

South Somerset District Council

Draft minutes of the meeting of the **Scrutiny Committee** held on **Tuesday 5th April 2011** in the Main Committee Room, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

(10.00 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.)

Present:

Members: Councillor Sue Steele (Chairman)

Dave Bulmer
Geoff Clarke
Carol Goodall
Tony Lock
Pat Martin

Roy Mills
Keith Ronaldson
Angie Singleton
Alan Smith
Martin Wale

Officers:

Rina Singh	Strategic Director (Place and Performance)
David Norris	Development Control Manager
Neil Waddleton	Section 106 Monitoring Officer
Emily McGuinness	Scrutiny Manager
Becky Sanders	Scrutiny Manager
Jo Morris	Committee Administrator

167. Minutes (Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the meetings held on 1st March 2011 and 24th March 2011, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendment:

Minutes 1st March

Minute 153 under bullet point 3 - the word aboard to be corrected to read abroad

168. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Calvert and John Richardson.

169. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

170. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

171. Issues arising from Previous Meetings (Agenda Item 5)

There were no issues raised from previous meetings.

172. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 6)

The Chairman thanked the members for all their contributions to the Scrutiny Committee during the past successful year. She mentioned special farewells to Councillors Keith Ronaldson, Geoff Clarke and Pat Martin and wished the other members well who were standing in the forthcoming elections in May.

173. Verbal Updates on reports considered by District Executive on 3rd March 2011 (Agenda Item 7)

It was reported that the District Executive had taken on board all the comments raised by Scrutiny members at the last meeting.

174. Reports to be considered by District Executive on 7th April 2011 (Agenda Item 8)

Members considered the reports contained in the District Executive agenda for 7th April 2011.

Section 106 Planning Obligations – Applications to vary of discharge the requirements of a planning obligation

The Development Control Manager presented the report, which outlined the proposed process for dealing with applications that seek to vary the requirements contained within a completed Section 106 Agreement. The report also provided members with a copy of the Section 106 monitoring report that will be used to provide members with information on a 6 monthly basis with information on the process of monitoring Section 106 agreements.

Officers responded to questions and comments raised by members on various points of detail in the report.

During discussion, members requested that the Scrutiny Committee should look at strategic sport and leisure contributions.

The Chairman agreed to take the following comments forward to District Executive.

Support for Household Waste Recycling Centres

Members sought clarification over recommendation 2 and the liability of risk associated with the closure of the HWRC Site. The report states on page 6, That any risks

associated with the closure of the sites, i.e. notice periods, redundancy or judicial review, are wholly taken by Somerset County Council.

At the Waste Board meeting on 25 March, there was some discussion on this topic and it was agreed that Section 17.1 of the Inter Authority Agreement specifies that all risks associated with the decisions of the Waste Board must be shared amongst all partners. Scrutiny sought clarification over whether the decision to close the HWRC's was a decision of the Waste Board or was in fact a decision of Somerset County Council and the impact this would have on where liability lies.

Members also sought clarification over the exact use of the £13,000 and whether this would be used to cover the risk of income shortfall as well potential costs associated with Judicial reviews.

Exclusion of the Press and Public

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the Committee resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 Schedule 12A to the Act, i.e. "Information relating to the financial business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

SSDC Partnerships

With reference to recommendation 3 –

Who will be undertaking the reviews – it is vital that the review is independent.
What do you envisage will be achieved that is different to what has already been achieved by Scrutiny?
Members would like to be sent copies of the Terms of reference for the proposed reviews as well as anticipated timescales

175. Executive Forward Plan (Agenda Item 9)

The Committee noted the details of the District Executive Forward Plan as attached to the agenda for the meeting to be held on 7th April 2011.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Forward be noted as outlined in the District Executive agenda for 7th April 2011.

*(Angie Cox, Democratic Services Manager)
(angela.cox@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462148)*

176. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 10)

Members noted that the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee would be held on Tuesday 31st May 2011 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 reports in the agenda.

Councillor Pat Martin expressed her thanks to the Chairman for her excellent chairing skills during the meeting.

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Chairman