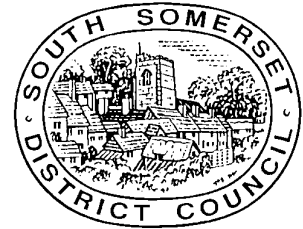


South Somerset District Council

Notice of Meeting



Scrutiny Committee

Making a difference where it counts

Tuesday 5 November 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 October 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
Vice Chairman

Sue Steele
David Bulmer
Carol Goodall

Pauline Clarke
Nick Colbert
Nigel Gage
Pauline Lock

Tony Lock
Paul Maxwell
Nigel Mermagen
Graham Middleton

Sue Osborne
David Recardo
Martin Wale

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 1 October 2013 in the Main Committee Room, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

(10.00am –11.55pm)

Present:

Members: Councillor Sue Steele (in the Chair)

David Bulmer
Pauline Clarke
Nick Colbert
Nigel Gage

Carol Goodall
Pauline Lock
Tony Lock
Nigel Mermagen

Graham Middleton
Sue Osborne
Martin Wale

Also present:

Councillors Tim Carroll and Sylvia Seal

Officers:

Vega Sturgess	Strategic Director, Operations and Customer Focus
Donna Parham	Assistant Director, Finance and Corporate Services
David Julian	Economic Development Manager
Jo Gale	Scrutiny Manager
Emily McGuinness	Scrutiny Manager
Becky Sanders	Democratic Services Officer

59. Minutes (Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 3 September 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

60. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 2)

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Paul Maxwell.

61. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

Councillor Nick Colbert declared a personal interest in item 17 on the District Executive agenda – Wincanton Community Sports Centre – as he was a trustee.

62. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)

There were no members of public at the meeting.

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

There were no issues raised from previous meetings.

64. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 6)

The Chairman made several announcements including:

- the report on the Somerset Homelessness Strategy had been delayed as it was still being considered by some of the other local authorities.
 - A welcome to Councillor Nigel Mermagen who had replaced Councillor Cathy Bakewell on Scrutiny Committee
 - A questioning skills workshop for councillors had been arranged for 8th November and Scrutiny members were encouraged to attend.
-

65. Verbal update on reports considered by District Executive on 5 September 2013 (Agenda item 7)

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

The Scrutiny Manager informed members that following on from comments made by the Scrutiny Committee last month, a report outlining our current approach to historical buildings and proposals for future service delivery would be considered by the November Scrutiny Committee. She also informed members that she had discussed some changes to the reporting of Performance information with the relevant officers.

66. Reports to be considered by District Executive on 3 October 2013 (Agenda item 8)

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

Report from Yeovil District hospital NHS Trust – item 6

- Page 1 – Scrutiny referred to the comments made by Paul Mears and were concerned that the focus of concern appeared to be about methodology of scoring rather than looking to address issues highlighted by the Net Promoter Score.
- Page 3 - Jo Howarth comment D about Liverpool Pathway – Scrutiny sought clarification on this point as many members understood that a couple of months ago the government had indicated that the Liverpool Pathway had, or would be scrapped in the near future.

Symphony Project – item 7

- Scrutiny was of the opinion it needed to be made clear in the report that SSDC were a non-funding partner.

Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy – SSDC Response – item 8

- Members thanked the Strategic Director (Operations and Customer Focus) and the Portfolio Holder for providing an overview of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and work regarding clinical commissioning.
-

- Members were pleased to hear that the views of South Somerset were being taken into account.
- Scrutiny commented that sight of a work programme or forward plan for the Health and Wellbeing Board would be useful so that members could provide targeted advice and support for our officers and members working through the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Business Rates Software Replacement – item 9

- Scrutiny sought clarification that the procurement process had been robust enough to ensure everything that is required is in place
- How long would the migration period be and would it lead to downtime causing a backlog which could then require additional resources? If additional resources would be required what would the costs be?

Replacement Horticultural Equipment – item 10

- Members noted that the funding was coming from useable Capital Reserves and not ICT Reserves as stated in the agenda.
- Scrutiny were content with the recommendations and acknowledged it would facilitate more efficient working.

Medium Term Financial Strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan 2014/15 to 2018/19 – item 11

- Scrutiny sought clarification that there was confidence that the new way of 'leaning' would be effective.
- Clarification was sought on the risks to the MTFP if the Inspector refused the Local Plan next year.
- Rec B - Scrutiny queried if it was known when DCLG might confirm the grant
- Table on page 49 – Scrutiny queried the low and high figure for the additional payroll requirements for 15/16 and 16/17 (87.6 and 492.0)

Wessex Home Improvement Loans – Update report – item 12

- Scrutiny noted the good outcome of a recent audit by SWAP, but expressed their slight disappointment at the relatively low take up figures (page 54).

Revised Homefinder Somerset Policy - item 13

- Scrutiny had considered this item in detail at the September meeting and were content that their comments had been taken into consideration.

District Executive Forward Plan – item 14

- Scrutiny raised 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 items 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).

The disposal of SSSC owned land in Chard comprising Boden Mill, former ACI factory site, Market Fields and Boden Street car parks – item 16 (Confidential)

- Scrutiny was pleased that the issue was at this stage and congratulated those involved with the scheme.
- Clarification was sought regarding the car parking element and how it would work
- Clarification was also sought about the use of the rest of the mill building

Wincanton Community Sports Centre – item 17 (Confidential)

- Scrutiny were content with the recommendations and thanked all the officers in getting the matter to this stage.
-

67. Verbal Update on Task & Finish Reviews (Agenda Item 9)**National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR) – Discretionary Rate Relief**

The Scrutiny Manager commented that the group had met four times and considered comments from internal experts. The next stage would be to meet with some external parties and look in detail at equalities issues.

Inescapable Bids

The Scrutiny Manager reminded members that a meeting would take place on 23 October to consider inescapable bids.

Connecting Somerset and Devon Broadband

The Scrutiny Manager informed members that the joint Scrutiny meeting had now been arranged for 16 October in Honiton. Part of the work of the group would include identifying areas that would not be covered by the national scheme for delivering broadband and to discuss how funding might be accessed to deliver a service to those areas.

ACTION: Members to note the updates.

68. Update on matters of interest (Agenda Item 10)

The Scrutiny Manager provided two updates:

- A reminder that the budget Scrutiny workshop had been arranged for 19 December. All SSSC councillors were invited to attend and discuss informally budgets and savings proposals with Portfolio Holders
- County Wide Review of Flooding – the steering group were due to meet on 9th October to monitor outcomes and consider potential sources of funding for dredging.

ACTION: Members to note the updates.

69. Scrutiny Work Programme (Agenda Item 11)

There were no updates to the Scrutiny Work Programme. The Scrutiny Manager commented that the item on Localism was a broad topic and suggested an item only

came forward if members suggested an area of specific interest. Members suggested an item on the four 'Community Rights' would be beneficial.

ACTION: Members to note the Scrutiny Work Programme.

70. Somerset Waste Board – Forward Plan (Agenda item 12)

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

71. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 13)

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

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Chairman

Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 5 November 2013**Agenda***Preliminary Items*

1. **To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 October 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**

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