

## South Somerset District Council

**Minutes** of a meeting of the **District Executive** held at the **Council Chamber, Brympton Way, Yeovil, Somerset. on Thursday 4 October 2018.**

(9.30 am - 11.02 am)

**Present:**

Councillor Val Keitch (Chairman)

Jason Baker	Sylvia Seal
Peter Gubbins	Peter Seib
Henry Hobhouse	Angie Singleton
Graham Middleton	Nick Weeks
Jo Roundell Greene	

**Also Present:**

Mike Lewis	Sue Steele
Sue Osborne	Ric Pallister

**Officers:**

Alex Parmley	Chief Executive
Netta Meadows	Director (Strategy & Support Services)
Martin Woods	Director (Service Delivery)
Paul Fitzgerald	Section 151 Officer
Alice Knight	Welfare & Careline Manager
Jo Manley	Specialist (Strategic Planning)
Jo Morris	Case Services Officer (Support Services)
Barbie Markey	Senior Housing Officer

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

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**55. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Agenda Item 1)**

The minutes of the District Executive meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and, having been approved as a correct record, were signed by the Chairman.

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**56. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 2)**

There were no apologies for absence.

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**57. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)**

There were no declarations of interest made by members.

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## **58. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)**

The Chairman advised that three members of the public wished to speak on Agenda Item 7 – Update on the Development Consent Order Application for the Dualling of the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester and that she would allow them to speak at the time of the item.

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## **59. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 5)**

The Chairman made no announcements.

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## **60. Direct Hostel Provision, Move-on Accommodation and Support (Agenda Item 6)**

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture introduced the report and highlighted the importance of hostel provision and support services to vulnerable individuals who might otherwise be homeless. She referred to the key elements provided by the services and the need to ensure funding was provided for future years.

The Welfare and Careline Manager noted that in response to Scrutiny Committee's clarification on the financial implications, further information on the funding and costs had been provided. She was recommending that some of the recommended funding came from the Flexible Homeless Support Grant, received from the Government, is used for hostel provision and some for other preventions and initiatives. The Welfare and Careline Manager explained that the Hostel relied on funding from Somerset County Council to undertake additional health and well-being work with clients and it was not known whether the grant would be forthcoming next year.

Mr Nick Watkins from Home Group referred to the importance of addressing the deeper needs of people accessing the service. He explained about some of the support services provided to clients through the Home Achievement Programme, Peer Support Programme, Volunteering and Health and Well-being work.

In response to questions, the Welfare and Careline Manager and Senior Housing Options Officer advised:-

- Last year Pathways provided an extra ten beds during the severe winter months, a number of people were given meals and everybody was taken off the streets;
- The Positive Lives Operational Group had written to the Chair of the Positive Lives Strategic Board asking for an early indication as to whether one off grant funding from Somerset County Council would be repeated;
- The Rough Sleeper Outreach Team covered the whole district which was run by Home Group through Pathways. A member of the team, once alerted, would go out and provide support and assistance;
- Street Link was a national organisation for reporting rough sleeping. Contact details for the service and the process for reporting rough sleeping would be provided to the town and parish clerks and all SSDC Members.

The Scrutiny Committee Chairman confirmed that they supported the recommendations of the report.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the District Executive agreed to:-

- a. approve an increase to the base budget of up to £160,000 per year from 2019/20 as an unavoidable budget pressure to provide funding for services to assist single adults who are in need of accommodation and to prevent homelessness.
- b. award funding of £160,000 to Home Group, the current provider, for 2019/20 through extension of our existing Service Level Agreement for one year.
- c. authorise officers to assess, develop and procure a longer term arrangement for 2020/21, and delegated the final decision on the route to procurement to the Director – Service Delivery, in consultation with the Specialist - Procurement and the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture.
- d. note the outcomes achieved as a result of SSDC funding in 2017/18, and funding awarded from Somerset Positive Lives partnership.
- e. support the use of £100,000 of the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant (FSHG) as a one-off contribution towards the £160,000 cost in 2019/20, and note that contributions may be considered against any subsequent FSHG received in later years.

**Reason:** To secure future funding arrangements towards the cost of provision of services to assist single adults who are in need of accommodation and prevent homelessness.

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**61. Update on the Development Consent Order Application for the Dualling of the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester (Agenda Item 7)**

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning (Place Making) introduced the report.

The Specialist for Strategic Planning explained the progress made since her last report in July 2018. She updated that a wider project working group had been set up in partnership with Somerset County Council to identify the areas that fall within the remit of the District Council and those that fall within the remit of Somerset County Council. The Working Group would look at the key issues that need to be resolved and agree as much as possible prior to the Examination Stage in order to be clear on the conditions and mitigations sought by the District Council as part of the Scheme. She explained that the need to delegate authority for the Council's Relevant Representation was due to time pressures and that a letter was being sent to the Planning Inspectorate expressing concerns as there was potential for the Examination to move forward to the end of November.

The District Executive was addressed by representatives from Sparkford Parish Council, Queen Camel Parish Council and West Camel Parish Council who spoke in objection to Highway England's design of the Hazelgrove road junction. Points raised related to:

- Increase in traffic through Sparkford High Street
- No traffic calming measures being proposed
- Advantages of a parallel road
- Queried how the suggested diversionary routes would be policed
- Potential for traffic to back up and divert through West Camel

The Specialist for Strategic Planning confirmed that the design of the junctions was part of the Development Consent Order application that had been submitted by Highway England and it would be those junctions included that the Inspectorate would be considering, it was not the District Council's intention to submit alternative junctions to the Examination. She noted that the relevant Parish Councils had registered with the Planning Inspectorate to become an Interested Party to make their own representations. She confirmed that she would provide support in terms of mitigation measures. She advised that the impact of the Development Consent Order was being looked at including the impact of the diversionary route on local communities and businesses.

The Scrutiny Committee Chairman noted that they had expressed concern that the process should not be delayed and that officers were stretched and that it had been acknowledged that additional support was needed.

During discussion, members requested that the relevant Ward Members be kept informed on the Relevant Representations prior to submission to the Planning Inspectorate. Comment was also made on the existing flooding issues near to Podimore and that the proposed dualling should not exacerbate this.

At the conclusion of the debate, members were content to confirm that delegated authority for the Council's Relevant Representations be given to the Lead Specialist, Strategic Planning with the relevant Portfolio Holders.

**RESOLVED:** That the District Executive agreed to note the report and its contents, review and approve:

- a. delegated authority for the Council's Relevant Representations be given to the Lead Specialist, Strategic Planning with the relevant Portfolio Holders (Strategic Planning and Property & Climate Change and Income Generation) and Ward Members.

**Reason:** To update Members on the Development Consent Order application for the dualling of the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester and to agree delegation of the Council's "Relevant Representation" to the Lead Specialist, Strategic Planning and the Portfolio holders for Strategic Planning and Property & Climate Change and Income Generation.

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## 62. SSSDC Transformation Programme - Progress Report (Agenda Item 8)

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Economic Development & Transformation advised that the Transformation Programme was on track and that going live with the operating

model would be phased in gradually and a communications campaign would be launched to promote the Customer and Business Portal.

In response to a member question, the Chief Executive advised that a Member Working Group had been established to develop Area+ proposals and that the Area Committee system would remain as part of those proposals. Locality Teams would be operational in January 2019 and would be responsible for taking forward area priorities and the delivery of projects. It was acknowledged that it would take some time for the changes to be implemented.

The Chairman of Scrutiny Committee said that they had asked about the position of the Streetscene service and it was confirmed that in order to deliver the business plans, there would be some restructuring required in the Streetscene service.

At the conclusion of the debate, members were content to note the progress report of the SSDC Transformation Programme.

**RESOLVED:** That the District Executive noted the progress report of the SSDC Transformation Programme.

**Reason:** To note quarterly update on the progress of the council's Transformation Programme.

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### 63. District Executive Forward Plan (Agenda Item 9)

The following amendment to the Forward Plan was noted:

- Economic Development Strategy – moved to December 2018

**RESOLVED:** That the District Executive:-

1. approved the updated Executive Forward Plan for publication as attached at Appendix A, with the following amendment;
  - Economic Development Strategy – moved to December 2018
2. noted the contents of the Consultation Database as shown at Appendix B.

**Reason:** The Forward Plan is a statutory document.

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### 64. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 10)

Members noted that the next scheduled meeting of the District Executive would take place on **Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018** in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil commencing at 9.30 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date