

West Devon Borough Council Report

Prepared by Cllr. Ursula Mann

23/01/24

Parking Charging Update

At the last Full Council meeting on December 19th, WDBC joined Tavistock Town Council in opposing the parking charging scheme being proposed by Devon County Council. Subsequently, West Devon has attempted to meet with Devon County to discuss the parking meters, but these requests for a meeting, and for further information, have been declined by Devon County Council.

The Draft Budget

The draft budget is being considered at the next Hub meeting on January 30th.

<https://mg.swdevon.gov.uk/documents/s31387/Draft%20Revenue%20and%20Capital%20Budget%20Proposals%20for%202024-25.pdf>

It is of particular interest that between 2009/10 and 2020/21, West Devon Borough Council's Core Government funding has reduced by £3 million. As already reported, WDBC proposes to increase Council Tax for 2024/25 by 2.99% (This would increase a Band D council tax for 24/25 from £254.00 to £261.59 – an increase of £7.59 per year or under 15 pence per week)

The Council Plan

West Devon Borough Council has during December and January been consulting with the community and local parish councils about the proposed Council Plan. This included a meeting that some Town Councillors attended last week at which they could ask questions and propose amendments to the plan ahead of its adoption.

The proposed Council Plan is now available on the WDBC website in the agenda for the next Hub meeting on January 30th.

<https://mg.swdevon.gov.uk/documents/s31414/The%20Council%20Plan%202024-2028.pdf>

I have highlighted below some of the items in the delivery plan for the council plan that will be of particular interest to the Town Council, while the full plan will, of course, be of general interest to members as local residents.

Natural Environment

NE 2.1 - Develop, review and adopt a Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plan for the Borough to inform future strategic planning.

NE 2.5 - Work with communities, Town and Parish Councils to understand existing plans for, and identify any future areas within the borough that could be used as allotments.

Built Environment

BE 1.1 - Support Town and Parish Councils/neighbourhood forums in the making of at least two neighbourhood plans a year.

BE 1.5 - Contribute to and promote the World Heritage Site and partnership and provide a longer-term funding agreement.

BE 2.5 - Support Network Rail and Devon County Council with the development of the business case to reinstate five miles of track and deliver a new single platform station at Tavistock, which would serve communities in Tavistock, Horrabridge, Lamerton, and Mary Tavy.

Housing

H2.1 - Progress plans with the redevelopment of Council owned office space (20 Plymouth Road, Tavistock) for temporary accommodation

People and Communities

PC 2.6 - Lobby partners for better service provision in West Devon - for example Devon County Council for potholes and youth provision

Economy

EJ 3.3 Work with Town Councils and partners to develop town plans to help shape the economy of our places.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Finally, The Overview and Scrutiny Committee met in January with representatives from South West Water and the Environment Agency to raise questions about water quality in our local rivers, including the Tavy, and how South West Water will be implementing the planned improvements of local systems for handling runoff and preventing spills.

The committee also scrutinised the proposed budget and the council's performance between April - November 2023.

You can view that meeting online here:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Or8YsvX2TEA?si=naToV7YwiW-LW-J9>