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➤ EDDC News

Meetings

Please note meetings shaded pink are **NOT** open to the public

Where ➤ is shown - click the name of the meeting to link to the agenda

Meeting	DSO	Date	Time	Location
➤ Licensing & Enforcement Committee	CL	Tuesday 22 November	9:30	Council Chamber
➤ Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	CL	Tuesday 22 November	9:30	Council Chamber
Elizabeth Hall Advisory Forum	AT	Tuesday 22 November	19:00	Exmouth Town Hall
Asset Management Forum	CL	Thursday 24 November	9:30	Committee Room
Economy Think Tank (Portfolio Holder – Graham Godbeer)		Thursday 24 November	14:15	Head of Economy's Office (Room 159)
Corporate Business Think Tank (Portfolio Holder – Ray Bloxham)		Thursday 24 November	16:30	Committee Room
➤ Overview and Scrutiny Committee	DM	Thursday 24 November	18:30	Council Chamber
Car Parking in Council Housing Areas - Task and Finish Forum	AT	Friday 25 November	10:00	Room 1
➤ Planning Inspections Committee	CEH	Friday 25 November	10:00	Council Chamber
Licensing & Enforcement Committee	CL	Tuesday 29 November	9:30	CANCELLED
Office Accommodation Working Party	CL	Tuesday 29 November	18:30	Committee Room
Cabinet	DV	Wednesday 30 November	17:30	Council Chamber
Housing Review Board	DM	Thursday 1 December	18:00	Council Chamber
East Devon Business Forum	CL	Thursday 1 December	18:00	East Devon Business Centre, Honiton
Working Together for the Future of East Devon (further details below)	JB	Friday 2 December	09:00-16:00	Council Chamber

On 2 December EDDC is hosting an event for Town and Parish Councils, voluntary and community groups and Elected Members to help them to find out more about the Coalition Government's Localism agenda as well as health, wellbeing, and welfare reforms that are happening in East Devon. Guest speakers will include representatives from Locality (the UK's leading network for community organisations), East Devon's Citizens Advice Bureau and NHS Devon.

The event also aims to bring local agencies together to improve communications between the voluntary and statutory sectors.

They will also have an opportunity to suggest changes to what EDDC plans to do over the next four years in its draft plans for Housing and Communities, Economy, and Environment.

In the national press

➤ Call to change council funding

The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee has said that baffling funding formulas mean that some councils are missing out on money while others get double the amount they need. The Committee will call for radical changes to the way in which the Government allocates funding to councils and police authorities. Chair of the Committee, Margaret Hodge is quoted: "There are a lot of things wrong with the formulae that have led to unfair allocations."

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Chairman's engagements

Friday 18 November

Chairman to host the official opening of the Axe Wetlands Nature Studies Shelter

Sunday 20 November

Chairman and Mrs Halse to attend the anniversary service of the Honiton Evangelical and Congregational Church followed by a buffet lunch

Monday 21 November

The Chairman to attend the Dunkeswell Parish Council Meeting to observe

New documents in Members' Area

The Office of Constable – the bedrock of modern day British policing

The Office of Constable has evolved over the centuries and the 'British Bobby' is recognised across the world, but what is it that makes it so special, so endearing, so different?

This Police Federation pamphlet is available in the Members' Area, with spare copies for Councillors to collect if they so wish.

➤ One in 10 lights dimmed as councils try to save cash



Almost one in 10 street lights is turned off or dimmed overnight as councils seek to save money on energy bills, but the cost for installing the technology or converting lights to part night operation means some councils will not start seeing the benefits for up to eight years. Cllr Peter Box, Chairman of the LGA's Economy and Transport Board, said: "At these times of severe financial pressure all councils are looking for ways to make savings without impacting on frontline services such as child protection, adult social care, collecting bins and filling potholes. Provided it is done in consultation with the police and local communities, reducing some street lighting can save taxpayers' money without reducing public safety."

➤ Elderly face 'tragedy' as care homes go under



A generation of elderly people face a "tragedy" of worsening care after the number of nursing home companies collapsing through a lack of funds doubled in the last year, analysts have warned. Researchers found council rates are no longer enough to cover the cost of providing the most basic standards of care required by law. But Cllr David Rogers, of the LGA, said: "There isn't enough money in the system and it needs urgent reform. Councils don't want care homes to go out of business; they need places where older residents can be well cared for. Many go out of their way to support good care homes."

➤ After the riots: Pickles tells councils to 'nip problem families in the bud'

Councils could be given new powers to deal with problem families in order to prevent a repeat of this summer's riots. Speaking at the LGA's conference for council leaders last month, Eric Pickles, Secretary for Local Government, said "nothing is off the table" when it comes to local authorities' response to public disorder. Pickles, said the rioting – which happened over three days from 6 August 2011 and has resulted in almost 2,000 court appearances to date – was "disgraceful".



➤ Minister's parish ale pump plan

Parish councils have been urged to take over pubs facing closure. Local Government Minister Grant Shapps wants the grassroots authorities to either bail out pubs with grants, or take the freeholds. Next year councils will be able to offer pubs discounts on rates and protect them from being demolished or converted.

➤ Scrap metal regulations urged to combat theft

Tougher regulations on the scrap metal trade are needed to combat "soaring" theft, including of plaques from war memorials, say town hall chiefs. The LGA proposes measures including a ban on cash payments so sellers can be traced. "Because of the lax regulation of the scrap metal industry, thieves can make a quick buck from unscrupulous dealers," said LGA's Mehboob Khan.

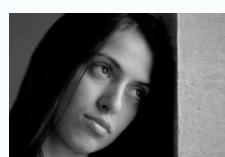


➤ The tide turns against library cuts in Blackpool

Blackpool council is investing more than £1m in libraries, in contrast to the rolling programme of cuts and closures across much of the rest of Britain. The council's decision has been hailed a triumph and another step in the seaside town's revival.

➤ Library closures ruled unlawful

A High Court has ruled that proposed library closures in Somerset and Gloucestershire are unlawful, creating fresh hope for those seeking to challenge library cutbacks nationwide.



➤ Youth unemployment on the rise

The number of 16-25-year-olds unemployed has reached 2.62million.

➤ **Drink dangers to be taught at school**

Hull City Council has announced that primary school pupils are to be taught the dangers of drinking to help deal with high levels of teenage binge drinking.

➤ **Audit Commission report shows councils are coping with cuts**

A report from the Audit Commission shows strong leadership and financial management means that nine out of ten councils should break even this year, with only one in ten at risk of not meeting its budget. The Commission also found that elderly and disabled will face greater hurdles in their struggle to get care from councils.

East Devon schools join in 11 Million Takeover Day

More than 40 pupils visited EDDC on Friday 11 November, as part of the national Takeover Day. Schoolchildren from all around East Devon were invited into the Council to say how they would run things if they were in charge.

The schools involved were from Newton Poppleford, Exmouth (Littleham), Plymtree and Musbury.

The pupils, all aged between 10 and 11 years old, had a chance to:

- * find out about food safety by taking part in a mock-up of an unsuitable kitchen
- * take part in a 'special council meeting' to debate a local issue of particular relevance to young people; the debate involved dressing up to help the 'young Councillors' and 'interested parties' get into character
- * help EDDC's Housing Team plan a community festival
- * take part in a session with our Waste and Recycling Team to look at how countries can save resources.



Councillor Frances Newth with children from Littleham School during the 11 Million Takeover Day. (Left: more photos from the day)

Democratic Services produces this weekly information sheet every Friday for Members of East Devon District Council. Please contact [Diana Vernon](#) if you have any comments about the newsletter.