

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING** OF THE **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2024** AT 7.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT: Councillor D Corney-Walker (Chairperson) Presiding
L Wood (Vice Chairperson)

Councillors L Cooke M Joyce
C Davieson M Ryan
A Hall (Mayor)

In attendance: Phil Rowe – Town Clerk
Linda McGuirk – Principal Administrator

By Invitation: Inspector James Johnson, Devon & Cornwall Police
Rebecca Hewitt, Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager –
Teignbridge District Council

249. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Valid reasons for absence were received from Councillors B Bailey, P Bullivant, A Gibbs and C Parker. Members agreed to accept the reasons for absence.

Apologies were also received on behalf of Sam Scott – Deputy Town Clerk & RFO and Nigel Canham – Communications Advisor.

250. INTERESTS

None declared.

251. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 4th September 2024 were received and signed as a correct record.

252. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

253. PRESENTATION

The Chairperson, Councillor D Corney-Walker, welcomed Inspector James Johnson and the District Council's Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager, Rebecca Hewitt to the meeting and invited them to give a report on the Street Marshal project in Newton Abbot.

Members were informed the project is part of a hot spot policing initiative across Devon and Cornwall. The patrols aim to proactively disrupt crime and act as a deterrent, as well as providing a reassuring presence to help people feel safe. It represents a multi-agency approach to improving community safety. The presentation also provided information on:

Chair initials.....

- How hot spots were identified
- Timescale to implement the scheme
- Who is delivering the service
- Home office criteria
- Patrol patterns
- The hot spot team
- Funding and the end of the funding period
- Data analysis and the positive impact to date
- Performance and Feedback from the community

The Chairperson, Councillor D Corney-Walker, thanked the representatives for their reports and was impressed how quickly the scheme had been successfully established. Councillors were invited to ask questions on the presentation and enquired about:

- The potential to disperse anti-social behaviour from hot spots to other areas of the town
- Who monitors the data?
- Patrol days
- Future funding

Members expressed their thanks to Inspector Johnson and Rebecca Hewitt for the project update.

254. **REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Chairperson invited members that are representatives on outside bodies to report on meetings they had attended.

Councillor L Wood reported she had spent a Friday evening in September shadowing the new street marshals during an evening patrol. Councillor Wood had also attended a meeting of the Scouts.

Councillor L Cooke reported that along with Councillors A Hall and R Buscombe they had enjoyed attending a meeting of the Newton Abbot Youth Council.

Councillor M Joyce reported he had attended meetings of the following organisations:

- Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) AGM
- Monthly Police Advocates
- Newton Abbot Security Trust
- Community Speed Watch

255. **POLICIES**

The Chairperson introduced the policy documents, previously circulated.

- a) Leave Policy

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The Town Clerk advised the leave policy had undergone a full review including updates to Carers Leave and inclusion of a section regarding Time Off In Lieu (TOIL).

b) Health & Safety Manual

The Town Clerk confirmed minor amendments had been made to the Health & Safety Manual in relation to COVID guidance.

c) Dignity at Work

The Town Clerk advised the Dignity at Work policy had been reviewed with no suggested amendments required.

d) Dealing with habitual or vexatious complainants'

The Town Clerk advised the Dealing with habitual or vexatious complainants' policy had been reviewed with no suggested amendments required.

e) Hens on allotments

The Principal Administrator advised this was a new policy to the Council. The Newton Abbot Allotment Association had reviewed the draft policy and suggested inclusion of additional details about the protection of hens from predators and vermin control.

Following a review of the policy documents among Members, it was:

RESOLVED that the policies in relation to the:

- Leave Policy
- Health & Safety Manual
- Dignity at Work
- Vexatious Complainants
- Hens on allotments

be hereby, approved and adopted subject the suggested minor amendments.

256. **ACCOUNTS INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

The Committee received the overview of Income and Expenditure statements for the Policy and Resources Committee for the Period 1st April 2024 to 30th September 2024.

Town Clerk reported that an official notification had been received today confirming the 2024 pay award has been approved. The pay award equates to £1,290 per annum/per employee for all scale points up to and including SCP43 and 2.50% for employees above SCP43. The pay award is back dated to 1st April 2024.

Accordingly, it was:

Chair initials.....

RESOLVED that the Financial Budget Comparison report for the period 1st April 2024 to 30th September 2024 be hereby approved.

257. HERITAGE ASSETS CRITERIA

The Town Clerk informed members that the Heritage Asset Criteria, circulated prior to the meeting, required minor updates. Members considered the proposed amendments and arising from the discussion, it was:

RESOLVED that the Heritage Asset Criteria be hereby approved and adopted.

Cllr M Ryan abstained from voting.

258. LATE CORRESPONDENCE

None.

259. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 12th February 2024.

Meeting closed at 19:55

Chairperson.....Date.....

Chair initials.....