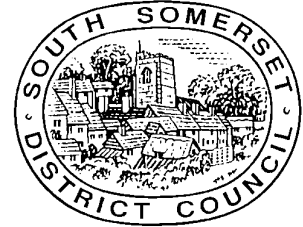


South Somerset District Council

Notice of Meeting



Scrutiny Committee

Making a difference where it counts

Tuesday 4 June 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 Wednesday 22 May 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	David Recardo
Pauline Clarke	Paul Maxwell	Martin Wale
Nigel Gage	Graham Middleton	1 Vacancy
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 Tuesday 7 May 2013 in the Main Committee Room, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

(10.05am –12noon)

Present:

Members: Councillor Sue Steele (Chairman)

Cathy Bakewell
Dave Bulmer
Nigel Gage

Carol Goodall
Pauline Lock
Graham Middleton

Sue Osborne
Martin Wale

Also present:

Councillors Tim Carroll, Ric Pallister, Colin Winder

Officers:

Kirsty Larkins
Jon Batty
Martin Woods
Emily McGuinness
Becky Sanders

Housing and Welfare Manager
Housing Policy and Performance Officer
Assistant Director (Economy)
Scrutiny Manager
Democratic Services Officer

148. Minutes (Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 2 April 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

149. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Peter Gubbins, Tony Lock, Paul Maxwell and Wes Read.

150. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

Councillor Carol Goodall declared a personal interest in item 16, Review of Member Representation on Outside Bodies as she was a director of Ilminster Forum.

Councillor Pauline Lock also declared a personal interest in item 16, as she was a voting member on one of the organisations.

Councillor Graham Middleton, also declared a personal interest in item 16, as he was a voting member on Martock M3 Community Partnership.

151. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)

There were no members of public at the meeting.

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

There were no issues raised from previous meetings.

153. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 6)

The Chairman commented that she was disappointed that the News From YDH publication appeared to have been circulated late, as an article regarding notice of governor elections referred to a deadline for nominations as 12 April.

154. Gypsy Site Management (Agenda item 7)

The Housing and Welfare Manager presented the report as shown in the agenda, and highlighted to members key points within the report. She explained that the park homes had a shelf life of around 30 years and a sinking fund had been established for their replacement. The Housing Policy and Performance Officer commented that the sites were running smoothly at the moment.

In response to comments made the officers responded:

- Maintenance costs were not an indication of the standard of the home, but were for general wear and tear, although it was acknowledged there had been issues with some of the cookers.
- Issues with individual invoicing direct to tenants by the water supplier were being addressed, and was primarily due to the location of the main water supply only going to the entrance of the sites.
- Tenants did get charged dilapidation costs, when the location of a tenant was known.
- At the start of tenancies, the tenancy agreement and maintenance handbook made it clear which party was responsible for different maintenance.
- Non park home pitches and utility blocks remained the responsibility of SSDC
- Residents on the two sites would not be affected by the 'bedroom tax'. Staff were working with the site residents to do budget exercises in preparation for reform changes.

Members thanked the officers for their informative report and requested a further update in 12 months time.

ACTION: Members to note the report.

*Kirsty Larkins, Housing and Welfare Manager
kirsty.larkins@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462744
Jon Batty, Housing Policy & Performance Officer
jon.batty@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462749*

155. Verbal update on reports considered by District Executive on 4 April 2013 (Agenda item 8)

The Chairman commented that the Scrutiny comments were included in the District Executive minutes that had been circulated.

156. Reports to be considered by District Executive on 9 May 2013 (Agenda item 9)

Members considered the reports outlined in the District Executive agenda for 9 May 2013. It was agreed that the following comments and questions would be taken forward to District Executive for consideration:

District Wide Car Parking Strategy Review – item 6

- Scrutiny were pleased that many of their comments had been included within the document.
- Scrutiny raised a few questions and suggestions including:
 - SSDC should not be liable for software costs (for car parking machines) if individual towns and parishes should opt for variable charging rates in the future.
 - The report should contain clearer details about costs - details of maintenance costs for each car park would be beneficial to show what % of income is used for maintenance.
 - It would be beneficial if the town by town action plan indicated priorities (high, medium, low)
 - When would the annual review of charging take place each year?

Annual Review of SSDC Partnerships – item 7

- Pleased the process for reviewing partnerships annually is working well.

Future Role of the Corporate Grants Committee – item 8

- No comments

Community Right to Bid – item 9

- Scrutiny sought clarification that the reference to SCC in point 7.2 on page 15 had been made in error.

DX Forward Plan – item 10

- No comments

CONFIDENTIAL - 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).

Commercial Property Disposals – item 12 (Confidential)

- Scrutiny did not raise any concerns and were content that the recommendations go forward.

157. Report of Task and Finish Group – Health Inequalities (Agenda Item 10)

Councillor Cathy Bakewell, Chair of the Task and Finish Group, presented the report as shown in the agenda and commented that the programme had been very interesting. Each group in the programme had focussed on a different health issue and South Somerset had looked at maternity issues of the Gypsy and Traveller Community. She felt that the cost benefit analysis should be looked at for each review that the Scrutiny Committee undertook.

It was noted that Health Scrutiny structures did not exist in Somerset, but a report had been taken to the County Scrutiny Committee to look into the feasibility of having such a function. She suggested waiting to see what action the new Scrutiny Committee would take following the recent elections, before asking what progress would be made about establishing a Health Scrutiny function.

Members noted the positive outcomes of the report and thanked those involved.

ACTION: Members to note the report.

Emily McGuinness, Scrutiny Manager
emily.mcguinness@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462566

158. Verbal Update on Task & Finish Reviews (Agenda Item 11)

Council Tax Benefit Changes

Chair of the review group, Councillor Carol Goodall commented that monitoring and gleaning feedback was ongoing.

Countywide Review of Homelessness Strategy

The Scrutiny Manager reminded the committee that SSDC would now do their own Task and Finish review which would then be circulated to the other Somerset authorities for comment.

Business Rates – Discretionary Rate Relief

There was no update since the last meeting.

The Scrutiny Manager commented that future reviews were on hold until the new Scrutiny Committee had considered the work programme, which was planned for the next meeting.

ACTION: Members to note the updates.

159. Update on matters of interest (Agenda Item 12)

The Scrutiny Manager gave updates regarding:

District-Wide Review of Flooding

The Scrutiny Manager informed members that the Flooding Steering Group had met the previous week and had discussed:

- Local pilot for community resilience
 - One stop Somerset flooding website
-

- Identifying work to be done and the work of SCC as the lead flood authority and linking with examples of good practice
- Civil contingencies and the local partnership

She noted a report regarding the Joint Scrutiny of Flooding and the Flood Summit would be completed by 19 May.

Members commented that good constructive progress was being made and it was pleasing that communities were receiving feedback and information on shared resources.

Joint Waste Scrutiny

No update since the previous meeting.

Health Scrutiny

There was no update as the topic had been discussed as part agenda item 10 – Health Inequalities.

ACTION: • Members to note the updates.

160. Scrutiny Work Programme (Agenda Item 13)

The Scrutiny Manager informed members that at the request of the Chairman, an item on GP Commissioning would be added to the work programme for future consideration.

ACTION: Members to note the Scrutiny Work Programme.

161. Somerset Waste Board – Forward Plan (Agenda item 14)

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

162. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 15)

Members noted that the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee would be held on Tuesday 4 June 2013 at 10.00am in the Main Committee Room, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

Confidential Item

The Committee resolved that the following report be considered in Closed Session by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A under Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

**163. Review of Member Representation on Outside Bodies (Confidential)
(Agenda Item 16)**

Chairman of the Task and Finish group, Councillor Martin Wale, presented the confidential report as shown in the agenda. He commented that the review had been a lengthy process, but very enlightening. There was a short discussion during which a couple of minor amendments to the report were suggested.

Members unanimously agreed that the report be recommended to District Executive subject to the suggested changes being made.

ACTION: Members to note the report of the Task and Finish group, and to recommend it to District Executive for consideration.

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Chairman

Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 4 June 2013

Agenda

Preliminary Items

1. **To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 May 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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| 12. | Date of next meeting..... | 8 |
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