

# EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at Knowle, Sidmouth, on Wednesday, 16 April 2008

### Present:

### Councillors:

P A Diviani (Chairman)

Miss V Ash  
D G Atkins  
R Bloxham  
R W Boote  
P Bowden  
G P Brown  
G P Chamberlain  
D B Chapman  
I R Chubb  
T A Cope  
D J Cox  
A E J Dinnis  
Mrs C E Drew  
Miss J M Elson  
M Florey  
R G Franklin  
K W George  
C F A Gibbings  
A R Giles  
G Godbeer  
Mrs P A Graham  
M J L Green  
J P Halse  
Mrs M L Hardy  
S Hughes  
D R H Hull

B O Ingham  
H J Jeffery  
Mrs S Jones  
D R A Key  
J A Knight  
Mrs A E Liverton  
G K Liverton  
S C Luxton  
A T Moulding  
Mrs F I Newth  
K D Nicholas  
J B Nicholson  
Mrs H E Parr  
R C Peachey  
K C Potter  
Miss S M Randall Johnson  
A W J Reed  
Mrs M A Rogers  
Mrs B O Taylor  
C T Tratt  
G M Troman  
J M Williamson  
TJ R Wood  
Mrs E E Wragg  
S C Wragg

### Also Present

### Officers:

Mark Williams, Chief Executive  
Denise Lyon, Deputy Chief Executive  
Diccon Pearse, Corporate Director  
Karime Hassan, Corporate Director  
Peter Jeffs, Corporate Director  
Diana Vernon, Democratic Services Manager

### Apologies

### Councillors:

Mrs P A Stott (Vice Chairman)  
D G Button  
Ms V Duval-Steer  
S Hall  
J Humphreys  
P J Skinner

Honorary Alderman B Hughes

The meeting started at 6.30 pm and finished at 7.05 pm.



**\*71 Questions**

No questions had been raised by Members of the Council pursuant to Procedure Rules numbers 8.2 and 8.5.

**\*72 Minutes of Executive Board and Committees**

**RESOLVED** (1) that the under-mentioned minutes be received and the recommendations approved

Executive Board	Minutes	159-202
Development Control	Minutes	62-74
Planning Inspections	Minutes	24-25
Licensing and Enforcement Subs	Minutes	16-20 (A) 15-16(B)
Audit and Governance	Minutes	30-43
Standards	Minutes	9-16

(2) that the under-mentioned minutes be received.

The Executive Board (minutes 163 and 182) had noted or accepted the Scrutiny, Corporate Overview Committees' and Housing Review Board's recommendations with or without amendment.

Scrutiny	Minutes	49-65
Corporate Overview	Minutes	24-30
Housing Review Board	Minutes	57-84

**Arising from consideration of the above minutes:-**

- a) Programme of Council, Executive Board and Committee Meetings 2008/09 (Executive Board Minute 173)

The Leader reminded Members that the Annual Meeting of the Council would be held on 14 May 2008.

- b) Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee (Executive Board Minute 182)

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee expressed disappointment that the Chief Executive of the Devon Primary Care Trust (DPCT) had failed to find out about the work of the PULSE scheme. The Leader was equally disappointed on this account and regarded PULSE as being a vital service initiated by this Council to improve the health of the district. She also confirmed that she would be willing to chase the DPCT for answers to the questions raised by the Scrutiny Committee.

- c) Draft Climate Change Strategy (Executive Board Minute 186)

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee welcomed the Strategy, and referred to climate change as the greatest threat faced by the world. He would like to see the Strategy going further to address the problem. The Leader recommended that Members looked at the Exeter University web site which set out quick wins and long-term actions to achieve positive change. She said that climate change issues were an urgent challenge for us all and positive and effective action was needed. Cranbrook was a good example of how this Council was doing its utmost to deliver a sustainable community by demanding the highest possible standards to reduce carbon emissions through planning and building control.

**Arising from consideration of the above minutes (cont)..**

d) Housing Review Board

The Chairman of the Housing Review Board advised that on Monday this week the new Tenants' Partnership Agreement with East Devon District Council had been signed. This agreement had involved fully the Tenant and Leaseholder Customer Panel and was a very positive, forward-looking example of effective collaborative working.

**\*73 Local Government Re-organisation in Devon**

Members were given the opportunity to further comment on this Council's submission to the Boundary Committee. Copies of the document submitted had been tabled prior to the meeting together with a summary of concepts proposed by the other Devon authorities.

The Leader thanked the Chief Executive and Officers for the work involved in producing this Council's concept for reorganisation in time for submission on 11 April 2008. The work had included consultation with local councils, business groups and other organisations. She believed that of all of the Devon authority submissions, East Devon District Council was the only one which had proposed a workable solution for the whole of the county. Other authorities had concentrated on their own boundaries or interests. The submission was based logically on journey to work areas based on economic centres (Barnstaple, Exeter, Torbay and Plymouth) and recognised the need for each areas to be linked to main road networks. This Council's submission was forward-looking and included the potential for Exeter and Cranbrook to expand on land other than on floodplain or National Trust land.

Although this Council would prefer to retain the two tier option, the Boundary Committee was looking at unitary bids only. The Committee would be looking at the unitary concepts for Devon over the next few weeks and would be advising its preferred option in July. The option would then be open for public consultation.

The Leader appreciated that all East Devon District Councillors wanted to represent the local area and irrespective of what changes were decided by Government, she knew that the Councillors would want to continue to deliver good services to local people.

The Deputy Leader thanked the Leader and Chief Executive for their clear vision and leadership. He believed all Councillors should be proud of this Council's positive response to the re-organisation challenge.

Chairman .....

Date .....