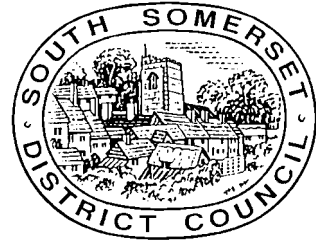


South Somerset District Council

Notice of Meeting



**South Somerset
District Council**

Making a difference where it counts

Thursday 18th August 2016

7.30 pm

**Council Chamber
Council Offices
Brympton Way
Yeovil, BA20 2HT**

(disabled access and a hearing loop are available at this meeting venue)



All members of Council 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, **Angela Cox, Democratic Services Manager**, website: www.southsomerset.gov.uk

This Agenda was issued on Wednesday 10 August 2016.

Ian Clarke, Assistant Director (Legal & Corporate Services)

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



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

South Somerset District Council Membership

Chairman: Mike Best
Vice-chairman: Tony Capozzoli

Clare Aparicio Paul	Tim Inglefield	David Recardo
Jason Baker	Val Keitch	Jo Roundell Greene
Cathy Bakewell	Andy Kendall	Dean Ruddle
Marcus Barrett	Jenny Kenton	Sylvia Seal
Mike Beech	Mike Lewis	Gina Seaton
Neil Bloomfield	Sarah Lindsay	Peter Seib
Amanda Broom	Mike Lock	Garry Shortland
Dave Bulmer	Tony Lock	Angie Singleton
John Clark	Paul Maxwell	Alan Smith
Nick Colbert	Sam McAllister	Sue Steele
Adam Dance	Graham Middleton	Rob Stickland
Gye Dibben	David Norris	Andrew Turpin
Sarah Dyke	Graham Oakes	Linda Vijeh
John Field	Sue Osborne	Martin Wale
Nigel Gage	Tiffany Osborne	William Wallace
Carol Goodall	Stephen Page	Nick Weeks
Anna Groskop	Ric Pallister	Colin Winder
Peter Gubbins	Shane Pledger	Derek Yeomans
Henry Hobhouse	Crispin Raikes	
Kaysar Hussain	Wes Read	

Information for the Public

The meetings of the full Council, comprising all 60 members of South Somerset District Council, are held at least 6 times a year. The full Council approves the Council's budget and the major policies which comprise the Council's policy framework. Other decisions which the full Council has to take include appointing the Leader of the Council, members of the District Executive, other Council Committees and approving the Council's Consultation (which details how the Council works including the scheme allocating decisions and Council functions to committees and officers).

Members of the Public are able to:-

- attend meetings of the Council and its committees such as Area Committees, District Executive, except where, for example, personal or confidential matters are being discussed;
- speak at Area Committees, District Executive and Council meetings;
- see reports and background papers, and any record of decisions made by the Council and Executive;
- find out, from the Executive Forward Plan, what major decisions are to be decided by the District Executive.

Meetings of the Council are scheduled to be held monthly at 7.30 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month in the Council Offices, Brympton Way although some dates are only reserve dates and may not be needed.

The agenda, minutes and the timetable for council meetings are published on the Council's website – www.southsomerset.gov.uk/councillors-and-democracy/meetings-and-decisions

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

The Council's corporate aims which guide the work of the Council are set out below.

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

South Somerset District Council - Council Aims

South Somerset will be a confident, resilient and flexible organisation, protecting and improving core services, delivering public priorities and acting in the best long-term interests of the district. We will:

- Protect core services to the public by reducing costs and seeking income generation.
- Increase the focus on Jobs and Economic Development.
- Protect and enhance the quality of our environment.
- Enable housing to meet all needs.
- Improve health and reduce health inequalities.

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South Somerset District Council

Thursday 18 August 2016

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes

To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday, 21st July 2016.

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.

Members are reminded that they need to declare the fact that they are also a member of a County, Town or Parish Council as a Personal Interest. As a result of the change made to the Code of Conduct by this Council at its meeting on 15th May 2014, where you are also a member of Somerset County Council and/or a Town or Parish Council within South Somerset you must declare a prejudicial interest in any business on the agenda where there is a financial benefit or gain or advantage to Somerset County Council and/or a Town or Parish Council which would be at the cost or to the financial disadvantage of South Somerset District Council. If you have a prejudicial interest you must comply with paragraphs 2.9(b) and 2.9(c) of the Code.

4. Public Question Time

5. Chairman's Announcements

Items for Discussion

6. Chairman's Engagements (Page 6)

7. Fraud Awareness Presentation to Councillors (Page 7)

8. Appointment of Chief Executive Officer (Pages 8 - 9)

9. Draft Proposals of the Community Governance Review of Yeovilton Parish Council (Pages 10 - 12)

10. Report of Executive Decisions (Pages 13 - 16)

11. Audit Committee (Pages 17 - 19)

12. Scrutiny Committee (Pages 20 - 21)

13. Motions

There were no Motions submitted.

14. Questions Under Procedure Rule 10

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.

15. Date of Next Meeting (Page 22)

Members are asked to note that the next scheduled meeting of the Full Council will take place on **Thursday, 1st September 2016** in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil **commencing at 8.00 p.m.**

Please Note:

This meeting **replaces** the scheduled Council date of 15th September 2016.

Agenda Item 6

Chairman's Engagements

23rd July

At the invitation of Mendip District Council, Mike and Liz attended the Civic Event which was a Walk and Talk Tour of Shepton Mallet's historical highlights.

24th July

At the invitation of the Chairman of Sedgemoor District Council, Mike and Liz attended the Civic Service at Wedmore followed by afternoon tea.

31st July

Mike attended the opening of new cricket nets at Castle Cary Cricket Club, at the Donald Pither Memorial Ground, Castle Cary.

12th August

Mike and Liz and Tony and Vivienne are due to host an afternoon tea with the SSDC Aldermen at Lanes Hotel, West Coker.

13th August

At the invitation of Chard Town Council, Mike and Liz are due to attend a Murder Mystery Evening at The Guildhall, Chard.

Agenda Item 7

Fraud Awareness Presentation to Councillors

The South West Counter Fraud Partnership (part of the South West Audit Partnership) will conduct a 20 minute presentation to raise Members awareness of the threat of fraud, theft and bribery to the Council, as recommended by Audit Committee.

Agenda Item 8

Appointment of Chief Executive Officer

Executive Portfolio Holder: Ric Pallister, Leader of Council
Assistant Director: Ian Clarke, Legal and Corporate Services
Service Manager: Mike Holliday, HR Manager
Contact Details: Mike.holliday@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462161

Purpose of the Report

To confirm the recommendation of the Appointments Committee and appoint a new Chief Executive Officer for South Somerset District Council.

Public Interest

The District Council have commenced a programme of Transformation and Income Generation in order to meet the considerable financial challenges facing the Council within the next 3 years and this will require a unified workforce under strong and effective leadership. It is considered that change on this scale will require a dedicated Chief Executive with both the skills and commitment to deliver the required outcomes.

Recommendation

That the Council accepts the recommendation of the Appointments Committee and that with effect from 1st October 2016 agrees to:-

1. appoint Mr Alex Parmley as the Chief Executive Officer and Head of Paid Service for South Somerset District Council.
2. all annual pay reviews to be linked to the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Executives of Local Authorities Chief Executive's Pay Agreement.

Background

Since 1st August 2015 SSDC has operated without a substantive Chief Executive Officer (CEO) following the decision to cease the contractual arrangement with East Devon District Council. In July 2015 Full Council authorised a group of 4 members consisting of the Leader, Deputy Leader, Leader of the Conservative Group and Spokesperson for the Independent members (Leader's Working Group [LWG]) to consider the future Senior Management arrangements within the Council. The starting point was a consideration of whether the Council could operate satisfactorily with just two senior officers; a CEO and one Director.

During the course of considering a structure, the future face of Local Government, following the election, was clearly set to change and this suggested that a merger with another Somerset authority should receive active consideration. The Council authorised the Leader's Working Group to explore potential Joint Authority working with each of the Somerset District Councils. A decision to create a Joint Authority would have seen the likely merger of the senior management teams and the creation of a single CEO. Thus, whilst such an option was being considered it was decided to rotate the position of acting CEO between the two Strategic Directors on a monthly basis. This arrangement operated from August 2015 to April 2016 when Council agreed to appoint Rina Singh as interim CEO until such time as a new CEO was appointed.

In February 2016 Council made a decision not to merge and create a Joint Authority with another Somerset District Council at this point. Instead the decision was taken to begin the

process of working towards two major changes within SSDC in order to meet the large budget gap that will exist by 2019-20. The first, and most significant, was a decision to commence a Transformation programme for the Council and the second was to have a major focus on Income Generation. Both these strands were considered important in meeting the financial challenges facing this Council. It was also jointly decided to work collaboratively with Sedgemoor District Council through a Strategic Alliance to seek further economies, ensure service resilience and jointly explore commercial business opportunities as a key part of Income Generation.

Given the scale of this undertaking and the decision not to merge with another Council, the Leader's Working Group has reached a conclusion that there was a need to recruit a new CEO as soon as practicable. This view was reinforced by the advice of an external adviser and was subsequently confirmed at Council in April 2016.

Report Detail

The Appointments Committee, which is comprised of Cllrs Ric Pallister, Jo Roundell Greene, Tim Inglefield, Sylvia Seal, Angie Singleton, Andrew Turpin, Mike Beech and Mike Lewis, met both formally and informally to agree the external support they required and to determine the job and person specification.

The post was advertised in June 2016 and subsequently 34 applications were received. These were long-listed to 13, who were interviewed and tested by the appointed agency, Penna, who recommended 4 candidates for interview by the Appointments Committee.

The interviews took place on 26th July at the Innovation Centre in Yeovil. The candidates were given a tour of Lufton Depot, met with local business leaders, met with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Acting CEO and had lunch with a representative cross section of Assistant Directors and Managers.

Each candidate was then interviewed by the Appointments Committee and their recommendation is that Mr Alex Parmley of Eastleigh Borough Council be appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer for South Somerset District Council.

Financial Implications

The salary of the post of Chief Executive has been agreed at £110,000 pa. With on-costs this totals £139,328. Annual pay reviews will be linked to the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Executives of Local Authorities Chief Executive's Pay Agreement.

Council Plan Implications

The position of Chief Executive will be expected to progress all the aims and values of the SSDC Council Plan 2016 – 2021.

Equality and Diversity Implications

Due regard was given to equality and diversity considerations throughout all stages of the selection and interview process.

Background Papers

Reports to Council: May 2016, July 2016, September 2016, October 2016, February 2016, April 2016.

Agenda Item 9

Draft Proposals of the Community Governance Review of Yeovilton Parish Council

Executive Portfolio Holder: Carol Goodall, Area West Chairman
Assistant Director: Ian Clarke, Legal and Corporate Services
Lead Officer: Angela Cox, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Details: Angela.cox@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462148

Purpose of the Report

To report the outcome of the initial public consultation (Community Governance Review) which has taken place in the parish of Yeovilton on the proposal to increase the number of Parish Councillors (under the provisions of Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007).

Public Interest

A Community Governance Review is a review of the whole or part of a district to consider one or more of the following:

- creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- the naming of parishes and the style (i.e. whether to call it a town council or village council etc) of new parishes;
- the electoral arrangements for parishes – the ordinary year of election, the size of the council, the number of councillors to be elected and parish warding;
- grouping parishes under a common parish council, or de-grouping parishes.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007, sets down the principal legal framework within which councils must undertake these reviews.

A valid request was received from Yeovilton Parish Council in May 2015, requesting that the District Council conduct a consultation (Community Governance Review) of all the electors and local interested groups to ask if they would be agreeable to increase the number of Parish Councillors from five to seven. Initial consultation within the parish has now taken place and this report details the outcome of that consultation.

Recommendation(s)

That Council:

1. note the results of the consultation;
2. note that the significant majority of the valid responses received were in favour of the original proposal by Yeovilton Parish Council and therefore the draft recommendation for further consultation to Council be: "To accept the majority vote from the people of Yeovilton and to agree to increase the number of Parish Councillors to seven".
3. agree to publish the results of the consultation;
4. note that a further period of consultation on the results of the initial consultation responses will take place;

5. note that a further report will be brought to Council in order that a decision may be made in respect of the final recommendations of the Review.

Background

Council at its meeting held on 16th July 2015 (Minute 29 refers) approved the commencement of a Community Governance Review for the parish of Yeovilton following the receipt of a valid request from the Parish Council.

Proposal

In their request, the Parish Council gave the following reasons to support their request to increase the size of the Parish Council to seven members:-

- At the 2015 Parish Council elections, an election was held as there were more candidates than vacancies.
- Two Councillors from the three areas of Yeovilton, Podimore and Bridgehampton would be a better balance and make it easier to guarantee a quorum at meetings.
- Future development of RNAS Yeovilton and its impact on the local community.

They had originally requested that the number of parish councillors be increased from five to six, however, they have since reconsidered this and now request that they be allowed to increase their number to seven. The public consultation has been conducted on this number.

Consultation

The initial consultation period was held from 1st June 2016 to 1st July 2016. Consultation leaflets were delivered to all registered electors within the Parish (a total of 345 people). Public comments were also invited by e-mail.

A total of 78 responses were received (27% of the total electorate). The responses were as follows:-

Proposal	In favour	Against
Increase Parish Councillors from five to seven	67	11

Part of the consultation leaflet asked for any comments on the proposals and 10 varied responses were received. They were broadly supportive of the proposals, however, some raised the point that five Parish Councillors had managed very well in the past and questioned the need for two extra.

Having taken into account all consultation responses made during the first stage of consultation, and having regard to the need to ensure that Community Governance within the area reflects the identities and interests of the Community, and is effective and convenient, the draft recommendation of officers is: "To accept the majority vote from the people of Yeovilton and to agree to increase the number of Parish Councillors to seven".

Community Governance Review Timetable

The draft recommendation of the Council on the outcome of the review will be published by 19th August 2016, followed by the commencement of a further 4 week period of

consultation closing on 30th September 2016. Representations received on the draft recommendation will be submitted for consideration by South Somerset District Council at its meetings of District Executive on 3rd November and Full Council on 17th November 2016 when the final decision on the review will be taken.

If the increase in Councillors is confirmed, Yeovilton Parish Council are considering effecting the increase at an earlier date than the next election in May 2019, by resigning and so creating an early election. The cost of any election will be borne by the Parish Council.

Financial Implications

The cost of producing the consultation leaflets (360) and distributing by second class post was £309. There has been a cost in staff time in the production of the consultation leaflets and the analysis of the responses and these costs have been absorbed within existing budgets.

Given the majority support for the proposal, it is anticipated that the second consultation (as required) on the draft recommendations will be conducted at minimum cost through the SSDC Website, local press and posters. This cost is likely to be less than £50.

There is no specific budget for Community Governance Reviews and all costs have been absorbed within the existing Democratic Services budget for 2016/17. Additionally, there is no power to re-charge the cost of the review to any other Council, except by agreement. This is because the statutory power to conduct the review rests with this Council.

Corporate Priority Implications

None at the current time.

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

None at the current time.

Equality and Diversity Implications

All local government electors within the parish of Yeovilton have been consulted on the proposal and their views considered as part of the consultation process. The council must have regard to the need to secure that the community governance arrangements for the area reflects the identities and interests of the community in the area and are effective and convenient.

Background Papers

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
The Electoral Commission Guidance on Community Governance Reviews, April 2008
Terms of Reference of the Community Governance Review of the Parish Arrangements for Yeovilton as agreed by Council on 16th July 2015
Consultation responses provided by local residents

Agenda Item 10

Report of Executive Decisions

Lead Officer: Angela Cox, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Details: angela.cox@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462148

This report is submitted for information and summarises decisions taken by the District Executive and Portfolio Holders since the last meeting of Council in July 2016. The decisions are set out in the attached Appendix.

Members are invited to ask any questions of the Portfolio Holders.

Background Papers

All Published

Ric Pallister, Leader of the Council
Angela Cox, Democratic Services Manager
angela.cox@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462148

Appendix

Portfolio	Subject	Decision	Taken By	Date
Environmental Health, Health and Safety, Democratic Services and Member Training	Approval of South Somerset District Council's Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy 2016-2021	That the District Executive approved as fit for purpose and agreed to adopt as council policy the South Somerset District Council's Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy 2016-2021, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report.	District Executive	04/08/16
Finance and Legal Services / Property and Climate Change	Draft Asset Management Plan 2016-17	That the District Executive: (1) Approved the draft Asset Management Plan 2016-17 attached to the report. (2) Noted that detailed actions would be monitored by the Portfolio Holders and reported back to the Executive as part of the financial reporting process.	District Executive	04/08/16
Environment and Economic Development	Update on the Equality Objectives Action Plan	That District Executive: (1) Noted the progress of the current Equality Objectives 2012-2016 (Appendix1) (2) Approved the Equality Objectives 2016 – 2018 as amended (3) Approved the amended action plan (Appendix 1)	District Executive	04/08/16
Finance and Legal Services	2016/17 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report for the period ending 30 th June 2016	That District Executive: a) noted the current 2016/17 financial position of the Council; b) noted the reasons for variations to the previously approved Directorate Budgets as detailed in paragraphs 3.2; c) noted the transfers made to and from reserves outlined in paragraph 11.1 and the position of the Area Reserves as detailed in Appendix C and the Corporate Reserves as detailed in Appendix D; d) noted the virements made under delegated authority as detailed in Appendix B.	District Executive	04/08/16
Finance and Legal Services	2016/2017 Capital Budget Monitoring Report for the quarter	That the District Executive: - a) approved the revised capital programme spend as detailed in paragraph 6;	District Executive	04/08/16

Portfolio	Subject	Decision	Taken By	Date
	ending 30 th June 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) noted the slippage over £50,000 in the capital programme as detailed in paragraph 8; c) approved the virements of £63,000 outline in paragraph 9; d) approved the allocation of any additional funding to be used within the capital programme as detailed in paragraph 11; e) noted the current position with regard to funds held by the Wessex Home Improvement Loans as detailed in paragraph 15; f) note the progress of individual capital schemes as detailed in Appendix A; g) noted the total land disposals to registered social landlords as detailed in Appendix B; h) noted the balance of S106 deposits by developers held in a reserve as detailed in paragraph 13; i) noted the schemes that were approved prior to 2011, as detailed in Appendix C, and confirmed that those projects remain in the programme; j) noted the post completion report outstanding from 15/16 in Appendix D. 		
Environmental Health, Health and Safety, Democratic Services and Member Training	Draft Proposals of the Community Governance Review of Yeovilton Parish Council	<p>That District Executive recommend that Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. note the results of the consultation; 2. note that the significant majority of the valid responses received were in favour of the original proposal by Yeovilton Parish Council and therefore the draft recommendation for further consultation to Council be: "To accept the majority vote from the people of Yeovilton and to agree to increase the number of Parish Councillors to seven". 3. agree to publish the results of the consultation; 4. note that a further period of consultation on the results of the initial consultation responses will take place; 5. note that a further report will be brought to Council in order that a decision may be made in respect of the final recommendations of the Review. 	District Executive	04/08/16

Portfolio	Subject	Decision	Taken By	Date
Strategy and Policy	Westlands Leisure Complex (Confidential Item)	The District Executive agreed to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the urgent Executive decision taken by the Acting Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council under section 3.50(4) of the Constitution, to enable the Council to appoint the Contractors and proceed with works at the Westlands Leisure Complex. 2. Confirm the remaining recommendations of the report. 	District Executive	04/08/16
Strategy and Policy	Consent for disposal of a property in Yeovil by Yarlington Housing Group	The Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Policy is recommended to confirm consent for the proposed disposal of number 28, Westland Road, Yeovil by Yarlington Housing Group on the proviso that Yarlington undertake to reinvest the net sums raised in new housing provision in Yeovil.	Portfolio Holder	05/08/16 Executive Bulletin No. 681
Strategy and Policy	Consent for disposal of a property in Compton Pouncefoot by Yarlington Housing Group	The Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Policy is recommended to confirm consent for the proposed disposal of number 2, Hicknoll Cottages, Compton Pouncefoot by Yarlington Housing Group on the proviso that Yarlington undertake to reinvest the net sums raised in new provision in the local area.	Portfolio Holder	05/08/16 Executive Bulletin No. 681
Strategy and Policy	Consent for disposal of a property in East Lambrook by Yarlington Housing Group	The Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Policy is recommended to withhold consent for the proposed disposal of number 2, Owl Street, East Lambrook by Yarlington Housing Group.	Portfolio Holder	05/08/16 Executive Bulletin No. 681

Agenda Item 11

Audit Committee

This report summarises the items considered by the Audit Committee on 26 July 2016.

2015/16 Annual Statement of Accounts

The Principal Accountant presented the 2015/16 Annual Statement of Accounts for approval by the Audit Committee. She explained to members how the Statement of Accounts were prepared following changes to regulations which brought forward deadline dates for the approval and publication of the Statement of Accounts. She proceeded to highlight to members:

- Revenue Outturn – summarising the figures presented to District Executive on 7th July 2016 showing the overall outturn underspend of £802,716 (4.5%).
- Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) which shows the accounting costs in the year of providing services explaining the ‘Remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability’ due to pensions and the underlying assets it relies on.
- Balance Sheet
- Cashflow Statement

In response to questions, the Principal Accountant simplified the figures included within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement explaining to members the reason for the adjustments of the Net Cost of Services for year end 31st March 2015 and the total spend reported to the District Executive. She also noted a members request that the comments set out within the officer’s report be included within the full Statement of Accounts.

Having examined the document and commented on the information presented, the 2015/16 Annual Statement of Accounts was approved by the Committee by the Chairman signing and dating the balance sheet and Letter or Representation.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Audit Committee, thanked the Assistant Director Finance and Corporate Services, the Principal and the Finance Team for their excellent work.

RESOLVED:

- (a) The 2015/16 Statement of Accounts be approved. (A copy of the Statement of Accounts had been circulated separately with this agenda.)
- (b) Noted the unqualified opinion on the financial statements.
- (c) Authorised that the Assistant Director (Finance and Corporate Services) sign the Letter of Representation.

Summary Statement of Accounts

The Principal Accountant presented the report and explained that the Summary Statement of Accounts was now a simple, clear and easy to read document covering most aspects of the Council’s 2015/16 Statement of Accounts. She requested comments on the 2015/16 Summary of Accounts which would now be available on the SSDC website and at Local Council offices.

In response to a question, the Principal Accountant would inform Councillor Mike Beech direct regarding the associated costs of the Highways & Transport service.

The Assistant Director, Finance and Corporate Services also reported that the recent Judicial Review had now been completed with the judge finding in favour of SSDC and advised that a report would be brought to the committee in due course.

Following a short discussion and in agreement with the Director-Grant Thornton it was explained to members that the Council would be able to claim costs against the Judicial Review and should no further objection be upheld they would be able to sign off the last three years accounts.

Members were content that the 2015/16 Summary of Accounts be approved for publication.

RESOLVED: That the 2015/16 Summary of Accounts be noted.

2015/16 Audit Findings Report

The Director - Grant Thornton presented the report that summarised the findings from the 2015/16 work of the Audit Commission relating to governance, as detailed in full as appended to the agenda. She congratulated the authority's excellent work on producing the accounts two months earlier than last year and explained the findings to be of a very good standard and that SSDC being one of the first authorities to be received. She then proceeded to summarise the key issues from the report including:

- Audit findings against significant risks including :
 - The process of the revaluations of the Council's Valuation of property, plant and equipment.
 - Welfare Expenditure – income calculation.
- Accounting policies including the Property Plant and Equipment and continuation of rolling programme to ensure value of assets are not misstated.
- Internal Controls.
- Adjusted misstatements.
- Disclosure Changes.

The Director – Grant Thornton continued to summarise the Value for Money key findings including Medium Term Financial Strategy, Council Tax Collection Rates and the CEO arrangements and concluded that no significant risks had been identified to compromise the value for money report and referred to the action plan and the agreed target regarding the collection of Council Tax.

The Assistant Director, Finance and Corporate Services advised that Council Tax now employed four additional staff members. She explained that although the collection rate did not clearly reflect the need to collect the backlog from previous year's this was ever improving and that £1.9 million additional monies had been collected than from 2014/15.

The Chairman congratulated the Assistant Director, Finance and Corporate Services, Principal Accountant, the Finance Team and Grant Thornton for their excellent work and Members were content to approve the recommendations.

RESOLVED: That the Audit Committee:

1. Considered the matters raised in the report;

2. Noted the audit findings as outlined in Section two of this report.
 3. Noted the Value for Money criteria has been met.
 4. Agreed the recommended actions in Appendix A.
-

Councillor Derek Yeomans
Chairman of Audit Committee

Agenda Item 12

Scrutiny Committee

Since the last report to Full Council, Scrutiny Committee met on 2nd August 2016 and considered the following items:

Response to Scrutiny Questions to the Leader

The Scrutiny Committee discussed the responses provided by the Leader of Council to their questions raised regarding information on the newly created Boards.

Reports to be considered by District Executive on 4 August 2016

The Scrutiny Committee considered the reports included in the District Executive agenda for 4 August 2016 and made the following comments:

Approval of South Somerset District Council's Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy

Member's sought reassurance that the reputational risk to the Authority of adopting a more reactive than pro-active approach is adequately managed.

Draft Asset Management Plan 2016/17

Whilst members acknowledged that the report stated there would need to be some flexibility to manage the limited resources available in the delivery of the Asset Management Plan, Scrutiny Committee members feel it is important that workloads are monitored.

Members were pleased to note the clarification given by the Leader that the cessation of the SASG would not affect the democratic decision making processes already in place.

Update on the Equality Objective Action Plan

Members were pleased to note that their concerns relating to Community Safety Actions had now been addressed.

2016/17 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report

Members sought clarification about the ANPR Car Parking arrangements and why this project was running behind schedule. They were grateful to the Finance Manager for providing some clarification about the contract negotiation process and hope the issues can be resolved as soon as possible.

Members asked that progress towards achieving the Transformation Programme savings are made explicitly clear in budget monitoring reports and it was agreed that this information would be shown as a separate reporting line in the future.

2016/17 Capital Programme Monitoring Report

Members commented on the fact that a move away from Home Improvement Grants to loans had had an adverse effect on the number of applications. They were pleased to note the Leader's comments that a revised procedure for administering the loans would be coming before members shortly.

Confidential session – Westlands Leisure Complex

This item was discussed in confidential session.

Verbal update on Task and Finish reviews

Members were updated on the progress of the Task and Finish Groups currently underway:

- Council Tax Reduction Review 2017
- Discretionary Housing Payments
- Consent to Dispose of Housing Stock / Local Connections Allocation Policy
- NNDR
- Voluntary Council for Somerset
- Street Trading
- Devolution
- Rural Services Access to Health Scrutiny Exercise

Councillor Sue Steele
Chairman of Scrutiny Committee

Agenda Item 15

Date of Next Meeting

Members are asked to note that the next scheduled meeting of the Full Council will take place on **Thursday, 1st September 2016** in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil **commencing at 8.00 p.m.**

This meeting will be preceded by a **Members Briefing at 6.00pm** on the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Plan – the Government's four year grant offer.

All members are invited to attend this briefing session.
