

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **Area West Committee** held at **The Guildhall, Chard** on **Wednesday 20 September 2017**.

(5.30 - 6.30 pm)

Present:

Members: Councillor Val Keitch (Chairman)

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Jason Baker | Sue Osborne |
| Marcus Barrett | Ric Pallister |
| Amanda Broom | Angie Singleton |
| Dave Bulmer | Andrew Turpin |
| Carol Goodall | Linda Vijeh |
| Paul Maxwell | Martin Wale |

Officers:

| | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Helen Rutter | Communities Lead |
| Jo Morris | Democratic Services Officer |
| Tim Cook | Area Development Lead (East) |
| Lisa Davis | Community Office Support Manager |

NB: Where an executive or key decision is made, a reason will be noted immediately beneath the Committee's resolution.

41. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 16th August 2017 (Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th August 2017, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read, and having been approved were signed as a correct record of the meeting.

42. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mike Best, Jenny Kenton and Garry Shortland.

43. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

44. Date and Venue for Next Meeting (Agenda Item 4)

Members noted that the next meeting of the Area West Committee would be held on Wednesday 18th October 2017 at the Guildhall, Chard.

45. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 5)

There were no questions from members of the public.

46. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 6)

The Chairman made no announcements.

47. Community Offices Update 2016/17 (Agenda Item 7)

The Community Office Support Manager introduced the report updating members on the footfall/enquiry figures across the district. She explained that the core service footfall at the Ilminster Community Office had continuously been declining and it was proposed to investigate delivery of the service to the customers who used this office in an alternative way. Options could include appointment based visits and using alternative suitable venues to meet customers within Ilminster.

In response to member questions and comments, the Community Office Support Manager and the Communities Lead advised members of the following:

- Officers would work with customers of the Ilminster Community Office over the next 3 months to find out their needs and preferences. Customers would also be encouraged and supported to access services online;
- Ilminster Community Office does not fully meet access requirements and there had been previous problems with finding alternative suitable premises in Ilminster;
- It was hoped to utilise the library and other public access points;
- Officers would work to provide an alternative model within the existing budget and with existing staff.

During discussion, members felt that the alternative model would need to be suitable to address the growing ageing population. Members were of the view not to withdraw from the Ilminster Community Office until further work had been undertaken with existing customers.

At the conclusion of the debate, Members requested further details of the proposal to be brought back to a future Area West Committee meeting no later than December 2017.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. To continue to provide face to face services by developing an alternative model to better meet customer demand in Ilminster. The details of the proposal to be brought back to the Committee by December 2017.

48. Area West Committee - Forward Plan (Agenda Item 8)

The Communities Lead advised that the One Public Estate Programme was linked to the Chard Regeneration Scheme and that both these reports would be brought to the Area West Committee sometime in the Autumn.

A member requested a report on the outcome of the Town Centre Events Grants Programme. An item would be added to the Forward Plan for 6 months' time.

Cllr. Martin Wale agreed to give an update on the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel at the January Area West Committee meeting alongside a report on Policing issues by the Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant.

RESOLVED: That the Area West Committee Forward Plan be noted subject to the above amendments.

49. Planning Appeals (Agenda Item 9)

Members noted the appeal received as outlined in the agenda.

.....
Chairman