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Chairman's engagements

Friday 20 May

Vice Chairman to attend the Devon NFU Breakfast Reception at the County Show

Sunday 22 May 2011

Chairman and Mrs Liverton to attend the Lord Mayor of Plymouth's Civic Service at St Andrew's Minster Church, Plymouth

Contact us:
knowledge@eastdevon.gov.uk

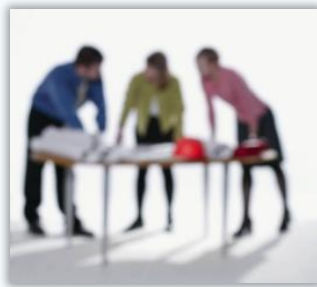
Democratic Services Officers

Diana Vernon 01395 517541
Christopher Holland 01395 517543
Chris Lane 01395 517544
Debbie Meakin 01395 517540
Alethea Thompson 01395 517525
Hannah Whitfield 01395 517542

Meetings

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

| Meeting | DSO | Date | Time | Location |
|---|-----|------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Chief Executive briefing prior to annual meeting of the Council | DV | Wednesday 25 May | 5.30pm | Council Chamber |
| > Annual Council | DV | Wednesday 25 May | 6.30pm | Council Chamber |



Reminder

There is planning training for all Councillors on Wednesday 1 June and Tuesday 7 June. These are all-day sessions (including lunch) – each dealing with different planning issues. It is necessary for all Councillors serving on the Development Management Committee to attend so that they understand the decision-making process and relevant legislation. Full details of timings and the programme will be issued shortly.

LGA Weekly

> Localism bill

LGA briefing highlights concerns with the Bill and parts they want to see amended, particularly relating to the overly-prescriptive approach being taken by the Government.

> Troops on the frontline will be among first in line for council housing



Many councils have reviewed housing allocation policy to ensure that returning armed forces heroes are given priority when they apply for social housing. Perks like free gym membership and shopping discounts are being offered to former and current military men and women in some parts of the country.

In the national press

No more licences to party



The "bonkers red tape" that forces organisers of village hall carol concerts or club karaoke nights to pay their councils up to £2,000 for licences is to be scrapped. The move by John Penrose, the Tourism Minister, to liberalise the licensing law will delight charities, the music industry and community groups, which blame it for stifling creativity, damaging village life and forcing closure of small music venues, it is claimed.

Sunday Times 15/5/11 p1

➤ **Businesses to have more say on planning in trial areas**

London's South Bank and Trafford Park in Manchester are among eight areas that will act as pilots for new business-led neighbourhood plans. The plans reflect a late alteration to the Localism Bill to give business greater influence over development. Ministers say the process will not sideline local people because residents will still have a chance to veto plans.



➤ **Report calls for new property tax**

A new national property tax will be needed alongside more house building if homes are to become more affordable in the UK. A report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, has found that the UK's housing market is unusually volatile when compared with other countries. It calls for changing the way council taxes are levied, claiming the current system penalises new homebuyers.

Dead end: no room left to rest in peace

Britain is fast running out of space to bury its dead, leaving councils and Government with less than a decade to find more graves before some of the nation's cemeteries are full, it is reported. More than 300 councils responded to a request for information, revealing an average of 30 years before public cemeteries in Britain are full to capacity. Times 17/5/11 p13



➤ **Portas' call**

Queen of Shops star Mary Portas is heading a Government review on how to save Britain's high streets. The presenter will look at what councils, businesses and Government can do to create more varied and prosperous shopping areas.

➤ **Reformed social care system by 2015**

Care Services Minister, Paul Burstow, addressed delegates at a social workers and care home managers conference. He said that the current social care system meant that many elderly people are hit with "catastrophic" costs and promised that a reformed system would be introduced in England by 2015 with a White Paper detailing plans scheduled for December this year.

| | |
|---|--|
| Making it Local News May 2011 Funding for rural businesses and communities in the Blackdown Hills and East Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty | Making it local |
|  <small>Stafford Marsh Field Scout Building, on the Axe Estuary</small> | Funding update We have now approved 48 projects, amounting to a total commitment of £1.2million. We have received and fed back on 271 Initial Project Outline enquiries by May 2011. Fifteen projects are now successfully completed, with many more in full swing. Please see our website www.makingitlocal.co.uk for details of projects. |

Making it local

Download the **May 2011 newsletter** for more information on the latest projects.

Wren ♦ Photo by Peter Vernon

