

At the Meeting of the **WEST DEVON BOROUGH COUNCIL** held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILWORTHY PARK, TAVISTOCK** on **TUESDAY** the **20<sup>th</sup>** day of **FEBRUARY 2018** at **4.30pm** pursuant to Notice given and Summons duly served.

**Present**

Cllr J B Moody – Mayor (In the Chair)

Cllr R E Baldwin      Cllr K Ball  
Cllr W G Cann OBE   Cllr D W Cloke  
Cllr M Davies          Cllr C Edmonds  
Cllr L J G Hockridge   Cllr N Jory  
Cllr A F Leech        Cllr P Kimber  
Cllr B Lamb            Cllr J R McInnes  
Cllr C Mott            Cllr D E Moyse  
Cllr C R Musgrave    Cllr R J Oxborough  
Cllr G Parker          Cllr T G Pearce  
Cllr P J Ridgers      Cllr A Roberts  
Cllr R F D Sampson   Cllr L Samuel  
Cllr P R Sanders      Cllr L Watts  
Cllr J Yelland

Head of Paid Service  
Acting Lead Specialist Legal  
Senior Specialist – Democratic Services  
Section 151 Officer

**CM 49                    APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R Cheadle, J Evans, D K A Sellis, J Sheldon and B Stephens.

**CM 50                    CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Cllr P R Sanders, seconded by Cllr L Samuel and upon the motion being submitted to the Meeting was declared to be **CARRIED** and **“RESOLVED** that the Council agree the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 December 2017 as a true record.”

**CM 51                    DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

The Mayor invited Members to declare any interests in the items of business to be considered during the course of the meeting. These were recorded as follows:-

Cllrs A F Leech and J Yelland both declared a personal interest in Item 11: ‘Community Governance Review – Okehampton’ (Minute CM 58 below refers) by virtue of being members of Okehampton Town Council and remained in the meeting during the debate and vote on this agenda item;

Cllr G Parker declared a personal interest in Item 10: 'Budget Proposals for 2018/19' (Minute CM 57 below refers) and specifically Appendix F (list of Partnership Funding) by virtue of being the President of the Rotary Club, which was instrumental in the running of the South West Rotary Youth Games and remained in the meeting during the debate and vote on this agenda item;

Cllr J Yelland also declared a personal interest in Item 10: 'Budget Proposals for 2018/19' (Minute CM 57 below refers) and specifically Appendix F (list of Partnership Funding) by virtue of being a volunteer for Citizens Advice and remained in the meeting during the debate and vote on this agenda item;

Cllr N Jory declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Item 10: 'Budget Proposals for 2018/19' (Minute CM 57 below refers) and specifically Appendix F (list of Partnership Funding) by virtue of being employed by Business Information Point (BIP). In the event of any specific issues being raised in relation to BIP, Cllr Jory advised that he would leave the meeting room at that point and would abstain from the vote on the substantive motion on part 4 of the recommendation;

Cllr M Davies declared a personal interest in Item 10: 'Budget Proposals for 2018/19' (Minute CM 57 below refers) and specifically Appendix F (list of Partnership Funding) by virtue of being a Rotarian and remained in the meeting during the debate and vote on this agenda item;

Cllr M Davies also declared a personal interest in Item 7: 'Public Questions' (Minute CM 54 below refers) by virtue of having previously been a trustee of Okehampton Community and Recreation Association (OCRA) and remained in the meeting during consideration of this agenda item;

Cllr K Ball declared a personal interest in Item 7: 'Public Questions' (Minute CM 54 below refers) by virtue of having previously allocated Devon County Council Locality Fund monies to OCRA and remained in the meeting during consideration of this agenda item;

Cllr K Ball also declared a personal interest in Item 10: 'Budget Proposals' (Minute CM 57 below refers) by virtue of having previously allocated Devon County Council Locality Fund monies to OCRA and the Devon Youth Games and remained in the meeting during consideration of this agenda item; and

Cllr K Ball also declared a personal interest in Item 11: 'Community Governance Review – Okehampton' (Minute CM 58 below refers) by virtue of having attended a meeting with Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council in an individual capacity.

**MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

At his discretion, the Mayor made reference to:-

**(a) West Devon Safe Haven – Mr Angus Colton and Mr David Thompson**

As had been highlighted on the published summons for this meeting, the Mayor informed that he had exercised his discretion to invite Messrs Angus Colton and David Thompson to provide a verbal update on the background and work of West Devon Safe Haven.

In so doing, Messrs Colton and Thompson informed that:-

- a public meeting had been called on 3 February 2017 to discuss the potential to help Syrian refugees in West Devon. At this meeting, over 200 people had attended and it was immediately apparent that there were many local residents who were willing to help. Offers of help at this meeting included:
  - o one landlord offering up the use of a flat in Tavistock;
  - o an attendee offering to purchase properties to house refugees;
  - o one landlord offering up the use of a flat in Okehampton; and
  - o a couple offering £250,000 towards the purchase of properties.
- the total number of Syrian refugee families residing in the Borough would soon increase to 4. The representatives confirmed that those refugee families who were currently living in the Borough were very happy and the organisation would like to be able to offer housing provision for a further 4 families;
- there had been a need for the organisation to formalise itself as a charity. As a result of the momentum gained, it was noted that West Devon Safe Haven had been established six months ago and it was hoped that the organisation would ultimately be self-financing;
- the families were desperate to work and would be grateful for any work experience opportunities. The representatives were of the view that the Council may be able to help in this respect. Also, to help integrate these families into the local community, the representatives informed that they did not have extensive knowledge of local sports provision and clubs and would welcome any input from the Council and its Members;

In conclusion, the representatives informed that the families had been met with care and compassion (and absolutely no animosity) throughout West Devon. Furthermore, the representatives wished to dispel the myth that refugees would not be welcomed by local residents in the Borough.

Members thanked the representatives for their informative presentation and some asked that their contact details be passed on to the organisation outside of this Council meeting.

**CM 53 URGENT BUSINESS**

The Mayor informed that he had agreed for one urgent item to be raised at this meeting that related to a Part 2 matter that would be considered as an additional agenda item 13 (Minute CM 60 below refers).

**CM 54 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

**Questions Received from Mr Stuart Lord:**

1. *“Would Councillors agree that the results of cuts in services and funding to projects that currently impact positively on activity, social interaction and support maintaining and developing Community Groups, will have a detrimental impact and that the following outcomes are likely?”*

- *Poorer health;*
- *Increased social isolation and decreased confidence;*
- *Increased crime;*
- *Less voluntary opportunities;*
- *Increased mental health issues;*
- *A lack of integrated opportunities for all but in particular new people to areas; and*
- *A loss of community identity.*

1A. *“Is this reduction in support and funding a false economy as councils will have to deal with the long-term effects of more people becoming vulnerable and experiencing issues in Community Life?”*

In reply, Cllr Sanders informed that he would provide a full written response to these questions in due course. However, in the meantime, Cllr Sanders made the following points:-

- Every Member was fully appreciative of the value of the Voluntary Sector, with a number being heavily involved with voluntary organisations. Furthermore, every Member was aware of the difficulties being experienced by voluntary organisations in obtaining funding;
- Since Council Taxpayers trusted Members to spend public monies appropriately, it was his personal view that, in light of the similarly severe budget pressures facing this Council, priority should be given to core and statutory Council services (such as Waste and Housing) as opposed to non-statutory functions, such as providing funding to voluntary organisations.

(NOTE: Mr Lord had given notice of a further four questions (that were outlined on the published summons). Since Mr Lord had now received a formal reply to these questions (that had also been presented to the Hub Committee at its meeting on 6 February 2018), the Mayor informed that he was not willing for these to be considered again at this meeting).

## **CM 55 NOTICES OF MOTION**

It was noted that there were no motions received for consideration at this meeting.

## **CM 56 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

### **a. Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 16 January 2018**

It was moved by Cllr J Yelland, seconded by Cllr D E Moyse and upon being submitted to the Meeting was declared to be **CARRIED** and “**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the 16 January 2018 meeting be received and noted”.

### **b. Audit Committee – 30 January 2018**

It was moved by Cllr M Davies, seconded by Cllr K Ball and upon being submitted to the Meeting was declared to be **CARRIED** and “**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the 30 January 2018 meeting be received and noted”.

### **c. Development Management and Licensing Committee – 12 December 2017 and 23 January 2018**

It was moved by Cllr P R Sanders, seconded by Cllr A Roberts and upon being submitted to the Meeting was declared to be **CARRIED** and “**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the 12 December 2017 and 23 January 2018 meetings be received and noted, with the exception of Unstarred Minute DM&L 50”.

In so doing, the Committee Chairman advised that he had been made aware of some discrepancies in the attendance and apologies lists for these meetings that would be corrected at the next scheduled Committee meeting.

In respect of the Unstarred Minute:

#### **i. DM&L 50 Review of Development Management Fees and Charges for 2018/19**

It was moved by Cllr P R Sanders, seconded by Cllr A Roberts and upon being submitted to the Meeting was declared to be **CARRIED** and “**RESOLVED** that that the Fees and Charges as set out in Appendix A of the presented agenda report be approved.”

**d. Hub Committee – 6 February 2018**

It was moved by Cllr P R Sanders, seconded by Cllr L Samuel and upon being submitted to the Meeting was declared to be **CARRIED** and “**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the 6 February 2018 meeting be received and noted, with the exception of Unstarred Minutes HC 59 and HC 62”.

In respect of the Unstarred Minutes:

**i. HC 59 Revenue Budget Monitoring to December 2017**

It was moved by Cllr P R Sanders, seconded by Cllr L Samuel and upon being submitted to the Meeting was declared to be **CARRIED** and “**RESOLVED** that:

1. The income surplus (of up to £10,000) be transferred into a Support Services Trading Opportunities Earmarked Reserve at the end of the 2017/18 Financial Year. This is expected to be £10,000 and was generated by HR and Finance in providing support to other Councils on their Transformation Programmes;
2. The underspend on the Leisure budget (of up to £57,000) be transferred into the Leisure Earmarked Reserve at the end of the 2017/18 Financial Year; and
3. The additional planning income of £40,000 be transferred into the Planning Policy and Major Developments Earmarked Reserve at the end of the 2017/18 Financial Year.”

**ii. HC 62 Air Quality Strategy**

It was moved by Cllr P R Sanders, seconded by Cllr L Samuel and upon being submitted to the Meeting was declared to be **CARRIED** and “**RESOLVED** that a public statutory consultation be commenced on the proposed Air Quality Strategy (as outlined at Appendix 1 of the presented Hub Committee agenda report).”

**CM 57 BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2018/19**

A report was considered that updated Members on the revenue and capital budget position for the year 2018/19.

The Leader introduced the report and emphasised the significant financial challenges that were facing the Council and stressed the need for the Council to cut its expenditure whilst increasing its income.

Following the Leader's introduction, the Mayor invited questions from the meeting and reference was made to:-

- the projected income of £180,000 from the reasonable setting of car parking tariffs. In reiterating the view expressed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that the additional income projection was ambitious, a Member questioned whether usage levels had been taken into account. In response, it was noted that this matter would be addressed by the Car Parking Strategy Group at its meeting on 6 March 2018;
- the proposal to reduce the size of the Hub Committee. In light of the Hub Committee recommendation being to defer this matter to the Political Structures Working Group, it was not felt appropriate to pre-empt the outcome of this review by recommending any savings at this time;
- the findings of the Financial Stability Member Working Group. It was intended that these findings would be presented to the next Hub Committee meeting on 14 March 2018;
- the proposed closure of the Okehampton office. In the event of this proposal being approved by the Council, it was confirmed that alternative provision would be put in place, with the Council's Locality Service being utilised for this purpose.

In the ensuing debate on this agenda item, reference was made to:-

- (a) part 1 of the recommendation. Such were the severe financial pressures facing the Council, that Members felt that they had little option other than to support the proposal to increase Council Tax by 2.99% (i.e. the maximum increase without triggering a referendum) for 2018/19;

In accordance with statutory legislation, the Mayor then called for a recorded vote on part 1 only of the recommendation (i.e. that Council Tax be increased by 2.99% for 2018/19). The vote was subsequently recorded as follows:-

For the motion (26):                      Cllrs Baldwin, Ball, Cann OBE, Cloke, Davies, Edmonds, Hockridge, Jory, Kimber, Lamb, Leech, McInnes, Moody, Mott, Moyse, Musgrave, Oxborough, Parker, Pearce, Ridgers, Roberts, Sampson, Samuel, Sanders, Watts and Yelland

Against the motion (0):

Abstentions (0):

Absent (5):                                      Cllrs Cheadle, Evans, Sellis, Sheldon and Stephens

and the vote on part 1 was therefore declared **CARRIED**.

- (b) an amendment to part 4 of the recommendation. As was outlined on the published summons, Cllr Leech had given notice of this intention to **PROPOSE** the following amendment at this meeting:

*“That a decision to cut the funding of the following groups should be deferred for twelve months:*

- *Okehampton Community Transport Group;*
- *Tavistock Ring and Ride Group;*
- *West Devon Community and Voluntary Service;*
- *Citizens Advice;*
- *Young Devon; and*
- *South West Rotary Youth Games.*

*This would allow these charities to have the opportunity to find future funding from elsewhere and, if they want to, add their names to the new WDBC Lottery Scheme that may well help to fill any shortfalls in their budgets by the loss of funding from WDBC.”*

To enable for it to be debated, the amendment was subsequently **SECONDED** by Cllr C R Musgrave. A lengthy debate proceeded to take place during which it became apparent that the Chamber was divided in its support and opposition to the amendment.

In support of the amendment, the following points were raised:-

- (i) Some Members reminded those present that the Council had a social conscience that included helping the less advantaged;
- (ii) Some Members cited examples that they considered illustrated a lack of both consultation and advanced warning of the proposed cuts to a number of those partnerships listed;
- (iii) A Member made reference to the additional grant funding that had been received by the Council since the Task and Finish Group had completed its review. As a consequence, the Member was of the view that this would enable for any decisions to reduce these partnership grants to be deferred for twelve months. However, in so doing, the Member did also emphasise that these partners should be made aware at the earliest opportunity that their future funding from the Council was under serious threat;
- (iv) It was felt that a deferral would enable for these partnerships to be encouraged to sign up to the Lottery Scheme. Furthermore, the success of the Scheme (and its impact on these partnerships) could then be reviewed in twelve months' time;

- (v) A number of Members highlighted that some of these partnerships (e.g. Citizens Advice) in fact deflected work away from the Council. As a result, these Members stated that the proposed reduction would indirectly result in a cost increase to the authority;
- (vi) Given that the Council had a projected £327,154 budget surplus in 2018/19, the £10,670 cost of supporting the amendment was not considered to be a significant sum;
- (vii) The reputational damage of making these cuts at this time was considered to be extensive;
- (viii) A Member advised that, such was his strength of feeling in support of the amendment, he felt compromised in his capacity as a Hub Committee Member. As a consequence, the Member confirmed that he would be supporting the amendment and consequently proceeded to tender his resignation from both the Hub Committee and the Joint Local Plan Joint Steering Group;
- (ix) There was felt to be a lack of rationale in the Task and Finish Group's concluding report to justify each of the proposed cuts.

In opposition to the amendment, reference was made to:-

- (i) the work undertaken to reach this point in the Budget setting process. It was noted that a great deal of time and effort had been put in to both the Task and Finish Group review and Member meetings and workshops to compile this report and it was felt to be unfortunate that amendments were now being sought so late in the process. The Chairman of the Task and Finish Group confirmed that one of the key factors in the recommendations generated by the Review was to ensure that the Council was able to set a balanced budget;
- (ii) the need to take difficult decisions now. Some Members emphasised the need to take a more medium term view and highlighted the forecasted £945,177 budget gap that was facing the Council by 2020/21. As a result, there was a need for all Members to begin to take difficult decisions rather than taking the easy option of deferral for twelve months;
- (iii) the Village Halls and Community Projects provision in the Capital Programme. Some Members cited the allocation of £36,000 in the Capital Programme and felt that the merits of this being used as an alternative funding source for partnerships should be investigated;

(iv) the use of public monies. In simple terms, a Member commented that the proposed amendment effectively constituted the giving of Council Tax monies to charities. As a consequence, the Member reiterated that he could not justify the use of public monies to support those charities listed at the expense of service cuts. Furthermore, the Member highlighted that there were numerous other charitable organisations that did not receive funding from the Council and questioned whether this was fair.

The Mayor then called for a recorded vote on the amendment to part 4 of the recommendation, which was recorded as follows:-

For the amendment (13): Cllrs Baldwin, Cann OBE, Edmonds, Hockridge, Lamb, Leech, McInnes, Moody, Musgrave, Parker, Pearce, Ridgers and Sampson

Against the amendment (13): Cllr Ball, Cloke, Davies, Jory, Kimber, Mott, Moyse, Oxborough, Roberts, Samuel, Sanders, Watts and Yelland

Abstentions (0):

Absent (5): Cllrs Cheadle, Evans, Sellis, Sheldon and Stephens

and the vote was (by virtue of the Mayor's Casting Vote) declared **CARRIED**.

With no further debate forthcoming, the Mayor then called for a recorded vote on part 4 of the recommendation, which was declared as follows:-

For the motion (20): Cllrs Baldwin, Ball, Cann OBE, Davies, Edmonds, Hockridge, Kimber, Lamb, Leech, McInnes, Moody, Musgrave, Oxborough, Parker, Pearce, Ridgers, Sampson, Samuel, Sanders and Watts

Against the motion (3): Cllr Cloke, Mott and Moyse

Abstentions (3): Cllr Jory, Roberts and Yelland

Absent (5): Cllrs Cheadle, Evans, Sellis, Sheldon and Stephens

and the vote was therefore declared **CARRIED**.

(c) an amendment to part 5 of the recommendation. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16(10), an amendment had been received from Cllr Baldwin that he duly **PROPOSED** that read as follows:-

*'That the Council produce more concise agenda papers, with links to detailed appendices to reduce the quantity of paper used.'*

*In order to compensate for the reduced saving by not moving to totally paperless agendas, free Members lunches are no longer provided.'*

Cllr Pearce subsequently **SECONDED** the amendment and, in the ensuing debate, the following points were raised:-

- (i) Members were reminded that they could still print off paper copies of Committee agenda papers, however this would be at their own personal cost;
- (ii) A number of other Councils had been paperless for a period of time and the transition had been seemingly smooth;
- (iii) There was widespread sympathy expressed for the point that some Committee reports should be far more concise;
- (iv) Some concerns were expressed over both the reliability and functionality of the Council provided iPads;
- (v) Specific assurances were given whereby the Modern.Gov application enabled users to make notes and annotations on Committee agendas;
- (vi) Members were reminded that the proposed saving included provision for the Chairman and Vice Chairman of a Committee to still receive a paper copy of their meeting agendas.

The Mayor then called for a recorded vote on the amendment to part 5 of the recommendation, which was recorded as follows:-

For the amendment (10): Cllrs Baldwin, Cann OBE, Cloke, Lamb, Leech, Moyse, Oxborough, Pearce, Ridgers and Yelland

Against the amendment (15): Cllr Ball, Davies, Edmonds, Jory, Kimber, McInnes, Moody, Mott, Musgrave, Parker, Roberts, Sampson, Samuel, Sanders and Watts

Abstentions (0):

Absent (6): Cllrs Cheadle, Evans, Hockridge, Sellis, Sheldon and Stephens

and the vote on this amendment was therefore declared **LOST**.

With no further debate forthcoming, the Mayor then called for a recorded vote on part 5 of the recommendation, which was declared as follows:-

For the motion (25): Cllrs Baldwin, Ball, Cann OBE, Cloke, Davies, Edmonds, Jory, Kimber, Lamb, Leech, McInnes, Moody, Mott, Moyse, Musgrave, Oxborough, Parker, Pearce, Ridgers, Roberts, Sampson, Samuel, Sanders, Watts and Yelland

Against the motion (0):

Abstentions (0):

Absent (6): Cllrs Cheadle, Evans, Hockridge, Sellis, Sheldon and Stephens

and the vote was therefore declared **CARRIED**.

With no further issues raised, the Mayor then called for a recorded vote on parts 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 of the recommendation and the vote was recorded as follows:-

For the motion (24): Cllrs Baldwin, Ball, Cann OBE, Cloke, Davies, Edmonds, Jory, Kimber, Lamb, Leech, McInnes, Moody, Mott, Moyse, Musgrave, Parker, Pearce, Ridgers, Roberts, Sampson, Samuel, Sanders, Watts and Yelland

Against the motion (0):

Abstentions (0):

Absent (7): Cllrs Cheadle, Evans, Hockridge, Oxborough, Sellis, Sheldon and Stephens

and the vote was therefore declared **CARRIED**.

It was consequently **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) Council Tax be increased by 2.99% for 2018/19 (Band D of £224.91 for 2018/19 – an increase of 13 pence per week or £6.52 per year). This equates to a Council Tax requirement of £4,524,706 (as shown in Appendix B of the presented agenda report));
- (ii) the financial pressures in Appendix A of the presented agenda report £674,500 be approved;
- (iii) the contributions to Earmarked Reserves of £60,000 be approved;
- (iv) the reductions in Partnership Funding levels of £15,330 as set out in Appendix F of the presented agenda report be approved and £10,000 also be approved for crowdfunding;

- (v) the proposed savings and income of £783,930 as shown in Appendix A of the presented agenda report be approved (NB. This includes £180,000 of projected income from the reasonable setting of car parking tariffs (as per paragraphs 6.9 to 6.13 of the presented agenda report));
- (vi) £560,000 of New Homes Bonus funding is used to fund the 2018/19 Revenue Budget (as shown in Appendix A and Appendix C of the presented agenda report);
- (vii) delegated authority be granted to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, to agree the final amount of New Homes Bonus funding for the Dartmoor National Park Sustainable Community Fund for 2018/19;
- (viii) a collection fund surplus of £96,000 be utilised in 2018/19;
- (ix) the 2018/19 budget surplus of £316,484 be transferred into a Future Financial Stability Earmarked Reserve to assist with future financial sustainability (as detailed in paragraph 1.9 of the presented agenda report);
- (x) the Total Net Expenditure of the Council is £7,313,795 for 2018/19;
- (xi) the Council Tax Support Grant paid to Town and Parish Councils be reduced by 8.6% for 2018/19 (as indicated at Appendix A of the presented agenda report). This equates to a payment of £64,744 for 2018/19;
- (xii) the Environmental Health Fees and Charges (as set out in Appendix H of the presented agenda report) be approved. NOTE. The Fees and Charges for car parking are part of recommendation (v);
- (xiii) the 2018/19 Capital Programme projects as per Appendix C of the presented agenda report be approved;
- (xiv) the financing of the Capital Programme is as per Appendix C of the presented agenda report;
- (xv) the level of reserves as set out within this report and the assessment of their adequacy and the robustness of budget estimates be noted. (NB. This is a requirement of Part 2 of the Local Government Act 2003).

**CM 58****COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – OKEHAMPTON**

The Council considered a report that presented the latest recommendations from the Political Structures Working Group on the Community Governance Review that was initially instigated following a request by Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council.

In discussion, the following points were raised:-

- (a) The majority of Members felt that the recommendations were a pragmatic way forward at this time. However, the need for an improvement in working relations between the Parish Council and Okehampton Town Council was recognised;
- (b) In what had proven to be a very difficult and contentious issue, a number of Members wished to put on record their particular gratitude and thanks to the Chairman of the Working Group; the Acting Lead Specialist Legal; and the Senior Specialist Democratic Services for their hard work and professionalism during this Review;
- (c) Regardless of the recommendation, a local Ward Member did wish to put on record that he still supported the original request of the Parish Council to increase its size from 8 to 10 Parish Councillors.

It was then moved by Cllr J R McInnes and seconded by Cllr P Sanders and declared **CARRIED** and **RESOLVED** that, in light of the submissions received during Stages 2 and 4 of the Community Governance Review:

1. The status quo be maintained (i.e. the size of the Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council is retained at 8 Parish Councillors and there be no adjustments made to the Okehampton Hamlets / Okehampton Town Parish Boundary); and
2. The Review therefore be concluded with immediate effect.

**CM 59****APPOINTMENT OF ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER AND RETURNING OFFICER**

The Council considered a report that sought approval to appoint the Group Manager – Commercial Services (Helen Dobby) as the Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer for West Devon Borough Council.

It was then moved by Cllr P R Sanders and seconded by Cllr L Samuel and declared **CARRIED** and **RESOLVED** that with immediate effect:

1. the Group Manager – Commercial Services (Helen Dobby) be appointed as the Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer for West Devon Borough Council; and

2. the Group Manager – Business Development (Darren Arulvasagam) be appointed as the Deputy Electoral Registration Officer for West Devon Borough Council.”

**CM 60**

**URGENT ITEM – PLANNING MATTER**

(Resolved that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that exempt information is likely to be disclosed as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) to the Act).

As had been highlighted by the Mayor at the start of the meeting (Minute CM 53 above refers), the Council considered an urgent planning matter.

Following a brief debate, it was then moved by Cllr P R Sanders and seconded by Cllr R F D Sampson and declared **CARRIED** and **“RESOLVED** that the Planning Earmarked Reserve may be utilised to settle any agreed Settlement or Cost Order in the Abbey Meadow Planning Appeal in accordance with terms to be agreed between the Section 151 Officer, Monitoring Officer and Development Management Community Of Practice Lead, in consultation with the Leader of Council.”

(The Meeting terminated at 8.10 pm)

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**Mayor**