

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 1 September 2015.**

(10.00 am - 12.20 pm)

Present:

Members: Councillor Sue Steele (Chairman)

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| Clare Aparicio Paul | Sue Osborne |
| Jason Baker | Tiffany Osborne |
| Dave Bulmer | David Recardo |
| John Clark | Garry Shortland |
| Gye Dibben | Rob Stickland |
| Val Keitch | Amanda Broom |
| Tony Lock | |

Also Present:

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| Mike Beech | Ric Pallister |
| Neil Bloomfield | Jo Roundell Greene |
| Nick Colbert | Sylvia Seal |
| John Field | Derek Yeomans |

Officers

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| Rina Singh | Interim Chief Executive |
| Donna Parham | Assistant Director (Finance & Corporate Services) |
| Steve Joel | Assistant Director (Health & Well-Being) |
| Martin Woods | Assistant Director (Economy) |
| Paul Wheatley | Principal Spatial Planner |
| Jo Gale | Scrutiny Manager |
| Emily McGuinness | Scrutiny Manager |

39. Minutes (Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 August 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

40. Apologies for absence (Agenda Item 2)

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Martin Wale. Councillor Amanda Broom was in attendance at the meeting as substitute for Councillor Martin Wale.

41. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

42. Public question time (Agenda Item 4)

There were questions from members of public present at the meeting.

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

There were no issues raised.

44. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 6)

There were no Chairman's announcements.

45. Verbal update on reports considered by District Executive on 6 August 2015 (Agenda Item 7)

Members noted the update given by the Chairman of Scrutiny Committee.

46. Reports to be considered by District Executive on 3 September 2015 (Agenda Item 8)

Members considered the reports outlined in the District Executive Agenda for 3 September 2015. It was agreed that the following comments would be taken forward to District Executive for consideration:

Future of Westland Leisure Complex (Agenda item 6)

In order to discuss this item fully, it was proposed and agreed that the Committee would move into confidential session, as some of the financial information contained in the appendices is confidential.

CONFIDENTIAL – Exclusion of the Press and Public

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the Committee resolved that the press and public be excluded from this item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, i.e. "Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

- Members made comments in closed session.

Update on the SSDC 5 Year Housing Land Supply (Agenda item 7)

- Members noted the significant implications in terms of Local Plan policy documents represented by the shortfall in the 5 Year land supply and the subsequent shift in perspective required. Scrutiny members agreed that all necessary support and resources should be provided to the Spatial Planning Team so that every effort can be made to improve the situation.

- Scrutiny members noted the importance of planning decisions needing to be made in accordance with the adopted Local Plan and potential impact this could have.
- Not being able to demonstrate a 5 Year Land Supply means that policies carry less weight than previously.
- More work needs to be done to proactively engage with the Development Sector and landowners to ensure more deliverable applications are brought forward.
- A member stated that if a lower target had been adopted then we would not be in this position. The Portfolio Holder responded that the figure had been carefully and rigorously arrived at and had been approved by the Local Plan Inspector.
- The housing requirement figure is the number of homes needed that are capable of occupation within 5 Years not the numbers of homes that have been given permission to be built.
- The 2014/15 housing figures are encouraging.
- The 20% buffer is best practice and Officers are looking into this.

Quarterly Performance and Complaints Monitoring report – 1st Quarter 2015/16 (Agenda item 8)

Members noted that the only performance exception related to the PI031 - % calls to Contact Centre resolved in the Contact Centre. This was showing as an exception due to the technical issues discussed by Scrutiny last month, is not currently possible to capture this data.

47. Verbal update on Task and Finish reviews (Agenda Item 9)

The Scrutiny Managers updated the Committee on the current Task and Finish Groups:

Council Tax Reduction policy and monitoring Task and Finish Group – The group had met since the last Scrutiny Committee to:

- Review the interim consultation results.
- Agree what performance/monitoring information they require in terms of collection, arrears and costs monitoring for the current scheme.
- To identify what information and data is required to monitor the impact on different households to ensure no specific type is adversely affected.

Licensing Fees Task and Finish Group – the group has three more meetings planned and is on target to report back to the November Scrutiny Committee meeting.

48. Update on matters of interest (Agenda Item 10)

There were no updates regarding matters of interest.

49. Scrutiny Work Programme (Agenda Item 11)

Members noted the Scrutiny Work Programme including the addition of the Equalities Action Plan 2012-16 for 1 March 2016.

ACTION: That an item regarding the Equalities Action Plan 2012-16 be added to the Work Programme for 1 March 2016.

50. Date of next meeting (Agenda Item 12)

Members noted the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee would be held on Tuesday 29 September 2015 in the Main Committee Room, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

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Chairman

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Date