

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **South Somerset District Council** held on **Thursday 18 January 2018** in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil..

(7.30 pm - 8.12 pm)

Present:

Members: Councillor Mike Best (Chairman)
Councillor Tony Capozzoli (Vice-Chairman)

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

Officers:

Alex Parmley	Chief Executive
Netta Meadows	Director (Strategy & Commissioning)
Paul Fitzgerald	Section 151 Officer
Angela Watson	Monitoring Officer
Nicola Hix	Lead Specialist (Finance)
Ian Potter	Lead Specialist (Vulnerable Customers)
Angela Cox	Democratic Services Specialist

91. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marcus Barrett, Hayward Burt, Jenny Kenton, Sarah Lindsay, Stephen Page, Dean Ruddle, Garry Shortland, Gerard Tucker and Derek Yeomans.

92. Minutes (Agenda Item 2)

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2017, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

93. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest from Members present.

94. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)

Mr Bud Budzynski asked if it was possible to open Thorne Lane, Yeovil to traffic on Friday 26th January, prior to the Yeovil Town/ Manchester United football match at Huish Park football ground to ease traffic congestion in the area.

The Leader of Council agreed to speak to Somerset County Council Highways Department the following day to ask if it was possible to do this.

95. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 5)

The Chairman congratulated Yeovil Town Football Club on reaching the fourth round of the FA Cup and on its forthcoming match with Manchester United on Friday 26th January.

96. Chairman's Engagements (Agenda Item 6)

The list of Chairman's engagements were noted.

97. Heart of the South West (HotSW) - Joint Committee (Agenda Item 7)

The Leader of Council advised that it was essential that SSDC needed to be involved in this Joint Committee. He hoped for the modest costs involved, to bid for growth money from the Government and have greater influence over the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

In response to questions, the Leader confirmed that:-

- Other Councillors had accompanied him to previous meetings and he would use his best endeavours to ensure any interested Councillor could attend the meetings along with him.
- The SSDC contribution towards administration of the Joint Committee was £1,400 and SSDC needed to be part of this Joint Committee in order to be a voice at the meetings and attempt to shape its future direction.
- Each of the 19 partner authorities would have an equal vote at the Joint Committee meetings.

During a brief debate, Members agreed that SSDC should be involved in the Joint Committee and agreed that it was worthwhile joining for the £1,400 administration fee.

At the conclusion of the debate, the majority of Members were content to confirm that SSDC join the Heart of the South West (HotSW) - Joint Committee.

RESOLVED: That Full Council:-

- a. approved the recommendation of the HotSW Leaders (meeting as a shadow Joint Committee) to form a Joint Committee for the Heart of the South West;
- b. approved the Arrangements and Inter-Authority Agreement documents set out in appendices A and B (as amended) for the establishment of the Joint Committee with the commencement date of Monday 22nd January 2018;
- c. appointed Councillor Ric Pallister and Councillor Jo Roundell Greene as the Council's named representative and substitute named representative on the Joint Committee;
- d. appointed Somerset County Council as the Administering Authority for the Joint Committee for a 2 year period commencing 22nd January 2018;
- e. approve the transfer of the remaining joint devolution budget to meet the support costs of the Joint Committee for the remainder of 2017/18 financial year subject to approval of any expenditure by the Administering Authority;
- f. approved an initial contribution of £1,400 for 2018/19 to fund the administration and the work programme of the Joint Committee, noting that any expenditure will be subject to the approval of the Administering Authority;
- g. agreed that the key function of the Joint Committee is to approve the Productivity Strategy (it is intended to bring the Strategy to the Joint Committee for approval by February 2018);
- h. authorised the initial work programme of the Joint Committee aimed at the successful delivery of the Productivity Strategy;
- i. agreed the proposed meeting arrangements for the Joint Committee including the timetable of meetings for the Joint Committee as proposed in para 23.

Reason: To enable the Heart of the South West Joint Committee to be formally established.

(Voting: 46 in favour, 0 against, 3 abstentions)

98. Council Tax Support Scheme 2018/19 (Agenda Item 8)

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Legal Services advised that the scheme was updated each year and no significant changes were proposed in the 2018/19 scheme. Some minor changes were proposed for working people and disabled people and a disregard for bereavement support payments and the income for part-time firefighters. He noted that the Council Tax collection rate had increased in the last few years and the deadline for setting a Council Tax Support Scheme had been moved to 11 March in

future years which would allow the option for the scheme to be agreed alongside the Council's Budget report.

In response to a question, the Lead Specialist - Vulnerable Customers advised that up to the third quarter of the year, 90 applications to the Hardship Scheme had been received and £14,000 in relief had been allocated. He expected this to rise to around £16,000 by the end of the financial year, which would be within the £30,000 budget.

At the conclusion of the debate, Members were content to confirm the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2018/19.

RESOLVED: That Full Council agreed:-

- a. that personal allowances and premiums are uprated in line with those for Housing Benefit;
- b. that non-dependent deductions are uprated in line with the annual percentage increase in Council Tax;
- c. that the non-dependent income bands are increased by the same percentage as those applied to the national Council Tax Support scheme for pensioners;
- d. that Bereavement Support payments are disregarded in line with their treatment in Housing Benefit;
- e. that the hardship scheme budget be set at £30,000 for the 2018/19 financial year;
- f. to note the recommendations of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group attached at Appendix 1 (published as a separate appendix to this report);
- g. to note the scheme has been amended to reflect changes to the Prescribed Requirements;
- h. that the 2018/19 Council Tax Support Scheme attached at Appendix 2 is adopted (published as a separate appendix to this report);
- i. to note that the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme has been reflected within the overall Council Tax Base.

Reason: To confirm the proposed amendments to the Council Tax Support scheme for the 2018/19 financial year.

(Voting: unanimous in favour)

99. Monitoring Officer Appointment (Agenda Item 9)

(The Lead Specialist (Legal) left the room during consideration of this item)

The Chief Executive advised that there were 3 designated officer posts within the Council which were appointed by Full Council. He said Angela Watson, (Lead Specialist (Legal)), had been Acting Monitoring Officer for 2 months and previously she had been the Deputy Monitoring Officer for 8 years. He was pleased to recommend she be confirmed permanently in the post and noted that she would appoint a Deputy in due course.

In response to a question, the Chief Executive said that her future workload was key, and, he was working with her to help her take on the extra caseload which could include additional staff resource.

There was no debate and Members unanimously confirmed Angela Watson as the Council's Monitoring Officer.

On her return to the room Members congratulated Mrs Watson on her appointment to Monitoring Officer for the Council.

RESOLVED: That Full Council:-

- a. confirmed that Angela Watson be designated this Council's Monitoring Officer on a permanent basis from 19 January 2018.
- b. noted that the Monitoring Officer would appoint a Deputy who is authorised to act in the event of the absence or illness of the Monitoring Officer, and Members will be informed of that appointment once made.

Reason: To confirm the appointment of the Council's Monitoring Officer.

(Voting: unanimous in favour)

100. Report of Executive Decisions (Agenda Item 10)

The report of Executive Decisions was noted.

101. Audit Committee (Agenda Item 11)

Councillor Tony Lock, Vice-Chairman of the Audit Committee, presented the report of the Committee.

In response to a question, the Director for Strategy and Commissioning confirmed that SSDC had an action plan and was on track to comply with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) by May 2018. The Vice-Chairman of the Audit Committee, confirmed that information had been sent to all Members by email recently.

The report of the Audit Committee was noted.

102. Scrutiny Committee (Agenda Item 12)

Councillor Sue Steele, Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, presented the report of the Committee. She noted that the Council's Car Parking Strategy was not out of date, as reported in the Agenda, and, asked for new members to join the Transformation – Customer Accessibility Task and Finish review.

The report of the Scrutiny Committee was noted.

103. Motions (Agenda Item 13)

There were no Motions submitted by Members.

104. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 15)

Members noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Full Council would take place on **Thursday, 22nd February 2018** in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil **commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

105. Questions Under Procedure Rule 10 (Agenda Item 14)

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.

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Chairman

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Date