

## South Somerset District Council

**Minutes** of a meeting of the **Scrutiny Committee** held on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2009** in the Main Committee Room, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

(10.00 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.)

**Present:**

**Members:** Councillor Sue Steele (Chairman)

Dave Bulmer  
John Calvert  
John V Chainey  
Geoff Clarke  
Tony Lock

Pat Martin  
Derek Nelson  
Tom Parsley  
Keith Ronaldson  
Alan Smith

**Also Present:**

Councillors Tim Carroll, Tony Fife and Robin Munday

**Officers:**

Mark Pollock	Corporate Director (Economic Vitality)
Ian Clarke	Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Jo Morris	Committee Administrator

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### 124. Minutes (Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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### 125. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Hann, John Richardson and Andrew Turpin.

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### 126. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

Councillor Derek Nelson declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 11 – Yeovil Vision Delivery Organisation, as a member of Somerset County Council.

Councillors Tom Parsley, John V Chainey, Tony Lock and Pat Martin declared personal interests in Agenda Item 11 – Yeovil Vision Delivery Organisation, as members of Yeovil Town Council.

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### 127. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)

There were no questions from members of the public.

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## **128. Issues Arising from Previous Meetings (Agenda Item 5)**

There were no issues raised from previous meetings.

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## **129. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 6)**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- A Scrutiny Training day was being held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 9.45am – 4.00pm at Brympton Way and was available for all members of Council to attend.
  - There was one place available for a member to attend the Scrutiny Conference in Nottingham on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June.
  - Jo Gale had been appointed to the post of Scrutiny Manager and would also be attending the Scrutiny Conference.
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## **130. Update from District Executive (Agenda Item 7)**

The Chairman gave an update from the meeting of the District Executive held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009. Members noted the following:

- The South West Regional Assembly was no longer in operation.
  - The Council had been re-awarded the Investor in People Standard for a further three years. The inspecting officers had encouraged the Council to apply for the higher Gold Standard of the award
  - The District Executive had received a very informative presentation from the Coker Rope and Sail Trust.
  - The Executive had received reports on the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant, Pioneer Somerset – Programme Management Arrangements and the Council's Corporate Plan 'Our Targets Insert'
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## **131. Scrutiny Work Programme 2008/09 (Agenda Item 8)**

Members were informed that the Portfolio Holder for Economy, Planning and Transport had made a request to defer the report on the Concessionary Fares and implications for a 24 hour scheme, which was due to be considered at the August Scrutiny Meeting, as the Department for Transport were currently undertaking a 3 month consultation exercise on the administration of the scheme.

**RESOLVED:** That the Scrutiny Work Programme be noted with the update as above.

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## **132. Executive Forward Plan (Agenda Item 9)**

Members noted that the District Executive would be receiving monthly update reports on the Ropewalk in order to keep up momentum of the building.

Members noted that Council would be considering the report on the Corporate Plan Inserts on 20<sup>th</sup> May and not 14<sup>th</sup> May as stated in the agenda.

**RESOLVED:** That the Executive Forward Plan be noted with the update as above.

*Ian Clarke, Head of Legal & Democratic Services – (01935) 462184  
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### **133. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 10)**

Members noted that the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee would be held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 10.00am in the Main Committee Room, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

Members of the Committee are invited to attend at 9.30am to scope questions on the report in the Agenda.

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### **134. Confidential Item**

The Committee agreed that the following item be considered in Closed Session by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A under Paragraph 1: "Information relating to any individual for, or recipient or former recipient of any service provided by the authority". It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption from the Access to Information Rules outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

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### **135. Yeovil Vision Delivery Organisation (Agenda Item 11)**

The Corporate Director (Economic Vitality) introduced the report.

Members were reminded that the Yeovil Vision Delivery organisation was established by the District Executive in 2006. The funding board comprised the Leader of the Council, the Corporate Director (Economic Vitality), the Chief Executive, the Portfolio Holder for Yeovil Vision as an observer together with representatives from Yeovil Town Council and Somerset County Council.

It was noted that the District Council had only put capital funding into the organisation and that funding had been agreed at Full Council in February for 2009/10 and 2010/11. Reduced revenue funding from both Somerset County Council and Yeovil Town Council had not allowed for extension of the previous arrangement and therefore the Yeovil Vision Funding Partner Board had considered a confidential report, which outlined a number of options for funding the Yeovil Vision delivery organisation for 2009/10 and beyond. Members were referred to the confidential report, which outlined the reasons for adopting Option B.

Members noted that further reports would be required for both Area South and the District Executive to link in with the budget cycle and would consider the future of the Yeovil delivery organisation in 2010 and beyond.

The Corporate Director (Economic Vitality) mentioned that there was a range of options for future delivery of the organisation and that the Yeovil Vision Board was meeting that afternoon to consider the options beyond December 2009.

In response to concerns raised during the consideration of this item, Members were informed of the following:

- An update report on Yeovil Vision was due to be considered by the Area South Committee in August. Yeovil Vision newsletters were produced and could be circulated to members of the Scrutiny Committee to keep them up to date on developments;
- The Council had been unable to predict reduced revenue funding from other authorities;
- The position regarding SWDRA funding;

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee thanked the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Yeovil Vision for attending and providing an update.

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the report be noted;
  - (2) That the Leader of the Council forward the concerns of the Scrutiny Committee to the Yeovil Vision Project Management Board;
  - (3) That Scrutiny Committee members receive future Yeovil Vision newsletters.

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Chairman