



South Somerset District Council

Thursday 15th October 2020

6.30 pm (please note change of starting time)

A virtual meeting using Zoom meeting software

All members of Council are requested to attend this meeting.

Any members of the public wishing to address the virtual meeting at Public Question Time need to email democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk by 9.00am on Wednesday 14 October 2020.

The meeting will be viewable online by selecting the meeting at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSDst3IHGj9WoGnwJGF_soA

For further information on the items to be discussed, please contact
democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk

This Agenda was issued on Wednesday 7 October 2020.

Alex Parmley, Chief Executive Officer

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

South Somerset District Council Membership

Chairman: Paul Maxwell
Vice-chairman: Jenny Kenton

Jason Baker
Robin Bastable
Mike Best
Neil Bloomfield
Dave Bulmer
Hayward Burt
Tony Capozzoli
Martin Carnell
Malcolm Cavill
John Clark
Nicola Clark
Louise Clarke
Nick Colbert
Adam Dance
Sarah Dyke
Karl Gill
David Gubbins
Peter Gubbins
Brian Hamilton
Mike Hewitson

Henry Hobhouse
Ben Hodgson
Charlie Hull
Kaysar Hussain
Val Keitch
Andy Kendall
Tim Kerley
Mike Lewis
Mike Lock
Pauline Lock
Tony Lock
Kevin Messenger
Graham Oakes
Tricia O'Brien
Sue Osborne
Tiffany Osborne
Robin Pailthorpe
Oliver Patrick
Clare Paul
Crispin Raikes

Wes Read
David Recardo
Paul Rowsell
Dean Ruddle
Gina Seaton
Peter Seib
Garry Shortland
Alan Smith
Jeny Snell
Andy Soughton
Mike Stanton
Rob Stickland
Lucy Trimmell
Gerard Tucker
Linda Vijeh
Martin Wale
William Wallace
Colin Winder

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 Constitution (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 6.30 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month (unless advised otherwise). However during the coronavirus pandemic these meetings will be held remotely via Zoom video-conferencing. For more details on the regulations regarding remote/virtual meetings please see the Local Authorities and Police and Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 as part of the Coronavirus Act 2020.

The agenda, minutes and the timetable for council meetings are published on the Council's website – <http://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

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 and select 'South Somerset' from the list of publishers and 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 meetings (held via Zoom)

Public question time

We recognise that these are challenging times but we still value the public's contribution to our virtual meetings. If you would like to participate and contribute in the meeting, please join on-line through Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/join> You will need an internet connection to do this.

If you would like to view the meeting without participating, please see:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSDst3IHGj9WoGnwJGF_soA

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

If you would like to address the meeting at Public Question Time, please email democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk by 9.00am on Wednesday 14 October 2020. When you have registered, an officer will provide the details to join the meeting. The Chairman will invite you to speak at the appropriate time during the virtual meeting.

Virtual meeting etiquette:

- Consider joining the meeting early to ensure your technology is working correctly.
- Please note that we will mute all public attendees to minimise background noise. If you have registered to speak during the virtual meeting, the Chairman will un-mute your microphone at the appropriate time.
- Each individual speaker shall be restricted to a total of three minutes.
- When speaking, keep your points clear and concise.
- Please speak clearly – the Councillors are interested in your comments.

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South Somerset District Council

Thursday 15 October 2020

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes

To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meetings held on Thursday, 20th August 2020 and Thursday 10th September 2020.

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.

4. Public Question Time

5. Chairman's Announcements

Items for Discussion

6. Chairman's Engagements (Page 6)

7. Presentation on the progress of the South Somerset Environment Strategy (Page 7)

8. Membership of Committees - Appointment of New Councillors to Scrutiny Committee (Pages 8 - 9)

9. Report of Executive Decisions (Pages 10 - 14)

10. Audit Committee (Page 15)

11. Scrutiny Committee (Page 16)

12. Motions (Pages 17 - 20)

13. Questions Under Procedure Rule 10

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.

14. Date of Next Meeting (Page 21)

Members are asked to note that the next scheduled meeting of the Full Council will take place on **Thursday, 19th November 2020** as a virtual meeting using Zoom meeting software commencing at **6.30 p.m.**



Chairman's Engagements

The Chairman's engagements have largely been cancelled or postponed due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, however he has been able to attend some events and meetings virtually.

- On the 1st, 2nd and 7th July 2020 the Chairman attended the virtual Local Government Association conference.
- On the 14th September 2020 the Chairman attended the virtual Rural Services Network conference.
- On the 24th September 2020 the Chairman attended the HMS Flying Fox Showcase event via Zoom.

Providing lockdown restrictions allow, the Chairman will be attending the NHS Thanksgiving Evensong concert at Wells Cathedral on Sunday 18th October.



Presentation on the progress of the SSDC Environment Strategy

Executive Portfolio Holder: Sarah Dyke, Environment
Strategic Director: Clare Pestell, Commercial Services & Income Generation
Lead Officers: Katy Menday, Leisure and Recreation Manager
Vicki Dawson, Lead Specialist (Environment)
Contact Details: Katy.menday@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462522
Vicki.dawson@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462546

Officers will provide Members with presentation to update them on the progress of the SSDC Environment Strategy, including an update on the Council's carbon footprint work.



Membership of Committees – Appointment of New Councillors to Scrutiny Committee

Executive Portfolio Holder: Val Keitch, Strategy and Housing
Director: Kirsty Larkins, Strategy and Commissioning
Lead Officer: Angela Cox, Specialist – Democratic Services
Contact Details: angela.cox@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462148

Purpose of the Report

1. To confirm amendments to the Scrutiny Committee membership following the appointment of Councillors to various committees and working groups at Council on 21st May 2019.

Public Interest

2. The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 came into force on 4th April 2020.

Regulation 4 states:-

Meetings of local authorities

4.—(1) *In respect of a reference in any enactment to a meeting of a local authority, that authority may, as they may determine—*

- (a) *hold such meetings and at such hour and on such days; and*
- (b) *alter the frequency, move or cancel such meetings, without requirement for further notice.*

(2) *Where an appointment would otherwise be made or require to be made at an annual meeting of a local authority, such appointment continues until the next annual meeting of the authority or until such time as that authority may determine.*

3. This allows appointments normally made at an annual meeting to be continued until the next annual meeting or until such time as the authority determines. Councils therefore have the option to hold annual meetings remotely or in person when the restrictions are lifted or to go through to the next meeting in 2021.
4. For the continued safety of Councillors and staff, it was agreed to postpone the SSDC Annual Council meeting until such time as it is safe to call a meeting in person again. However due to two resignations and some changes in political party, there is a need to appoint new members to this Committee.



South Somerset District Council Recommendations

5. In accordance with Section 16 (1) Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the duty therein to give effect to the wishes of the political group to which seats on any committee are allocated, the Council confirm that:-
 - a) Councillors Louise Clark and Oliver Patrick be appointed to the Scrutiny Committee
 - b) Councillor Linda Vijeh be appointed to the Scrutiny Committee

Background

6. Each year at their annual meeting, Council agree to appoint Councillors to the various committees and to represent SSDC on outside organisations. This report confirms the wishes of the Liberal Democrat and Conservative groups to make amendments to the Councillors appointed to the Scrutiny Committee.

Report Detail

7. The membership of committees and working groups for 2019/20 was approved at the Annual Council meeting on 21st May 2019. Since then Councillors Mike Stanton and Rob Stickland have indicated that they wish to step down from the Scrutiny Committee and there have also been some changes in political party. The Scrutiny Committee is in political balance and the current political composition is 9 Lib Dem, 4 Cons and 1 Independent Member. Members are asked to confirm the appointment of three new Councillors to the Committee.

Financial Implications

8. There are no financial implications to the recommendations of this report.

Background Papers

Minutes of Council – 21st May 2019, 20th June 2019, 18th July 2019, 19th September 2019, 19th December 2019, February 2020.



Report of Executive Decisions

Executive Portfolio Holder: Val Keitch, Leader of Council, Strategy and Housing
Director: Kirsty Larkins, Director (Strategy & Commissioning)
Lead Officer: Angela Cox, Democratic Services Specialist
Contact Details: angela.cox@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462148

Purpose of the Report

This report is submitted for information and summarises decisions to be taken by the District Executive at their meetings on 3rd September and 1st October 2020.

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

Background Papers

All Published

Val Keitch, Leader of the Council
Angela Cox, Democratic Services Specialist
angela.cox@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462148

Appendix A

Portfolio	Subject	Decision	Taken By	Date
Strategy and Housing	The Queen Camel Neighbourhood Plan Referendum	<p>That District Executive:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) agreed the Examiner's report and accepted in full her recommendations for Proposed Modifications to the Queen Camel Neighbourhood Plan. b) agreed a modification to the explanatory text at paragraphs 3.2.12 and 3.2.13, alongside amending Policy QC2; and providing a definition of "infill" alongside to clearly align the amendments with the paragraph 12(6) powers to modify, along with express recognition that the Examiner's recommendations have been accepted in full. c) agreed to officers organising a referendum next year for local people on the Electoral Register. The aim of the referendum is to ascertain whether local residents want South Somerset District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Queen Camel to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area. d) delegated responsibility to the Director for Strategy and Commissioning to make any final minor text amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan, in agreement with the Queen Camel Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group 	District Executive	03/09/20
Protecting Core Services	Disposal of Churchfields Office, Wincanton	<p>That District Executive agreed to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) approve the recommendation for sale of the property asset contained in the confidential appendix (of the agenda report). b) delegate to the Director of Commercial Services and Income Generation approval of detail of the sale providing the price and basis remain in accordance with the information provided. 	District Executive	03/09/20

Portfolio	Subject	Decision	Taken By	Date
Economic Development inc Commercial Strategy	Investment Assets Quarterly Update Report	That District Executive agreed to:- a) Note the resilience of the property investment portfolio thus far in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. b) Note progress made to date in acquiring new commercial investments and the asset management following acquisition. c) Note the return being achieved across the portfolio which is slightly above the Council's target of 7%. d) Note progress being made in securing income from our existing assets and the contribution to the revenue budget towards the revised £3.35m target.	District Executive	03/09/20
Economic Development inc Commercial Strategy	Reconstruction & Adoption of roadway, Chard Business Park, Chard	District Executive approved the preliminary investigation works to the roadway to establish a full scope and cost of works required. The preliminary investigation works will be undertaken by external consultants with a maximum anticipated cost of £7,000 excluding VAT. To be funded from General Reserves.	District Executive	03/09/20
Protecting Core Services	Shared Building Control and Somerset Independence Plus Service	That District Executive agreed to:- a) Note the contents of the report. b) Authorise the development of a business case for an expanded Somerset Building Control Partnership and Somerset Independence Plus Partnership in collaboration with any or all of MDC, SDC, SWT and SSDC.	District Executive	03/09/20
Protecting Core Services	Shared Legal Services	That District Executive agreed to:- a) Note the contents of the report. b) Authorise the establishment of a project team to work on the development of a business case and options appraisal for the sharing of legal services between Mendip District Council, Somerset West and Taunton Council, South	District Executive	03/09/20

Portfolio	Subject	Decision	Taken By	Date
		<p>Somerset District Council and Sedgemoor District Council.</p> <p>c) Authorise the Director of Support Services, following consultation with the Districts' Unitary Programme Board and Unitary Steering Group, to take any and all decisions as deemed necessary to enable the business case and options appraisal to be developed to include, without limitation, finalising, approving and signing Heads of Terms and engaging any external advisers.</p> <p>d) A contribution of up to £5,000 to fund the Councils one quarter share in relation to the engagement of any external advisors to be funded from existing service revenue budget for 2020/21.</p> <p>e) Authorise Director of Support Services to review the progressing of the shared legal services project in the event that Central Government decide to proceed with one Unitary Authority for Somerset.</p>		
Health & Well-Being	Urgent Decision - Support for Leisure Provider	District Executive agreed to note the urgent executive decision made by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Council Leader and Portfolio Holder for Health & Well-Being to provide a letter of support to our Leisure providers, LED with an agreement in principle to provide adequate funding. Any further requests of funds to be taken through the formal democratic route.	District Executive	03/09/20
Yeovil Refresh	Yeovil Refresh Ring-fenced Assets and Development Opportunities (Confidential)	<p>That District Executive agreed to:</p> <p>1) Approve the capital receipts from the identified asset sales be ring-fenced specifically for the Yeovil Refresh Programme.</p> <p>2) Note that this decision does not set any form of precedent that Area assets when realised are used for the Area they are in.</p>	District Executive	03/09/20

Portfolio	Subject	Decision	Taken By	Date
Leader of the Council	Stronger Somerset Business Case	<p>That District agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. endorse the Business Case for the reform of local government including the creation of 2 unitary Councils within Somerset, and recommend its approval to full Council, at the next meeting on 10th September 2020; b. delegate authority to the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive, in consultation with the other Somerset District Leaders and Chief Executives, to make minor amendments to the Business Case as necessary and / or appropriate, ahead of its submission to the Secretary of State; c. support the continuing consultation with local stakeholders, above and beyond any programme of consultation that may be required by the Government in due course; d. note that in the best interests of the communities and residents of South Somerset, the Council will continue to work with colleagues across all tiers of local government and public service in Somerset. 	District Executive	10/09/20
Strategy and Policy	Corporate Performance Report 2020-21: 1 st Quarter	That District Executive noted and commented on the report.	District Executive	01/10/20
Finance and Legal Services	Update Report on Impact of Covid-19 on the Council	<p>That District Executive agreed to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. note the impact of Covid-19 on Council Services and Finances. b. note the additional services and work the Council is having to provide in response to the pandemic. 	District Executive	01/10/20
Protecting Core Services	Planning Appeal Performance	That District Executive noted the content of the report.	District Executive	01/10/20



Audit Committee

Committee Chairman: Cllr Martin Carnell
Lead Officer: Jo Nacey, Section 151 Officer
Contact Details: Jo.nacey@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462243

This report summarises the items considered by the Audit Committee since the last report to Council in August 2020.

The Audit Committee has not met formally. An informal briefing / discussion was held on 24th September 2020 for members of the Audit Committee where the Section 151 Officer provided a presentation focused on the 'Impact on SSDC's Financial Position from COVID-19'. The session also gave members the opportunity to comment on the financial situation ahead of the report considered at District Executive on 1st October.

The next meeting of the Audit Committee is scheduled for 22nd October 2020.

Martin Carnell
Chairman of Audit Committee



Scrutiny Committee

Committee Chairman: Cllr Crispin Raikes
Lead Officer: Stephanie Gold, Specialist (Scrutiny)
Contact Details: Stephanie.gold@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462656

This report summarises the work of the Scrutiny Committee since the last report to Council in August 2020.

Since the last report, the committee has met on 1st September, 8th September and 29th September). Minutes of the meetings can be viewed on the website at: <http://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=141&Year=0>

The Committee have continued to consider the reports going before District Executive and provide a 'critical friend' challenge. Due to the pandemic situation, several of the scheduled reports due to Scrutiny Committee, and Task & Finish work, have been temporarily suspended to enable staff to focus on essential priorities. The Task & Finish group to consider the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2021 / 2022 has now reconvened. The Task & Finish groups involved with Productivity Analysis and the Environment Strategy are due to reconvene in mid/late October and late December/January respectively.

The next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee is scheduled for 3rd November 2020.

Crispin Raikes
Chairman of Scrutiny Committee

Motions (1)

The following Motion was submitted by Councillor Oliver Patrick:

Motion to support DEFRA's ambition to phase out the badger cull in England

Council stands with our farmers who face the ever-present threat of their herd receiving a positive diagnosis of bovine tuberculosis (bTB). Council believes that our hard-working farmers and rural communities deserve effective, long-term solutions to this disease which is one of the UK's greatest animal health threats.

In 2018, the Environment Secretary commissioned the Godfray Review¹. This review analysed England's cull data and all available scientific evidence, concluding that the Department for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) should consider alternatives to the current policy of large and repeated badger culls.

In March 2020, DEFRA responded to the Godfray Review by publishing a policy paper: *Next steps for the strategy for achieving bovine tuberculosis free status for England*.² In the foreword, Secretary of State George Eustice MP stated that the government will pursue an exit strategy from the intensive culling of badgers, with a view to phasing it out by the mid to late 2020s.³ These proposals focus on longer-term solutions to the problem of bTB such as improving farm biosecurity, strengthening cattle testing and movement controls, increasing badger vaccination programmes, and continuing to develop an effective bTB vaccine for cattle.

However, despite DEFRA's ambition to phase out the cull, Natural England issued a new 4-year licence for Somerset in September 2020. There are now 5 known cull licences in operation across Somerset:

1. Area 17 licence: expires January 2021⁴
2. Area 18 licence: expires January 2021⁵
3. Area 30 licence: expires January 2022⁶
4. Area 2 supplementary licence: expiry unknown⁷
5. NEW Area 51 licence: expires 2024⁸

1

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/756942/tb-review-final-report-corrected.pdf

2 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-strategy-for-achieving-bovine-tuberculosis-free-status-for-england-2018-review-government-response>

3

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/870414/bovine-tb-strategy-review-government-response.pdf

Proposal:

That Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive / relevant officer to:

- i. Write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to:
 - inform him of our support for DEFRA's ambition to phase out the badger cull, and that we are opposed to repeated badger culling in Somerset
 - offer access to Council land as part of a coordinated badger-vaccination programme
- ii. Continue to refuse permission to cull badgers on SSDC land, and to write to all Parish Councils in South Somerset to encourage them to do the same;
- iii. Engage at the appropriate level with other councils across Somerset to ascertain what steps, if any, that our partners in local government are taking in relation to the issue of bTB;
- iv. Publicise Council's resolution to support DEFRA's ambition to phase out the cull;
- v. Provide councillors with an update regarding all of the above at least prior to the next badger cull due to commence in autumn 2021.

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bovine-tb-authorisation-for-badger-control-in-2017>

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bovine-tb-authorisation-for-badger-control-in-2017>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bovine-tb-authorisation-for-badger-control-in-2018>

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bovine-tb-authorisation-for-supplementary-badger-control-in-2018>

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bovine-tb-authorisation-for-badger-control-in-2020>

Motions (2)

The following Motion was submitted by Councillor Mike Hewitson:

Opposing the Government's ill thought-through proposals for Planning

Council notes the publication of the hastily put together Government Consultation: Planning for the Future.

These proposals will deprive communities across South Somerset of their already limited ability to have their say on contentious planning matters. This is anti-democratic and unworthy of even this Government.

With 9 out of 10 Planning Applications already receiving approval, this White Paper will not address the principal obstruction to building more houses: the failure of developers to build out their approvals.

The Government's own assessment is that these proposals could lead to a 20% reduction in the delivery of affordable homes. This will make it more difficult for our essential keyworkers to put down roots in our communities, and nullifies the tremendous efforts they have made during the Coronavirus Crisis.

The 'temporary' increase in the threshold for Affordable Housing for small sites, from 10 up to 50 homes, will mean that rural communities in South Somerset could be overwhelmed as developers race to beat this deadline.

The environmental proposals are at odds with the Government's and our recognition of a Climate and Ecological Emergency and jeopardises our rich habitats and biodiversity by using greenfield sites and watering down impact assessments. This is not progress. This will spoil lovely South Somerset.

Proposal:

Council therefore resolves to:

1. write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and to our local MPs to express concern over these proposals;
2. reflect the strength of concern across the Authority in its official consultation response;
3. highlight South Somerset District Council's concerns over these proposals with the public at every suitable opportunity;
4. provide Councillors with an update on the progress of these proposals at regular intervals;



South Somerset District Council

5. work with partner organisations such as social housing providers to understand the impact of these proposals on the delivery of affordable housing in South Somerset;
6. work with partner organisations such as Somerset Wildlife Trust to understand the impact of these proposals on our biodiversity and habitats.

Background Information

Planning for the Future proposes to:

- Reduce the input of local communities in planning decisions by limiting this to the Plan Making Stage.
- Promote the densification of existing settlements.
- Make environmental impact assessments “quicker and simpler”.
- Create a “one-size fits all” approach to planning policy, removing flexibility from Local Authorities to write their own planning policies.
- Remove from Local Authorities the ability to seek local agreements from developers towards the cost of infrastructure and replace this with a new Infrastructure Levy which is set by Central Government.
- Penalise Local Authorities who fail to determine applications within Statutory time limits.
- Increase the threshold on Affordable Housing for small sites from 10 to up to 50 homes.

The impact:

- Less democracy in local decision making. At present, South Somerset District Council receives thousands of contributions on Planning from local residents and communities.
- Playing fast and loose with the planet. Given our declared Climate and Ecological Emergency, which calls for radical action to reduce the impact of human behaviours on our planet, the proposal to make environmental impact assessments “quicker and simpler” is at odds with the need to make meaningful and sustainable change.
- Jeopardising investment in our communities. Since 2010, South Somerset District Council has raised more than £9m from developers in Section 106 contributions which have supported the building of community assets such as swimming pools, play parks and village halls. In my own Ward of Hamdon, s106 has brought in more than £150,000 in the last three years, delivering a well loved adventure playpark, and improvements to village halls and environment.
- These have gone directly to local communities. S106 has also helped to deliver a gross contribution of more than 2,600 affordable homes in South Somerset since 2006, and 49% of all affordable homes nationally. The proposal to replace this with an Infrastructure Levy, set by Central Government could risks halting the investment in our communities which we have been successful in delivering.
- Threatening to sanction Councils for failing to deliver a new Local Plan in a mere 30 months.
- Up to a 20% reduction in the number of Affordable Homes by the Government’s own estimates



Date of Next Meeting

Members are asked to note that the next scheduled meeting of the Full Council will take place on **Thursday, 19th November 2020** as a virtual meeting using Zoom meeting software **commencing at 6.30 p.m.**
