

MEETING DE. 13:0809
Date 07.05.09

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **District Executive** held on **Thursday 7th May 2009** in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

(9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.)

Present:

Members: Tim Carroll (in the Chair)

Tony Fife
Mike Lewis
Robin Munday
Ric Pallister
Patrick Palmer

Jo Roundell Greene
Sylvia Seal
Peter Seib
Kim Turner

Also Present:

Councillors Sue Steele, Martin Wale, Tom Parsley, Pat Martin and Ian Martin.

Officers:

Philip Dolan	Chief Executive
Mark Pollock	Corporate Director – Economic Vitality
David Stapleton	Corporate Director – Health & Wellbeing
Vega Sturgess	Corporate Director – Environment
Ian Clarke	Head of Legal & Democratic Services
Donna Parham	Head of Finance
Simon Gale	Head of Development and Building Control
Andy Foyne	Head of Economic Development, Planning & Transport
Ian Johns	Property Management Officer
Angela Cox	Democratic Services Manager

Note: All decisions were approved without dissent unless shown otherwise.

162. Minutes (Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2009, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and, having been approved as a correct record, were signed by the Chairman.

163. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 2)

There were no apologies for absence.

164. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

165. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)

There were no questions from members of the public.

166. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 5)

The Chairman announced that:

- Agenda Item 6, Rope Walk, West Coker, would be taken as the final item of business to allow representation by the Industrial Buildings Preservation Trust.
- The Secretary of State had now agreed to transfer the powers of the South West Regional Assembly (SWRA) to the South West Regional Board and therefore the July meeting of the SWRA was now cancelled.
- The Council had retained the Investor in People Award.

The Chief Executive advised that following a rigorous, week-long assessment, he was very pleased that the Investor in People Award had been retained for a further 3 years. The inspecting officers had encouraged the Council to apply for the higher Gold Standard of the award and he would be considering this.

167. Rope Walk, West Coker (Agenda Item 6)

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Planning & Transport welcomed Ross Aitken and Patrick Stow from the Coker Rope and Sail Trust and Judith Martin from the Industrial Buildings Preservation Trust, who were in attendance to provide Members with a brief presentation on the West Coker Rope Walk and to answer any questions.

Mr Ross Aitken thanked Members for their financial support towards securing the future of the rope walk and provided them with a comprehensive history of the site. He said it was hoped to restore the building back to its original use so that visitors could experience the conditions under which rope and sails were made from the 14th to the 19th Century and that it was hoped that this could be achieved in time for the 2012 Olympic Games, of which sailing events were to be held in Weymouth. He noted further music events which could be held at the site to raise revenue, together with walking trails and projects such as the growing of local hemp and flax to turn into rope.

Mr Patrick Stow said that although the rope walk was not in good condition, a condition survey and site mapping had been carried out and he had invited members of the Carpenters Fellowship to use the buildings as a training event over 3 weeks, hopefully during the summer, to repair the wooden structure.

Judith Martin of the Industrial Buildings Preservation Trust advised that the Trust had acquired a 125 year lease on the rope walk which would be relinquished to the Coker Rope and Sail Trust once the buildings had been restored. She noted that the presence of the machinery, which it was hoped to bring back into working order, represented a 2* listing of the buildings and therefore a greater significance of industrial heritage.

The Head of Development and Building Control advised that propping work on the rope walk would commence the following week which should stabilise the building and secure its immediate future. He said that a future commercial use of the buildings was essential to secure their long-term prospect.

Members were wholehearted in their support for the restoration project and thanked Mr Aitken, Mr Stow and Ms Martin for their attendance and information.

RESOLVED: That the report and presentation from the Coker Rope and Sail Trust be NOTED.

(Simon Gale, Head of Development & Building Control - (01935) 462071)
(Simon.Gale@southsomerset.gov.uk)

168. Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (Agenda Item 7)

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Planning & Transport advised that the amount of the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant was based on Council performance. He said that the 3 recommendations in the Agenda report had been revised as a result of further discussions to ensure best delivery of the Development Plan and to meet the housing needs of the area.

The Head of Economic Development, Planning & Transport circulated the amended recommendations to Members, noting that the cost of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment had increased, the cost of which had been equally shared by all Councils in Somerset; South Somerset's share now being £8,600 (an increase of £900).

The Head of Finance confirmed that a service report detailing the expenditure of the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant would be presented to District Executive annually.

In response to questions from Members, the Portfolio Holder confirmed that the remaining Planning Delivery Grant, the predecessor of the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant, was being used within the planning service to purchase wide screen computers for reception areas to enable public viewing of large plans.

Members were unanimously in favour of the amended recommendations presented to them.

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) that the proposed revenue expenditure items for Housing and Planning Delivery grant (totalling £114,758 with the inclusion of the committed expenditure item from 2008/09) and the delegation of responsibility for the spending of this total amount to the Local Development Framework Project Management Board be approved
 - (2) that the transfer of the capital element of the grant for 2009/10 to the main Capital Programme for housing delivery (totalling £93,405) and the delegation of responsibility for the spending of this capital money to the Strategic Housing Improvement Board be approved.
 - (3) that the transfer of the remaining grant to general balances (£74,570 in total) be approved.

Reason: To approve the proposals for expenditure of the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant for the current financial year.

*(Andy Foyne, Head of Economic Development, Planning & Transport – (01935) 462650)
(Andy.foyne@southsomerset.gov.uk)*

169. Pioneer Somerset – Programme Management Arrangements (Agenda Item 8)

The Chairman introduced the report, which asked Members to agree the proposals for programme management arrangements for the Pioneer Somerset Programme and the associated resource requirements. An amended Schedule of Costs for each partner authority was circulated, detailing the South Somerset contribution as £21,600 (£12,400 in 2009/10). He advised that at the last meeting of the Pioneer Somerset Board, all partners had acknowledged the lack of progress on the various projects and officers had conceded that they did not have sufficient time resource to commit, therefore, the partners had agreed to allocate a dedicated staff resource of 3 posts to progress the potential to bring forward the shared service options under the 4 identified key areas.

During discussion, Members were fully supportive of the recommendations and the Chairman proposed that South Somerset offer to provide hosting and accommodation for some or all of the posts.

Members were unanimous in their support for the proposals, noting that significant savings must be achieved for South Somerset's contribution of £21,600.

RESOLVED: That the District Executive:

- endorsed the programme management arrangements for the Pioneer Somerset programme as proposed by the Pioneer Somerset Board and set out in paragraph 3.7 of the Agenda report;
- approved a contribution of £21,600 (£12,400 in 2009/10 and £9,200 in 2010/11) towards the cost of these arrangements from 2009/10 District Executive contingency funds.
- noted that further proposals would be brought to the Board in due course in relation to funding the programme management arrangements on an on-going basis beyond the first year;
- approved the urgency in relation to the recommendations to give certainty to our partners and avoid any unnecessary delay in recruitment to key posts etc.
- offer hosting and accommodation arrangements, in discussion with Pioneer Somerset partners.

Reason: To agree the proposals for programme management arrangements for the Pioneer Somerset Programme and the associated resource requirements.

*(Philip Dolan, Chief Executive - (01935) 462101)
(philip.dolan@southsomerset.gov.uk)*

170. The Council's Corporate Plan 'Our Targets Insert' (Agenda Item 9)

The Chairman introduced the report, which asked Members to recommend the adoption of the 2009/10 'Our Targets Insert' to the Corporate Plan by full Council on 21st May 2009.

The Corporate Director (Environment) confirmed that she had been working on the 2009/10 'Our Targets Insert' to the refreshed Corporate Plan since its adoption by full Council in January 2009. She noted that the inserts would give precise detail of the targets for each service and moved towards the principle of Outcome Based Accountability (OBA). The Corporate Plan would be renumbered in line with the 'Our Targets Insert' document.

During discussion, Members welcomed the document as a measure of how South Somerset was serving its residents and noted several refinements to the document as:-

- 1.19 insert asterisk and note that LAA targets now focus on other areas of Somerset
- 1.20 insert asterisk and note that LAA targets now focus on other areas of Somerset
- 2.19 amend 15 MW Wind Turbine to
- 2.26 delete 'Yeovil Innovation Centre'
- 3.5 delete 'of sites'
- 4.3 include Area Justice Panels in Other Services/Resource column
- 4.4 include Area Justice Panels in Other Services/Resource column
- 5.6 move point No. '1. Promote Digi-TV usage' to point No. 3
- 5.13 add 'to be available' to point No. 3 so sentence reads 'E-recruitment to be available for 100% of posts that are suitable for E-recruitment'.

Members were unanimous in their support to recommend that Council adopt the 2009/10 'Our Targets Inserts' to the Corporate Plan with the above amendments and any final editing as necessary.

RESOLVED: that the District Executive recommend that Council adopt the 2009/10 'Our Targets Insert' to the Corporate Plan subject to the amendments raised by District Executive and any final editing necessary.

Reason: To recommend that full Council to agree the adoption of the 2009/10 'Our Targets Insert' to the Corporate Plan.

(Vega Sturgess, Corporate Director - Environment (01935) 462200)
(vega.sturgess@southsomerset.gov.uk)

171. District Executive Forward Plan (Agenda Item 10)

It was noted that due to the high number of reports due to be presented to the June meeting of District Executive, the information report on the West Coker Rope Walk would be deferred until July 2009.

Members were content to approve the updated Executive Forward Plan and Consultation Database.

RESOLVED: (1) that the updated Executive Forward Plan be approved for publication as attached at Appendix A of the agenda report;

- (2) that the consultation document received by the Council that had been logged on the Consultation Database as attached at Appendix B of the agenda report be noted.

Reason: The Forward Plan is a statutory document.

(Ian Clarke, Head of Legal and Democratic Services – (01935) 462184)
(ian.Clarke@southsomerset.gov.uk)

172. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 11)

Members noted that the next scheduled meeting of the District Executive would take place on Thursday 11th June 2009 in the Council Chamber, Brympton Way, Yeovil commencing at 9.30 a.m.

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Chairman