

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **Scrutiny Committee** held at the **Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil BA20 2HT on Tuesday 18 April 2017.**

(10.05 am - 11.50 am)

Present:

Members: Councillor Sue Steele (Chairman)

Jason Baker	David Norris
Dave Bulmer	Sue Osborne
John Clark	Rob Stickland
Val Keitch	Linda Vijeh

Also Present:

Ric Pallister	Angie Singleton
Jo Roundell Greene	Derek Yeomans
Gina Seaton	

Officers

Alex Parmley	Chief Executive
Andrew Gillespie	Performance Manager
Paul Fitzgerald	Section 151 Officer
Catherine Hood	Finance Manager
Jo Gale	Scrutiny Manager
Becky Sanders	Democratic Services Officer

144. Apologies for absence (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Amanda Broom and Tony Lock.

145. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

146. Public question time (Agenda Item 3)

There were no members of public present at the meeting.

147. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 4)

There were no announcements made by the Chairman.

148. Reports to be considered by District Executive on 18 April 2017 (Agenda Item 5)

Members considered the reports within the District Executive agenda for 18 April 2017 and made the following comments:

SSDC Council Action Plan 2017-18 (Agenda item 5)

- Some members questioned the process that had been gone through to establish the priorities and felt this needed to be improved upon in the future, particularly to know what projects or areas of work may not proceed or will be delayed.
- The Committee felt that the Transformation Priority should be rephrased to also include Income Generation.
- Members are unsure with regard to the phrasing of the last two priorities as these are not SMART and are more aspirational. Is it therefore right that these should be included as a priority particularly when they are not entirely in SSDC control?
- Members feel the wording of priority 6 is very strong with the use of 'ensure' and 'needs are met'.
- Members appreciate that we still have the funds set aside for the superfast broadband.
- There are * next to some of the names of services under the titles By Partnerships or Shared Services and Directly Provided by SSDC, these need explaining or removed.
- Members questioned if Area Working will remain.

SSDC Transformation Project (Agenda item 6)

- Members questioned the makeup of the redundancy provisions and the additional capital expenditure budget.
- Members suggested that the graph shown in the member presentation with regard to the investment / headline business case was made available to all members for Full Council.
- The contingency figures for Capital and Revenue appear very low. Please can you explain what this provision is specifically for and if there is contingency provision elsewhere in the budget? If there isn't enough contingency where would the additional funding come from?
- Scrutiny would like to be involved in identifying the Key Performance Indicators for Transformation.
- It was queried if the fourth director post was necessary.
- Members sought reassurance what could be done if the underspends did not come forward towards the £1,100,000 for the redundancy reserve.
- The risk assessment table has no recognised risk of the potential reputational impact of transformation on customers and partners, please can this be included.
- Under the governance arrangements it should be made clear that the appointment to the High level steering group role is Scrutiny Chair and Vice Chair.

Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2021/22 (Agenda item 7)

- Paragraph 7 shows possible capital bids for the next 5 years estimated at 21.2 million yet we currently only have 17.6 million, should we be reviewing the capital

strategy scoring methodology to fit the more commercial investment vs corporate priorities?

149. Date of next meeting (Agenda Item 6)

Members noted the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee would be held at 10.00am on 9 May 2017 in Council Chamber A at Brympton Way.

(Post meeting note: the May meeting of Scrutiny Committee was cancelled.)

.....
Chairman