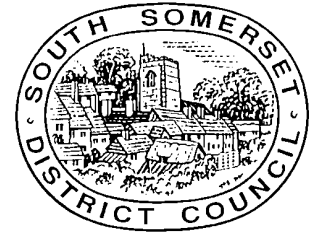


South Somerset District Council

Notice of Meeting



Scrutiny Committee

Making a difference where it counts

Tuesday 2nd June 2015

10.00 am

**Main Committee Room
Council Offices
Brympton Way
Yeovil
BA20 2HT**

(disabled access is available at this meeting venue)



Members listed on the following page are requested to attend the meeting.

The public and press are welcome to attend.

If you would like any further information on the items to be discussed, please ring the Agenda Co-ordinator, **Becky Sanders, Democratic Services Officer 01935 462596**, website: www.southsomerset.gov.uk

This Agenda was issued on Friday 22 May 2015.

Ian Clarke, Assistant Director (Legal & Corporate Services)

This information is also available on our website
www.southsomerset.gov.uk



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Scrutiny Committee Membership

The following members are requested to attend the meeting:

Chairman: Sue Steele
Vice-chairmen: Dave Bulmer and John Clark

Clare Aparicio Paul
Jason Baker
Gye Dibben
Val Keitch

Tony Lock
Sue Osborne
Tiffany Osborne
David Recardo

Garry Shortland
Rob Stickland
Martin Wale

Information for the Public

What is Scrutiny?

The Local Government Act 2000 requires all councils in England and Wales to introduce new political structures which provide a clear role for the Council, the Executive and non-executive councillors.

One of the key roles for non-executive councillors is to undertake an overview and scrutiny role for the council. In this Council the overview and scrutiny role involves reviewing and developing, scrutinising organisations external to the council and holding the executive to account

Scrutiny also has an important role to play in organisational performance management.

The Scrutiny Committee is made up of 14 non-executive members and meets monthly to consider items where executive decisions need to be reviewed before or after their implementation, and to commission reviews of policy or other public interest.

Members of the public are able to:

- attend meetings of the Scrutiny Committee except where, for example, personal or confidential matters are being discussed;
- speak at Scrutiny Committee meetings; and
- see agenda reports.

Meetings of the Scrutiny Committee are held monthly on the Tuesday prior to meetings of the District Executive at 10.00am in the Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

Agendas and minutes of these meetings are published on the Council's website www.southsomerset.gov.uk.

The Council's Constitution is also on the website and available for inspection in council offices.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the agenda co-ordinator named on the front page.

South Somerset District Council – Council Plan

Our focuses are: (all equal)

- Jobs – We want a strong economy which has low unemployment and thriving businesses
- Environment – We want an attractive environment to live in with increased recycling and lower energy use
- Homes – We want decent housing for our residents that matches their income
- Health and Communities – We want communities that are healthy, self-reliant and have individuals who are willing to help each other

Ordnance Survey mapping/map data included within this publication is provided by South Somerset District Council under licence from the Ordnance Survey in order to fulfil its public function to undertake its statutory functions on behalf of the district. Persons viewing this mapping should contact Ordnance Survey copyright for advice where they wish to licence Ordnance Survey mapping/map data for their own use. South Somerset District Council - LA100019471 - 2015.

This page is intentionally blank

Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 2 June 2015

Agenda

Preliminary Items

1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 5)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 31 March 2015.

2. Apologies for absence

3. Declarations of Interest

In accordance with the Council's current Code of Conduct (adopted July 2012), which includes all the provisions relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), personal and prejudicial interests, Members are asked to declare any DPI and also any personal interests (and whether or not such personal interests are also "prejudicial") in relation to any matter on the Agenda for this meeting. A DPI is defined in The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012 No. 1464) and Appendix 3 of the Council's Code of Conduct. A personal interest is defined in paragraph 2.8 of the Code and a prejudicial interest is defined in paragraph 2.9. In the interests of complete transparency, Members of the County Council, who are not also members of this committee, are encouraged to declare any interests they may have in any matters being discussed even though they may not be under any obligation to do so under any relevant code of conduct.

4. Public question time

5. Issues arising from previous meetings

This is an opportunity for Members to question the progress on issues arising from previous meetings. However, this does not allow for the re-opening of a debate on any item not forming part of this agenda.

6. Chairman's Announcements

Items for Discussion

7. Presentation - Introduction to Scrutiny (Page 6)

8. Reports to be considered by District Executive on 4 June 2015 (Page 7)

9. Update on matters of interest (Page 8)

10. Scrutiny Work Programme (Page 9)

11. Date of next meeting (Page 10)

Agenda Item 1

South Somerset District Council

Draft Minutes of a meeting of the **Scrutiny Committee** held at the **Main Committee Room, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil BA20 2HT on Tuesday 31 March 2015.**

(10.03 am - 12.30 pm)

Present:

Members: Councillor Sue Steele (Chairman)

Dave Bulmer	Tim Inglefield (to 12.20pm)
Nigel Mermagen	Pauline Lock
Pauline Clarke	Tony Lock
Nick Colbert	Graham Middleton
Carol Goodall	Sue Osborne (from 10.25am)

Also Present:

Tim Carroll	Sylvia Seal
Ric Pallister	Cathy Bakewell

Officers

Rina Singh	Strategic Director (Place & Performance)
Steve Joel	Assistant Director (Health & Well-Being)
Donna Parham	Assistant Director (Finance & Corporate Services)
Kim Close	Assistant Director (Communities)
Jo Wilkins	Policy Planner
Paul Herbert	Housing Policy Officer
Emily McGuinness	Scrutiny Manager
Becky Sanders	Democratic Services Officer

131. Minutes (Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

132. Apologies for absence (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Recardo and Martin Wale.

133. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

134. Public question time (Agenda Item 4)

There were no members of public at the meeting.

135. Issues arising from previous meetings (Agenda Item 5)

There were no issues raised.

136. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 6)

The Chairman noted this was the last meeting of the current Scrutiny Committee prior to the elections in May. She took the opportunity to thank members for their valued contribution over the past four years.

137. Ninesprings Café, Education and Information Centre (Agenda Item 7)

The Assistant Director (Health and Wellbeing) introduced the report as detailed in the agenda, which set out the key stages of the project which had spanned over a number of years. He noted the report captured the main points.

Responses made by the Assistant Director (Health and Well Being) and Portfolio Holder (Leisure and Culture) to comments raised by members during discussion included:

- Details regarding funding had been clearly outlined in a confidential report made to District Executive in January 2014.
- The reasons why the project had not commenced before all external funding had been secured, but acknowledged the delay in sourcing funding had necessitated the need to reapply for planning permission.
- An explanation of the Unilateral Agreement.
- There were constraints on some of the country park sites including land ownership. It was felt that Chard Reservoir did not have the footfall to make a similar facility viable. Whilst there might be scope for a visitor type facility or mobile café at Chard Reservoir it was not felt there was an opportunity at the current time.
- It was considered the use of the Ninesprings facility offered a good return for the capital investment.
- The work and commitment of volunteers was invaluable and their efforts had been central to delivering the project.

Members were pleased to note the centre and café were doing well and congratulated the volunteers for their work and support. Scrutiny requested that a further update report be made in 12 months, and thanked the Assistant Director (Health and well Being) for his informative report.

ACTION: That members note the report.

138. Verbal update on reports considered by District Executive on 5 March 2015 (Agenda Item 8)

The Chairman noted that the Scrutiny comments had been considered and were included in the District Executive minutes which had been circulated.

139. Reports to be considered by District Executive on 2 April 2015 (Agenda Item 9)

Members considered the reports outlined in the District Executive agenda for 2 April 2015. It was agreed that the following comments would be taken forward to District Executive for consideration.

Presentation from Highways Contractor on Flood prevention Works on the A303 (presentation) – item 6

- As no report no comments were made.

South Somerset Together (SST) Strategic Partnership – item 7

- Members were pleased to note the progress of SST and how well the partnership now seemed to be working.
- Scrutiny also queried if the core funding was agreed for the three years, or if it was a three year programme with funding confirmed annually.

Adoption of a Balanced Rural lettings Policy – item 8

- Scrutiny thanked officers for their hard work and obvious expertise in this area.
- Scrutiny felt that the explanation of the shading on the maps should be made clearer, for example there seemed to be different reasons for an area being shown as white.
- Scrutiny felt the maps would need to be reviewed quite frequently and request that an update report is made to Scrutiny in 12 months.

South Somerset District Council Advertising Policy – item 9

- As part of the Budget Task and Finish Group members have already discussed and supported the principle of income generation through advertising
- Scrutiny sought clarification that the bullet points of items to not be promoted referred to the product rather than premises or places.
- Some members commented there needed to be a fine balance and whilst general principles of health and wellbeing should be promoted, this should not prevent local industries such as Wincanton Racecourse or local cider producers being able to advertise.
- Members commented that some public may not agree with SSDC taking the advertising approach, but sources of income generation needed to be explored.
- Scrutiny request that an update report is made in 12 months.

Loan to Kingsdon Parish Council – item 10

- Scrutiny were content to agree the recommendation but sought clarification on the following:
 - If the capability of Kingsdon Parish Council to repay the loan had been assessed?
 - If there was a limit to the amount or quantity of loans that SSDC could make?
 - That SSDC policy is to loan only where we can make a first charge on a property when appropriate?

Designation of Neighbourhood Area – South Petherton Parish – item 11

- Scrutiny supported the recommendation.

Safer Somerset Partnership – Update report – item 12

- Scrutiny queried what the difference was between the Yeovil One Team and the previous LAGs.
 - Scrutiny noted the One Team approach was Yeovil centric and queried if, or when, there may be plans to go further afield across the district.
 - Scrutiny queried the first priority (improving links to other partnerships) under paragraph 9.2 in the agenda report as it didn't seem to gel with the other four priorities. Members noted there did not seem to be any priority regarding vulnerable children or child exploitation.
-

140. Scrutiny Committee End of Term Report (Agenda Item 10)

The Scrutiny Manager introduced the report as detailed in the agenda, which provided a review of the work of the Scrutiny Function at South Somerset District Council over the past four years. She commented that the Scrutiny Committee should be proud of the work achieved both internally and externally. Many members had given much time and effort when undertaking Task and Finish reviews, and the awards gained were validation of the work achieved. The list of reviews in the report would also be used as a training tool and to demonstrate the potential of a Scrutiny role to newly elected members.

During a brief discussion comments made by members included:

- As a new member have found Scrutiny invaluable and have benefitted from being involved in task and Finish groups.
- What's good about Scrutiny at SSDC is that we have three sides that can work together sensibly.
- The Connecting Somerset and Devon Broadband review had not been mentioned in the report but needs to be mentioned.

The Chairman and members thanked both Scrutiny Managers for all the work done and their support over the past four years.

ACTION: That members note the report.

141. Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel (Agenda Item 11)

Councillor Tony Lock, SSDC representative on the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel, provided a verbal update to members. He highlighted the reducing funding that the police are working with, and although this year's budget was balanced, there was expected to be a substantial deficit next year.

During a brief discussion members comments included:

- Unfortunate that since the Police and Crime Commissioner system has been introduced that Avon and Somerset have hardly had a Chief Constable in place.
- Concern that if Avon and Somerset merge with Wiltshire that parts of South Somerset will be even more on the periphery.

- If budgets are reducing, the workload also needs to be reduced – new laws are being made but few abolished.
- Identity theft and digital crime does not appear to be a priority.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Lock for the update.

ACTION: • Members to note the update

142. Verbal update on Task and Finish reviews (Agenda Item 12)

The Scrutiny Manager noted that the Council Tax Reduction Group had not met since the last meeting and would next meet in mid-April to receive an update from the Revenues and Benefits Manager about the content for a consultation.

ACTION: Members to note the update.

143. Scrutiny Work Programme (Agenda Item 13)

The Scrutiny Manager reminded members that all items on the Work Programme would be re-assessed with the new committee following the elections.

144. Date of next meeting (Agenda Item 14)

Members noted that the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee was scheduled for Tuesday 2 June at 10.00am in the Main Committee Room, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

.....
Chairman

Agenda Item 7

Presentation – An Introduction to Scrutiny

Lead Officers: Emily McGuinness Jo Gale, Scrutiny Managers

*Contact Details: emily.mcguinness@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462566
jo.gales@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462077*

The Scrutiny Managers will provide a presentation as an introduction to the Scrutiny function.

Agenda Item 8

Reports to be considered by District Executive on 4 June 2015 date

Lead Officer: Emily McGuinness, Scrutiny Manager
Contact Details: emily.mcguinness@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462566

Scrutiny Committee members will receive a copy of the District Executive agenda containing the reports to be considered at the meeting on 4 June 2015.

Members are asked to read the reports and bring any concerns/issues from the reports to be discussed at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 2 June 2015.

The Chairman will take forward any views raised by Scrutiny members to the District Executive meeting on 4 June 2015.

Agenda Item 9

Update on matters of interest

Lead Officers: Emily McGuinness & Jo Gale, Scrutiny Managers
Contact Details: emily.mcguinness@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462566
jo.gale@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462077

Action Required

That members of the Scrutiny Committee note the verbal updates as presented by the Scrutiny Manager(s).

Purpose of Report

This report is submitted for information to update members of the committee on any recent information regarding matters of interest to the Scrutiny Committee.

Scrutiny Work Programme

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Issue for Main Scrutiny Cttee	Budget	Background/Description	Lead Officer/ Lead Member
30 June '15	Possible review of the Planning Scheme of Delegation	✓		Following comments made at Council in January 2015. An item to discuss a possible Task and Finish review of the Planning Scheme of Delegation.	Emily McGuinness / Jo Gale, Scrutiny Managers
3 Nov ' 15	Anti-Social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014	✓		At the Scrutiny Committee meeting 4 Nov 2014 members received a presentation about the Act. The committee requested an update report after 12 months about the impact in/for South Somerset.	Steve Brewer, Community Safety & Projects Officer and Vicki Dawson, Principal Environmental Health Protection Officer
TBC	Health Scrutiny	✓		Following the presentation from Ann Reader to Scrutiny, a report suggesting a new approach to Health Scrutiny will be presented to members.	Emily McGuinness, Scrutiny Manager

The Somerset Waste Board and Somerset Waste Partnership Forward Plan of key decisions can be viewed at:
<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/policies-and-plans/plans/cabinet-forward-plan/>

Agenda Item 11

Date of next meeting

Members are requested to note that the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee will be held on Tuesday 30 June at 10.00am in the Main Committee Room, Brympton Way, Yeovil.
