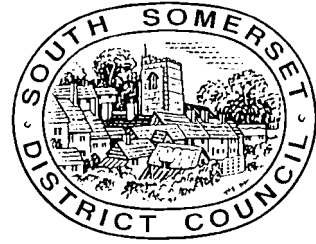


**South Somerset District Council**

*Notice of Meeting*



**South Somerset  
District Council**

*Making a difference where it counts*

**Thursday 21st January 2016**

**7.30 pm**

**Council Chamber  
Council Offices  
Brympton Way  
Yeovil  
BA20 2HT**

(disabled access and a hearing loop are available at this meeting venue)



All members of Council are requested to attend the meeting:

The public and press are welcome to attend.

If you would like any further information on the items to be discussed, please ring the Agenda Co-ordinator, **Angela Cox, Democratic Services Manager**, website: [www.southsomerset.gov.uk](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk)

This Agenda was issued on Wednesday 13 January 2016.

*Ian Clarke, Assistant Director (Legal & Corporate Services)*

This information is also available on our website  
[www.southsomerset.gov.uk](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk)



# South Somerset District Council Membership

**Chairman:** Mike Best  
**Vice-chairman:** Tony Capozzoli

Clare Aparicio Paul  
Jason Baker  
Cathy Bakewell  
Marcus Barrett  
Mike Beech  
Neil Bloomfield  
Amanda Broom  
Dave Bulmer  
John Clark  
Nick Colbert  
Adam Dance  
Gye Dibben  
Sarah Dyke-Bracher  
John Field  
Nigel Gage  
Carol Goodall  
Anna Groskop  
Peter Gubbins  
Henry Hobhouse  
Kaysar Hussain

Tim Inglefield  
Val Keitch  
Andy Kendall  
Jenny Kenton  
Mike Lewis  
Sarah Lindsay  
Mike Lock  
Tony Lock  
Paul Maxwell  
Sam McAllister  
Graham Middleton  
David Norris  
Graham Oakes  
Sue Osborne  
Tiffany Osborne  
Stephen Page  
Ric Pallister  
Shane Pledger  
Crispin Raikes  
Wes Read

David Recardo  
Jo Roundell Greene  
Dean Ruddle  
Sylvia Seal  
Gina Seaton  
Peter Seib  
Garry Shortland  
Angie Singleton  
Alan Smith  
Sue Steele  
Rob Stickland  
Andrew Turpin  
Linda Vjeh  
Martin Wale  
William Wallace  
Nick Weeks  
Colin Winder  
Derek Yeomans

# Information for the Public

The meetings of the full Council, comprising all 60 members of South Somerset District Council, are held at least 6 times a year. The full Council approves the Council's budget and the major policies which comprise the Council's policy framework. Other decisions which the full Council has to take include appointing the Leader of the Council, members of the District Executive, other Council Committees and approving the Council's Consultation (which details how the Council works including the scheme allocating decisions and Council functions to committees and officers).

Members of the Public are able to:-

- attend meetings of the Council and its committees such as Area Committees, District Executive, except where, for example, personal or confidential matters are being discussed;
- speak at Area Committees, District Executive and Council meetings;
- see reports and background papers, and any record of decisions made by the Council and Executive;
- find out, from the Executive Forward Plan, what major decisions are to be decided by the District Executive.

Meetings of the Council are scheduled to be held monthly at 7.30 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month in the Council Offices, Brympton Way although some dates are only reserve dates and may not be needed.

The agenda, minutes and the timetable for council meetings are published on the Council's website – [www.southsomerset.gov.uk/councillors-and-democracy/meetings-and-decisions](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/councillors-and-democracy/meetings-and-decisions)

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

The Council's corporate aims which guide the work of the Council are set out below.

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

## **South Somerset District Council – Council Aims**

**Our key areas of focus are:** (all equal)

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

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# South Somerset District Council

**Thursday 21 January 2016**

## Agenda

**1. Apologies for Absence**

**2. Minutes**

To approve and sign the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

**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.

**4. Public Question Time**

**5. Chairman's Announcements**

*Items for Discussion*

**6. Chairman's Engagements (Page 6)**

**7. Setting the Council Tax Support Scheme (CTS) for 2016/17 (Pages 7 - 14)**

**8. The Somerset Rivers Authority and Flood Action Plan - Update Report (Pages 15 - 26)**

**9. Report of Executive Decisions (Pages 27 - 30)**

**10. Audit Committee**

There has been no meeting of the Audit Committee since the last Full Council meeting in December 2015.

**11. Scrutiny Committee (Pages 31 - 34)**

**12. Motions**

There were no Motions submitted.

13. **Questions Under Procedure Rule 10** (Page 35)
14. **Date of Next Meeting** (Page 36)

# Agenda Item 6

## **Chairman's Engagements**

### **21<sup>st</sup> December**

At the request of the Mayor of Yeovil, Mike joined him for a visit to the Royal Mail sorting office in Yeovil.

During the afternoon, they also visited the patients and staff at St Margaret's Hospice.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> December**

Mike joined the Mayor of Yeovil on a visit to Yeovil District Hospital where they met with the Chief Executive and Director of Nursing for a guided tour.

### **13<sup>th</sup> January**

Mike attended the Octagon Theatre for a VIP reception and exhibition "25 Years in Pictures", by Len Copland, celebrating his 25 years with the Western Gazette.

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# Agenda Item 7

## **Setting the Council Tax Support Scheme (CTS) for 2016/17**

*Lead Officer:* Ian Potter, Revenues and Benefits Manager  
*Contact Details:* [ian.potter@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:ian.potter@southsomerset.gov.uk) (01935) 462690

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

To request that Council agree the Council Tax Support scheme (CTS) for the 2016/17 financial year.

### **2. Public Interest**

From April 2013 the Government changed the way in which financial help is given to residents to pay Council Tax. The national Council Tax Benefit scheme was replaced with a local Council Tax Support scheme to help with the costs of council tax for those with low incomes. As part of the change the Government also cut the amount of money they give councils towards the scheme by 10%. The South Somerset scheme was set taking this into account. By January 31<sup>st</sup> each year the council is required to review and set a Council Tax Support scheme for the next financial year.

### **3. Recommendations**

The Council agree:

- (a) that personal allowances and premiums are uprated in line with those for Housing Benefit;
- (b) that non-dependent deductions are uprated in line with the annual percentage increase in Council Tax;
- (c) that the non-dependent income bands are increased by the same percentage as those in the Prescribed Requirements relating to pensioners;
- (d) that approval is given for proposals A and C to be incorporated into the 2016/17 scheme;
- (e) that proposals B and D be rejected;
- (f) that the hardship scheme budget be set at £30,000 for the 2016/17 financial year;
- (g) to consider the Equalities Impact Assessment at Appendix 2 in approving (d) and (e) above;
- (h) to consider the public consultation responses at Appendix 3 in approving (d) and (e) above;
- (i) to note the recommendations of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group attached at Appendix 4;

- (j) to note the scheme has been amended to reflect changes to the Prescribed Requirements;
- (k) that the 2016/17 Council Tax Support Scheme at Appendix 1 is adopted;
- (l) to note that the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme has been reflected within the overall Council Tax Base.

#### **4. Background**

The South Somerset Council Tax Support scheme (CTS) was introduced on 1 April 2013 and has now been running for almost three years. Councils are required to review and set their CTS scheme for each financial year by 31 January in the preceding financial year. Applications to the CTS hardship scheme are monitored, along with the Council Tax collection rate and reported to members each quarter.

We carried out an extensive consultation process prior to the introduction of CTS in April 2013 and the scheme proposals were carefully and fully considered by the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group. We do not have any evidence at this stage to suggest that any of those original adopted proposals require amendment. It was the view of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group that those adopted proposals be retained.

The SSDC Council Tax Support scheme states that certain elements of the needs assessment may be uprated each financial year but does not specify the level of that uprating.

The Scrutiny Task and Finish Group originally considered the methods of uprating and recommended the following:

1. That while Housing Benefit (HB) still exists it would be appropriate for the CTS applicable amount figures (basic need allowance) to mirror those in the HB scheme
2. That non-dependent deductions are uprated in line with the annual percentage increase in Council Tax
3. That the non-dependent income bands are increased by the same percentage as those in the Prescribed Requirements relating to pensioners

These methods were adopted in the original scheme and have retained.

#### **5. Equality Impact Assessment**

Councils have a legal responsibility to have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 when setting a Council Tax Support scheme. There has been a recent High Court ruling that there was insufficient evidence that members making the decision to implement a CTS scheme had given due regard to the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) that had been attached to the council report in order that they could discharge their statutory obligation.

It is important that members have due regard to the PSED when making their decision on the various scheme proposals.



The EIA in appendix 1 to this report sets out the implications of each of the four proposals to be considered by members and any mitigation or evidence relevant to each of them.

## **6. Council Tax Support scheme 2016/17 (Year 4)**

The Somerset Benefit Managers group compiled a set of possible changes to the CTS scheme for 2016/17. The changes would provide options to reduce the cost of the scheme, to align the scheme with national policy and to incentivise a move into work. This list was considered by the Task and Finish Group and they proposed that four of those changes should be put forward for public consultation. The proposals are:

- a) To reduce the capital limit from £16,000 to £6,000
- b) To introduce a minimum income for the self-employed
- c) To introduce a Council Tax Band Cap
- d) To Increase the income taper for those not working while keeping the current lower income taper for those in work

## **7. The Proposals in detail**

### **Proposal A - Reduce the amount of savings you can have and still receive Council Tax Support from £16,000 to £6,000**

Current scheme: Up to £6,000 of capital/savings/investments and any other assets is ignored in calculating the level of Council Tax Support. Between £6,000 and £16,000 we add £1 to the weekly income used to decide entitlement for every £250 or part thereof. The value of a person's home is ignored.

Proposed change: Where the value of capital/savings/investments and any other assets held is £6,000 or more no Council Tax Support will be granted. The value of a person's home will still be ignored. This change would not apply to those on a passported benefit i.e. benefits paid at the basic needs level.

83 CTS recipients would be affected by this proposal and no longer receive support. This would save SSDC £6,200 and all preceptors £55,800.

The results of the consultation show that 58% of respondents agree or strongly agree with implementing this proposal.

Respondents considered £6,000 to be a significant level of savings with some commenting that they were in work and unable to save money. Savings of £6,000 would represent approximately four years of Council Tax at a Council Tax Band D.

It is recommended that this proposal is included in the 2016/17 scheme.

### **Proposal B - Introduce a self-employed minimum income**

Current scheme: Actual income from self-employment is used in the calculation of Council Tax Support.

Proposed change: We would use a minimum income for the self-employed. This would be in line with the UK Minimum Wage/new national Living Wage for 35 hours a week. From October 2015 the Minimum Wage will be £6.70 an hour. The rate for 18

to 20 year olds will be £5.30 an hour. The new national Living Wage will be £7.20 from April 2016

This minimum income would not be applied during the first year of self-employment. If a self-employed person has restrictions on the number of hours they can work we will work out the minimum income proportionately.

393 CTS recipients would be affected by this proposal. This would save SSDC a maximum of £27,000 and all preceptors £243,000. We would need to take account of any limitations in the number of hours that could be worked and adjust the minimum income accordingly. This would reduce the level of savings which could be achieved.

The results of the consultation show that 46% of respondents agree or strongly agree with implementing this proposal.

This proposal was included in the consultation as it would align the CTS scheme with Universal Credit (UC). In UC the minimum income floor is designed to encourage people to be gainfully self-employed. Due to the limitations of the roll out of UC to date there is no evidence to determine whether it meets this objective and what the consequences of the policy are. There are several potential issues with this measure.

1. Consultation responses suggest that it could act as a disincentive to remaining self-employed.
2. **Equalities implications** - A significant proportion of self-employed CTS recipients are single parents (40%) who do some self-employed work around their childcare responsibilities and there would be a disproportionate impact on this group.
3. Assuming someone has an income higher than they actually do raises the risk that the additional Council Tax they are asked to pay could be uncollectable.

It is recommended that this proposal is not included in the 2016/17 scheme.

### **Proposal C - Introduce a Council Tax Band cap.**

Around 95% of working age Council Tax Support recipients live in properties in Council Tax band A, B or C. This proposal limits the amount of help people who live in a higher value property can get.

Current scheme: The annual charge (less any discounts) for the Council Tax band of the property the applicant lives in is used to calculate Council Tax Support entitlement.

Proposed new scheme: Limit the charge used to calculate Council Tax Support entitlement to the Band C charge for the parish the applicant lives in.

254 CTS recipients will be affected by this proposal. This will save SSDC £6,400 and all preceptors £57,600

The results of the consultation show that 47% of respondents agree or strongly agree with implementing this proposal.

Respondents commented that people who live in larger properties should pay more and that it might act as an incentive to downsize to a smaller property where this is possible. Some concerns were raised about the impact on older people and whether it might cause financial hardship. The scheme only applies to working age recipients as pensioners are protected. An application to the hardship scheme could be made if financial hardship is experienced as a result of this measure.

**Equalities implications** - This proposal might have had a detrimental impact on families from minority ethnic groups who have larger families as part of their culture. Analysis of the 43 larger families\* who would be affected by the proposal shows that:

33 households have indicated they are white British, 2 households British, 1 household white Irish and in the other 7 cases we do not hold details of their ethnic group.

\*Larger families are those who have 4 or more children.

It is recommended that this proposal is included in the 2016/17 scheme.

**Proposal D - Increase the Income taper for those not working while keeping the current lower income taper for those in work.**

Current Scheme: For every £1 of weekly income above the basic needs allowance we reduce Council Tax Support by 20 pence a week. This is the same for those who work and those who do not.

Proposed new scheme: For those who do not work we will reduce Council Tax Support by 65 pence for every £1 of weekly income above their basic needs allowance. Those who are working will not be affected by this change.

311 CTS recipients would be affected by this proposal. This would save SSDC £13,800 and all preceptors £124,200 if the measure were applied to all non-working households including those unable to work.

The results of the consultation show that 57% of respondents agree or strongly agree with implementing this proposal.

Due to the very wide range of circumstances of CTS recipients in this group it was decided to put a general example in the consultation form. From the consultation responses it appears likely that the more general example has influenced the outcome. The measure is designed to encourage people in to work and the consultation response reflects this.

**Equalities implications** - However, a significant proportion of those in the non-working group are unable to move in to work and receive long-term out of work benefits. Also included in this group are those who receive maternity allowance.

It is recommended that this proposal is not included in the 2016/17 scheme.

**Combination of recommended proposals**

The value of savings from proposal A (capital limit) for SSDC is £6,200 and all preceptors £55,800. The value of savings from proposal C (Band cap at C) for SSDC is £6,400 and all preceptors £57,600.

The value of savings when proposal A and C are taken in combination for SSDC is £11,900 and for all preceptors £107,300.

## **8. Other options**

We also consulted on alternative ways of helping to pay for the Council Tax Support scheme rather than reducing support.

### Statement 1 – Increase in Council Tax

We asked if people would be willing to pay more Council Tax to help pay for the Council Tax Support scheme.

46% agreed or strongly agreed that they would be willing to pay more Council Tax

An increase in Council Tax would increase the overall cost of the scheme as each recipient would be entitled to a higher award. This would reduce the value of the increase.

It is recommended that this option is not pursued to help pay for the scheme.

### Statement 2 – Service cuts

We asked if the level and range of local services should be reduced to help pay for Council Tax Support.

60% of respondents did not want to see a reduction in the services provided by SSDC for this purpose.

It is recommended that this option is not pursued to help pay for the scheme.

## **9. Cost of CTS scheme**

The number of recipients of CTS is falling in both the working age and pensioner groups which reduces the overall cost of the scheme. However it is very difficult to determine how long this trend might continue.

The cost of the scheme will increase where the SSDC and other preceptors put up their share of the Council Tax.

There have been two announcements in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement/Spending Review that would impact CTS if they are taken up.

- a) Government is giving Police and Crime Commissioners greater flexibility in local funding decisions and rewarding those areas who have historically kept Council Tax low.
- b) A new Social Care precept has been created to give authorities who are responsible for social care the ability to raise additional funding ring-fenced to spend on social care. Those authorities can raise additional council tax of up to 2% above the current threshold.

- c) Somerset authorities are able to raise council tax by an additional 1.25% as interim funding for the SRA (Somerset Rivers Authority).

It is not yet known whether these increases will take place but we have allowed 1.95% as an overall increase. Any increases above this sum will have an impact on the Collection Fund for 2016/17 and will need to be taken into account for setting the Tax Base in 2017/18.

## **10. Legislation Changes – Prescribed requirements**

Each year the Department for Communities and Local Government prescribe certain elements that must be included in a Local Council Tax Support scheme. These prescribed requirements relate primarily to those who have reached the qualifying age for State Retirement Pension. The SSDC scheme has been updated to include these requirements.

## **11. Hardship Scheme**

A Hardship Scheme was set up as a safety net for households who could demonstrate they could not afford to pay their Council Tax contribution following the introduction of the SSDC Council Tax Support Scheme.

The level of demand in 2015/16 suggests that a Hardship Scheme budget of £30,000 for 2016/17 should be sufficient. This spend is monitored monthly and reported to members each quarter.

## **12. Council Tax Collection Rate**

It was anticipated that the in-year collection rate would fall as a result of the introduction of the CTS scheme in April 2013.

There were also a number of changes to Council Tax discounts and exemptions introduced from April 2013 which impacted on the in-year collection rate.

The in-year collection rate has fallen in each of the last two financial years. In the current financial year the in-year collection rate at the mid-year point was identical to the same time last financial year. We are predicting a slight rise in the collection rate by the end of the financial year as there are more taxpayers opting to pay over 12 months than last year. This means that we expect to receive more Council tax during February and March 2016 than in those months earlier this year.

This suggests that the Council Tax Support scheme design is not adversely impacting collection rates.

## **13. Future monitoring and review**

The Task and Finish Group have made a number of recommendations relating to the future monitoring of the Council Tax Support scheme. Officers are happy to carry out those recommendations for the coming financial year.

The Task and Finish Group have also made a number of suggestions relating to procedural matters on Council Tax arrears collection which officers will consider in the new year.

## **14. Risks**

The continued risk is that demand rises and the current reductions we are seeing in the number of recipients reverses with a downturn in the economy. There is also a risk that reductions in other welfare support (e.g. Universal Credit) might result in an increase in entitlement to Council Tax Support. We will take any such changes into account when considering the Council Tax Support scheme for 2017/18 and beyond. It should be noted that the Task and Finish Group have raised concerns about the ability to make further reductions in the level of Council Tax Support in future years as the burden is placed solely on the working age recipients while the Government continues to protect pensioners.

## **15. Financial Implications**

If members agree the proposals set out in this report it will reduce the cost of the CTS by £107,300. An estimate of the costs of the CTS along with assumptions for the number of new properties and council tax levels has been reflected within the Council Tax Base for 2016/17.

The main reason for review is to ensure that no groups are disproportionately affected by the scheme while balancing the expectations of the Council Tax Payer, the needs of low income households and the available resources.

## **16. Council Plan Implications**

Council Plan 2012 – 2015

Focus Three: Homes - "Minimise impact to our residents of the major changes to housing and council tax benefits proposed by the Government."

## **17. Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications**

None associated with this report

## **18. Equality and Diversity Implications**

An equalities impact was carried out as part of the introduction of the Council Tax Support Scheme, which has been reviewed and updated for the proposed 2016/17 scheme.

## **19. Privacy Impact Assessment**

None associated with this report

## **20. Background Papers**

- Report to District Executive – January 2016 Item 6
- Report to District Executive – January 2015 Item 8
- Report to District Executive – December 2013 Item 10
- Report to District Executive – January 2013 – item 8

Appendices 1 – 4 circulated in separate document.

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# Agenda Item 8

## **The Somerset Rivers Authority and Flood Action Plan – Update Report**

*Executive Portfolio Holder:* Ric Pallister, Leader, Strategy & Policy  
*Strategic Director:* Vega Sturgess, Operations & Customer Focus  
*Contact Details:* Vega.sturgess@southsomerset.gov.uk (01935) 462200

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The report updates Council on the development of the Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) since the report to District Executive in August 2015. The report sets out progress since that date, together with the ongoing proposals for future funding.

### **2. Public Interest**

- 2.1 The flooding across a wide area of Somerset in the winter of 2013-14 brought wide spread distress to South Somerset. Many homes were flooded for long periods, Muchelney was cut off for about ten weeks and many roads were closed. The impact was therefore felt by the many of South Somerset residents and businesses.
- 2.2 The flooding attracted national Government interest and Somerset partners were requested by the Defra Secretary of State to develop a Flood Action Plan and, at a later date, to form the Somerset Rivers Authority. The Somerset Rivers Authority coordinates all the work of the partner agencies and organisations in order to make best use of existing and additional resources.
- 2.3 Defra and DCLG conducted a review of the options for ongoing funding of the SRA and the Somerset partners responded in Autumn 2015 to that review by stating that a precepting option was the best of the available alternatives for long term funding. On 17 December 2015 we received a letter (attached as Appendix A) from Greg Clark, MP, Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government and Elizabeth Truss, MP, Secretary of State for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, stating that Somerset was being offered the opportunity to set up a shadow precept in order to raise monies for the enhanced work programme of the SRA. This report sets out our response to that offer.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That Full Council:
- (1) Notes progress to date in the development of the Somerset Rivers Authority and South Somerset District Council's position on the way forward as set out in the report.
  - (2) Recommends that South Somerset District Council takes up the offer to create a shadow precept on the basis that Central Government has agreed that it will continue to work with the Somerset Authorities on developing a long term funding solution.
  - (3) That £108,122, the equivalent of 1.25% increase in council tax is passported to the Somerset Rivers Authority in 2016/17.

## **4. Background**

- 4.1 The Levels & Moors 20 Year Flood Action Plan (2014) was signed off by the Secretary of State in March 2014. It included a proposal to create a Somerset Rivers Authority to:
- Provide a renewed, co-ordinated and joined-up approach to addressing flooding and resilience issues.
  - Develop new approaches to the management of the drained areas and the wider catchment, and
  - Enhance local leadership.
- 4.2 Members will recall that the focus of the Somerset Rivers Authority now covers the whole of Somerset, rather than just the Levels and Moors area. This is to ensure that all areas have the potential to benefit from the joint working and any funding available for flood alleviation measures. None of the existing flood management responsibilities of any partners or riparian owners has been changed by the introduction of the SRA. Existing day to day work has been brought together in the Common Works Programme while new work, requiring new money, is brought together in the Enhanced Work Programme.
- 4.3 Progress on the delivery of the action plan was reported to District Executive in August 2015 and there have been many benefits seen in the South Somerset district including ring banks, raised roads and highway schemes. In the last few months, the main effort has been focused on the Sowy/King Sedgemoor Drain plans and more pioneer dredging on the Parrett. In addition, there is good progress on both the Parrett barrier and the upper Tone catchment projects. Officers have also been working on prioritising the projects for 2016-17. There is a particularly informative and pictorial update on the following link detailing recent progress with photographs and diagrams giving more detail on many of the projects. <http://www.somersetiversauthority.org.uk/our-work/flood-action-plan/progress-update-report/>
- 4.4 The future funding of the SRA has also been a particular focus.

## **5. Future Funding**

- 5.1 Following a major review for long-term funding earlier in 2015, the SRA unanimously agreed that a precepting organisation was the best long term solution that was both acceptable to both central government and appropriate for Somerset. However, as this requires primary legislation, it still left the question of how funding would be raised in the interim. The SRA only received confirmation from Central Government on 17 December 2015 (see Appendix A) about how the 2016-17 enhanced works programme could be funded. In summary, the Government is not putting any further interim funding into the SRA but instead has allowed Somerset councils to raise their council tax by 1.25% (on top of any local increases) in order to set a shadow precept which can be passported to the SRA to deliver next year's projects and actions.
- 5.2 The SRA has met informally to discuss the implications of this letter and has reached consensus that the proposal from central government, although not by any means ideal, does mean that there is some way to continue the work that is so important to many of our residents. The key points raised in discussion were:



- That the commitment to finding a Somerset solution was welcomed and that a fresh approach to national and local flood management funding was needed.
- That it was important not to disadvantage Somerset and that it must be agreed that any precepted monies must be kept for the enhanced programme.
- There was a new perspective to consider. If Somerset accepts local responsibility for enhancing flood risk protection then other areas of the country affected in the winter of 2015-16 may be adversely affected by the precedent. Conversations with those areas will happen between now and the budget decision in February in order to make sure that we coordinate our views nationally.
- The option to create a shadow precept is helpful, but only in the short term as
  - The SRA needs to have independence via its own precept if it is to be accountable for the delivery of the enhanced works programme. An arrangement where each council collects a portion of the finance leads to a loss of autonomy and risks losing the holistic focus and accountability needed.
  - Annual renegotiations on funding renewal are time-consuming and add significant risk to future funding.
  - With funding being raised only by local authorities it questions the future role of Internal Drainage Boards who bring valuable experience to the table.
  - The 1.25% uplift in council tax was based on an assumption based on 2015-16 needs and does not take into account the real needs within the enhanced work programme. While this may be manageable for one year, it puts future delivery into question.

5.3 For all these reasons, the SRA partners have reached consensus that this arrangement must be accompanied by a Memorandum of Understanding between the SRA and Central Government that we continue to work together with urgency to deliver a precepting body.

5.4 Two letters from the Chairman of the SRA to the Secretaries of State (DCLG and Defra) are attached as Appendix B summarising the response of the partners of the SRA.

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 The Government has outlined that SSDC can raise council tax by 1.25% as well as up to 2% to support services without triggering a referendum. This is on the basis that the council tax raised is passported to the SRA. The 1.25% increase adds £1.85 to a Band D property and will raise £108,122 overall. Once the SRA is a separate precepting authority the Government will force an equivalent reduction in council tax for SSDC so there is no overall impact on the taxpayer.

6.2 The announcement regarding the method of funding has not been reflected in the CTRS for 2016/17 as the Council tax Base had been set before the announcement was made. As a result sufficient funding for next year has been retained within the Collection Fund. If SSDC passport the £108,122 the risks of non-collection etc will

remain with this Council. However, this is the simplest and most effective method of funding in this interim period.

## **7 Council Plan Implications**

- 7.1 The Flood Action Plan links closely with the vision set out within our Council Plan. In particular the objectives which seek to create a thriving local economy, maintaining employment and business vitality, supporting positive environmental outcomes, protecting and promoting health and wellbeing support communities to help themselves and become more resilient. It would also bring crucial benefits by creating better links by joining up with partners, to ensure that services are more effectively delivered to Somerset's residents.

## **8 Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications**

- 8.1 None directly arising from this report.

## **9 Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 9.1 None directly arising from this report.

## **10 Privacy Impact Assessment**

- 10.1 None arising from this report

## **11 Background Papers**

Report to District Executive, December 2014

The Somerset Levels & Moors Flood Action Plan – Executive Summary, March 2014.

The Somerset Levels & Moors Flood Action Plan - A 20 year plan for a sustainable future – Full Plan March 2014.

Report to District Executive, August 2015



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

John Osman  
Somerset County Council  
County Hall  
The Crescent  
Taunton  
Somerset  
TA1 4DY

**The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP**  
*Secretary of State for Communities and Local  
Government*

**Department for Communities and Local  
Government**

4th Floor, Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

Tel: 0303 444 3450  
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E-Mail: [greg.clark@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:greg.clark@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

[www.gov.uk/dclg](http://www.gov.uk/dclg)

17 December 2015

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 13 October confirming that the Somerset Rivers Authority's preferred funding solution is a precept.

We are delighted to confirm that we can agree to give Somerset the flexibility to put in place a 'shadow' precept from April 2016 in recognition of the importance of the SRA continuing its vital work. We will also continue to work with you on developing a long term funding solution in line with our phone discussion.

We will give Somerset authorities the ability to raise additional funds through council tax for the SRA from 2016/17. We will do this by setting 'Alternative Notional Amounts' (ANAs) for Somerset authorities, which means raising their 2015-16 Band D council tax baseline for the purposes of determining referendum principles. We have published a draft ANA report alongside the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement. Authorities in Somerset can comment on the report before this is finalised in late January/early February.

You will be able to state on the face of Somerset council tax payers' bills the additional council tax payment in 2016-17 that is attributable to the SRA. This will allow a locally funded, transparent, ring-fenced budget for the SRA to be put in place, which has no impact on existing council budgets.

We would also like to take this opportunity to confirm that the SRA's funding will be for additional flood management works on top of those already carried out by the Environment Agency, the internal drainage boards and local authorities. In the Spending Review we committed to protecting maintenance funding, in real terms, over the course of the next Parliament. Over the next six years, we are also planning to spend £15.5 million of capital investment in Somerset on flood defence improvements, including £4.2 million on the Somerset Levels and Moors alone. 7,000 properties across Somerset will be better protected by 2021. The Environment Agency have also prioritised work to develop and design the Bridgwater Barrier scheme. It is expected that this will be completed by 2023.

We remain committed to the SRA and continuing to support its work to ensure the people of Somerset can be better protected from flooding in future.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'G'.

**GREG CLARK MP**  
**Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth Truss". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'E'.

**Elizabeth Truss MP**  
**Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

**John Osman**

Chairman of Somerset Rivers Authority/Leader of Somerset  
County Council

Somerset Rivers Authority  
County Hall  
Taunton  
Somerset  
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Tel: 01823 359018  
jdosman@somerset.gov.uk

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11 January 2016

The Right Hon Elizabeth Truss  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs/DCLG  
Nobel House  
Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

Dear Elizabeth

Thank you for your letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> December confirming the government's agreement to both continue to work with us to develop our preferred long term funding solution and to provide flexibility to Somerset to put in place a 'shadow' precept for 2016/17 as an interim measure, pending the establishment of the Somerset Rivers Authority as a precepting body.

We very much welcome your commitment to the importance of the Somerset Rivers Authority and its vital work which recognises our responsibilities within the national context to undertake important flood prevention work judged to be essential locally. However, in establishing the Somerset Rivers Authority as a precepting body to provide that 'extra' level it will be vital to demonstrate that, in both the short and long term, this will not result in Somerset's sparsity being further disadvantaged, particularly in the light of the recent events in the north of England. As a result, thank you also for confirming the government's commitment to ensuring this local funding is, and will remain, truly 'extra'.

The dreadful situation in the north of England has further illustrated the need for a fresh approach to be taken, one which seeks to expand upon the national flood management approach by complementing national funding with funds raised locally to address the specific needs of the area and ensure maximum value is derived from the collective efforts of the local bodies.

The flexibilities you outlined will be helpful in the short term, albeit they do still present challenges in the context of current pressures on local government finances. The ability to raise funds through council tax up to 1.25% without affecting the referendum threshold and being able to show this separately on the face of council tax payers' bills is most welcome.

However, whilst acknowledging this, I would like to take the opportunity of reinforcing the need for legislation this year so that the SRA can be established as a precepting body, able to raise a precept from 2017/18. We first identified the need for a precepting body within the Flood Action Plan, put together with

Defra and published in April 2014, delivery of which required government support; we fleshed that out in our proposal for a precepting body, unanimously agreed by the then Leaders Implementation Group in November 2014; we conducted a joint review, with yourselves, of all the funding options during 2015 and in September 2015 reconfirmed, again unanimously, that the creation of a precepting body was what we wanted and again requested your support for its delivery. As a result I would ask you for reassurance that the necessary legislation will be put in place in time to raise our first precept, no more than 3 years after we all first agreed it as an action in the Flood Action Plan.

It might, at this point, be helpful to restate why establishing the SRA as a precepting body is so important, and why therefore the 'shadow' precept can only be a very short term fix, despite its welcome flexibilities. There are a number of reasons:

- a) The need for one organisation, as opposed to several, to have teeth, power, responsibility and accountability, for the funding and delivery of the 'extra' flood management works that are needed in Somerset. It is the need for an autonomous, independent organisation. All local partners (Somerset's local authorities and the two Somerset IDBs) have agreed they will stand together and be held to account. If the funding decisions are made severally within each Somerset local authority, then that is where responsibility and accountability would reside. This would add further confusion to the already muddy picture of flood risk management accountability. Decisions would have to be subjected to review by the individual funding local authorities and this would inevitably mean a loss of autonomy and an increased risk of a loss of focus on the whole.
- b) We have developed a 20 Year Flood Action Plan which recognises the flood risk management need for long term planning and therefore which relies on regular and reliable funding. If the funding remains a decision of each local authority, even if supported by a Memorandum of Understanding, there is plenty of evidence in Somerset and beyond to suggest that it will be unreliable and subject to time consuming annual negotiations.
- c) The role, experience and knowledge of the IDBs is recognised and valued within the partnership now and would continue with the collective responsibility and accountability that an independent precepting body would have. If, however, funding and accountability comes only from the local authorities, this would weaken the role of the IDBs in decision making.
- d) Whilst welcoming the 1.25% uplift in baseline for determining referendum principles for next year, we have developed a 5 year programme of extra work that varies year to year, but on average amounts to more than the £2.7m that the 1.25% represents. A separate precepting body would need to set its initial precept at a level that took this into account.
- e) Until the SRA is established as an independent precepting body and therefore a legal entity, all legal accountability for funding, delivery of outcomes, health and safety, procurement, employment etc has to go through one or other of the partners (at the moment SCC). As a result

there is added complexity and costly bureaucracy arising from the need to set up arrangements that protect the host authority, protect the funders and safeguard the purposes of the SRA itself. All this will be avoided once the SRA is established properly.

Finally I would suggest that we recognise both the importance of the commitment milestone that has been reached, together with the need to continue to work together to ensure the delivery of the precepting body by 2017/18, by agreeing an MoU for the forthcoming financial year.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Osman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cllr John Osman  
Chairman of Somerset Rivers Authority (and Leader of Somerset County Council)

**John Osman**

Chairman of Somerset Rivers Authority/Leader of Somerset  
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11 January 2016

The Right Hon Greg Clark  
Department for Communities and Local Government,  
Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
LONDON  
SW1P 4DF

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Yours sincerely

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Cllr John Osman  
Chairman of Somerset Rivers Authority (and Leader of Somerset County Council)

# Agenda Item 9

## **Report of Executive Decisions**

*Lead Officer:* Angela Cox, Democratic Services Manager  
*Contact Details:* [angela.cox@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:angela.cox@southsomerset.gov.uk) or (01935) 462148

This report is submitted for information and summarises decisions taken by the District Executive and Portfolio Holders since the last meeting of Council. The decisions are set out in the attached Appendix.

A meeting of the District Executive was held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

Members are invited to ask any questions of the Portfolio Holders.

## **Background Papers**

All Published

*Ric Pallister, Leader of the Council*  
*Angela Cox, Democratic Services Manager*  
*[angela.cox@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:angela.cox@southsomerset.gov.uk) or (01935) 462148*

## Appendix

Portfolio	Subject	Decision	Taken By	Date
Strategy and Policy	Consent for disposal of a property in Curry Rivel by Yarlinton Housing Group	The Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Policy has agreed to withhold consent for the proposed disposal of number 20, Dyers Road, Curry Rivel by Yarlinton Housing Group in the light of the views of the elected member for the ward.	Portfolio Holder	Executive Bulletin No. 680 18/12/15
Finance and Legal Services	Setting the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) for 2016/17	<p>District Executive recommend to Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. that personal allowances and premiums are uprated in line with those for Housing Benefit;</li> <li>b. that non-dependent deductions are uprated in line with the annual percentage increase in Council Tax;</li> <li>c. that the non-dependent income bands are increased by the same percentage as those in the Prescribed Requirements relating to pensioners;</li> <li>d. that approval is given for proposals A and C to be incorporated into the 2016/17 scheme;</li> <li>e. that proposals B and D be rejected;</li> <li>f. that the hardship scheme budget be set at £30,000 for the 2016/17 financial year;</li> <li>g. to consider the Equalities Impact Assessment at Appendix 1 in approving (d) and (e) above;</li> <li>h. to consider the public consultation responses at Appendix 2 in approving (d) and (e) above;</li> <li>i. to note the recommendations of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group attached at Appendix 3;</li> <li>j. to note the scheme has been amended to reflect changes to the Prescribed Requirements;</li> <li>k. that the 2016/17 Council Tax Support Scheme attached at Appendix A is adopted;</li> <li>l. to note that the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme has been reflected within the overall Council Tax Base.</li> </ol>	District Executive	07/01/16

<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Taken By</b>	<b>Date</b>
Environmental Health	Approval of the Somerset District Authorities Regulatory Services Enforcement Policy 2015-2020 and the Environmental Protection Enforcement Policy 2015-2020	This item was deferred to the next District Executive meeting on 4th February 2016.	District Executive	07/01/16
Leader, Strategy and Policy	Proposed leasing of 80 South Street, Yeovil, BA20 1OT	District Executive approved: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the granting of a full repairing lease for 15 years to two local developers for 80 South Street, Yeovil BA20 1OT for conversion into four one bedroom flats in accordance with the rental value and conditions set out in this report;</li> <li>2. that SSDC would retain nomination rights for the occupiers of the new flats with preference going to key workers and that the rent values will be set at Local Housing Authority (LHA) rental rates;</li> <li>3. that the annual rental difference of £2,430 from the previous proposed scheme be found from the general fund for 2015/16 and added to the medium term financial plan for future years.</li> </ol>	District Executive	07/01/16
Finance and Legal Services	Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme Update	District Executive: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. noted the current position and timetable for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme;</li> <li>2. approved in principle the savings and additional income outlined in Appendix A;</li> <li>3. approved in principle the additional budget pressures outlined in Appendix B.</li> </ol>	District Executive	07/01/16
Leader, Strategy and Policy	Community Right to Bid Quarterly Update Report	District Executive: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. agreed the Council's 'Compensation Scheme and Procedure for the Community Right to Bid' at Appendix C;</li> <li>2. agreed to note the report.</li> </ol>	District Executive	07/01/16

<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Taken By</b>	<b>Date</b>
Property and Climate Change	Notification of an Urgent Executive Decision: The installation of a 90.09 kW photovoltaic array at Brympton Way (Confidential)	District Executive:  1. noted the urgent Executive decision taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder under section 3.50(4) of the Constitution;  2. approved a Save to Earn bid for the installation of a 90.09 kW photovoltaic array on the extension and council chamber roofs at Brympton Way;  3. agreed that the net savings be added to the medium term financial plan for 2016/17 and beyond.	District Executive	07/01/16
Strategy and Policy	Consent for Disposal of a Property in Rimpton by Yarlington Housing Group	The Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Policy has confirmed consent for the proposed disposal of number 2, Daisymead, Rimpton by Yarlington Housing Group on the proviso that they give an undertaking to reinvest the usable funds raised in new housing within the local area.	Portfolio Holder	Executive Bulletin No. 681 08/01/16
Finance and Legal Services	Developing Additional Income Streams	The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Legal Services has approved the SSDC participation in the business case for developing additional income streams within the Revenues and Benefits service to protect and increase the collection fund, as far as possible, and to ensure that any discounts, reductions or exemptions granted are correct and monitored throughout each financial year.	Portfolio Holder	Executive Bulletin No. 681 08/01/16

# Agenda Item 11

## **Scrutiny Committee**

This report summarises the work of the Scrutiny Committee since 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

The Committee met on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

### **Portfolio Holder Decision Called-in by Scrutiny Committee – Consent for Disposal of a Property in Rimpton by Yarlington Housing Group.**

A Call-in had been received in accordance with the Council's Constitution, it is the role of the Scrutiny Committee to agree if the Call-in request should be upheld and the options available to the Committee. A Call-in could only be made on the following three grounds:

- The decision is outside for the Council's budgetary framework (i.e. no funds have been allocated in the budget to this matter);
- The decision is outside of the Council's policy framework (i.e. we don't have a policy covering this matter or the decision is counter to an agreed policy/procedure); or
- The decision making process is flawed (i.e. insufficient consultation, lack of evidence etc.)

Members were reminded that they could:

- Decide there were no grounds to support the Call-in and that the decision should stand; or
- Give specific reasons as to why the decision should be called in and refer it back to the Portfolio Holder to allow them to reconsider the decision in light of Scrutiny's comments; or
- Refer the decision to Full Council, again with specific reasons as to why the decision should be reconsidered.

Members were also reminded that SSDC's Constitution makes provision for 'call-in' after the decision is implemented – this provides an opportunity for Scrutiny to consider the implications of any decision. The Scrutiny Committee can then make recommendations to the Executive or Full Council on changes to policy or practice in the light of their findings – this approach avoids the need to 'suspend' decisions whilst the matter is considered and is most appropriate where members may feel that an adopted policy is no longer appropriate – rather than where they feel that a decision does not comply with a particular policy.

Councillor Sue Osborne, as one of the two signatories of the Call-in was given the opportunity to present her grounds for the Call-in to the Committee.

The Committee heard from Councillor Ric Pallister as the responsible Portfolio Holder, Colin McDonald – Corporate Housing Strategy Manager and Richie Horton – Managing Director – Property (Yarlington Homes).

Following a unanimous vote, the Scrutiny Committee agreed to recommend:

**That the Portfolio Holder decision as proposed stands and that further work is carried out to clarify the SSDC process for consideration of such disposal requests in the future. Such a review will be conducted once the outcome of the HCA decision regarding the request to dispose of a property in Curry Rivel is known.**

### **Journey of Exploration**

The Leader of the Council gave a verbal update to the Committee covering some of the following points:

- The JLAG meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> January had been rescheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> January to allow emerging issues to be reflected in the draft headline business cases;
- The Headline Business cases were still on track to be presented to Council in February;
- The continually evolving Devolution Agenda will have an important impact on the final decision; a report on this would be presented at Full Council.

### **Update on SSDC Telephony**

A report was made to Scrutiny Committee on the 4<sup>th</sup> August regarding the new telephony system and some issues that had arisen since its implementation; this report provided a follow up and detailed the current situation.

The Assistant Director – Finance and Corporate Services presented the report. During discussion, the following points were made:

- Members congratulated both the teams involved for their work in addressing the issues previously raised and improving the service.
- The Assistant Director – Finance and Corporate Services agreed to update the Committee on any issues should they arise in the future.

### **Reports to be considered by District Executive on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

The Scrutiny Committee considered the reports contained in the District Executive Agenda for the 7<sup>th</sup> January and made the following comments:

#### **Setting the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS)**

Scrutiny members have considered this matter in great depth through a Task and Finish Group and Scrutiny Committee – they would like to thank officers for all their hard work on this topic and fully support the recommendations in the report.

#### **Approval of the Somerset District Authorities Regulatory Services Enforcement Policy**



Members supported the recommendations in the report but noted that the report contained no financial implications – even if there are no resource implications, the report should make this clear so that members have the full picture before taking any decisions.

### **Proposed leasing of 80 South Street**

Members supported the recommendations in the report and noted that consideration had been given to SSDC carrying out the building works ourselves, but that it was not appropriate in this case and that the recommendations contained in the report effectively turned the property from a liability into an asset.

### **Medium Term Financial Plan**

Members noted that the Capital Programme element of the report was not included as details were not currently available for all bids – members would be presented with the complete picture in due course.

Members noted that the report outlined the likely impact of the Government settlement and that early indications were that the necessary savings needed by 2020 were achievable.

Regarding the temporary SRA precept, members asked what would happen if one or more Somerset authority did not support its introduction?

Members discussed the potential £200k additional income from Automatic Number Plate recognition for car parking and looked forward to further reports prior to implementation.

Members queried the two separate amounts shown as savings against Vacant Posts, Donna Parham Assistant Director (Finance and Corporate Services) explained that the £143,500 represented the sum that had been achieved to date primarily from people reducing their hours and the £108,000 was a target for further saving.

The Committee queried the savings allocated to the cessation of the CEO contract – a saving of £88k is allocated for this. Members asked what would happen if a decision was taken to appoint a CEO in the future?

Members noted the detailed work that officers had done to investigate the possibility of introducing up to 2 free hours parking. The Committee noted that the findings would seem to indicate that the costs would seem to be prohibitive but did ask that further work be done to cost various options for free parking for periods of less than one hour – members accepted that such work would probably be dependent on the outcome of discussions re: automated number plate recognition.

Members asked when the report of the Strategic Director Place and performance outlining the Transformation Programme would be coming forward to members?

### **Community Right to Bid**

Members noted that All Saints Church in Yeovil Marsh had been nominated and asked for clarification as to whether functioning/ active churches could be nominated?

### **Confidential Item – Urgent Executive Decision**

Members noted the report and asked if in future it would be possible to include how much interest the capital sum would have earned if not allocated to such a project? This would be a useful comparator for members.

### **On-going Task and Finish work**

Scrutiny Committee have formed a Journey of Exploration Task and Finish group to consider the process to inform the business cases for sharing a Management team with Sedgemoor and Staying Alone. The group is made up of 14 members in political balance – the group includes District Executive members as they would be working in a ‘critical friend’ capacity for the Project Board not District Executive. The group agreed their ambition for the review as:

Through our work, members of this Task and Finish Group will aim to ensure that:

- All elected members of SSDC have a sound and evidence based understanding of all the issues and options for future management arrangements prior to taking a final decision
- Members’ thoughts, suggestions and concerns are sought, collated and communicated to the Project Group in a timely manner and can therefore inform the preparation of the two business cases;
- Members’ views on the risks and mitigation measures are sought and represented in the process;
- This group will act as a ‘sounding board’ for the ideas and proposals emerging from the JLAG;
- Equal merit will be given to the business cases for staying alone and sharing a management team with Sedgemoor;
- Any ‘deal breakers’ identified by members will be addressed at the earliest possible opportunity;
- Good working relationships are developed with members at Sedgemoor District Council so that the trust element that has been identified as so crucial is established.

The group have met on three occasions, 26 November 2015, 4 December 2015 and 17 December, weekly meetings are scheduled to consider the work of the Joint Leaders Advisory Group until the business cases are presented later this year.

The Scrutiny Committee are considering priorities for the forward plan, if you have any suggestions or concerns you would like the Scrutiny Committee to consider please contact the Scrutiny Managers: Emily McGuinness or Jo Gale.

Councillor Sue Steele  
Chairman of Scrutiny Committee

# Agenda Item 13

## **Questions under Procedure Rule 10**

The following question has been submitted by Councillor Colin Winder:

How much to date in direct and indirect costs has been spent on the Westlands Sports and Social centre by SSDC?

# Agenda Item 14

## **Date of Next Meeting**

Members are asked to note that the next scheduled meeting of the Full Council will take place on **Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016** in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil **commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

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