

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **District Executive** held at the **Council Chamber, Brympton Way, YEOVIL, Somerset BA20 2HT** on **Thursday 1 December 2016**.

(9.30 am - 11.20 am)

Present:

Chairman: Jo Roundell Greene

Clare Aparicio Paul	Jo Roundell Greene
Carol Goodall	Sylvia Seal
Peter Gubbins	Angie Singleton
Henry Hobhouse	Nick Weeks

Also Present:

Jason Baker	David Norris
Val Keitch	Derek Yeomans
Tony Lock	

Officers

Alex Parmley	Chief Executive
Rina Singh	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
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)
Helen Rutter	Assistant Director (Communities)
Laurence Willis	Assistant Director (Environment)
Charlotte Jones	Performance Manager
Anna-Maria Lenz	Performance Officer
Steve Read	Managing Director, Somerset Waste Partnership
David Mansell	Development & Monitoring Manager, Somerset Waste Partnership
Chris Cooper	Streetscene Manager
Angela Cox	Democratic Services Manager

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

92. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the District Executive meeting held on 3rd November 2016, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and, having been approved as a correct record, were signed by the Chairman.

93. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ric Pallister and Peter Seib.

94. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest made.

95. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)

Mrs E Stokes spoke on behalf of Castle Cary Town Council regarding Agenda item 6: Recycle More. She said that although she supported the proposal to recycle more, she had concerns about the plans to divert household waste from landfill. She said the proposal for a waste transfer site at Dimmer would have a huge impact locally and no feedback had been sought from Town and Parish Councils and the local community. She also mentioned traffic issues through the village of Clanville as the road was not suited to the HGV traffic from the Dimmer site.

Mr M Roberts spoke on behalf of Cary Moor Parish Council regarding Agenda item 6: Recycle More. He also expressed concern at the lack of local consultation and felt the proposal negated any future the opportunity to relocate waste disposal nearer to Yeovil, so reducing waste vehicle travel time. He questioned the transfer of waste from areas in Mendip to Dimmer when their ultimate destination would be Avonmouth and, the logic of entering into a 25 year contract with Viridor.

Mrs V Nobles spoke as a member of Care for Cary, a local support group regarding Agenda item 6: Recycle More. She asked whether the Waste Board had sought feedback from the District Executive committee and if the report would be scrutinised by the SCC Scrutiny Committee. She also noted that the Area East Committee had objected to the siting of a waste transfer station at Dimmer and she said there should be a break clause in the contract with Viridor relating to the waste transfer station at Dimmer.

The Managing Director of the Somerset Waste Partnership advised that the points raised by the public speakers did not relate to the agenda item for discussion by Members. There was a consultation process each year with Councils on the Business Plan of the partnership and the issues around the waste transfer station at Dimmer were matters for the Strategic Planning Authority (SCC). He said that if the proposals produced the same reduction in residual waste as had happened in the trial then one fifth (1/5) of waste would be diverted into recycling and would not be sent to Dimmer. He also noted that there was the possibility of more waste from South Somerset being sent to the Walpole Transfer Station in the future which may reduce waste being sent to Dimmer.

96. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 5)

There were no announcements from the Chairman.

97. Recycle More - Domestic Waste Collection Services (Agenda Item 6)

The Chairman, as Portfolio Holder for Waste and Recycling, advised that following the trial of collecting additional recyclable materials in 2013, the new scheme would include collecting plastic pots, trays and small electrical appliances. There would be one

additional sack for cans and plastic for each household and the scheme would start from October 2017 in phases across Somerset.

The Managing Director of the Somerset Waste Partnership advised that the proposal was aimed to divert more waste from going to landfill sites. In the trial, there had been a 27% reduction in residual waste when refuse was collected every 3 weeks and garden waste every 2 weeks with recyclables collected weekly. Although the one-off roll out cost was projected to be £2.2m, there was an estimated annual saving of £1.7m so the costs would be recovered within 18 months. There were reputational risks and so an extensive communications plan was in place including the development of an app to inform residents when their recycling was due. They were also looking at consolidating their vehicle depots to one in the east of the county and one in the west. Provided all the partner Councils agreed to participate in the scheme, and, the decision was confirmed by the Somerset Waste Board at their meeting on 16th December, then new waste collection vehicles would be ordered and the scheme would commence in phases from October 2017 to October 2018.

The Strategic Director (Operations and Customer Focus) said she had been inundated with requests from the public to recycle more items so she felt the Council's reputation would be enhanced by the scheme. She noted that the roll-out of the new recycling would be phased to link in with the Transformation Programme and there would be funding available to deal with the increased volume of phone calls from the public. If the Council did not agree to participate then it would create an issue of how to deal with an ageing vehicle fleet.

In response to questions from the Scrutiny Committee, the Development & Monitoring Manager of the Somerset Waste Partnership responded:-

- Additional resources had been made available to mitigate any impact on Customer Services Teams and it may be preferable for the Waste Partnership to take the bulk of the public phone calls.
- There was no intention to remove Household Waste Recycling Centres and it was hoped to ease congestion at these sites.
- There were no health concerns regarding dog waste in waste bins and if the waste was double bagged then the odour should be reduced.
- A newsletter was planned as part of the communication plan and the roll-out of the new service would be reported to all partner councils.

In response to questions from Members, the Managing Director of the Somerset Waste Partnership advised:-

- If one partner council decided not to join the Recycle More scheme, then a recalculation of the scheme would have to take place and councils would be asked to reconsider the amended scheme.
- The Somerset Waste Partnership would be happy to discuss the use of Parish Lengthsmen to take fly-tipped items to Household Waste Recycling Centres.
- The collection of recyclable materials from public waste bins would have to be resourced by the Council's Streetscene team.
- All of the collection routes were risk assessed to avoid schools etc at critical times.

The Strategic Director (Operations and Customer Focus) assured Members that the Somerset Waste Partnership had a continuing dialogue with its partners relating to data

management and was aware that SSDC was going through a Transformation Programme.

At the conclusion of the debate, Members were content to support the new waste service model, Recycle More as the future method of recycling and waste collection in South Somerset.

RESOLVED: That the District Executive supported the new waste service model, Recycle More, as outlined in Appendix One and its accompanying appendices, A, B & C.

Reason: To confirm the new waste collection model as proposed by the Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) Business Plan.

98. Quarterly Corporate Performance and Complaints Monitoring Report - 2nd Quarter 2016/17 (Agenda Item 7)

The Performance Officer introduced the report and noted that the performance indicators without data were due to a time lag in receiving the data. She noted the Scrutiny Committee had questioned the percentage of Council Tax collected in particular the collections that had been raised during the current financial year which were back filling previous years' debts. The service manager had advised that in the previous year this totalled £1,476,000 (2015/16) and that the amount collected in 2016/17 could be included in the end of year report. She further confirmed that in the Council Plan Actions listed in Appendix C, the Doctors surgery in Somerton was due to be purchased to provide additional parking in the town.

Councillor Val Keitch further reported that the Scrutiny Committee had also sought reassurance that staff sickness be monitored during the organisational change and she said they would look at developing a more proactive role in monitoring corporate complaints in the future.

At the conclusion of the debate, Members were content to note the performance and complaints data as presented.

RESOLVED: That the District Executive noted the report.

Reason: To note the Corporate Performance and Complaints data presented for the period 1st July – 30th September 2016 (Q2).

99. Local Strategic Partnership South Somerset Together (SST) Six Month Review Report (Agenda Item 8)

The Assistant Director (Communities) advised that the report summarised the activity of the Local Strategic Partnership over the previous 6 months. She noted the successful event held in October which was aimed at tackling loneliness and the on-going emphasis on self-managing as there was no dedicated co-ordinator. They also had a Healthy Communities sub-group who were looking at the work of the Symphony Project. She

said the partnership was still a catalyst to bring together public and private agencies and how it progressed in the future was for the partners to decide.

Councillor Val Keitch advised that the Scrutiny Committee had asked for an update on the Troubled Families Project which although now led by Somerset County Council, this had initially been a high profile initiative which came under the LSP.

During discussion, several Members expressed concern at the number of healthy initiative projects happening in the district, operated by different organisations and the possibility for duplication and overlapping. The Deputy Chief Executive acknowledged that the organisations should be co-ordinated to work together and said it would take some time to ensure this.

At the conclusion of the debate, Members were content to note the report.

RESOLVED: That the District Executive noted the report

Reason: To update on progress following the introduction of simplified governance arrangements for the Local Strategic Partnership South Somerset Together (SST) from 1 June 2016.

100. District Executive Forward Plan (Agenda Item 9)

Members noted the following additional reports to be added to the Forward Plan:-

- Council Tax Support Scheme 2017/18 – Jan 2017
- Proposed Redevelopment of Yeovil Crematorium – Jan 2017
- Commercial Property Strategy – Jan 2017
- Disposal of the former Stables at Churchfield, Wincanton (Confidential) – Jan 2017
- Allowenshay Private Water Supply – Feb 2017
- Public Space Protection Orders relating to dogs – Feb 2017

RESOLVED: That the District Executive:-

1. approved the updated Executive Forward Plan for publication as attached at Appendix A, with the following amendments;
 - Council Tax Support Scheme 2017/18 – Jan 2017
 - Proposed Redevelopment of Yeovil Crematorium – Jan 2017
 - Commercial Property Strategy – Jan 2017
 - Disposal of the former Stables at Churchfield, Wincanton BA9 9AG (Confidential) – Jan 2017
 - Allowenshay Private Water Supply – Feb 2017
 - Public Space Protection Orders relating to dogs – Feb 2017
2. noted the contents of the Consultation Database as shown at Appendix B.

Reason: The Forward Plan is a statutory document.

101. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 10)

Members noted that the next scheduled meeting of the District Executive would take place on Thursday 5th January 2017 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil commencing at 9.30 a.m.

102. Exclusion of Press and Public (Agenda Item 11)

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).

103. Chard Town Centre Redevelopment - Update Report (Confidential) (Agenda Item 12)

The Chairman, as Portfolio Holder for Environment & Economic Development introduced the report to Members.

The Assistant Director (Economy) explained the change in economic circumstances which had forced a rethink of the original plans.

At the conclusion of a short debate, Members were content to confirm the recommendations to explore alternative options for the development of the site.

RESOLVED: That District Executive confirmed the recommendations of the report.

Reason: To update Members on the progress and status of the Development Agreement between SSDC and Henry Boot PLC.

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Chairman

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Date