

WHPC Meeting 14th January 2025

Agenda Item 25/039

Public Consultations

1. **Purpose:** To consider the WHPC response, if any, to current public consultations:
2. **EDDC: Tree, Hedge & Woodland Strategy** (Final draft)
 - 2.1. East Devon District Council (EDDC) is working towards becoming carbon neutral by 2040, and to help achieve this, has prepared a district-wide Tree, Hedge & Woodland Strategy. WHPC responded to a consultation on the draft strategy in August 2024.
 - 2.2. EDDC invite further comments on the final revised strategy:
 - [The final draft and consultation is available on the EDDC website](#)
 - Deadline 5pm 31st January 2025

3. **Government: Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England**

The Government is seeking views on proposals to introduce measures to strengthen the standards and conduct regime for local authorities in England. The proposals being consulted upon include:

- The introduction of a mandatory minimum code of conduct for local authorities in England
- A requirement that all principal authorities convene formal standards committees to make decisions on code of conduct breaches, and publish the outcomes of all formal investigations
- The introduction of the power for all local authorities (including combined authorities) to suspend councillors or mayors found in serious breach of their code of conduct and, as appropriate, interim suspension for the most serious and complex cases that may involve police investigations
- A new category of disqualification for gross misconduct and those subject to a sanction of suspension more than once in a 5-year period
- A role for a national body to deal with appeals

Deadline of 26 February 2025

4. **Government: Local Audit Reform** ((deadline 29 January 2025)

The Consultation

1. For Decision

Councillors are invited to decide the Parish Council's response to the survey (Appendix 1).

Anne Oliver, Parish Clerk

8th January 2025