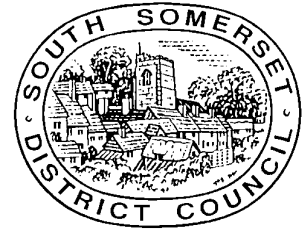


South Somerset District Council

Notice of Meeting



Scrutiny Committee

Making a difference where it counts

Tuesday 5 February 2013

10.00am

**Main Committee Room
Council Offices
Brympton Way
Yeovil
Somerset BA20 2HT**

The public and press are welcome to attend.

Disabled Access is available at this meeting venue.



If you would like any further information on the items to be discussed, please ring the Agenda Co-ordinator, Becky Sanders on Yeovil (01935) 462462
email: becky.sanders@southsomerset.gov.uk, website: www.southsomerset.gov.uk

This Agenda was issued on Monday 28 January 2013.

Ian Clarke, Assistant Director (Legal & Corporate Services)



**This information is also available on our
website: www.southsomerset.gov.uk**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Scrutiny Committee Membership

Chairman	Sue Steele
Vice Chairman	David Bulmer Carol Goodall

Cathy Bakewell	Tony Lock	Wes Read
Nigel Gage	Paul Maxwell	Martin Wale
Peter Gubbins	Graham Middleton	Nick Weeks
Pauline Lock	Sue Osborne	

Information for the Public

What is Scrutiny?

The Local Government Act 2000 requires all councils in England and Wales to introduce new political structures which provide a clear role for the Council, the Executive and non-executive councillors.

One of the key roles for non-executive councillors is to undertake an overview and scrutiny role for the council. In this Council the overview and scrutiny role involves reviewing and developing, scrutinising organisations external to the council and holding the executive to account

Scrutiny also has an important role to play in organisational performance management.

The Scrutiny Committee is made up of 14 non-executive members and meets monthly to consider items where executive decisions need to be reviewed before or after their implementation, and to commission reviews of policy or other public interest.

Members of the public are able to:

- attend meetings of the Scrutiny Committee except where, for example, personal or confidential matters are being discussed;
- speak at Scrutiny Committee meetings; and
- see agenda reports.

Meetings of the Scrutiny Committee are held monthly on the Tuesday prior to meetings of the District Executive at 10.00am in the Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

Agendas and minutes of these meetings are published on the Council's website www.southsomerset.gov.uk.

The Council's Constitution is also on the website and available for inspection in council offices.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the agenda co-ordinator named on the front page.

South Somerset District Council – Council Plan

Our focuses are: (all equal)

- Jobs – We want a strong community, which has low unemployment and thriving businesses
- Environment – We want an attractive environment to live in with increased recycling and lower energy use
- Homes – We want decent housing for our residents that matches their income
- Health and Communities – We want communities that are healthy, self-reliant, and have individuals who are willing to help each other

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South Somerset District Council

Draft minutes of the Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 2 January 2013 in the Main Committee Room, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

(10.02 a.m. – 11.44am)

Present:

Members: Councillor Sue Steele (Chairman)

Cathy Bakewell	Peter Gubbins	Graham Middleton
Dave Bulmer	Pauline Lock	Sue Osborne
John Calvert (sub)	Tony Lock	Wes Read
Nigel Gage	Paul Maxwell	Nick Weeks
Carol Goodall		

Also present:

Councillors Tim Carroll (from 10.40am), Ric Pallister and Gina Seaton

Officers:

Lynda Pincombe	Community Health & Leisure Manager
Donna Parham	Assistant Director, Finance and Corporate Services
Jo Gale	Scrutiny Manager
Emily McGuinness	Scrutiny Manager
Becky Sanders	Democratic Services Officer

94. Minutes (Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 4 December 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

95. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Martin Wale (Councillor John Calvert was his substitute).

96. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

97. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)

There were no members of public at the meeting.

98. Issues Arising from Previous Meetings (Agenda Item 5)

There were no issues raised from previous meetings.

99. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 6)

There were no Chairman's announcements.

100. Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel (Agenda Item 7)

(In error, the agenda referred to a meeting of the 10 January 2013 – this should have read the 10 December 2012).

Councillor Tony Lock, as the SSDC representative on the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel gave a brief verbal update to members on the current situation which included:

- Situation was constantly changing and evolving, with the Panel working to tight timescales for the first year.
- Budget was subject to capping and damping regarding government grants
- Working arrangements stated that substitution at meetings was not permitted
- The Police Commissioner had outlined her priorities and aspirations
- For now there would not be a deputy commissioner, but this would be reviewed in March
- There were six plans across the constabulary area
- The Panel would be involved in the interviews for the new Chief Constable

Members thanked the councillor for his report and requested that similar update reports be made twice a year to the Scrutiny Committee.

ACTION:

- Members to note the report
- Future update reports to be added to the Scrutiny Work Programme by the Democratic Services Officer

101. Verbal update on reports considered by District Executive on 6 December 2012 (Agenda item 8)

The Chairman commented that many of the Scrutiny comments were included in the minutes that had been circulated. With reference to District Executive minute 96 she requested that the 'circulated further information' referred to be forwarded to all Scrutiny members for information. One member requested that the presentation by South Somerset Voluntary and Community Action (SSVCA) also be circulated.

ACTION: The presentation made to District Executive by the SSVCA and the further information circulated at District Executive on the value of the South Somerset Together Partnership be forwarded to all Scrutiny members by the Scrutiny Manager/ Democratic Services Officer.

102. Reports to be considered by District Executive on 3 January 2013 (Agenda item 9)

Members considered the reports outlined in the District Executive agenda for 3 January 2013. It was agreed that the following comments and questions would be taken forward to District Executive for consideration:

SSDC Debt Recovery Policy

- Members did not raise any comments – they were content that the report had been through Audit.

Delegation for Authorising NNDR1 Returns

- Members did not raise any comments about the report apart from the acronym NNDR needed to be more clearly stated at the start of the report.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

- Members sought clarification that parishes would still receive their monies at the start of April
- Members of the Task and Finish group wished to make it clear that a cost neutral scheme was an ambition of the group but was not a principle of the review
- Views were expressed by some members that a 20% option would represent as close to cost neutral position as possible.

Exclusion of the 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 following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, i.e. "Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Transfer of the Community Resource Service – Selection of the Preferred Bidder

- Members raised several comments that were answered by the Leader and officers present at the Scrutiny meeting. However Scrutiny Committee suggest an amendment to the second bullet point of the recommendation – to request that a final report be made to District Executive prior to contracts being signed, in order to ensure that comments raised by members have been adequately addressed.

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103. Verbal Update on Task & Finish Reviews (Agenda Item 10)

Health Inequalities Scrutiny Programme

The Scrutiny Manager and Councillor Cathy Bakewell as Chair of the Health Inequalities Task and Finish Group would be going to London on 25th January to report back on the

review process and outline the key learning points with representatives from the Centre for Public Scrutiny and the Department of Health.

Council Tax Benefit Changes

The Scrutiny Manager commented that a recommendation of the Task and Finish Group was that the group continue until the scheme is in place, and then to take on a monitoring role.

ACTION: Members to note the updates.

104. Update on matters of interest (Agenda Item 11)

The Scrutiny Manager gave updates regarding:

Joint review of flooding

The Scrutiny Manager informed members that in response to the request at the previous meeting about a joint review of flooding, she would be leading on a countywide review of flooding which was supported by all the Somerset District Authorities and the County Council. The review would not be about apportioning blame but would be more about seeking to identify what had gone well and to learn what could be done better in the future. If members were content to go ahead with the review, it was suggested that two members from each authority's Scrutiny Committee be nominated to form a Steering Group which would then lead the joint review process.

In response, members were positive about a review and it was agreed that Councillors Dave Bulmer and Paul Maxwell would be the representatives for the SSDC Scrutiny Committee.

Joint Waste Scrutiny

Members were reminded that the next Joint Waste Scrutiny meeting would take place on 18 January 2013 and would discuss future delivery proposals and the budget.

Health Scrutiny

The Scrutiny Manager reminded members that Somerset had no dedicated Health Scrutiny programme and Somerset was the only authority nationally not to have one. A recommendation of the Health Inequalities Scrutiny Programme would include a report on best practice. A full report for discussion would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

ACTION:

- Members to note the updates.
- That Councillors Dave Bulmer and Paul Maxwell be the representatives for the SSDC Scrutiny Committee on the steering group for the countywide review of flooding.

Emily McGuinness, Scrutiny Manager
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105. Scrutiny Work Programme (Agenda Item 12)

The Scrutiny Manager noted that she would seek clarification as to when the car parking report would come to Scrutiny Committee.

- ACTION:**
- Members to note the Scrutiny Work Programme.
 - The Scrutiny Manager to clarify when the car parking report will come to Scrutiny Committee.

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106. Somerset Waste Board – Forward Plan (Agenda item 13)

ACTION: Members to note the Somerset Waste Board Forward Plan.

107. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 14)

Members noted that the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee would be held on Tuesday 5 February 2013 at 10.00am in the Main Committee Room, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

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Chairman

Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 5 February 2013

Agenda

Preliminary Items

1. **To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 January 2013**
2. **Apologies for Absence**
3. **Declarations of Interest**

In accordance with the Council's current Code of Conduct (adopted July 2012), 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. A DPI is defined in The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012 No. 1464) and Appendix 3 of the Council's Code of Conduct. A personal interest is defined in paragraph 2.8 of the Code and a prejudicial interest is defined in paragraph 2.9. In the interests of complete transparency, Members of the County Council, who are not also members of this committee, are encouraged to declare any interests they may have in any matters being discussed even though they may not be under any obligation to do so under any relevant code of conduct.

4. **Public Question Time**
5. **Issues Arising from Previous Meetings**

This is an opportunity for Members to question the progress on issues arising from previous meetings. However, this does not allow for the re-opening of a debate on any item not forming part of this agenda.

6. **Chairman's Announcements**

Items for Discussion

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