

# WEST DEVON HUB COMMITTEE



West Devon  
Borough  
Council

**Minutes** of a meeting of the **West Devon Hub Committee** held  
on  
**Tuesday, 9th June, 2015 at 1.30 pm** at the **Chamber -  
Kilworthy Park**

Present: **Councillors:**

**Chairman** Cllr Sanders  
**Vice Chairman** Cllr Baldwin

Cllr Benson  
Cllr Moody  
Cllr Parker  
Cllr Samuel

Cllr Cann OBE  
Cllr Oxborough  
Cllr Sampson

**In attendance:**

Councillors:

Cllr Ball  
Cllr Cloke  
Cllr Evans  
Cllr Leech  
Cllr Musgrave  
Cllr Sellis  
Cllr Yelland

Cllr Cheadle  
Cllr Davies  
Cllr Jory  
Cllr Moyse  
Cllr Pearce  
Cllr Sheldon

Officers:

Executive Director (Strategy and Commissioning)  
Executive Director (Service Delivery and Commercial Development)  
Business Development Group Manager

1. **Declarations of Interest**

\*HC 1

Members were invited to declare any interests in the items of business to be discussed and the following was made:

Cllr P R Sanders declared a personal interest in agenda Item 6

'Okehampton Rural Business Centre - Phase 2 Development Opportunities' (Minute HC 5 below refers) by virtue of being a Devon County Councillor. He remained in the room for the duration of this meeting but took no part in the debate and vote.

2. **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

\*HC 2

The Chairman advised that agenda Item 5 'Health and Safety Policy' had been withdrawn from the agenda. In discussion, it was confirmed that this agenda item would come back to a later meeting of the Hub Committee, and would sit within the area of responsibility of the Lead Member for Resources and Performance.

3. **Allocation of Roles and Responsibilities for Hub Committee Members**

\*HC 3

The Chairman introduced a discussion paper that was circulated as part of the agenda papers. Members of the Committee discussed the specific roles as set out on page 2 of the presented agenda.

The majority of Lead Members were comfortable with their Portfolios and list of associated functions. Many had already held discussions with their lead officers.

There was an acceptance that there would be an overlap between Portfolios, for instance Planning & Strategic Housing would overlap with Economy, particularly in respect of taking Our Plan forward. It was also confirmed by the Executive Director (SD&CD) that the Portfolio for Environment would include dog fouling and litter picking, although there may be some overlap with Commercial Services in respect of waste.

The Committee went on to discuss the Role of Hub Members, as set out on page 1 of the presented agenda. The Chairman explained the importance of communication and the need for Lead Members to liaise with their Senior Leadership Team and Extended Leadership Team officers, and feedback to other Members. Members could use the Bulletin as a means of communication to the wider membership.

Members stated that the 'Expected Behaviours' section of the document should apply to all Members, not just Hub Committee Members.

Members also noted that the section entitled 'Working Together' omitted reference to full Council meetings but it would be expected that Lead Members would respond to questions relating to their Portfolios at full Council as well as Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Members discussed the Forward Plan and the Executive Director (SD&CD) confirmed that this was an ongoing document. The Plan was one method of Lead Members bringing items forward for

consideration at Committee meetings, although in the first instance it was expected that discussions would take place with the relevant officers to confirm that the matter was one that required a Committee report. The Forward Plan would also enable an indication of workloads to be assessed. Finally, the Forward Plan would enable Overview and Scrutiny Committees to be aware of future items so that they could request a Lead Member attend their meeting to give further information.

4. **Local Government Act 1972, Section 100(A)(4)**

\*HC 4

It was **RESOLVED** that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the Meeting for the undermentioned item of business on the grounds that exempt information may be disclosed as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

5. **Okehampton Rural Business Centre - Phase 2**

\*HC 5

The Lead Member for Economy presented a report of the Business Development Group Manager (page 20 to the agenda) that advised Members of the current situation in respect of Okehampton Rural Business Centre and suggested a way forward. He set out the background to the issue and why the report had now been brought to Members attention, and also the benefits to West Devon Borough Council if the matter was progressed.

Members had a detailed discussion on this report and a number of concerns were raised. A specific issue that was highlighted related to the impact on the Borough Council if the development resulted in land or units being leased rather than sold. Officers confirmed that, whilst this was unlikely and had not been part of the ongoing discussions, any negotiations would take this matter into account so that there would not be an adverse impact on the Borough Council if DCC decided to progress the development as lease units rather than units for sale.

It was then **RESOLVED**  
that:

1. Members support the approach detailed in the presented report, to enable the bringing forward of employment land and thereby generating local employment opportunities and ultimately business rate revenues; and
2. Members agree that authority be delegated to the Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the s151 Officer, Deputy Leader of West Devon Borough Council and Lead Member for Economy, to draft and formalise an agreement with Devon County Council in line with the presented report.

The Meeting concluded at 3.30 pm

**Signed by:**

**Chairman**

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