Members recognised the significant work undertaken in preparation for the roll out, noting that the extra measures were not a legal requirement and with the Portfolio Holder for People confirmed that planning had been ongoing for some time. She also referred to the recruitment of a Citizens Advice Bureau Money Management Advisor who was also training City Council staff in this work.

The Chair referred to the Section 151 Officer's advice that, although there was no immediate financial implications, there were financial risks arising out of the implementation of UC which were not known at this stage. Referring to delays in payments, increased debt and social housing providers seeking increases in advance rents, the Chair also highlighted the significant human cost the changes could bring, such as the threat of eviction and increased homelessness and a growth in demand for food parcels and asked for these issues to be brought to the attention of the Executive. This was supported by Members.

Scrutiny Committee - People noted the report and background information and requested Executive to:-

- (1) recognise that the support that can be given to customers impacted by Universal Credit via the Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP), and Local Welfare. Support (LWS) budgets, as currently administered, is limited, and may need to be reviewed;
- (2) note that although without reliable predictions of the amount of extra demand that will be placed on affected services as a result of Universal Credit rollout, no further resources are requested at this present time but that there may be a need to request additional resources in the future. If evidence shows such a need, this data will be presented to Members for their decision;
- (3) agree that the Council will deliver digital and budgeting support to Universal Credit claimants as a delivery partner for the Department for Work and Pension's Universal Support scheme for 12 months from April 2018; and
- (4) note this Committee's concern regarding the anticipated human cost of these changes, including the impact on the residents of Exeter and the

potential increase in homelessness. Members were also concerned about the impact on Council Services including income collection.

4

HOUSING RENTS AND SERVICE CHARGES : 2018/19

The Technical Accounting Manager presented the report recommending a 1% rent decrease for council dwellings from 1 April 2018.

The Service Lead Housing Customers clarified the requirements for service charges to cover communal areas and explained the work of the Older Persons Property Service Officers.

People Scrutiny Committee noted and supported the report and recommended Executive to approve:-

- (1) a reduction in rents for Council dwellings of 1% from 1 April 2018;
- (2) garage rents increasing by 4% from 1 April 2018; and
- (3) service charges to remain at their existing levels, with the exception of the charges specified below from 1 April 2018:-
 - 7% increase in respect of water at Magdalen Gardens in line with rises in water and sewerage charges;
 - 5% increase in electricity service charges to reflect utility costs;
 - 2.5% increase in respect of the Older Persons' property service charge in line with rises in employee costs; and
 - 5% reduction in respect of door entry systems in line with system maintenance costs.

ESTIMATES, CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND FEES AND CHARGES

5

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - ESTIMATES/NEW CAPITAL BIDS/FEES : 2018/19

The Technical Accounting Manager presented the report on the Housing Revenue Account Estimates and Fees and Charges, which outlined the strategic framework within which the estimates had been prepared, changes in accounting practices which affected all budgets and gave detailed reasons for major changes in the Management Unit estimates. A detailed schedule of the capital programme for Housing was also attached to the report together with details of the Council Own Build programme. She highlighted key changes.

Responding to Members, the Service Lead Housing Customers advised that a report would be submitted to Executive on 9 January on a rebuild option for the remaining 17 Laings properties in the St Thomas ward, local Members would be involved in consultations on the proposed programme as some of the properties were occupied by residents. He also explained that the ZEBCat project was a joint scheme with the County Council and other partners providing retro cladding similar to passive house standards and undertook to report to a Member in respect of her concerns regarding communal doors.

People Scrutiny Committee supported the draft Revenue Estimates for 2018/19, the proposed Capital Programme, Fees and Charges and Council Own Build for further consideration by Executive on 13 February 2018 and Council on 20 February 2018.

6

PEOPLE - GENERAL FUND - ESTIMATES/NEW CAPITAL BIDS/FEES AND CHARGES : 2018/19

The Principal Accountant presented the report on the People Revenue Account Estimates and Fees and Charges, which outlined the strategic framework within which the estimates had been prepared; changes in accounting practices which affected all budgets and gave detailed reasons for major changes in the Management Unit estimates. A detailed schedule of the capital programme for People was also attached to the report.

The Portfolio Holder for People explained that growing demand had led to the work of the Housing Needs Lead post increasing from 60% to 100%, the joint homelessness strategy having been developed in conjunction with Teignbridge District Council. She also reported that it was necessary to increase security at the Customer Service Centre as agencies such as the Department for Work and Pensions had reduced their opening hours leading to an increased time window where clients with complex needs sought the support of the City Council.

People Scrutiny Committee supported the draft Revenue Estimates for 2018/19, the proposed Capital Programme and Fees and Charges for further consideration by Executive on 13 February 2018 and Council on 20 February 2018.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7

GREEN TRAVEL PLANS AND PLANNING CONDITIONS SPOTLIGHT REVIEW

Councillor Harvey, Chair of the Green Travel Plans and Planning Conditions Spotlight Review Group, presented the findings and recommendations of the Group. He summarised its work with City Council Portfolio Holders and County Council officers having attended and highlighted the need for a new Task and Finish Group to focus on undertaking a monitoring exercise of IKEA's Green Travel Plan to identify how future plans could be improved upon.

He identified the need for much greater investment on a national scale as a key issue to address problems of congestion and referred to the historic fragmentation of planning and highways functions in the UK, explaining that, although Devon County Council and the City Council worked in partnership, their roles were different. With ever increasing traffic volumes, major incidents such as those that had occurred on the M5 and at Haldon Hill impacted severely on the City's road network. Examples of innovative schemes that had not progressed because of lack of funding were the Marsh Barton Rail Halt, an alternative rail link through Okehampton and the High Quality Transport System which would have been a commercially provided, laser guided bus service linking Cranbrook with Exeter as far as the University, with links to Pennsylvania and Topsham.

At a local level, a Member referred to parking problems in the Pennsylvania ward when school children were being dropped off and picked up for schools when cars parked blocking cycle routes and was advised that this matter should appropriately be raised at Exeter HATOC. Councillor Harvey also referred to the E4 strategic, bi directional, segregated cycle route leading from East Devon through Cumberland Way to the University in Exeter and to discussions on how best to route it through Union Road.

Members welcomed the work to date and the proposals for the Task and Finish Group, in particular to assess the role of the planning process and look to develop a

more extensive policy package within planning conditions, including green travel conditions specifically tailored to each application.

Specific reference was made to the RD&E Hospital which employed some 7,000 people working different shifts but with only 600 parking spaces. As with other developments, there had been an impact on parking in residential areas, a Member referring to a suggestion for a multi storey car park as a possible solution to help meet parking demand which might appropriately have been considered during the planning stage of various buildings on the hospital site. Another Member referred to firms within the Sowton Estate who could have been encouraged in the planning stage to run shuttle buses for their staff to and from the City Centre. EDF Energy for example had insufficient parking spaces although it was noted that EDF was very supportive of green travel implementing its green travel plan effectively. The Member also referred to a reduced bus service in the Pinhoe area which had increased travel to work by car resulting in commuters parking in residential areas.

The Scrutiny Programme Officer reported that she had sufficient volunteers already for the Task and Finish Group but that further Members were very welcome to join. She also confirmed that representatives of the Exeter Cycling Campaign could be invited to participate. In response to a Member, she advised that, in respect of the yet to be formed Transport Board, the terms of reference were being drafted. She also reassured Members that there was considerable work behind the scenes between the City Council and Devon Council in respect of green travel initiatives. It was also noted that the Council had to make planning decisions within its policies and Government guidelines which made it difficult to refuse an application if it complied with these, even if Members were not entirely satisfied with the extent of the green travel plan provided.

She stated that Members' views would be reported to Place Scrutiny Committee on 11 January which was also considering the Spotlight Review Group report.

Concluding, Members recognised the inherent challenges associated with the issues discussed, notably the adherence of the public to the convenience of car transport and the commercially driven ethos of public transport providers as recently exemplified by the withdrawal of the H bus service beyond St. David's Station.

People - Scrutiny Committee:-

- (1) acknowledged the work of the Spotlight Review Group;
- (2) agreed to share the report and findings with:-
 - the (yet to be formed) Transport Board;
 - Devon County Council in respect of the Sustainable Urban Movement Plan;
 - With Exeter City Council officers responsible for implementing the Parking Strategy; and
 - Greater Exeter Strategic Partnership; and
- (3) supported the formation of a Task and Finish Group to expressly monitor the IKEA green travel plan and ascertain what improvements to Green Travel Plans could be made in future.

**EXETER HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD - MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS
HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER AND 31 OCTOBER 2017.**

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Communities and Sport responded to a Member who sought information on the social prescribing process whereby community connectors referred individuals to sporting and social groups to enhance their social interaction. She was concerned that the groups taking on individuals were adequately prepared with appropriately trained staff/volunteers and that the connectors themselves were satisfied as to the capability of the individuals being referred to adapt satisfactorily.

The Portfolio Holder advised that he understood that the connectors undertook the necessary analysis of both the individuals and receiving groups but would liaise on this with the relevant Director for report back to the Member.

People - Scrutiny Committee noted the minutes of the meetings of the Exeter Health and Wellbeing Board of 12 September and 31 October 2017.

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 7.07 pm)

Chair

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 January 2018

Present:

Councillor Luke Sills (Chair)

Councillors Foggin, D Henson, Keen, Owen, Mitchell, Prowse, Wardle and Wood

Apologies:

Councillor Lyons

Also present:

Director (DB), Environmental Health and Licensing Manager, Service Manager, Community Safety & Enforcement, Senior Environmental Technical Officer, Principal Accountant (PM), Principal Accountant (MH), Scrutiny Programme Officer and Democratic Services Officer (Committees) (MD)

In attendance:

Councillor Harvey	- Attended for Item 10
Robert Williams	- Stagecoach
John Richardson-Dawes	- Devon County Council
Councillor Bialyk	- Portfolio Holder Health and Wellbeing, Communities and Sport
Councillor Brimble	- Portfolio Holder Place
Councillor Denham	- Portfolio Holder City Transformation, Energy and Transport
Councillor Gottschalk	- Portfolio Holder City Development
Councillor Sutton	- Portfolio Holder Economy and Culture
Councillor Musgrave	- Speaking under Standing Order 20 and 44

1 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2017 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

2 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were made.

3 Questions from the Public under Standing Order 19

In accordance with Standing Order No 19, two members of the public, Ms Wetenhall and Mr Walton submitted questions on issues relating to air quality.

A copy of the questions had been previously circulated to Members, and these, together with the appropriate responses from Councillor Denham Portfolio Holder City Transformation, Energy and Transport is appended to the minutes.

4 Questions from Members of the Council under Standing Order 20

In accordance with Standing Order No 20, Councillor Musgrave had submitted questions on the Air Quality Action Plan and Councillor Prowse had submitted questions on the Exeter Car Boot Market.

A copy of the questions had been previously circulated to Members, and this, together with the appropriate responses from Councillor Denham, Portfolio Holder City Transformation, Energy and Transport and Councillor Sutton, Portfolio Holder Economy and Culture is appended to the minutes.

5 **Presentation**

Robert Williams, Commercial Director from Stagecoach and John Richardson-Dawes, Team Leader, Integrated Public Transport, Devon County Council attended the meeting for specific discussion around the following points -

- Devon County Council and Stagecoach design of bus routes
- How Exeter City Council could play a role in that
- Bus routes between the City and the Quay

John Richardson-Dawes, discussed the design of the bus routes, stating they had been designed around the Transport Act 1985 which provided commercial freedom for bus companies to establish bus services. Devon County Council could not object to an approved bus service route by the Traffic Commissioner and commercially provided services had to be left alone. He confirmed that Stagecoach was not commercially viable for all day services despite functioning as an all-day service.

He provided an overview of decisions made at Devon County Council and how bus services could be lost following consultation and that maintaining contact with Devon County Council was important. Although fare increases and subsidy had increased bus patronage by 42% since 2002 there were still significant funding issues to the maintenance of bus links.

Robert Williams explained that the bus service was a local business that responded to the local market to maximise its patronage for running costs and was focussed on growing the number of people using the service to determine the next stage of service development. Stagecoach were happy to continue working with Exeter City Council but there were funding limitations.

John Richardson-Dawes and Robert Williams discussed the Quay and City routes, explaining that bus route G was dependent on an annual £17,000 subsidy from Devon County Council. 80% of the bus users held free bus passes, making support difficult because of cost. They highlighted the Green Park and Ride service, which connected to the Quay, running every 15 minutes Monday to Saturday. There was a need to develop links to the quay with ongoing discussions with Exeter BID to establish a viable option and were keen to work with Exeter City Council and local residents.

Councillor Musgrave attended the meeting under Standing Order 44. He informed that there were a number of housing developments in and around the Alphington Ward, with a proposed bus route on a protected country lane causing concern for residents. He asked what Devon County Council and Stagecoach could do to support the residents.

John Richardson-Dawes and Robert Williams explained that, although there was a bus service funded through the planned housing developments there were currently no confirmed proposals for funding arrangements and emphasised, that if a route was not suitable then it would not be used.

In response to Members' enquiries John Richardson-Dawes and Robert Williams responded:-

- They would be happy to engage with Councillors and residents to discuss issues with bus service in Duryard and St James Ward. They agreed to liaise with the Chair to establish a co-ordinator to setup up a meeting;
- They were aware bus users were elderly and take their wellbeing into consideration with 100% accessibility on buses. Where some users couldn't use a bus, there were community services available;
- Stagecoach worked in partnership with Devon and Cornwall Police, Devon County Council and residents to review bus stops. They rely on resident feedback to see which bus stops work and following a Members' suggestion would look at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital bus stop;
- The Transport Act 1985 introduced deregulation across the UK, except in London which were specified as a franchise. The Bus Service Act 2017 would extend the London Model to other authorities. The Secretary of State of Transport could also extend this beyond authorities with Elected Mayors of Combined Authorities to cover a wider range;
- Bus companies require additional funding for franchising, with alternative methods operating in different areas such as Cornwall. The Bus Service Act 2017 had enhanced partnership working between local authorities and bus companies;
- The Monkerton Housing development was looking at bus service routes to the area. More information would be made available following further development of the estate. Devon County Council in the meantime were looking to extend two bus services from Spring 2018;
- Both Stagecoach and Devon County Council had agreed to trial a Quayside bus service during the summer period running beyond 3:30pm to their operational agenda, to assess costs and options. They considered that partnership working with local authorities and Exeter BID was the best solution and would be happy to attend a meeting with the Chair.

The Chair thanked the guest speakers for their attendance.

6 Place Scrutiny Committee - Estimates/New Capital Bids/Fees and Charges : 2018/19

The Principal Accountants (PM and MH) presented the report which set out the proposed revenue and capital estimates for 2018/19 in respect of Place Services. The report outlined the strategic framework, within which the estimates had been prepared; changes in accounting practices which affected all budgets and gave detailed reasons for major changes in the Management Unit estimates. A detailed schedule of the Capital Programme and the proposed Fees and Charges for 2018/19 were included as an appendix.

The Principal Accountant (MH) informed that an allowance of £274,920 had been set aside for inflation within Place Services and referred Members to the inflationary increases in the report and budgets.

The report states that the likely revenue resources from 2017 to 2022 were the same as the medium term financial plan but there was an expected four year settlement reduction when business rates were reset. It explains that all authorities in Devon had applied to take part in the Business Rates pilot scheme for 100% retention of Business Rates, which could generate between £300,000 to £500,000 in 2018/19 for the Council. The General Fund Capital Programme had been established for three years and Members were referred to the key budget changes for 2018/19.

The Principal Accountant (MH) referred Members to Support Services, and commenting on the changes to accounting guidance, which had ended the requirement to spread support service costs as overheads and to report financial performance.

In response to Members' questions the Principal Accountants (PM and MH) and the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager responded:-

- There were adequate reserves in the budget which was balanced;
- The replacement of Mallison Bridge (Exeter Quay) work was confirmed to be located by the incinerator;
- The Leisure Centre changes were agreed on an annual basis;
- Support Services fees for licensing will be charged where appropriate, eg Taxis,

Place Scrutiny Committee supported the draft Revenue Estimates for 2018/19 including the proposed Capital Programme, Fees and Charges for further consideration by Executive on 13 February 2018 and the Special Meeting of the Council on 20 February 2018.

7 **Parking Tariffs**

The Service Manager Community Safety & Enforcement presented a report which set out increasing both car park tariffs and the number of pay and display parking sites from April 2018. This would further enable a reasonable pricing policy to support the Council's ambitions to reduce congestion in the city, address permit fees which had fallen disproportionately behind daily parking tariff rates, and also control parking areas alongside the canal to help ensure spaces remain accessible for those wishing to visit and enjoy the area.

In response to questions from Members, the Service Manager Community Safety & Enforcement informed that:-

- Card transactions at display machines and the withdrawal of card payment costs would be absorbed, costs of £15,000 were not previously absorbed;
- Bromhams Farm car park would be restricted to a maximum of a three hour stay.

Place Scrutiny Committee supported and recommended approval by Executive of the following:-

- (1) The amendment of the Car Parking Places Order 2014 as set out below:-
 - (a) An increased tariff at Premium, Zone 1, Zone 2 and Zone 3 car parks by between £0.20 and £5.00 within the existing linear pricing structure as set out in the table below, and
 - (b) To increase the price of parking permits by between £25.00 and £300.00 per annum as set out in the table below.

Premium Car Parks (Guildhall, Mary Arches, John Lewis)		
Stay	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
1 hour	£2.20	£3.00
2 hours	£3.30	£4.00
3 hours	£4.40	£5.00
4 hours	£5.50	£6.00
5 hours	£6.60	£7.00
6 hours	£7.70	£8.00
7 hours	£8.80	£9.00
All day	£12.00	£15.00
Zone 1 Car Parks (Bampfylde Street, Bartholomew Terrace, Harlequins, King William Street, Magdalen Road, Magdalen Street, Matthews Hall, Princesshay 2, Princesshay 3, Smythen Street)		
Stay	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
1 hour	£1.10	£2.00
2 hours	£2.20	£3.00
3 hours	£3.30	£4.00
4 hours	£4.40	£5.00
5 hours	£5.50	£6.00
6 hours	£6.60	£7.00
7 hours	£7.70	£8.00
All day	£10.00	£12.00
Zone 2 Car Parks (Belmont Road, Bystock Terrace, Cathedral & Quay, Haven Road 1, Howell Road, Richmond Road, Parr Street, Topsham Quay, Triangle)		
Stay	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
1 hour	£1.10	£2.00
2 hours	£2.20	£3.00
3 hours	£3.30	£4.00
4 hours	£4.40	£5.00
5 hours	£5.50	£6.00
All day	£6.00	£10.00
Zone 3 Car Parks (Flowerpot, Haven Road 2 & 3, Holman Way, Okehampton Street, Tappers Close, Turf Approach)		
Stay	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
1 hour	£0.50	£0.50
2 hours	£1.00	£1.00
3 hours	£1.50	£1.50
4 hours	£2.00	£2.00
All day	£2.50	£3.00
Zone 3 Car Parks with Maximum Stay (Bromhams Farm, Clifton Hill, Gordons Place, Station Road (Exwick))		
1 hour	£0.50	£0.50
2 hours	£1.00	£1.00
3 hours maximum stay	£1.50	£1.50

Coach Parking at Haven Road 3 (per day)	£5.00	£10.00
Quarterly Commuter Season Ticket	£300.00	£375.00
Residents Annual Season Ticket	£125.00	£150.00
Bartholomew Terrace Business Permit	£205.00	£250.00
Cathedral & Quay Business Bays	£565.00	£750.00

- (2) The conversion and inclusion of the following additional car parks in the Parking Places Order 2014:-
 - (a) Bromhams Farm (Appendix 1) and
 - (b) Turf Approach (Appendix 2)
 (by way of pay and display).
- (3) The designation of the following car parks as Zone 3 Car Parks as set out in paragraph 2.1 above table in the Parking Places Order 2014:-
 - (a) Bromhams Farm and
 - (b) Turf Approach
- (4) The restriction of parking to a maximum 3 hour stay at the new Bromhams Farm car park.
- (5) To ring-fence income from the above two new sites and re-investment in improving the upkeep of the canal and associated facilities.
- (6) An increase in the charging period in Zone 1 and 2 car parks by 2 hours (8am to 8pm) with the exception of Topsham car parks and overnight resident car parks at Bartholomew Terrace and Richmond Road; and
- (7) The alteration of the boundary of Matthews Hall car park with the Parking Places Order to reflect recent land change to create an additional parking bay (Appendix 3); and
- (8) Place Scrutiny Committee sought Executive support and recommendation to Council for the approval of a request for £60,000 capital funding available to undertake necessary surfacing and lining works in order to convert Bromhams Farm and Turf Approach into pay and display car parks.

8 Charging for Food Hygiene Rating Scheme Revisits

The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager presented a report which sought the introduction of a cost recovery fee for re-rating food hygiene ratings. In partnership with the Food Standards Agency, Environmental Health & Licensing participate in the delivery of the national Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS). The scheme, which had been in place in Exeter since 2011, encouraged businesses to improve hygiene standards and assist consumers in making informed choices about where to eat.

Businesses were rated between 0 (*urgent improvement necessary*) and 5 (*very good*). Those with a food hygiene rating of 4 or below could request a re-rating

inspection. There was currently no charge for these visits but there were costs, in terms of officer and administration time, which were currently absorbed by the service. Following a trial of charging for requested FHRS re-rating inspections with some local authorities in England using existing powers in the Localism Act 2011, the Food Standards Agency had now confirmed a change in policy allowing use of these powers by local authorities in England to introduce fees on a cost recovery basis only for re-rating inspections. He informed Members that 30 businesses on an annual basis requested a re-visit to assess their hygiene certificate, which can cause a burden on the service.

In response to Members questions, the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager responded that:-

- There was currently no legislation to ensure that a restaurant was required to display its food hygiene certificate. If one is not displayed, it did not mean they didn't have one. Legislation for this had been introduced in Wales, which the Food Standards Agency were keen to introduce in England;
- A re-visit by Environmental Health Officers was dependent on the restaurants compliance, but was requested by the business to raise their standard. A re-visit would entail a three month period where no inspection took place followed by a further three months where the re-inspection would be undertaken;

Members discussed and supported an introduction of mandatory legislation, to ensure the display of food hygiene certificates.

Place Scrutiny Committee noted the change in the Food Standards Agency charging policy and requested Executive to recommend approval by Council the proposal to introduce a cost recovery fee of £160 for Food Hygiene Rating Scheme re-rating inspections which are requested by the Food Business Operator, with effect from 1 April 2018.

9 Local Air Quality Management - Draft Air Quality Action Plan

The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager referred to the legal duty placed on the Council (and all district and county councils) in respect of local air quality by Part IV of the Environment Act 1995. He updated Members on the Council's draft Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) which had been circulated with the report and would be released for public and stakeholder consultation and commented on an amendment to the consultation. The draft plan outlined the Council's vision for air quality in the city and proposed measures that the Council would take during the period 2018 to 2023. The closing date for responses to the consultation is 11 April 2018. A review of all of the responses to the consultation will be made, and a final version of the AQAP will be produced to reflect these responses.

He emphasised that the consultation was a three month public engagement which provided residents with the opportunity to be involved and help to make changes. The final plan would be presented to the meeting of Place Scrutiny Committee in June 2018.

In response to Members' questions, the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager and Senior Environment Technical Officer responded:-

- All available information was in the public domain and the draft plan would address concentrated areas of high pollution in the City. Data and progress is also reported annually to Central Government;

- Additional information on the impact of measures was not available at this stage, because of it cannot be estimated until full details of the proposed measures are available. At this stage the Council are seeking views from the public on the broad themes and outline measures in the draft action plan. Further information on the air quality impact of measures will be produced as the measures develop, and will be made available to the public;
- There is no legislation available that bans bonfires, however the Council would continue to encourage residents to use composting and using alternative methods to burning;
- The air quality plan focusses on NO² levels from traffic. The inclusion of other sources and types of pollution is open for contribution by residents during the consultation period;
- The Council will utilise the Communications and Marketing team to provide support for public engagement and to provide plain English information;
- Less than 10% of the PM^{2.5} levels in Exeter arise from sources within the city. The majority is from regional, national and international sources such as agriculture and natural sources.
- The smog levels from the motorway network are monitored by Highways England, who used their own monitoring sites. Exeter City Council monitors levels where people are more exposed;
- Although the Portfolio Holder was involved with public engagement, it was the residents who had the real power to make changes to the city;
- Devon County Council would be consulted with in regards to the congestion changes.

Councillor Musgrave attended the meeting under Standing Order 44 and welcomed the consultation and expressed his appreciation of the hard work of both the Portfolio Holder and Senior Environment Technical Officer. He expressed concern about the air quality in the city which he considered was not at a good level and that the consultation could distort results and impact on air quality control measures. Supported by Councillor Mitchell as a Member of Place Scrutiny Committee, he requested new recommendations to Executive as follows:-

- (1) Remove the suggestion that air quality in the City was generally good;
- (2) Provide clearer details about how and when specific measures could be adopted and what impact they would;
- (3) Provide details about how money was raised and parking charges would be spent to make alternatives and better public transport.

Councillor Denham requested to speak at the meeting under Standing Order 44 and expressed her thanks to the Senior Environment Technical Officer for the hard work done to report in a short period of time. She explained that she had requested to speak under Standing Order 44 to address any issues that may be raised.

She stated her concern regarding the amendment of the recommendations. Available air quality data showed that it was good and although she recognised the concerns of the public, it was important to use the existing data. She discussed how information could be explained in clearer way, how to identify where more work was needed and where money could be used for improvements. She stated that it would be better to wait until the consultation was completed.

Members agreed that it was the responsibility of all residents to reduce the impact of their travel choices, and that getting the consultation underway was important. Following a vote by Members, the recommendations made by Councillor Musgrave were not agreed.

Place Scrutiny Committee:-

- (1) noted the consultation draft of the Air Quality Action Plan;
- (2) supported the consultation process that Council officers will undertake;
- (3) supported and actively encouraged wider community engagement in the collective ambition to reduce transport emissions; and
- (4) requested a report be presented to the Place Scrutiny Committee on 14 June 2018 to summarise the outcomes of the consultation process and to seek approval by the Executive of the final Air Quality Action Plan.

10 **Green Travel Plans and Planning Conditions Spotlight Review**

Councillor Harvey, Chair of the Green Travel Plans and Planning Conditions Spotlight Review Group, presented the findings and recommendations of the Group to the Place Scrutiny Committee. He informed Members that the report went to People Scrutiny Committee on 4 January, with comments made by the Members of People Scrutiny Committee had been circulated for information.

He explained that the Portfolio Holder for City Transformation, Energy and Transport and Portfolio Holder for City Development had been involved in addressing congestion. He discussed the issues faced in the city and what could be done:-

- Devon County Council were the highways authority and both they and Exeter City Council did not have the funds available to develop infrastructure to resolve the congestion issue;
- Although Exeter had a good number of rail stations, the train service times were limited and there were not enough car parks at certain stations;
- There was no bus park and ride service in one part of city;
- The Exeter Cycle Campaign had been consulted and were looking to improve cycling in the city.

In response to Members' questions the Scrutiny Programme Officer responded that:-

- At an Interim Scrutiny Work Programme meeting held in November, a Task and Finish Group was agreed to be established for the Green Travel Policy and how it could be improved. This group was a separate entity to the one outlined in the recommendations. The group was expected to commence at the end of January;
- Once the new Task and Finish Group was setup officers would take a soft encouragement approach, but she would clarify details as required.

Place Scrutiny Committee:-

- (1) Acknowledged the work of this Spotlight Review Group;
- (2) Agreed to share this report and findings with:-
 - The (yet to be formed) Transport Board;
 - Devon County Council in respect of the Sustainable Urban Movement Plan;
 - With Exeter City Council officers responsible for implementing the Parking Strategy;
 - Greater Exeter Strategic Partnership; and
- (3) Supported the formation of a Task and Finish Group to expressly monitor the IKEA green travel plan and ascertain what improvements to Green Travel Plans could be made in future.

11 **Exeter Highways and Traffic Orders Committee Minutes**

The minutes of the Exeter Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (Devon County Council) held on 20 November 2017 were circulated for information.

The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 8.10 pm

Chair

**PUBLIC QUESTION RECEIVED for Place Scrutiny Committee – 11 January 2018
from Mr Mike Walton of the Exeter Cycling Campaign**

To Councillor Rosie Denham as Portfolio Holder for City Transformation, Energy and Transport

Given that the effects of local air pollution on health are undisputed and that these disproportionately affect our city's most vulnerable people leading to the premature death of more than 42 people every year we clearly need strong and bold action to improve our air quality.

It is appropriate therefore, and welcome, to see the draft AQAP being bolder in aspiring to make "the private car...seldom used for journeys within Exeter" and to "create sustainable car-free communities".

Given these AQAP aspirations will Councillors provide the active and vocal political support that will endorse the difficult decisions needed to make a reality of the AQAP strategy, in particular to:-

- **"Design and implement a filtered permeability plan and corridor improvements" (Measure #4)**
- **"Develop policies to make car travel unnecessary" (Measure #10)**
- **"Make it more more attractive and cost effective to access the city by public transport and active travel" (Measure #15)**
- **"Implement access restrictions/ charging" (Measure #16)**
- **"Maximise efficiency of existing highway network, but prioritising the most efficient transport modes: cycling and walking" (measure #24)**

And will Councillors reject contrary statements in the AQAP such as "*Dedicated pedestrian and cycle routes will be improved, but these road users will notbe given priority at all junctions.*"

Furthermore, given that road transport is the major contributor to nitrogen dioxide and a significant contributor to PM2.5 & PM10 particulates will Place Scrutiny insist that a date is set for when diesel vehicles will be banned from the city centre and identify development areas before July'18 which will be designated as car free developments.

The Chair, Councillor Sills read out the question from Mr Walton, who was unable to attend the meeting.

The Portfolio Holder for City Transformation, Energy and Transport, Councillor Rosie Denham responded to the question stating that Members had debated the issue and stated that the topic was the subject of a report on the meeting agenda. She explained that there was support for measures in the draft plan from Exeter Cycle Campaign and informed that she looked forward to working constructively with the group on development of the final plan. She commented that the engagement process welcomed views from the Exeter Cycle Campaign on why they felt this should be an immediate priority, and how it could be achieved.

Access restrictions to certain parts of the city for certain types of vehicles had not been ruled out in the draft plan, however restriction details had not been finalised, and would need to be based on robust evidence of cost and air quality benefits.

She felt that it would be inappropriate at this stage to present a potential strategy for access restrictions without the supporting evidence. She emphasised that because of the significance of access restrictions and charging for these, they would be subject to a separate consultation once the evidence base has been compiled and before they are implemented.

She stated that Exeter City Council welcomed suggestions from all interested parties on what could be included and the classes of vehicles to be addressed first. It was crucial that evidence for access restrictions would need local support when the detailed plans are developed.

**PUBLIC QUESTION RECEIVED for Place Scrutiny Committee – 11 January 2018
from Ms Lynn Wetenhall with reference to the Air Quality Action Plan.**

To Councillor Denham Portfolio City Transformation, Energy and Transport

Air pollution from traffic is, and has been for ten years or more, a serious issue in the city. No *significant* actions to reduce the illegal and close to illegal levels of NO₂, or other pollutants arising from cars, have been taken by the City or County Councils in that time, as evidenced by the lack of progress in securing cleaner air through named measures. Yet residents continue to suffer significant health impacts.

It therefore seems reasonable and important that any AQAP measures will be prioritised based on *evidence of which measures will give the quickest air quality improvements*. Yet the draft Action Plan does not provide any evidence on which measures are likely to provide the most impact, instead presenting an unprioritised list. Moreover, the introduction of a Clean Air Zone, generally agreed to be the single quickest way to clean up traffic-related pollution, is simply dismissed, (p95 of agenda pack) along with a possible congestion charge, with no clear rationale/evidence as to why these decisions were taken.

Another aspect of the list of the measures that makes them hard to respond to in a meaningful way, is that they are not clearly divided into those with Exeter City Council can pursue alone, (and soon) and those which depend on other agencies, notably Devon County Council. This makes the consultation process opaque and confusing – we are being asked to comment on actions that not in the power of the city council to deliver. This would be fine if it was a joint consultation with County Council for example, but it is not.

Will Scrutiny Committee therefore ask officers, as a matter of urgency before the draft Plan goes to consultation, to improve the Draft Air Quality Action Plan by amending it to include:-

- 1. Outline workings to show the relative air quality impacts of at least some of the more substantial measures**
- 2. A short list of which measures the council believes should be prioritised and why**
- 3. A fuller explanation of why key potential measures like a clean air zone have been rejected**
- 4. Clear explanation of which measures lie solely in the power of Exeter City Council to action**
- 5. Clear explanation of which measures lie solely in the power of Devon County Council to action**
- 6. Indication of any measures that can definitely be actioned during 2018, ie short term actions.**

The Portfolio City Transformation, Energy and Transport, Councillor Rosie Denham responded that the draft air quality action plan was at the start of a three month engagement process where the Council was looking to work with the community, businesses, voluntary groups and other statutory partners in order to finalise an action plan where partnerships commit to substantial measures to make a difference to the city.

She explained that a branded Clean Air Zone had not been included in the draft plan but many measures from the Clean Air Zone Framework had been included such as charging for or restricting access to certain classes of vehicle in certain areas. A

congestion charge which would charge all vehicles entering a certain zone, was thought to be less effective than a restriction based on vehicle class and type. She emphasised that this was a draft for public consultation and engagement and alternative views were welcomed by the Council.

There were areas of work which could be taken forward by the City Council alone and the comments on actions would need to be implemented by Devon County Council despite the consultation is being hosted by the City Council.

She referred to the report which detailed the air quality impact of measures and stated that a more detailed analysis of the air quality impact of measures would be developed as part of the evidence base for specific measures. Currently the Council expected to pursue all the measures in the draft plan, but the final plan would likely contain more detail on priorities, which the Council welcomed suggestions from all interested parties on what those priorities should be. Measures would be implemented from 2018 onwards.

She commented that Exeter City Council could not achieve substantial measures to improve air quality on its own and welcomed receiving proposals during the three month engagement process and any received from Ms Wetenhall achieved in partnership.

Debate

Members discussed critical aspects of the report and the need for officers to make improvements where they are needed but acknowledged that revisions to the consultation would cause a delay. The Portfolio Holder City Transformation, Energy and Transport was happy for suggestions to make improvements as recommendations to the consultation.

Supplementary Response from Ms Wetenhall

Ms Wetenhall commented that it would be disingenuous to not have public engagement and that it was a priority for technical information be written in a clearer manner for the public to understand. She thanked Councillor Denham for the response

It was noted that this written response would be attached to the minutes.

MEMBER QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER at Place Scrutiny Committee – 11 January 2018

Response to be made by Councillor Denham, Portfolio Holder City Transformation, Energy & Transport

Questions from Councillor Musgrave on the Air Quality report on the agenda

Question 1

For past ten years, and in this report, Exeter's air quality is described in these terms: "Air quality in Exeter is mainly good, with just a small number of hot spots where levels of nitrogen dioxide are above government objectives". Does the PH agree with me, that this is highly misleading?

Q1 Response

Councillor Denham as Portfolio Holder City Transformation, Energy & Transport responded that she did not agree. The data that the Council had collected showed that air pollution levels were below the objectives in all but a few locations. She agreed that there was no city wide data on particulate concentrations, but there was nothing to suggest that emissions of PM^{2.5} in Exeter were unusually high. She considered that it would be misleading to suggest that pollution levels in Exeter were comparable to larger cities or conurbations.

She stated that it did not detract from the Council's commitment to take action to cut congestion, to reduce air pollution emissions and cut exposure to harmful pollution. The draft plan proposed that the Council would seek a full assessment of the actual health impacts of air pollution in Exeter which would be a reliable measure on the impact and make a clear case for action.

Supplementary Question

Does the Portfolio Holder agree that despite 64% of the locations which show that the NO₂ levels are above the safe level, there is no acceptable level for NO₂?

Supplementary Response

The Portfolio Holder City Transformation, Energy & Transport referred to the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager and Senior Environment Technical Officer who responded that the monitoring locations focus on the areas with the highest levels and not representative of the city as a whole. Health impact evidence was not consistent between scientists for what a safe level would be, however Exeter was considered good for air quality, which the Air Devon Health Impact report could provide more information.

Question 2

Will the Portfolio Holder ask for a more accurate and full picture of the reality of current air quality in the city, instead of the incomplete information provided in this draft version?

Q2 Response

Councillor Denham as Portfolio Holder City Transformation, Energy & Transport responded that the air quality data was presented in the Annual Status Report published on the Council's website and was presented to Place Scrutiny Committee every September. She considered that there was no benefit in reprinting a vast amount of scientific data which was

already in the public domain and appropriately referenced in the draft action plan presented at this meeting.

MEMBER QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER at Place Scrutiny Committee – 11 January 2018

Response to be made by Councillor Sutton Portfolio Holder Economy and Culture

Question from Councillor Prowse on the Exeter Car Boot Sale

The Exeter boot sale is an event that is part of the fabric of this City. Recent visits confirm that it is suffering poor patronage.

Question 1

What does the Portfolio Holder suggest to rejuvenate this weekly event?

Response 1

Councillor Sutton as Portfolio Holder Economy and Culture responded that she agreed that the Sunday Market and Car Boot Sale was not as busy as it once was, but, it was still well supported, with income figures and attendance higher than expected, when changes needed to be made to the market because of the development of the bus depot on the site.

The market was closed for a short period at the end of 2015, which the opportunity was used to check that all market traders were registered with the Council and submitted their public liability insurance details. However because a few of the traders refused to provide these details, they were informed that they would no longer be able to attend the market, following advice from Trading Standards.

There had also been a fall in the number of car boot traders attending the market although not as great as the fall in the number of traders because of a change in regulations to ensure confidence that car boot traders are just casual car booters and not market traders masquerading as private car booters. She explained that this had been achieved by ensuring all car booters were now in private cars, rather than vans and were restricted to a defined space within the market site.

These changes meant that the market was safer smaller and better organised, market. It had lost the 'rogue traders' who refused to register with the Council and issues the market staff had to deal with previously, including verbal and physical abuse had been reduced considerably which was a positive outcome of the changes. She highlighted that the £45,000 income lost at the market would be covered by the rental income received from Stagecoach.

The Marketing and Communications team would be looking at ways provide the event with an extra boost in the spring of 2018, but it wouldn't be as big as it was before because of the reduced amount of space available and the necessary much tighter control on the traders attending.

Supplementary Question

Having visited the site in the early hours, there is plenty of space available, but the rest of the time the vehicles are too close together for the customers. Could there be space available to ensure the vehicles are not touching?

Supplementary Response

The Portfolio Holder Economy and Culture stated she would contact the Marketing Manager on Councillor Prowse's behalf and provide a response.

Question 2

Is the Portfolio Holder able to confirm that there are sufficient charities that still wish to perform marshalling duties given the drop in income that they now benefit?

Response 2

Councillor Sutton as Portfolio Holder Economy and Culture explained that it had become increasingly difficult to recruit charity groups to assist with the market for a few years. Although this has been addressed by by reducing the number of charity workers required from 12 to 6 in 2016 and in 2017, increased the amount paid to the charities from £225 to £250 (before the market size reduced the charity groups were paid a variable fee with a guaranteed minimum of £400 in return for providing 12 volunteers). The Council has had to rely on two or three organisations who were willing to step in at short notice because of frequent late drop outs from the charities.

She stated that recently it had become difficult to get the regular groups to step in to cover markets and that has left the staff exposed to potential safety issues on Sunday mornings. The decision was taken to remove the charity volunteer element of the event from January 2018 because it was increasingly obvious that no enough charities would be able to be recruited. Following an increase in the bank of casual staff, staffing numbers will now increase from 3 to 6 for each market. Using paid staff and reduction of changing volunteers allows better control of the event and be able to run it with a smaller team.

To ensure that there is still a charity/community element to the event the Council had offered these groups a free pitch at the event with all organisations able to take advantage of this up to four times a year.

Question 3

If the Portfolio Holder is unable to propose any impetus is it not time to given the event to a franchise on an experimental basis?

Response

Councillor Sutton as Portfolio Holder Economy and Culture responded that she was happy with the way the market was run currently, and hoped to be able to improve attendance in the future. She stated that she would always be willing to listen to offers from others interested in taking over the running of the Sunday market and that any bids would need to make financial sense and guarantee that the safeguards remain in place. The market would remain open all year despite lower demand in the winter months. She highlighted however that it was important that the site wouldn't cause any issues for permanent tenants and that by running the market in-house it would ensure the issues were properly considered.

CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

25 January 2018

Present:

Councillor Sheldon (Chair)

Councillors Warwick, Baldwin, Hannan, Harvey, Holland, Lamb, Owen, Morris and Musgrave

Also present:

Chief Executive & Growth Director, City Solicitor & Head of HR, Chief Finance Officer and Democratic Services Officer (Committees) (SLS)

In attendance:

Councillor Edwards - Leader of Exeter City Council
Councillor Pearson - Portfolio Holder for Support Services

1 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 23 November 2017 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as correct.

2 Declarations of Interests

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were made.

3 Questions from the Public under Standing Order 19

In accordance with Standing Order No 19, a member of the public, Mr Peter Cleasby submitted a question in relation to the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel.

A copy of the question had been previously circulated to Members, and this, together with the appropriate response from the Leader, Councillor Edwards is appended to the minutes.

4 Annual Pay Policy Statement

The City Solicitor and Head of HR presented the report on the annual Pay Policy Statement 2018/19, which outlined the annual pay policy for approval by Full Council each financial year in line with legislation. Local Authorities are required by Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011 to set out a written statement each financial year relating to:-

- the remuneration of chief officers;
- the remuneration of its lowest paid employees; and
- the relationship between the remuneration of its chief officers and the remuneration of its employees who are not chief officers

The City Solicitor and Head of HR referred Members to the appendix, attached to her report which set out the levels of remuneration for various posts from April 2018.

She referred to the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017, which now required local authorities who employ over 250 or more employees to produce an annual Gender Pay Gap report which compared the difference in pay between females and males.

The Act required that an Authority must report on the following:-

- Mean gender pay;
- Median gender pay gap;
- Mean bonuses gender pay gap;
- Proportion of males receiving a bonus payment;
- Proportion of females receiving a bonus payment; and
- Proportion of males and females in each quartile pay band

The findings included the average rate of pay for females being higher than males across the Council, the difference was less than 1%, and there were more males in the lower quartile of earnings. In response to a Member's question, the City Solicitor and Head of HR informed him that the City Council had previously made a decision to pay the Exeter Living wage which increased the wage of the lowest paid employee, and a decision on further changes to the pay band was likely to form part of the pay negotiations. A national offer by employers for a further two year pay deal had just been rejected by the Unions.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee noted the report and requested Executive and Council to note, and approve:-

- (1) the circulated Policy, Report and Appendices for adoption and publication in accordance with the legislation; and
- (2) Delegated authority being given to the City Solicitor and Head of HR to make necessary amendments to the pay policy statement following any changes in legislation or subsequent increases in pay.

5 Revenue Budget Proposals 2018/19

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report on the Revenue Budget Proposals 2018/19, which outlined the strategic framework, the prepared estimates and highlighted the issues that would affect the actual setting of the overall level of council tax. The report also summarised the overall budget position arising from the information presented to Members in December and the current cycle of Scrutiny Committee meetings. Members were advised that an updated Medium Term Financial Plan was also set out in an appendix to the report, and their attention was drawn to the level of savings required; £1.250 million in 2019/20 and £1.500 million in 2020/21. The savings anticipated in 2020/21 would be as a result of a reset of the business rates, which should coincide with the fair funding review and move to 75% business rates retention.

The Chief Finance Officer also commented on the Local Government Provisional Finance Settlement 2018/19, advising Members that the City Council had accepted the Government's offer of a four year agreed settlement in November 2015, following the submission of the required efficiency plan. He also referred to the assumption of an increase in Council Tax of £5 as part of Exeter's budget strategy for next year which, along with an estimated collection fund surplus of £139,900, would mean the City Council's Council Tax budget would rise by £285,850, the council tax level being subject to discussion at the forthcoming Council meeting on 20 February. He also

confirmed that the provisional award of New Homes Bonus of £2.591 million for 2018/19 had been awarded in December, and if the trend for lower housing growth continued then a new resolution by Members would be sought to redress the shortfall that would arise from the current resolution.

Exeter City Council had taken part in a 100% Business Rate pilot scheme for 2018/19, enabling 100% of the growth generated in the county to be kept (40% was kept for the individual Districts taking part, 59% for Devon County Council and 1% for the Fire Authority). The Government had included a no detriment clause as part of the scheme, so that the Council would be no worse off than under the existing 50% retention scheme. He did however, refer to the impact when the current funding settlements came to an end in 2020. He responded to a Member's enquiry about the level kept by Exeter and added that Devon County Council had been fair in their offer to the Districts, with all those taking part, working well together to ensure the pilot bid was successful.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

6 Capital Programme 2018/19 - 2020/21

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report on the Capital Programme (2018/19 – 2020/21), which sought approval of the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes for 2018/19 and schemes identified for the following two years. He provided an overview of the recommendations which required the Council to prepare a three-year capital expenditure plan to consider the affordability of its capital investment. He referred Members to the report and appendices and provided an overview of the General Fund Capital Programme. Members were informed of the new bids within the three year capital expenditure plan and that the 2018/19 total for the new bids would be £1,466,700.

Members were updated on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2018/19. The HRA would provide a capital programme of £18.177 million, which would be comprised of capital investment of £12.487million for improvements to the Council's existing council stock and £5.690million towards the provision of new council homes. The Chief Finance Officer referred Members to the HRA Capital Programme report for the detail of the funding.

A Member referred to the available capital resources and enquired if the Section 106 funding level was reported. The Chief Finance Officer stated that the Section 106 contributions were identified, but were not included in the Capital Programme mechanism as such expenditure was only for specific schemes already approved. The funding was held under separate identification within Planning, and he would enquire whether a former reporting regime to Members could be reinstated.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee noted the Capital Programme (2017/18 – 2019/20) report and requested Executive and Council to note and approve:-

- (1) The General Fund Capital Programme for 2018/19 as set out in Appendix 3; and
- (2) The HRA Capital Programme for 2018/19 as set out in Appendix 4.

7 Treasury Management Strategy

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report on the Treasury Management Strategy and position of the Annual Investment Strategy 2018/19. The report was a statutory requirement and must be approved by Full Council. He explained that the Council had adopted the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code

of Practice, which required the Council to approve a Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy before the start of each financial year, to decrease the risk of exposure to financial loss of invested funds. He commented on the key issues of the Treasury Management Plan, and provided an overview of the current levels of borrowing and investments, along with the estimated changes and the financial impact for the year on both the General Fund and the HRA.

The Chief Finance Officer reported that, following a retendering process, LINK Asset Services had been appointed as the Council's Treasury Management advisors. They had already been consulted on a change to the time limits for UK owned banks or building societies eligibility to offer a loan from three to six months. There was now an opportunity for the City Council to have access to a wider range of loan products and more favourable interest rates. He responded to a Member's concern about the opportunity to borrow money in advance of spending need, and stated that the Council had not used this facility to date, and if any long term borrowing was required, any loan would be arranged at a fixed rate.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee noted the Treasury Management report for 2018/19 financial year and recommended approval by Executive and Council.

8 The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (Incorporating the Annual Statement of Minimum Revenue Provision)

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report on the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (Incorporating the Annual Statement of Minimum Revenue Provision), which advised Members of the proposed 2018/19 prudential indicators for capital finance for adoption by the Council and set the annual statement of Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The objectives of the code are to ensure within the framework that the capital investment plans of local authorities were affordable, prudent and sustainable.

Members were informed of the changes to the Prudential Code which required Full Council approval along with the Statement of Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). He discussed the proposed Prudential Code Indicators and summarised appendices A-C, which depict the indicators for the next three years and highlighted the key issues to Members:-

- the Capital Financing Requirement: shows the amount that the Council needs to borrow;
- the Operational Boundary: sets the amount of borrowing that the Council intends to keep within over the period covered by the indicators. This would be the limit of borrowing; and
- the Authorised Limit: the maximum that the Section 151 Officer was allowed to borrow to cover the Operational Boundary and day to day cash flow needs. The Council was not allowed to exceed this amount of borrowing without first authorising an increase to the limit

The Chief Finance Officer also referred to a Government consultation which would include new requirements around governance and transparency. Increasingly, a one size fits all approach was no longer appropriate given the increasing variation in the objectives and nature of local authority investment activity. A number of changes to the Prudential System were due to come into force for the 2018/19 financial year, but that had not been confirmed. There may be implications from the revision of the Code and a further report for the new financial year may be required. The main changes included:-

- definition of prudent provision in the MRP guidance;
- meaning of a change to the revenue account;
- impact of changing methods of calculating MRP; and
- an introduction of a maximum life of economic assets.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee noted the report and requested Executive and Council to note and approve the adoption of:-

- (1) the Prudential Indicators set out in Appendix A-C; and
- (2) the Annual Statement of Minimum Revenue Provision for the Council

9 **Estimates, Fees and Charges**

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report on the proposed Corporate Services Scrutiny Revenue estimates for 2018/19, which outlined the strategic framework within which the estimates had been prepared; changes in accounting practices which affected all budgets and gave detailed reasons for major changes in the Management Unit estimates.

He informed Members that the estimates for Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee had increased and he drew attention to the revenue budget detailed in Appendix 1, circulated with the report. He highlighted a number of overarching changes which included the end of the requirement by local authorities to include support services in front line service costs, employers' contribution to the superannuation fund and a pooling of the budget relating to communication and marketing activities. The changes were cost neutral to the Council.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee supported the draft Revenue Estimates for 2018/19, the proposed Capital Programme and Fees and Charges for further consideration by Executive on 13 February 2018 and Council on 20 February 2018.

The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 6.25 pm

Chair

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PUBLIC QUESTIONS RECEIVED for Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee – 25 January 2018, from Mr Peter Cleasby

Response to be made by Councillor Edwards (The Leader).

Question 1

Is the political leadership of the Council satisfied with the procedures in place for making appointments to the Independent Remuneration Panel? Specifically, is the leadership satisfied that the procedures:

- Are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people;
- Ensure the appointment to the panel of people who are not only independent of the Council but are seen to be independent?"

Response 1

Councillor Edwards responded to the question and stated that the Panel was convened under *The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (SI 1021)*. These regulations, which arose out of the relevant provisions in the *Local Government Act 2000*, required all local authorities to set up and maintain an advisory Independent Remuneration Members' Allowances Panel to review and provide advice on Members' allowances. There was no legislation with regards to the appointment of the Panel members and there was no criteria against which these appointments are made other than the need to ensure they have the time to be actively involved in the annual reviews, and they were independent of any political party. Members were not involved in the selection process, although, he as Leader, was informed of any proposed appointments.

The Panel was made up of people from various sectors of the community. The current panel members are:-

- Derek Phillips Chair of South West Chamber of Commerce, Vice Chair of Devon and Cornwall Business Council , Chair of Area Tourism Partnership;
- Steve Barriball – Chief Executive, Citizens Advice;
- Bryony Houlden - Chief Executive of South West Councils(also a Corporate Member of the South West Council);
- Peter Lacey - retired architect, (Lacey Hickie and Caley Limited). Currently Chair of the Green Infrastructure Board and a Director, Exeter Golf and Country Club.

Two of the panel members also sit on Devon County Council's Independent Remuneration Panel, there is usually a vacancy about every two years.

Councillor Edwards said that he was satisfied that the members of the Panel were independent and that a reasonable person would see them to be so. As politicians, subject to decisions of the Panel, he said that they supported the work of the Panel and refrained from commenting on its procedures, as such statements may have the potential to undermine the Panel's independence, in the absence of a clear public interest in making such statements. He added that he had also been informed that council officers were currently undertaking a review of all aspects of the Independent Remuneration Panel, including the appointment of it's members to ensure that the Council procedures were in line with best practice. It was envisaged that this review would be concluded in the early summer and any proposals would be taken through the relevant decision making process.

Members took the opportunity to debate the question.

With the permission of the Chair, Councillor Sheldon, Councillor Musgrave directed a comment to Mr Cleasby about the current process and whether local people would also think the process was sufficiently accountable. Mr Cleasby responded and did express an element of concern over the absence of a robust criteria. He wished to reiterate that he was in no way casting any doubt on the individuals who made up the Independent Remuneration Panel of the Council, but wished to comment on the independence of two of the individuals' organisational connections to the City Council. Councillor Edwards referred to Mr Barriball's position as Chief Executive of Exeter CVS which required him to lobby on behalf of clients and similarly Bryony Holden's position was as a representative of an organisation.

Councillor Musgrave referred to the remit of the anticipated review, and hoped that the points raised in Mr Cleasby question would be included. Councillor Edwards confirmed that he would ensure that the review took account of current best practice.

Councillor Sheldon commented on the rigorous debate at Council of the Panel's recommendations and added that their recommendations did not have to be taken up by Members. He added that some of the Exeter Panel were on other local authority Panels. Councillor Warwick said that he was satisfied with the current process and involvement of officers to achieve the level of independence for Members. He would be concerned if Members became more involved or were able to exert any influence, and he suggested leaving the discussion to those who had been tasked with the role.

Councillor Morris hoped that the review would also consider a move to a national agreement and she hoped this would be debated in the future.

Mr Cleasby was permitted a response and he said that he was grateful for the opportunity to ask a question of the Leader. He did not wish to suggest that Members became involved in the appointment process, but he felt that Members should be comfortable with the process.

(It was noted that the question and response would be attached to the minutes).

STRATA - JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Friday 5 January 2018

Present:-

Cllr Paul Diviani (Chair)
Councillors Edwards and Goodey

Non-Voting Members
K Hassan, P Shears and M Williams

Also Present

Strata IT Director, The Teignbridge Strata Director, Programme & Resource Manager, Compliance and Security Manager, Strata Board Director and Democratic Services Manager (Committees)

1

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Christophers, Teignbridge District Council.

2

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 26 September 2017 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as correct.

3

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were made.

4

STRATA IT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Strata IT Director presented his report to update Members on the progress within Strata – presentation attached to minutes.

The Teignbridge Director commented that the Business Plan for 2018/19 was on target to make the predicated savings of £382,000 while a revised plan would be brought to the Executive Committee later in the year. Strata now had a better understanding of costs and customer expectations and there was a need to look at the convergence plan versus the three Council's key proprieties. The out of hours support service had proved to be a success. It had been funded by Strata monies but, from the 6 February 2018, would be funded by the individual Councils on a percentage basis.

The Strata IT Director stated that there was a lot of new technology emerging in the market place and that this could have an impact on any future business plans. There is likely to be an increase of 16% in the cost of Microsoft licences, but it was anticipated that this increase could be off set against savings elsewhere. All increases in contracts were being challenged and all the budgets were being tightly managed by individual Managers.

Members welcomed the communication from Strata with regards to the recent publicity surrounding the IT Security threat and supported the continuation of the out

of hour's service. They felt this was important as any problems could be dealt with quickly and it helped to alleviate risk.

The Strata IT Director clarified that Strata was looking into understanding the issues of the slow start-up of the Global Desk top for some users.

Strata Joint Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 30 November 2017 and its comments were reported.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

5 **PROPOSED "GLOBAL COMMS" ROLL OUT SCHEDULE**

The Support and Infrastructure Manager presented the report setting out the proposed roll out schedule for the new Global Comms platform. It made up by two key products, Skype for Business as the telephone system and Anywhere365 as the new contact centre.

Members were advised that it was proposed to roll out East Devon over March to May 2018, Exeter, August to October, Teignbridge February to April 2019 and satellite sites May to November 2019 with the reasons for the prioritisation set out in the report.

Members supported the time table for the roll out of the new Global Comms platform.

Strata Joint Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 30 November 2017 and its comments were reported.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

6 **STAFF ENGAGEMENT SURVEY - RESULTS AND SUMMARY**

The report of the Alternate Director with lead responsibility for Human Resources was submitted updating Members on the staff survey. In summary, 73% of the workforce had responded and there had been an improvement in every area compared with 2016. 88% of the 49 respondents to this particular question would recommend Strata as a place to work, compared with 87% in 2015 and 68% in 2016. Survey attached to minutes.

Members welcomed the positive improvement in the feedback from Strata staff.

Strata Joint Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 30 November 2017 and its comments were reported.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

7 **FREQUENCY OF STRATA JOINT EXECUTIVE AND STRATA JOINT SCRUTINY MEETINGS**

The frequency of the Strata Joint Executive and Strata Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting were considered.

Members discussed the need for the Committee to be strategically focused going forward and that there was a need for officers from all three Councils to meet with Strata officers to discuss the convergence plan versus individual Council own needs.

RESOLVED that Strata Joint Executive Committee and Strata Joint Scrutiny Committee be held every four months. Dates to be advised.

8 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED 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 item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I, Schedule 12A of the Act.

9 **STRATA BUDGET MONITORING QUARTER II - 2016/17**

The report of the Director responsible for Finance was submitted advising that Strata had been given a total of £6,104,000 to run the IT Services in 2017/18 along with funding for various capital projects. The 2017/18 Business Plan had revised the savings profile set out in the original Business Cases over the initial ten year period of the Company.

The report set out a suggested change to the original method of funding agreed at the inception of the company and the pros and cons of this new system compared with the existing were set out. It was noted that the Strata Board wished to focus on improving service further rather than implementing a new charging system.

Members discussed the issue of how Strata was funded, they agreed that the status quo should remain for 2018/19 and that a paper be brought to the Joint Executive Committee outlining the funding options and the implications for the individual Councils and Strata.

Strata Joint Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 30 November 2017 and its comments were reported.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) a new charging policy not be introduced at this stage but a paper be brought forward with funding options for Strata with implications for the Councils and Strata.

(The meeting commenced at 10.05 am and closed at 11.37 am)

Chair

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EXECUTIVE

Tuesday 9 January 2018

Present:

Councillor Edwards (Chair)
Councillors Bialyk, Brimble, Denham, Gottschalk, Leadbetter, Morse, Packham, Pearson and Sutton

Also present:

Chief Executive & Growth Director, Director (BA), Chief Finance Officer, Director (DB), Service Lead Housing Customers, Service Improvement Lead (Benefits) and Democratic Services Manager (Committees)

1

MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 14 November and 12 December 2017 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as correct.

2

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were made.

3

IMPACT OF AND PREPARATION FOR UNIVERSAL CREDIT ROLL OUT

The Director (BA) presented the report to inform Members of the Full Service rollout of Universal Credit in Exeter from September 2018. From that point on, all claims to legacy benefits would be claims to Universal Credit. Universal Credit Live Service had been in Exeter since November 2015 for single jobseekers with no dependent children. The rollout of Full Service would vastly increase the rate at which households move onto Universal Credit and would expand the groups who would be affected.

Members were advised that the impact of Universal Credit rollout was difficult to forecast; officers had used experiences from other areas as well as data on the Council's existing caseload to prepare for the impact. At the present time it was proposed to implement the scheme with existing staff resources and, should there be an increase demand on staffing, officers would come back to Members with the details. The Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) could also be affected. As the Council was legally able to spend up to 2.5 times its yearly DHP allocation and was legally unable to refuse an award on the grounds that the DHP award had been spent, this could have an impact on the Council's finances. Members would be updated on the demand for DHP as the scheme was rolled out.

The Director (BA) stated that Members were asked to agree that the Council deliver digital and budgeting support to Universal Credit claimants as a delivery partner for the Department for Work and Pensions Universal Support scheme for 12 months from April 2018.

The Leader brought to Member's attention the concerns of People Scrutiny Committee regarding the significant human costs the changes could bring, such as

threat of eviction, increased homelessness and a growth in demand for food parcels.

Members thanked the officers for their work over the last two years to prepare for the rollout of Universal Credit. They raised concerns with regards to the impact that the rollout could have on individuals and possible financial implications for the Council.

People Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 4 January 2018 and its comments were reported.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) the contents of this report and the background information paper attached be noted;
- (2) support that could be given to customers impacted by Universal Credit via the Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP), and Local Welfare Support (LWS) budgets, as currently administered, was limited, and therefore the possible need for it to be reviewed be recognised;
- (3) without reliable predictions of the amount of extra demand that will be placed on affected services as a result of Universal Credit rollout, no further resources are requested at this present time. However, it be noted that there may be a need to request additional resources in the future. If evidence shows such a need, this data will be presented to Members for their decision; and
- (4) the Council deliver digital and budgeting support to Universal Credit claimants as a delivery partner for the Department for Work and Pension's Universal Support scheme for 12 months from April 2018.

4

HOUSING RENTS AND SERVICES CHARGES 2018/19

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report setting out the proposed changes to council dwelling rents, garage rents and service charges with effect from 1 April 2018.

Members were advised that this was the third year, of a four year, 1% reduction as set out in the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016. The garage rents were proposed to be increased by 4% and the majority of service charges would remain at existing levels with the exception of those advised in the report.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing commented that the reduction in rents had reduced the Housing Revenue Account funds by £8 million and consequently had impacted upon the Council's ability to invest in much needed new homes.

People Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 4 January 2018 and its comments were reported.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) rents of Council dwellings are reduced by 1% from 1 April 2018;
- (2) garage rents are increased by 2% from 1 April 2018; and

- (3) service charges remain at their existing levels, with the exception of charges specified below from 1 April 2018:-
- (a) 7% increase in respect of water at Magdalen Gardens in line with rises in water and sewerage charges;
 - (b) 5% increase in electricity service charges to reflect utility contract costs;
 - (c) 2.5% increase in respect of the Older Persons' property service charge in line with rises in employee costs; and
 - (d) 5% reduction in respect of door entry systems in line with system maintenance costs.

5

2018/19 COUNCIL TAX BASE AND NNDR1

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report on setting the 2018/19 Council Tax base in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012. The report also sought to delegate to the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) the Council's estimate of Business Rate Income (NNDR1) for the next financial year.

Members were advised that the proposed Council Tax Base for 2018/19 was 36,547, an increase of 350 over 2017/18.

RESOLVED that: -

- (1) in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by Exeter City Council as its tax base for the year 2018/19 shall be 36,547; and
- (2) responsibility to approve the Council's NNDR1 return by 31 January 2018 be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer).

6

REPORT ON THE LAINGS PROPERTIES TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL BUDGET OR CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The Service Lead Housing Customers presented the report setting out the options for the 17 non-traditional Laings properties. Members were advised that currently nine of the properties were vacant. It was highlighted that further consultation would be undertaken with residents, both those within the occupied Laings properties as well as those who occupied attached private properties.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing supported recommendation five to rebuild the properties and increase the life span of these family homes.

Members supported option five to demolish and rebuild.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) the expected life of the remaining properties and the works required to bring them up to standard be noted; and

RECOMMENDED that Council approve:-

- (2) option 5 to demolish and rebuild and increase the existing project budget of £586,700.

7

PYRAMIDS POOL AND LEISURE FACILITY

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Communities and Sport updated Members on the position with regards to the Pyramids Pool and Leisure Facilities following on from the report to Council on 19 December 2017. Discussions were on-going with the operator and a full report would come forward in due course. He clarified that, whilst the roof of the Pyramids would not need to be replaced, some repairs would need to be undertaken to it.

RESOLVED that the position be noted.

8

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED 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 item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Act.

9

RE-ORGANISATION WITHIN THE FORMER PUBLIC REALM. TO RE-BALANCE SKILLS TO MEET SERVICE DEMANDS

The Director (DB) presented the report on the former public realm proposed restructure to ensure that the right skills were in the right place to meet service demands. This follow up report sought to approve the restructure following a consultation exercise. The proposed establishment changes would be in accordance with the Management of Organisational Change/Redundancy Policy.

Members welcomed the restructure which would rebalance the skills across the service.

RECOMMENDED that Council approves:-

- (1) the former Public Realm restructure to rebalance the skills across the service following consultation in accordance with the Management and Organisational Policy; and
- (2) the changes to the posts as set out in the report noting that the posts were subject to Job Evaluation.

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 6.00 pm)

Chair

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 20 February 2018.

Agenda Annex

SEATING IN THE GUILDHALL

		Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Hannan (L)	Chief Executive & Growth Director	Lord Mayor Councillor Robson (L)	Corporate Manager Democratic/Civic Support	City Solicitor & Head of HR	
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Democratic Services Manager (Committees)				Deputy Chief Executive	Chief Finance Officer	
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Councillors	Councillors	Councillors		Councillors	Councillors
Warwick (L)	Hannaforde (L)	Edwards (L)	TABLE	Leadbetter (C)	Mitchell (LD)
Ashwood (L)	Foggin (L)	Sutton (L)		Newby (C)	Musgrave (G)
Harvey (L)	Keen (L)	Denham (L)		Baldwin (C)	Prowse (C)
Wood (L)	Sheldon (L)	Pearson (L)		Henson, D. (C)	Mrs Henson (C)
Foale (L)	Lamb (L)	Morse (L)		Thompson (C)	Holland (C)
Lyons (L)	Sills (L)	Bialyk (L)			
		Brimble (L)			

Cllr Morris (L)	Cllr Owen (L)	Cllr Branston (L)	Cllr Packham (L)	Cllr Gottschalk (L)	Cllr Wardle (L)	Cllr N. Vizard (L)	Cllr M. Vizard (L)
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L: Labour: 29
C: Conservative: 8
LD: Liberal Democrat: 1
G: Green: 1

Portfolio Holders

Edwards: Leader
 Sutton: Deputy Leader and Economy and Culture
 Gottschalk: City Development
 Bialyk: Health and Wellbeing, Communities & Sport
 Denham: City Transformation, Energy & Transport
 Brimble: Place
 Packham: Housing Revenue Account
 Pearson: Support Services
 Morse: People

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