

TEIGNBRIDGE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (TALC)

Secretary: Dudley Swain 01392 833353 email: dudleyswain@yahoo.co.uk

Minutes

of the meeting held Thursday 25th January 2018 at Forde House

Present:

Ashburton	John Nutley; Philip Vogel	Ideford	David Fox; Ashley Lamb
Bishopsteignton	Elaine Cawthraw; Henry Merritt	Ipplepen	Roger Carnell
Bovey Tracey	Steven Leigh	Kenn & Kennford	Andy Chislett; Bridgette Williams
Buckfastleigh	Janet Jones	Newton Abbot	David Howe (Chairman)
Chudleigh	Michael McCormick	Tedburn St. Mary	Carol Bunday; Mike Hocking
Dawlish	Val Mawhood	TDC	Gary Powell
Denbury & Torbryan	Tony Brownhill		
Dunchideock	Dudley Swain		

Apologies:

Ashton (John May); Bovey Tracey (Tony Allen); Chudleigh (Peter Jackson); Dawlish (Howard Almond); Ideford (Anthony French); Kingsteignton (Chris Meathrel); Ogwell (Richard Broome); Teignmouth (Sylvia Russell); Whitestone (Tony Reed; Les Hickman)

1 Devon Councillor Advocate Scheme and general update from the PCC Office -Victoria Booty, Policy Officer, D&C Police & Crime Commissioner's Office

The Councillor Advocate Scheme (CAS) is scheduled to be launched at the end of February but this will be a preliminary version since PCC wants Councillors involved in the development of the final scheme. Its essence is to improve the connection between local Cllrs. and both the PCC and police and promises to be of considerable benefit to Cllrs. Particular features will include:

- CA's will be kept informed with local information from the police including police press releases at the same time as they are issued to the media, thus communications and cascading much more police information
- Quarterly meeting for CAs will be held to inform of updates, crime data and emerging issues, especially local operations. Meetings will also deal with local reviews, Project Genesis (neighbourhood policing), PCSO review, rural issues, etc.
- Annual seminars will be held at 4 SW locations, attended by a Ch. Supt.
- Some 37 Cllrs. have expressed an interest to date
- A council could have more than one CA so that the role could be shared

Concern was expressed about the simplistic nature of the current PCC's police funding on-line survey. It mentions nothing about what additional services any additional precept would pay for. It perhaps illustrates the need for improved communications between PCC/police and public. This must also take into account those non-IT connected members of the community. The Systems & Policing Strategy was mentioned, dealing with citizens in policing, existing volunteers, such as Specials, but exploring additional voluntary opportunities. The CAS is not intended to be getting volunteers to undertake police responsibilities.

The current police ALERT (see <https://alerts.dc.police.uk>) community messaging system (phone, email or text) is worth subscribing to, covering a wide range of specialist topics such as Farm Watch. But as ever, contact the police regarding operational matters (e.g. parking on the pavement). If the CA fed such things back to the PCC, this data might build up a picture that the PCC can use to talk tactics with the police. Police are recruiting "Specialist Problem Solvers" to support the prevention of crime, the management of risk, safeguard the vulnerable and contribute to community wellbeing.

Vicky Booty is the PCC's "Community Link" for Teignbridge, i.e. a named contact in the office should a call be necessary.

**2 TDC 2018/19 Budget – Martin Flitcroft, Interim Chief Finance Officer
Claire Moors, Acting Deputy CFO**

The budget timetable was explained which will see final presentation to Council on 22 February. Proposals include a band D equivalent £5 (3.12%) annual increase per household (with some exceptions) leaving our tax still the lowest of Devon's districts. Town/parish councils remain exempt from restrictions to their tax increases (or having to hold a referendum) although the government claims to monitor for untoward changes. Further income reductions scheduled to TDC from New Home Bonus income including a lowering of the "baseline" below which no bonus is awarded. Financial pressures will also increase because of a potential 2 year staff pay award (2% pa) and TDC looking to address their pension deficit. Revenue support grant is reducing. TDC is a pilot for 100% business rate retention. However any extra income over the current arrangement will have to be reinvested in economic growth.

TDC continues to pursue opportunities to do things better, such as joint IT agreements with other councils, contract procurement, management structure changes, increasing service fees by inflation, a further cut to council tax support grant, etc. Car park meters still do not give change but at the Car Parking Working Party (Monday), TDC will consider the Exeter car parking machine option that compensates by allowing additional time for the total money inserted. General reserves are lower than that held by many councils. Capital support by borrowing (at 2.8% from the PWLB) has not yet been necessary although may arise if business opportunities arise that require significant funding. Rural aid and Councillor's community fund support will continue

Mention was made of the investment in Market Walk, an opportunity that arose in 2016. Although it used reserves to execute, this still proves to be sound with a continuing investment income. Further capital opportunities (see 3 yr capital projects list) will probably arise and will make use of earmarked reserves or borrowing as necessary. Good news is the £40k Rural Aid Fund would continue, each District Councillor would retain their £1,500 Community Funding capability and that as part of a Business Rate Pilot, any TDC saving realised would be used toward the Newton Abbot Town Centre Enhancement scheme. An overall picture of the budget forecast is shown in the Appendix.

3 Minutes of the meeting 30th November 2017 – These were approved

4 Secretary's Report

- The bank balance is £80.22.
- There was a discussion about the quality of many planning application drawings (taken off TDC web pages) still being too poor quality for projection at a meeting. Councils should expect their Cllrs. to familiarise themselves with the application prior to the meeting but this doesn't enable the public to see things at the meeting. The workload of the Clerk, preparing things for projection, is an increasing concern to small councils. Councils, when faced with major developments, may approach the developer direct for a set of paper plans. Overall, this topic wasn't as great a problem amongst those present as I had anticipated.

5 Topics for Meeting 29th March 2018.

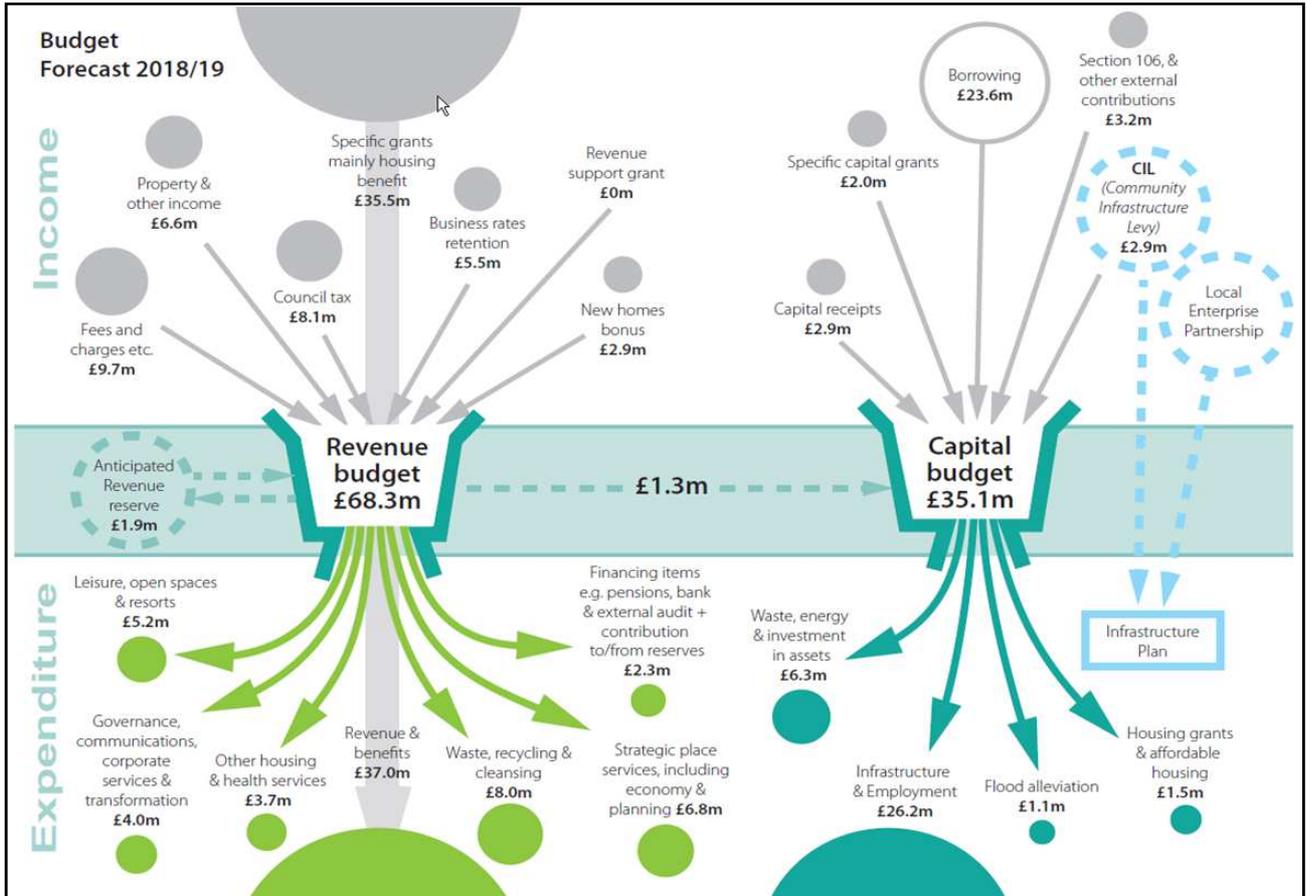
Members requested hearing from Neil Blaney about "Connecting Devon & Somerset" broadband and asked we follow up for a speaker on Local Heritage Assets.

6 Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 29th March 2018 at 7.00pm at Forde House.

Other 2018 Meetings:- 28th June; 27th September; 29th November

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

APPENDIX – Budget Forecast Diagram for 2018/19 & Government Funding



TDC Government funding - £m

