

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **District Executive** held at the **Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil BA20 2HT on Thursday 25 June 2015.**

(2.10 pm - 3.33 pm)

Present:

Councillor Ric Pallister (Chairman)

Carol Goodall	Sylvia Seal
Peter Gubbins	Angie Singleton
Shane Pledger	Nick Weeks
Jo Roundell Greene	

Also Present:

Clare Aparicio Paul	Tony Lock
Jason Baker	Tiffany Osborne
John Clark	Sue Steele
Gye Dibben	Colin Winder
Val Keitch	Derek Yeomans

Officers

Rina Singh	Strategic Director (Place & Performance)
Vega Sturgess	Strategic Director (Operations & Customer Focus)
Ian Clarke	Assistant Director (Legal and Corporate Services)
Donna Parham	Assistant Director (Finance & Corporate Services)
Martin Woods	Assistant Director (Economy)
David Julian	Economic Development Manager
Emily McGuinness	Scrutiny Manager
Matthew Ballard	Project Manager, Connecting Devon & Somerset
Angela Cox	Democratic Services Manager

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

16. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Agenda Item 1)

Members agreed to defer confirmation of the minutes of the District Executive meeting held on 4 June 2015, to the next meeting of the Committee on 2nd July 2015.

17. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Peter Seib and Henry Hobhouse and Mark Williams, Chief Executive.

18. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest made.

19. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)

There were no members of the public present.

20. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 5)

There were no announcements from the Chairman.

21. Exclusion of Press and Public (Agenda Item 6)

RESOLVED: that the following item be considered in Closed Session by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A under Paragraph 3: "Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)."

22. Superfast Broadband Extension Programme - Decision on SSDC funding contributions (Confidential) - Updated Report (Agenda Item 7)

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Economic Development introduced Mr M Ballard of the Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Superfast Broadband Extension Programme. She reminded Members of the 3 points on page 17 of the Agenda papers which needed to be satisfied before SSDC committed to the Superfast Broadband Programme.

Mr M Ballard, Project Manager for the Connecting Devon and Somerset Superfast Broadband Extension Programme provided Members with a brief update on the progress of Phase 1 of the Superfast Broadband Programme and further confidential information on the roll out of Phase 2.

During discussion, Members expressed concern that detailed information which they had expected to be provided on a postcode by postcode basis of the areas to benefit from superfast broadband in Phase 2 was still not forthcoming and it appeared would not be available until the final contract between BT and CDS had been signed. Members felt it was important to have this information to be able to prove value for money to the residents of South Somerset.

Having clarified with the Programme Manager that deferring the decision would not jeopardise the project, it was proposed that the funding previously committed to the programme remain, but, the decision to commit to the programme be deferred to a future meeting of the District Executive following the completion of the on-going negotiations and the subsequent formal signing of contracts between British Telecom (BT) and Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) in order to receive additional detailed confidential information on the programme that could be provided once the contract had been signed. This proposal was seconded, and, on being put to the vote, was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: That District Executive:-

1. confirmed that the in-principle commitment to the Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Superfast (broadband) Extension Programme (SEP) remain;
2. agreed to defer the final decision to a future meeting of the District Executive following the completion of the on-going negotiations and the subsequent formal signing of contracts between British Telecom (BT) and Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) in order to re-consider the in-principle commitment having regard to such additional detailed confidential information on the programme that can be provided once the contract has been signed.

Reason: To enable Members to make a fully informed decision to commit to the Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Superfast (broadband) Extension Programme (SEP).

(Voting: unanimous in favour)

23. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 8)

Members noted that the next scheduled meeting of the District Executive would take place on Thursday 2 July 2015 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil commencing at 9.30am.

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Chairman

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Date