

South Somerset District Council
Decisions taken by the District Executive on Thursday 4 March 2021

Agenda Item No	Agenda item	Decision
6.	District-wide Strategic Grants - funding arrangements with CASS and SPARK 2021/2022	<p>RESOLVED: That District Executive:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. agreed to a further one year core funding agreement for the period April 2021 to March 2022, for Citizens Advice South Somerset and Spark Somerset; b. agreed to a one-off uplift of £11,335 for CASS to fund an additional 22.5 hours a week Adviser to support the significant increase in service demand due to Covid19 for the period April 2021 to March 2022; c. agreed to a one-off inflationary uplift of £1,500 for Spark Somerset for the period April 2021 to March 2022; d. agreed that the funding of CASS for 2022/23 and beyond will be subject to the outcome of the package of support work described in paragraph 8.1.3 of the report; e. agreed that the future funding of Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) infrastructure for 2022/23 onwards will be subject to the outcome of a commissioning process, based on an updated assessment of the future needs of the VCS post Covid. <p>Reason: To confirm the funding of our two strategic voluntary sector partners, Citizens Advice South Somerset (CASS) and Spark Somerset for the period 2021/2022.</p>

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7.	The Martock Parish Neighbourhood Plan Referendum	<p>RESOLVED: 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 Martock Parish Neighbourhood Plan; b. agreed to officers organising a referendum later this 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 Martock to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area; c. delegated responsibility to the Director for Strategy and Support Services to make any final minor text amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan, in agreement with the Martock Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. <p>Reason: To agree the Independent Examiner’s report and recommendations for Proposed Modifications; and to set out the process for ‘making’ the Plan in the event that there is a favourable outcome to the local referendum to be organised by the District Council.</p>
8.	Private Sector Housing Grant Policy	

South Somerset District Council – Decisions taken by the District Executive on Thursday 4 March 2021

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		<p>RESOLVED: That District Executive agreed the amendments to the existing policy concerning the provision of financial assistance for private sector housing and associated matters, including disabled facilities grants, to be adopted as the future policy of the Council. The changes are highlighted in yellow in the Policy document Private Sector Housing Grants/Loans and other Financial Assistance.</p> <p>Reason: To agree the proposed amendments and adopt the Policy for Awarding Private Sector Housing Grants/Loans and other Financial Assistance in Appendix 1 of the report.</p>
9.	Investment Assets Quarterly Update Report	<p>RESOLVED: That District Executive:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. noted the resilience of the property investment portfolio thus far in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic; b. noted progress made to date in acquiring new commercial investments and the asset management following acquisition; c. noted continued rent collection averaging in excess of 95% over the last three Quarters despite the pandemic; d. noted the return being achieved across the portfolio which is slightly below the Council’s target of 7% as a result of lease renewals,

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		<p align="center">securing the future of the asset;</p> <p>e. noted progress being made in securing income from our existing assets and the contribution to the revenue budget towards the revised £3.35m target.</p> <p>Reason: To note the quarterly update on progress with implementing the commercial investment component of the Commercial Strategy agreed by Council.</p>
10.	Octagon Theatre Development	<p>RESOLVED: That District Executive:-</p> <p>a. noted the confidential appendices, including the report by Charcoal Blue and associated business case documents, to refurbish the existing site and facilities; and to extend the site with both additional educational and income earning facilities, which will assist in repaying the costs of the proposed project over time.</p> <p>b. recommend to Full Council to approve the underwriting of the total project costs by SSDC, of up to £23.01m, to be partially offset by successful future grant funding applications, yet to be applied for; with the remainder of the capital sum to be repaid as proposed in the business plan attached to this report.</p> <p>c. recommend to Full Council to give delegated authority to a Project Board that consists of the Portfolio Holder for Health & Well-Being</p>

South Somerset District Council – Decisions taken by the District Executive on Thursday 4 March 2021

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		<p>(Chair), the Leader of the Council, the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, the Portfolio Holder for Finance & Legal Services, the Director of Commercial Services and S151 Officer to progress the project, take appropriate decisions for the project governance set up and reporting arrangements to District Executive on project progress.</p> <p>d. recommend to Full Council to approve the cashflow forecast in the business plan.</p> <p>Reason: To recommend to Full Council the proposal to refurbish and develop The Octagon Theatre and underwrite the full value of the project, up to £23.01 million (excluding VAT that is recoverable in respect of this project), subject to the successful application for various forms of grant funding which would partially offset the overall project costs.</p>
11.	District Executive Forward Plan	<p>RESOLVED: That the District Executive:-</p> <p>1. approved the updated Executive Forward Plan for publication as attached at Appendix A, with the following amendments;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSDC Traded Services – Elleston Services Ltd – May 21 • Capital & Revenue Budget Outturn reports for Quarter 4 – moved to July 21

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		<p align="right">2. noted the contents of the Consultation Database as shown at Appendix B.</p> <p>Reason: The Forward Plan is a statutory document.</p>
1.		
2.		