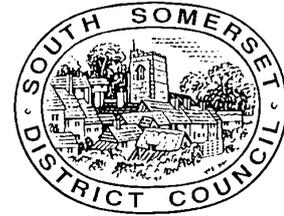


South Somerset District Council

Notice of Meeting



Area South Committee

Making a difference where it counts

Wednesday 1st March 2017

4.00pm (please note the later start time)

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

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



The following members are requested to attend this meeting:

Cathy Bakewell
John Clark
Gye Dibben
John Field
Nigel Gage
Peter Gubbins
Kaysar Hussain

Andy Kendall
Sarah Lindsay
Mike Lock
Tony Lock
Sam McAllister
Graham Oakes
Wes Read

David Recardo
Gina Seaton
Peter Seib
Alan Smith
Rob Stickland

Consideration of planning applications will commence no earlier than **4.30pm**.

For further information on the items to be discussed, please contact the Democratic Services Officer on 01935 462011 or democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk

This Agenda was issued on Monday 20th February 2017.

Ian Clarke, Assistant Director (Legal & Corporate Services)

This information is also available on our website
www.southsomerset.gov.uk and via the mod.gov app



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Information for the Public

The council has a well-established area committee system and through four area committees seeks to strengthen links between the Council and its local communities, allowing planning and other local issues to be decided at a local level (planning recommendations outside council policy are referred to the district wide Regulation Committee).

Decisions made by area committees, which include financial or policy implications are generally classed as executive decisions. Where these financial or policy decisions have a significant impact on council budgets or the local community, agendas will record these decisions as “key decisions”. The council’s Executive Forward Plan can be viewed online for details of executive/key decisions which are scheduled to be taken in the coming months. Non-executive decisions taken by area committees include planning, and other quasi-judicial decisions.

At area committee meetings members of the public are able to:

- attend and make verbal or written representations, except where, for example, personal or confidential matters are being discussed;
- at the area committee chairman’s discretion, members of the public are permitted to speak for up to up to three minutes on agenda items; and
- see agenda reports

Meetings of the Area South Committee are held monthly, usually at 2.00pm, on the first Wednesday of the month at the Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil (unless specified otherwise).

Agendas and minutes of meetings are published on the council’s website
www.southsomerset.gov.uk/councillors-and-democracy/meetings-and-decisions

Agendas and minutes can also be viewed via the mod.gov app (free) available for iPads and Android devices. Search for ‘mod.gov’ in the app store for your device, install, and select ‘South Somerset’ from the list of publishers, then select the committees of interest. A wi-fi signal will be required for a very short time to download an agenda but once downloaded, documents will be viewable offline.

Public participation at committees

Public question time

The period allowed for participation in this session shall not exceed 15 minutes except with the consent of the Chairman of the Committee. Each individual speaker shall be restricted to a total of three minutes.

Planning applications

Consideration of planning applications at this meeting will commence no earlier than the time stated at the front of the agenda and on the planning applications schedule. The public and representatives of parish/town councils will be invited to speak on the individual planning applications at the time they are considered.

Comments should be confined to additional information or issues, which have not been fully covered in the officer’s report. Members of the public are asked to submit any additional documents to the planning officer at least 72 hours in advance and not to present them to the Committee on the day of the meeting. This will give the planning officer the opportunity to respond appropriately. Information from the public should not be tabled at the meeting. It should

also be noted that, in the interests of fairness, the use of presentational aids (e.g. PowerPoint) by the applicant/agent or those making representations will not be permitted. However, the applicant/agent or those making representations are able to ask the planning officer to include photographs/images within the officer's presentation subject to them being received by the officer at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. No more than 5 photographs/images either supporting or against the application to be submitted. The planning officer will also need to be satisfied that the photographs are appropriate in terms of planning grounds.

At the committee chairman's discretion, members of the public are permitted to speak for up to three minutes each and where there are a number of persons wishing to speak they should be encouraged to choose one spokesperson to speak either for the applicant or on behalf of any supporters or objectors to the application. The total period allowed for such participation on each application shall not normally exceed 15 minutes.

The order of speaking on planning items will be:

- Town or Parish Council Spokesperson
- Objectors
- Supporters
- Applicant and/or Agent
- District Council Ward Member

If a member of the public wishes to speak they must inform the committee administrator before the meeting begins of their name and whether they have supporting comments or objections and who they are representing. This must be done by completing one of the public participation slips available at the meeting.

In exceptional circumstances, the Chairman of the Committee shall have discretion to vary the procedure set out to ensure fairness to all sides.

Recording and photography at council meetings

Recording of council meetings is permitted, however anyone wishing to do so should let the Chairperson of the meeting know prior to the start of the meeting. The recording should be overt and clearly visible to anyone at the meeting, but non-disruptive. If someone is recording the meeting, the Chairman will make an announcement at the beginning of the meeting.

Any member of the public has the right not to be recorded. If anyone making public representation does not wish to be recorded they must let the Chairperson know.

The full 'Policy on Audio/Visual Recording and Photography at Council Meetings' can be viewed online at:

<http://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/documents/s3327/Policy%20on%20the%20recording%20of%20council%20meetings.pdf>

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Area South Committee

Wednesday 1 March 2017

Agenda

Preliminary Items

- 1. Minutes of previous meeting**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Declarations of Interest**

In accordance with the Council's current Code of Conduct (as amended 26 February 2015), 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.

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. 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.

Planning Applications Referred to the District Council's Regulation Committee

The following members of this Committee are also members of the Council's Regulation Committee:

Councillors Peter Gubbins, Graham Oakes, David Recardo and Gina Seaton.

Where planning applications are referred by this Committee to the Regulation Committee for determination, Members of the Regulation Committee can participate and vote on these items at the Area Committee and at Regulation Committee. In these cases the Council's decision-making process is not complete until the application is determined by the Regulation Committee. Members of the Regulation Committee retain an open mind and will not finalise their position until the Regulation Committee. They will also consider the matter at Regulation Committee as Members of that Committee and not as representatives of the Area Committee.

- 4. Public question time**
- 5. Chairman's announcements**
- 6. Reports from representatives on outside organisations**

This is an opportunity for Members who represent the Council on outside organisations to report items of interest to the Committee.

Items for discussion

7. **One Public Estate Programme - Proposals for South Somerset** (Pages 6 - 8)
8. **Area South Forward Plan** (Pages 9 - 11)
9. **Schedule of Planning Applications to be Determined by Committee** (Pages 12 - 13)
10. **Planning Application 17/00128/R3D - Yeovil Innovation Centre Copse Road Brympton** (Pages 14 - 24)
11. **Exclusion of Press and Public** (Page 25)
12. **Historic Buildings at Risk - Confidential Report** (Pages 26 - 27)

Please note that the decisions taken by Area Committees may be called in for scrutiny by the Council's Scrutiny Committee prior to implementation.

This does not apply to decisions taken on planning applications.

Agenda Item 7

One Public Estate Programme – Proposals for South Somerset Advice Hubs (For information)

Strategic Director: Clare Pestell
Assistant Director Laurence Willis/ Helen Rutter
Lead Officer: Nena Beric, Project Manager
Contact Details: NBeric@somerset.gov.uk / helen.rutter@southsomerset.gov.uk

Purpose of the Report

To update the Committee on the One Public Estate Programme (OPE). To inform members of the proposals and approach to develop feasibility studies to support the creation of multi-service hubs with partner agencies in Yeovil and Chard.

Public Interest

In July 2016 in partnership with Somerset County Council (SCC), SSDC, other local authorities, Health and the emergency services; a countywide submission was made as part of the LGA and Cabinet Office run One Public Estate Programme to develop a shared asset programme within Somerset. The bid had a focus on the following:

- Creating customer hubs for local public sector/third sector partners
- Creating back office hubs for local public sector/third sector partners
- Creating business incubator hubs
- Regenerating the surplus public estate

The bid was successful and funding has been allocated to the Partnership to develop shared asset proposals across Somerset. Part of that funding has been allocated to SSDC to develop feasibility studies to support the creation of multi-service hubs in Yeovil and Chard focusing on Petters House and the Holyrood Lace Mill and as potential venues. This report provides information about the programme and details the approach to be taken in South Somerset.

Recommendation

That the committee notes and supports the approach being taken to establish the viability of a multi agency hub in Yeovil.

Background

The national One Public Estate (OPE) Programme is an initiative managed by the Cabinet Office Government Property Unit (GPU) and Local Government Association (LGA) to provide support and funding to local authorities to deliver ambitious, property focussed programmes in collaboration with central government departments and other public sector partners. The Somerset OPE Partnership has been working to pilot a blueprint for a new, more integrated approach to shared hubs and customer service in Somerset. Wherever possible, hubs will be located in existing, high quality, public sector buildings located conveniently for customer access. Although, it is recognised that investment in internal remodelling to create the appropriate welcoming space will be required. Somerset's hub programme aims to not only transform assets, but also to provide a catalyst for service transformation and integration. The overriding hub design principles are; affordability, flexibility, efficiency and

sustainability. The customer service aim is to provide a seamless and effective first point of contact for customers, irrespective of organisational boundaries.

Members attention was drawn to the OPE programme in October when an information report gave the status at that time.

The opportunity in Yeovil will assess the feasibility of creating a Hub Campus enabling the co-location of partner services into existing public sector buildings in the town centre allowing improved customer access to services. Participating partners will have an opportunity to drive through efficiencies in their back-office operations via potential release of properties. Feasibility will be assessed to deliver services such as Library, Registrars, Children's Social Care services, key District Council services, Police, Jobcentre Plus, family support, health visitors, CAB and community & public health services.

Proposed Approach

SCC has taken the overall lead in the OPE Programme Management and in December 2016 it was agreed that a Project Manager from SCC would manage the overall development of both projects in South Somerset. Nena Beric will be working with SSDC over the next 18 months and will be based in Yeovil and Chard for some of her time. By appointing one project manager for both projects it is hoped that South Somerset's projects will achieve some consistency, whilst retaining an emphasis on the needs of the local community. Nena will work closely with SSDC's Transformation team to ensure that the final proposals align with the future vision for SSDC. It is recognised that the property needs of all partners is dynamic and dependent on a wide range of national, regional and local, economic and policy decisions. It is therefore important that there is sufficient flexibility within the programme to accommodate the changing needs of partners.

The objectives are for the Project Manager to develop viable proposals for hubs in Yeovil and Chard which are acceptable to SSDC members and other key stakeholders. This will be achieved using a robust project management approach with Business Case production, approval and sign off. This approach provides a process for approval which is flexible and scalable along with a range of tools that can be applied to provide clarity in the decision support process. The approach also provides a clear audit trail for public accountability.

The approach will be as follows:

Yeovil - Short term (February – March 2017)

- Early SSDC officer stakeholder engagement and report to ASC – February 2017
- Baseline data gathering to gain an understanding of the 'as is' position (what SSDC and partners currently deliver and how) – March 2017
- Engagement of key public sector partners – March 2017
- Identifying and developing arrangements for service synergies (grouping together complementary services) – March 2017
- Develop an outline feasibility report and cost benefit analysis – April 2017

It is anticipated that the outline feasibility report and recommendations will be added to the agenda and shared with the South Area Committee in the spring. This report will also contain a list of medium and longer term tasks however it is anticipated once a strategic route is agreed a full business case and impact assessment will be developed in the summer for a decision.

Project Governance arrangements

There will be clear lines of reporting and an operational OPE Project Board will be established with clear terms of reference. It is anticipated this Board will meet monthly. Within SSDC the project governance arrangements will align with those for the Transformation project.

Financial Implications

A full cost benefit analysis will be undertaken as the feasibility study for each area develops, and will be reported back to the committee at the relevant time. The expected benefits however are as follows and will be delivered over a 10 year period:

- Savings in property running costs
- Savings in service delivery achieved through shared triage and service design
- Inward investment to Yeovil and Chard
- Regeneration benefits to Yeovil and Chard town centres

Council Plan Implications

A priority project in the 2016/17 Corporate Plan

Carbon Emissions & Climate Change Implications

None at this stage

Equality and Diversity Implications

A town Centre multi agency hub should be well placed to better meet the needs of all sectors of the population

Background Papers

None

Agenda Item 8

Area South Committee Forward Plan

Assistant Director: Helen Rutter, Communities
Service Manager: Natalie Fortt, Area Development Lead - South
Agenda Co-ordinator: Jo Boucher, Democratic Services Officer
Contact Details: jo.boucher@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462011

Purpose of the Report

This report informs Members of the agreed Area South Forward Plan.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:-

1. Comment upon and note the proposed Area South Forward Plan as attached at Appendix A.
2. Identify priorities for further reports to be added to the Area South Forward Plan, developed by the SSDC lead officers

Area South Committee Forward Plan

The forward plan sets out items and issues to be discussed by the Area Committee over the coming months.

The forward plan will be reviewed and updated each month, by the joint lead officers from SSDC, in consultation with the Area Committee Chairman. It is included each month with the Area Committee agenda, where members of the Area Committee may endorse or request amendments.

Members of the public, councillors, service managers, and partners may request an item is placed within the forward plan for a future meeting, by contacting the Democratic Services Officer.

Background Papers

None

Appendix A

Notes

- (1) Items marked in *italics* are not yet confirmed, due to the attendance of additional representatives.
- (2) For further details on these items, or to suggest / request an agenda item for the Area South Committee, please contact the Democratic Services Officer; Jo Boucher.

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Background/ Purpose	Lead Officer
5th April 2017	Area South Development Team Annual Report 16/17	End of year report for Area South Development	Natalie Fortt, Area Development Lead - South
	Strategic Key Sites within Area South	Section 106 update report on the Strategic Key Sites within Area South	Neil Waddleton, Section 106 Officer
	Markets Improvement Strategy	Update Report on the Yeovil Markets	Natalie Fortt, Area Development Lead - South
3rd May 2017	Area South Development Plan 2017/2018	Area South Development Plan 2017/18 and financial outturn.	Helen Rutter, Assistant Director (Communities)/Natalie Fortt, Area Development Lead - South
	One Public Estate Programme	Update report	Nena Beric, Project Manager
7th June 2017	Appointment of Working Groups & Outside Bodies	Annual Report	Jo Boucher, Committee Administrator
	Scheme of Delegation	Annual Report	Jo Boucher, Committee Administrator
	Community Safety- Yeovil One Team	Community Safety Update Report	Steve Brewer, Community Safety Coordinator
5th July 2017	Community Offices Update Report	Annual Update Report	Lisa Davis, Community Development Support Officer
	Streetscene Update Report	Annual Update Report	Chris Cooper, Streetscene Manager
	Dorcas House Statement of Accounts	To approve the Dorcas House Annual Accounts	Jayne Beevor, Principal Accountant

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Background/ Purpose	Lead Officer
3 rd August 2016		<i>Please note this meeting will only be held if there are planning applications to be determined</i>	
TBC	Western & Eastern Corridor Improvements	Update of the Western & Eastern Corridor Improvements	SCC
TBC	Yeovil Refresh Report	Update Report on the ongoing work regarding the Yeovil Refresh	Helen Rutter, Assistant Director (Communities)

Agenda Item 9

Schedule of Planning Applications to be determined by Committee

Director: Martin Woods, Director - Service Delivery
Service Manager: David Norris, Development Control Manager
Contact Details: david.norris@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462382

Purpose of the Report

The schedule of planning applications sets out the applications to be determined by Area South Committee at this meeting.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the schedule of planning applications.

Please note: Consideration of planning applications will commence no earlier than 4.30pm.

Members of the public who wish to speak about a particular planning item are recommended to arrive for 4.20pm.

SCHEDULE					
Agenda Number	Ward	Application	Brief Summary of Proposal	Site Address	Applicant
10	BRYMPTON	17/00128/R3D	The erection of a two storey multiple occupancy office block with link to existing Innovation Centre and associated landscaping	Yeovil Innovation Centre Copse Road Brympton	South Somerset District Council

Further information about planning applications is shown below and at the beginning of the main agenda document.

The Committee will consider the applications set out in the schedule. The Planning Officer will give further information at the meeting and, where appropriate, advise members of letters received as a result of consultations since the agenda had been prepared.

Referral to the Regulation Committee

The inclusion of two stars (**) as part of the Development Manager's recommendation indicates that the application will need to be referred to the District Council's Regulation Committee if the Area Committee is unwilling to accept that recommendation.

The Lead Planning Officer, at the Committee, in consultation with the Chairman and Solicitor, will also be able to recommend that an application should be referred to District Council's Regulation Committee even if it has not been two starred on the Agenda.

Human Rights Act Statement

The Human Rights Act 1998 makes it unlawful, subject to certain expectations, for a public authority to act in a way which is incompatible with a Convention Right. However when a planning decision is to be made there is further provision that a public authority must take into account the public interest. Existing planning law has for many years demanded a balancing exercise between private rights and public interest and this authority's decision making takes into account this balance. If there are exceptional circumstances which demand more careful and sensitive consideration of Human Rights issues then these will be referred to in the relevant report.

Agenda Item 10

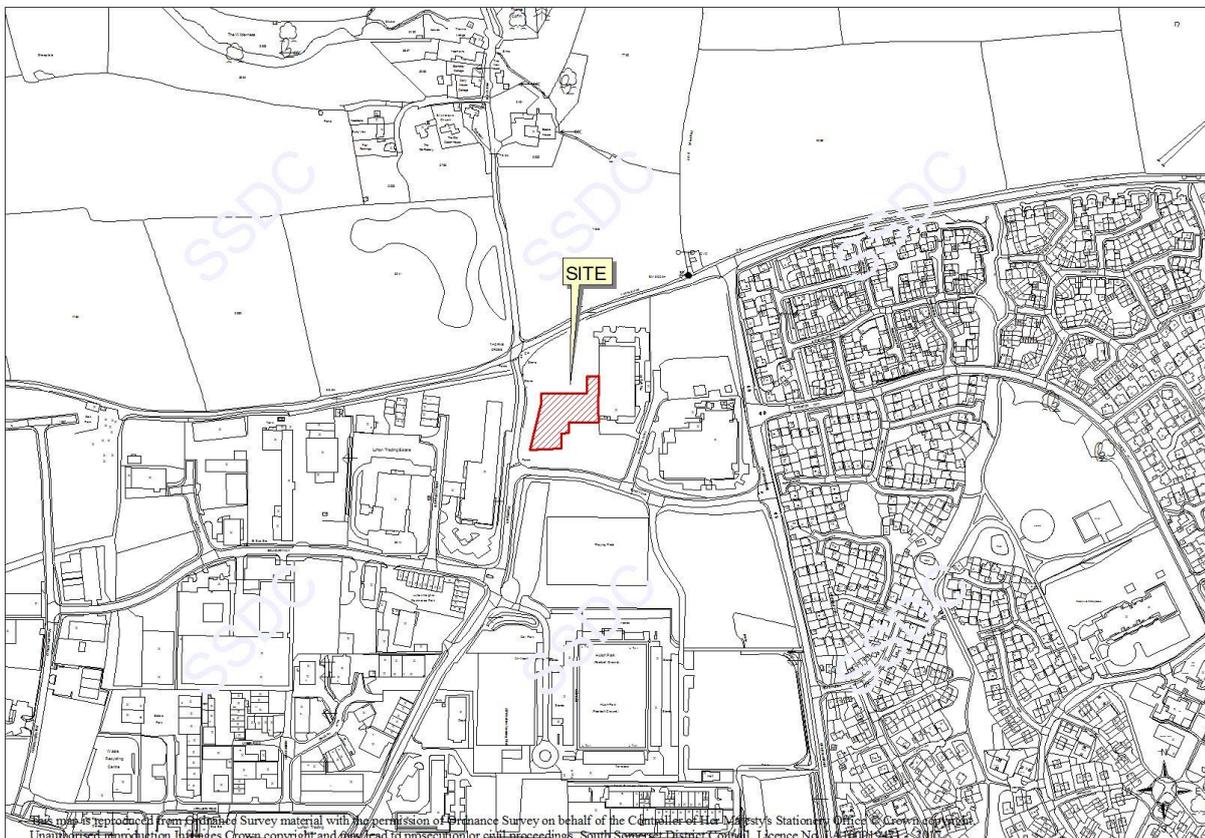
Officer Report On Planning Application: 17/00128/R3D

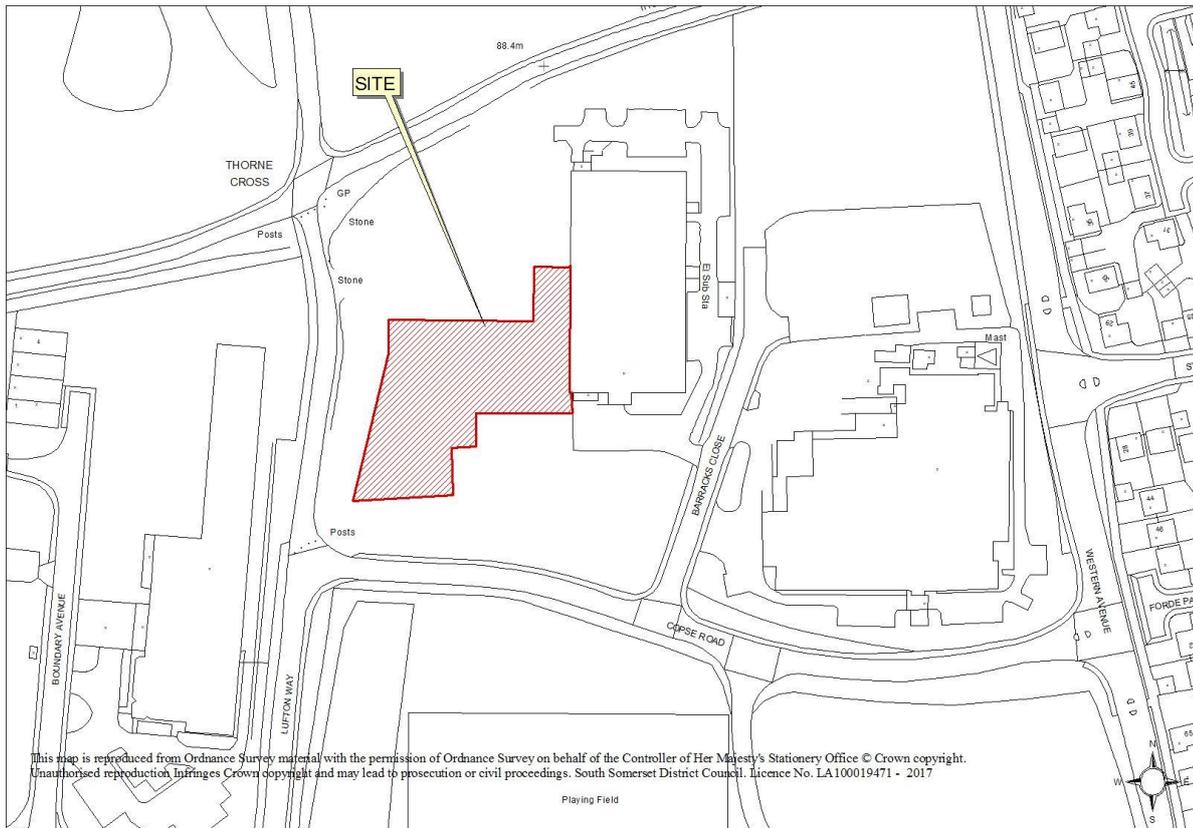
Proposal :	The erection of a two storey multiple occupancy office block with link to existing Innovation Centre and associated landscaping
Site Address:	Yeovil Innovation Centre Copse Road Brympton
Parish:	Brympton
BRYMPTON Ward (SSDC Member)	Cllr S Lindsay Cllr P Seib
Recommending Case Officer:	Simon Fox, Area Lead Officer (South)
Target date :	12th April 2017
Applicant :	South Somerset District Council
Agent: (no agent if blank)	NPS Ltd Venture House Capital Court Bitten Road Sowton Industrial Estate Exeter EX2 7FW
Application Type :	Major Offs floorspace 1,000 sq.m or 1ha+

Reason for Referral to Committee

This application is automatically referred for Committee consideration in accordance with the scheme of delegation due to the fact that the District Council is the applicant. The application is also referred to committee 6 weeks prior to the determination date in order that the applicant may meet a critical funding deadline.

Site Description and Proposal





The application site comprises the District Council's Innovation Centre which accommodates purpose designed office suites aimed at organisations looking for a flexible solution with space for growth.

The centre was formed via a conversion of a former clothes factory in 2007 and extends to two-storeys and 3000sqm. There is a large car park to the front, with additional parking to the side and rear. To the other side is a large grassed area. There is a group of trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) in the north-west corner of the site and other high quality trees on the western boundary.

The site lies adjacent to a commercial laundry and opposite Yeovil Town Football Club in the periphery of the Lufton Trading Estate and is accessed off Barracks Close, a small cul-de-sac that also serves the laundry and a vacant plot to the rear of the laundry which has historically had permission for commercial uses.

This application seeks to erect an 1120sqm two-storey extension wing to the south-western corner. It would be accessed directly off the main reception which is located in that corner of the existing building. This would facilitate additional flexible office space (Use Class B1). The application also includes associated car parking.

The extension is to be constructed from hollow clay blocks with a white lime through colour render, under a flat roof with a white powder coated mesh parapet and eaves projection.

The application is supported by a number of documents including:

- Planning Statement
- Background, Location and Sequential Test
- Transport Statement
- Travel Plan Statement
- Ecological Statement inc. Phase 1 Ecological Assessment
- Arborist Statement inc. Tree Survey and Tree Protection Plan

The application has been submitted on behalf of South Somerset District Council. The application was not subject to pre-application discussion until very late in the process.

HISTORY

15/01870/R3D (Regulation 3 District): Formation of new car park and provision of tarmac surface to 2 No. existing parking areas and new lighting: Reg3/4 District - permitted with conditions: 15/06/2015

09/02593/R3D (Regulation 3 District): The construction of a draught lobby/porch to front entrance: Reg3/4 District - permitted with conditions: 13/08/2009

09/01259/R3D (Regulation 3 District): The provision of additional parking space and lighting: Reg3/4 District - permitted with conditions: 13/05/2009

08/00967/R3D (Regulation 3 District): The installation of a new 15 metre high wind turbine to serve existing building: Reg3/4 District - permitted with conditions: 16/04/2008

810988: Factory and offices and ancillary buildings totalling 3500sqm of floor space and formation of vehicular access: Conditionally Approved: 22/05/1981

801946: Use of land for Class III Light Industrial Use including offices factory and other ancillary buildings: Conditionally Approved: 12/11/1980

Various signage applications and other pre-1998 history exists.

POLICY

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), and Paragraphs 2, 11, 12, and 14 of the NPPF indicate it is a matter of law that applications are determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

On 5th March 2015 South Somerset District Council, as Local Planning Authority, adopted its Local Plan to cover the period 2006 to 2028.

On this basis the following policies are considered relevant:-

Policies of the South Somerset Local Plan (2006-2028):

SD1 - Sustainable Development
SS1 - Settlement Hierarchy
SS3 - Delivering New Employment Land
SS6 - Infrastructure Delivery
EP2 - Office Development
EP3 - Safeguarding Employment Land
EQ1 - Addressing Climate Change in South Somerset
EQ2 - Design & General Development
EQ3 - Historic Environment
EQ4 - Biodiversity
EQ7 - Pollution Control
TA1 - Low Carbon Travel
TA4 - Travel Plans
TA5 - Transport Impact of New Development
TA6 - Parking Standards

National Guidance - National Planning Policy Framework:

In particular-

Chapter 1 - Building a Strong, Competitive Economy

Chapter 4 - Promoting Sustainable Transport
Chapter 7 - Requiring Good Design
Chapter 10 - Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change, Flooding and Coastal Change

Other

Somerset County Council Parking Strategy (March 2012)

CONSULTATIONS

Brympton Parish Council:

"Recommends Approval"

Highways Authority (Somerset County Council):

The Highway Authority was consulted on this application on 16th January 2017. Typically 21 days are given for comment. As at 17th February 2017 no comments had been received. Members will be given an oral update.

Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)(Somerset County Council):

"The development indicates an increase in impermeable areas that will generate an increase in surface water runoff. This has the potential to increase flood risk to the adjacent properties or the highway if not adequately controlled.

The applicant has not provided any details of the proposed drainage designs for the capture and removal of surface water from the development. Due to the location of the site and the proposed increase in impermeable areas it will be necessary to provide these details.

The LLFA has no objection to the proposed development, as submitted...[subject to a condition requiring a surface water drainage scheme]". See Condition 06.

SSDC Ecologist:

No comments nor recommendations to make.

SSDC Tree Officer:

"Adjoining the Western boundary of the site, soil arising's appear to have been recently deposited within the Root Protection Areas (RPA's) of Cypress T15, Horse Chestnuts T13, T11 and possibly T10 - all high quality trees.

I recommend that these soil arising's are carefully removed from site or re-deposited elsewhere, well away from adjoining trees whilst minimising further machinery tracking and soil compaction.

In regards to the proposal - the installation of below ground services, drainage and the contractor's compound would need to avoid encroaching within the RPA's of the adjoining trees.

The layout does appear to avoid the RPA's, however, some tree protection measures will be required for the duration of the project in order to prevent construction activities from encroachment". [condition proposed concerning tree protection measures] See Condition 07.

SSDC Environmental Protection Team:

As there is a small risk of the site being affected by contamination from past industrial use it would be proportionate to insert a condition in order to protect receptors including the building itself and groundwater. [condition requiring observation of ground conditions and reporting of any unusual signs] See Condition 05.

South West Heritage Trust (Archaeology):

No implications.

Wessex Water:

New water supply and waste water connections will be required from Wessex Water.

Information regarding s105a public sewers is given. Further work is necessary to ascertain network capacity for sprinklers.

Crime Prevention Design Advisor:

No objections.

REPRESENTATIONS

Three adjacent neighbours were notified in writing. A site notice has also been displayed and a press advert placed (Major Development).

No comments had been received at the time of compiling this report.

CONSIDERATIONS

The application raises several issues which will be considered here in turn.

Project Outline and Principle of Development

The project seeks to extend the District Council's Innovation Centre which comprises offices defined as Use Class B1(a).

Policy SD1 proactively promotes Sustainable Development that improves the economic conditions within the District and where necessary the Local Planning Authority will work with applicants to improve proposals so they are capable of being approved.

Yeovil is a Strategically Significant Town as defined by Policy SS1 and is therefore the focus for development in South Somerset.

This site forms part of an existing employment site and as such acts as a windfall as far as Policy SS3 is concerned. The development will create jobs which will contribute towards the target identified within Policy SS3.

Policy EP2 concerns office development (Use Class A2 and B1(a)). The policy requires office development to be first located within the defined Town Centre and where this is not possible and demonstrated by a sequential test then edge of centre sites are preferred to out of centre sites. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) similarly defines offices as a 'main town centre use'. The use class of the proposal sought is Use Class B1(a) and the site would be classed as out-of-centre and so could be deemed as contrary to Policy EP2 and the NPPF.

This is the same policy approach as the Local Planning Authority uses regarding retail development.

The applicant has submitted a sequential test. The test acknowledges that it must demonstrate there are no suitable, available and viable sites in the town centre. The following reasons are given as justification for the out-of-centre site over a sequentially preferable town centre or edge-of-centre site.

- *"we would contend that the majority of the businesses would not be typical of businesses found in a town centre. They would be unlikely contributors to town centre viability and even less likely to generate the type of 'linked-trip' footfall that benefits a town centre. As examples - the business undertaken at YIC in 2016 includes helicopter flight simulation, aircraft stress-detection software, GIS tracking systems for shipping, digital workshop manuals for aircraft, three dimensional imaging and legal advice on intellectual property. Arguably these businesses would not benefit directly from being located in a town centre, they would be extremely unlikely to attract passing trade and would contribute little to linked-trip shopping in the town centre".*
- The Innovation Centre site exists and offers direct business support.
- The extension offers economies of scale.
- The sharing of business ideas, business experience, customer generation and the sharing and creation of supply chains that are specific to the high tech sector. The Business Plan for YIC2 now gives greater emphasis to aerospace start-up and high tech businesses. "It also underpins the logic of extending the existing centre rather than using a separate location".
- The location is close to (arguably within) Yeovil's Aerospace sector - none of which is located

in Yeovil Town Centre.

- Project viability. Extending YIC also allows overheads to be absorbed such as staff coverage.

In terms of site specific matters the sequential test states that the only building available for sale in the town centre at the time of writing was The Glove Factory which was too small, with no adequate parking nearby, staff parking in nearby car parks would displace town centre visitor parking, severe adverse impact on project viability because of additional staffing, no room to expand, unviable. Maltravers House was also appraised offering 464sqm but due to similar reasons as the Glove Factory it has been ruled out by the applicant.

In terms of new build options the sequential test acknowledges there are several potential sites in Yeovil. The sites appraised and ruled out include:

- The Box Factory - although owned by the Council - project viability due to increased development costs due to topography, a need to compensate for the loss of parking, site designated for Urban Village and additional staffing requirements. Unsuitable.
- Stars Lane Car Park - although owned by the Council - project viability due to increased development costs due to topography, a need to compensate for the loss of parking, site designated for Urban Village and additional staffing requirements. Unsuitable.
- Petters Way North - although owned by the Council - not big enough to suit development footprint, project viability due to increased development costs due to topography, a need to compensate for the loss of parking and additional staffing requirements. Unsuitable and unviable.
- Petters Way South - although owned by the Council - project viability due to increased development costs due to topography, a need to compensate for the loss of parking and additional staffing requirements. Unsuitable and unviable.
- Cattle Market - the development brief proposes retail and residential, geotechnical constraints (bedrock and retaining walls), junction improvements to Market St, high development costs, high s106 costs and additional staffing requirements. Unsuitable and unviable.
- Land Adj. Quedam (Vincent's Yard) - site not available, retail development by Benson Elliot envisaged, high development costs and additional staffing requirements. Unavailable, unsuitable and unviable.

This application has been submitted by the council's Economic Development Team and whilst their observations on the suitability of other sites are not disputed it does not necessarily sit comfortably with the aspirations for the town. The 'Yeovil Refresh' project is intended to look at these sites in more detail and see what can be done to make them more attractive to uses such as offices. To say that these sites are not suitable for such uses is to some extent pre-empting the findings of the 'Refresh'. Furthermore, to discount these sites as being suitable or available for commercial use does not necessarily assist the district council when considering application to locate town centre uses such as retail in out of town locations.

The applicant has said that the majority of businesses that are likely to populate the new Innovation Centre are not the type that would usually occupy a town centre location. This is questionable as the existing Innovation Centre is occupied by several businesses that were formerly in the town. It is however accepted that businesses such as the Western Gazette can operate more effectively from a smaller and more modern environment. The disadvantage of such businesses moving to out of town locations is that employees based in a town centre location would be spending money in the town thereby supporting the economy.

The issues regarding viability concerning staff overheads are noted and accepted but it has not been clearly demonstrated why it would not be possible to oversee two sites with the same number of staff given the support offered is not 24/7 and technology would allow for off-site support for those times the site would not be served. The links to aerospace are acknowledged but there are other companies who would not need to be located close to the aerospace sector and could operate from the town centre. There is always the potential for other industries (accountants, solicitors) to make similar

arguments in seeking to justify moving out of the town centre to an out-of-town location.

Members may consider that the recent approval of the 'iAero' project application on Bunford Lane sets a precedent but the key determining factors there was the relationship to the Leonardo site, the key support for the aerospace industry and most specifically the need to work on aircraft wheeled in from the adjacent airfield.

It is reasonable to assume that this project has been led by opportunity and funding and as such the sequential test has not been fully met.

As such, in order to reach a consistent recommendation in the context, it is necessary to look back at the policy basis concerning office development. Policy EP2 has one major flaw and this has been discussed with the Spatial Policy Team. It is an argument which is not made within the application but is pertinent. Whilst the policy in effect says office development not proposed in the town centre should be refused the Town and Country (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) allows changes of use of buildings with Use Class B2 and B8 to convert to B1(a) offices without the need for planning permission. Buildings used for B2 and B8 are widely supported in out-of-town locations. Many newer industrial parks such as Lufton 2000, Bunford Park and Seafire Park were also approved for uses within B1, B2 and B8. It is therefore necessary to conclude that the policy cannot achieve what it sets out to and it would be remiss, notwithstanding the other points raised, to withhold permission for the extension of an existing B1(a) premises which itself used to be a factory.

In assessing Policy EP3 it is considered the proposal utilizes an otherwise marginal piece of ground safeguarding employment land.

The National Planning Policy Framework reiterates it is the aim of the planning system to achieve sustainable development. There are three dimensions to sustainable development; economic, social and environmental. In this case the development has the potential to contribute to build and maintain a strong, responsive and competitive economy; to support growth and innovation. Whilst concern has been raised about the fact the proposal isn't located in the town centre, the health, social and cultural well-being of the town would be enhanced by nurturing small businesses. The environmental credentials will be assessed in more detail later in this report, especially the need to adapt to challenges caused by climate change and the move to a low carbon economy.

The proposal is considered to comply with Policies SD1, SS1, SS3 and EP3 of the South Somerset Local Plan. It is concluded that the proposal is contrary to Policy EP2 but material considerations dictate that it would not be expedient to withhold permission on this occasion.

Design and Layout

The Planning Statement sets out the aims that have been fundamental to the approach. The proposed design is acceptable and details of specific design features and materials can be secured by condition.

According to the Planning statement the construction budget does not allow the building to be designed to the standard set by BREEAM 'excellent' as required by Policy EQ1 although this has not been proven. The Planning Statement does set out the 'fabric first' approach which has been employed in the detailed design. Solar control is included to limit unwanted heat gains and exposed thermal mass is provided by first floor and roof slabs, along with hollow clay block masonry external walls with breathable lime render. The breathable walls will passively reduce internal humidity levels. There is to be potential for retro-fitting PV panels to the flat roof set back from the southern edge but there is no commitment under this application to actually do so. The site formally accommodated a wind turbine but this is no longer in situ.

In terms of drainage ground percolation is limited, and hence surface water attenuation will be provided by oversized pipework and dry swale with the grassed area immediately to the north of the

extension.

It is considered that the proposal complies with the requirements of Policy EQ2 of the South Somerset Local Plan but if strictly applied the proposal is not in accordance with Policy EQ1.

Ecology and Trees

The application is supported by an Ecological Statement inc. Phase 1 Ecological Assessment and Arborist Statement inc. Tree Survey and Tree Protection Plan.

The comments of the Council's Ecologist are noted. A scheme to carry out the ecological reports recommendations will be requested by condition.

With regard to the protection of nearby trees a suitable condition can be imposed along with remediation of the stored top soil within the RPA.

It is concluded that the development can be carried out without harm to ecology and trees and as such the proposal complies with the requirements of Policies EQ2 and EQ4 of the South Somerset Local Plan.

Historic Environment and Archaeology

There are no listed buildings or other heritage assets within the vicinity that would be affected by the proposal given its context. Similarly there are no impacts for archaeology.

The proposal is considered to comply with the requirements of the NPPF and Policy EQ3 of the South Somerset Local Plan.

Highways

A Transport Assessment has been submitted to satisfy Policies TA1 (Low Carbon Travel), TA5 (Transport Impact of New Development) and TA6 (Parking Standards). The Assessment looks at any off-site infrastructure that may be required under Policy SS6. Off-site highway works are suggested in the form of an extended piece of highway at Copse Rd and dropped kerbs and tactile paving to aid crossing at Barracks Close.

A Travel Plan has also been submitted to satisfy Policy TA4. A Travel Plan seeks to promote a greater choice to use more sustainable transport modes and reduce the need and desire to use the car.

The YIC currently has on-site parking for 113 cars and 3 motorcycles. The Transport Assessment refers to retaining and upgrading the construction compound as a further car parking area up to a maximum of 20 additional spaces depending on occupancy rates within YIC and YIC2. It is intended the application be determined on the basis that these extra spaces are to be provided, even if they are only created at a later point when demand dictates.

Somerset County Council, as Highway Authority, has been consulted on the application. At the time of writing this report no formal response had been received.

At this time without the formal comments of the Highway Authority one cannot determine whether the proposal complies with the requirements of Policies TA1, TA4, TA5, TA6 and SS6 of the South Somerset Local Plan and so an oral update will be given.

Pollution Control

As there is a small risk of the site being affected by contamination from past industrial use it would be proportionate to insert a condition in order to protect receptors including the building itself and groundwater. Given this approach the proposal would comply with the relevant requirements of the NPPF and Policy EQ7 of the South Somerset Local Plan.

Consultation

One pre-application meeting was held in early November 2016 and a further meeting with the appointed highway consultant was held in late November. The application does not detail any further public consultation undertaken.

Conclusion

In concluding thoughts on this application one has to be mindful of the investment into the economy of Yeovil and acknowledge that the project specifically looks to cater to, and help encourage, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). As at 2015, in South Somerset, 90% of all businesses employed fewer than 10 people, and 98% of all businesses employed fewer than 50 employees. This shows South Somerset's reliance on SMEs, and so the fact that the scheme will help to support and stimulate these businesses should weigh positively in its favour.

This report has concluded that the proposal has failed to show total compliance with policies EP2 and EQ1 but Members may feel material considerations, including the benefits of the scheme, outweigh those issues. The comments of the Highway Authority are still awaited and so policies TA1, TA4, TA5, TA6 and SS6 are still to be judged.

SECTION 106 PLANNING OBLIGATION

Unless the comments of the Highway Authority dictate otherwise there is no non-highway requirement to secure any mitigation or planning obligations via Section 106 of the Act.

RECOMMENDATION

Subject to no adverse comments from the Highway Authority, grant planning permission for the following reason:

01. The proposal represents sustainable development that aims to improve the economic condition of the area, is of a design that is distinctive and inventive and development which respects the character of the area and causes no operational issues to the adjacent airfield or the local highway network in accordance with the aims and objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework; the SCC Parking Strategy and policies SD1, SS1, SS3, SS6, YV4, EP2, EP3, EQ1, EQ2, EQ3, EQ4, EQ7, TA1, TA4, TA5 and TA6 of the South Somerset Local Plan (2006-2028).

SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING:

01. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason: To accord with the provisions of section 91(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

02. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans and documents:

- a) Location Plan (drawing number -YIC2/PL/01)
- b) Proposed Site Plan (drawing number - YIC2/PL/02)
- c) Proposed Ground Floor Plan (drawing number YIC2/PL/03)
- d) Proposed First Floor Plan (drawing number YIC2/PL/04)
- e) Proposed Elevations (drawing number YIC2/PL/08)
- f) Proposed Roof Plan (drawing number YIC2/PL/05)

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt and in the interests of proper planning.

03. The development hereby approved shall not be used other than for those activities which fall within the definition of Use Class B1(a) of the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, or in any provision equivalent to that Class in any statutory instrument

revoking and re-enacting that Order with or without modification. During occupation of the development, floor area will be devoted to, and available for activities which fall within, Use Class B1c.

Reason: In the interests of clarity for the avoidance of doubt and in the interests of proper planning.

04. Prior to their specific use in the development hereby approved particulars of the following shall have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority;

- a) specific finish and colour (including the provision of samples) to be used for all external walls; the perimeter guarding; gutter and fascia system; windows and doors and brise soleil; and
- b) details of hard and soft landscaping.

Reason: To maintain the character and appearance of the area to accord with policy EQ2 of the South Somerset Local Plan.

05. In the event that any signs of pollution such as poor plant growth, odour, staining of the soil, unusual colouration or soil conditions, or remains from the past industrial use, are found in the soil at any time during the construction phase of the development it must be reported in writing within 14 days to the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The LPA will then consider if the findings have any impact upon the development and development must be halted on that part of the site. If the LPA considers it necessary then an assessment of the site must be undertaken in accordance with BS10175. Where remediation is deemed necessary by the LPA a remediation scheme must be submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA and then implemented in accordance with the submitted details.

Reason: To protect the health of future occupiers of the site from any possible effects of contaminated land to accord with the aims and objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework and policy EQ7 of the South Somerset Local Plan.

06. No works shall be carried out until details of the surface water drainage scheme based on sustainable drainage principles together with a programme of implementation and maintenance for the lifetime of the development have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The drainage strategy shall ensure that surface water runoff post development is attenuated on site and discharged at a rate and volume no greater than greenfield runoff rates and volumes. Such works shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

These details shall include: -

- Details of phasing (where appropriate) and information of maintenance of drainage systems during construction of this and any other subsequent phases.
- Information about the design storm period and intensity, discharge rates and volumes (both pre and post development), temporary storage facilities, means of access for maintenance (6 metres minimum), the methods employed to delay and control surface water discharged from the site, and the measures taken to prevent flooding and pollution of the receiving groundwater and/or surface waters.
- Any works required off site to ensure adequate discharge of surface water without causing flooding or pollution (which should include refurbishment of existing culverts and headwalls or removal of unused culverts where relevant).
- Flood water exceedance routes both on and off site, note, no part of the site must be allowed to flood during any storm up to and including the 1 in 30 event, flooding during storm events in excess of this including the 1 in 100yr (plus 40% allowance for climate change) must be controlled within the designed exceedance routes demonstrated to prevent flooding or damage to properties.
- A management and maintenance plan for the lifetime of the development which shall include the arrangements for adoption by an appropriate public body or statutory undertaker or management company and / or any other arrangements to secure the operation and maintenance to an approved standard and working condition throughout the lifetime of the development

Reason: To ensure that the development is served by a satisfactory system of surface water drainage and that the approved system is retained, managed and maintained in accordance

with the approved details throughout the lifetime of the development, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework the National Planning Policy Framework and the Technical Guidance to the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2015).

07. Prior to commencement of any works, site vegetative clearance, demolition of existing structures, ground-works, heavy machinery entering site or the on-site storage of materials, a scheme of tree protection measures, including tree protection fencing and signage; shall be prepared, installed and made ready for inspection. The locations and suitability of the tree protection measures shall be inspected by the Tree Officer and confirmed in-writing by the Local Planning Authority to be satisfactory prior to commencement of the development. The approved tree protection requirements shall remain implemented in their entirety for the duration of the construction of the development and the protective fencing/signage may only be moved or dismantled with the prior consent of the Local Planning Authority in-writing.

Reason: To preserve the health, structure and amenity value of existing landscape features (trees) in accordance with policies EQ2 and EQ4 of the South Somerset Local Plan.

08. A scheme shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority for the upgrade of the consolidated surface, to be used initially as a contractors compound and then permanent parking for the development hereby approved. The 'upgrade scheme' shall include details of kerbing, surfacing, lighting, drainage and hedge/tree planting. The scheme shall be fully implemented before the first use as car parking.

Reason: To maintain the character and appearance of the area and provide safe, useable car parking to accord with policies TA5, TA6 and EQ2 of the South Somerset Local Plan.

Informatives:

01. A site meeting between the appointed Project Manager/Building Contractors and the Council's Tree Officer is advised to be arranged prior to the commence of work to detail the scheme required by Condition 07, please contact Mr Phil Poulton on 01935 462670.

Agenda Item 11

Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Committee is asked to agree that the following item (agenda item 12) be considered in Closed Session by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A under paragraph 3: "Information relating to financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)." It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption from the Access to Information Rules outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Agenda Item 12

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted