

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **District Executive** held at the **Council Chamber B, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil BA21 2HP on Thursday 1 June 2017.**

(1.00 pm - 2.10 pm)

Present:

Councillor Angie Singleton (Chairman)

Peter Gubbins
Henry Hobhouse
Val Keitch
Sylvia Seal

Peter Seib
Nick Weeks
Derek Yeomans

Also Present:

Dave Bulmer

Sue Steele

Officers:

Alex Parmley
Ian Clarke
Clare Pestell
Laurence Willis
Paul Fitzgerald
Andrew Gillespie
Anna-Maria Lenz
Paul Rayson
Alasdair Bell
Colin McDonald
Anthony Robins
Jo Gale
Angela Cox

Chief Executive
Director (Support Services)
Director (Commercial Services & Income Generation)
Assistant Director (Environment)
Section 151 Officer
Performance Manager
Performance Officer
General Manager, Yeovil Crematorium
Environmental Health Manager
Corporate Strategic Housing Manager
Management Accountant
Scrutiny Manager
Democratic Services Manager

Note: All decisions were approved without dissent unless shown otherwise.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting (Agenda Item 1)**

The minutes of the District Executive meeting held on 6th April 2017 and the minutes of the special meeting of the District Executive held on 18th April 2017, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and, having been approved as a correct record, were signed by the Chairman.

2. **Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 2)**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ric Pallister and Jo Roundell Greene.

3. **Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)**

There were no declarations of interest made.

4. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)

There were no questions from the public.

5. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 5)

The Chairman welcomed Councillors Val Keitch and Derek Yeomans as new members of the District Executive Committee.

6. SSDC Annual Performance Report 2016/17 (Agenda Item 6)

The Performance Officer introduced the report and advised that following discussion of the report by Scrutiny Committee she could confirm that:-

- Several promotional food and drink events had been held at the Cartgate rest area.
- PI008 relating to requests for action from the Streetscene service were high during 2016/17 compared to the previous year but the target figure in the report was a ceiling (maximum) target.
- Further information on the percentage of household waste which was recycled would be provided in the final report to Council.

During discussion Members commented on the missed refuse collections being reported on a county-wide basis in the future rather than district-wide by the Waste Partnership and regretted this change as there was a need to address local peoples concerns on this issue.

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee also noted there should be some continuity in data reporting to compare pre and post transformation statistics and performance information.

At the conclusion of the debate, Members were content to note the annual performance report and agree that it be presented to Full Council.

RESOLVED: That the District Executive noted the 2016/17 performance information at Appendices A, B and C.

Reason: To summarise and publish the Council's annual performance data for 2016/17.

7. Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Disposal of third party properties (Agenda Item 7)

The Scrutiny Manager outlined the Scrutiny Committees concerns at the disposal of properties by Yarlinton Housing Association the Task and Finish group set up to look at the current disposal process and to test its effectiveness.

The Corporate Strategic Housing Manager reported the lack of influence which the Council had over proposed property disposals by Yarlington although he was able to cite one example where a different Housing Association had withdrawn a proposed disposal. He said the Housing Act 2016 allowed the disposal of any property by a Housing Association when it became vacant.

During discussion, several Members expressed their disappointment at the disposal of rural properties although they welcomed the notification of Ward Members who then had the opportunity to comment on any proposed disposal.

At the conclusion of the debate, Members were content to confirm the recommendations of the report.

RESOLVED: That District Executive agreed to:-

- a. cease the process agreed on 4th October 2012 for the consent to dispose of third party properties and agree in its place a notification to ward members is issued for information;
- b. request Yarlington Housing Group provide the earliest notification possible to South Somerset District Council that they will be disposing (selling) a property, this will enable councillors to inform local residents;
- c. work with the Corporate Strategic Housing Manager to draw the lack of rural proofing, with regard to the arrangements to dispose of properties to the attention of the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

Reason: To confirm the findings and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny report with regard to the disposal (sale) of third party properties and cease the current process as agreed on 4th October 2012.

8. District Executive Forward Plan (Agenda Item 8)

Members noted the following amendments and additions to the Executive Forward Plan:-

- Affordable Housing Programme – July 2017
- Yeovil Town Centre Markets – August 2017
- Adoption of the new Commercial Land and Property Strategy – moved to August 2017
- Transformation Progress Reports – July 2017, October 2017, January 2018, April 2018

RESOLVED: That the District Executive:-

1. approved the updated Executive Forward Plan for publication as attached at Appendix A, with the following amendments;
 - Affordable Housing Programme – July 2017

- Yeovil Town Centre Markets – August 2017
- Adoption of the new Commercial Land and Property Strategy – moved to August 2017
- Transformation Progress Reports – July 2017, October 2017, January 2018, April 2018

Reason: The Forward Plan is a statutory document.

9. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 9)

Members noted that the next scheduled meeting of the District Executive would take place on Thursday, 6th July 2017 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil commencing at 9.30 a.m.

10. Exclusion of Press and Public (Agenda Item 10)

RESOLVED: That the following item 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).

11. Refurbishment and Development of Yeovil Crematorium (Confidential) (Agenda Item 11)

The Environmental Health Manager outlined the plans to refurbish the Yeovil Crematorium and following questions by Members, it was agreed to propose the recommendations to Full Council for approval.

RESOLVED: That District Executive noted the recommendations of the report and proposed that they be recommended to Full Council for confirmation.

Reason: To confirm the refurbishment and development of Yeovil Crematorium to provide an improved facility for families and mourners.

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Chairman

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Date