

**County Council**  
**Wednesday 24 May 2017**  
**11.00 am Council Chamber - Shire Hall,**  
**Taunton**



To: The Members of Somerset County Council

You are requested to attend the Meeting of Somerset County Council on Wednesday 24 May 2017 to transact the business set out in the agenda below.

Anyone requiring further information about the meeting, or wishing to inspect any of the background papers used in the preparation of the reports referred to in the agenda please contact Mike Bryant on 01823 359048 or [mbryant@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:mbryant@somerset.gov.uk)

Issued By Julian Gale, Strategic Manager - Governance and Risk - 16 May 2017

Guidance about procedures at the meeting follows the printed agenda.

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

This agenda and the attached reports and background papers are available on request prior to the meeting in large print, Braille, audio tape & disc and can be translated into different languages. They can also be accessed via the council's website on [www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers)



**Council Chamber and Hearing Aid Users**

To assist hearing aid users, Shire Hall has infra-red audio transmission systems. To use this facility we need to provide a small personal receiver that will work with a hearing aid set to the T position. Please request a personal receiver from the Committee Administrator and return it at the end of the meeting

## **AGENDA**

Item County Council - 11.00 am Wednesday, 24 May 2017

**\*\* Public Guidance notes contained in agenda annexe \*\***

1 **Report of the Monitoring Officer** (Pages 19 - 34)

To consider a report by the Monitoring Officer covering Appointments and Procedural Matters (Appendix A to follow)

**CHAIRMAN'S SCHEDULE AND MEETING BUSINESS PLAN****County Council Meeting – Wednesday 24 May 2017 (11.00am)**

The outgoing Chairman will welcome new Members of the Council

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN** **Guide Time: 11.00am**

Christine Lawrence as the outgoing Chairman will call for nominations and seconders for the election of Chairman. Cllr David Fothergill will propose Cllr William Wallace to be elected as Chairman. Cllr Leigh Redman will second the nomination. The member elected to the position will read and sign the formal Declaration of Acceptance of Office and receive the Chain of Office from the former Chairman. The Chairman will present the former Chairman with her ex-Chairman's badge after which she will take her seat in the Chamber.

**2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN** **Guide Time: 11.10am**

The Chairman will call for nominations and seconders for the appointment of Vice-Chairman. Cllr David Fothergill will propose Cllr Peter BurrIDGE-Clayton is elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year. Cllr Jane Lock will second the nomination. The member appointed will read and sign the formal Declaration of Acceptance of Office and receive the Chain of Office from the Chairman.

**3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** **Guide Time: 11.20am**

Cllr Terry Napper

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** **Guide Time: 11.22am**

The County Solicitor will read out any prejudicial interests that have been declared by Members.

Members are reminded that if any business of the Council relates to or affects a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest which you have declared you should disclose it at the meeting not later than the start of the consideration of the business in which you have an interest or (if later) the item at which the interest becomes apparent to you and you should leave the room whilst the business is being considered.

**5. MINUTES** **Guide Time: 11.25am**

To confirm the accuracy of the Minutes together with the Appendices attached of the Council meeting held on 26 April 2017 and, if agreed, the Chairman to sign the Minutes as a correct record.

**6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** **Guide Time: 11.30am**

Note: The questions / statements / public petitions submitted by each member of the public are detailed in **ANNEX A to this Schedule**.

Public Questions / Statements / Petitions (under 5000 signatures)

**1. County Council Meeting Venues**

From Andrew Lee

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

**2. A303 Improvements**

From Andrew Lee

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

**3. Highways England A358 and M5 Junction Proposal**

From David Orr

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

**4. A303 / A358 Road Proposal**

From Patricia Power

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

**5. A303 / A358 Road Proposal**

From Nigel Power

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

**6. Highways England proposals for the A358 Southfields to Taunton**

From Mike Farrell – Stoke St Mary Parish Council

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

**7. A358 Dualling (Southfields to M5)**

From Rob Hossell

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

**8. The proposed A358 dualling scheme**

From Dr Gary Cox

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

**9. University for Somerset**

From Alan Dimmick

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

**10. Council Finances**

From Alan Dimmick

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

**11. The Future of the Recently Transferred Learning Disability Provider Service (LDPS) to Dimensions UK Ltd (Discovery)**

From Nigel Behan – Unite

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

**12. County Farms**

From Sue Osborne

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

**13. Carbon Emissions and Environmental Sustainability / Social Care Funding / County Councillors**

From Alan Debenham

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

**14. Special School Funding**

From Rebecca Bartley

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

**Member Questions** on items not on the agenda elsewhere will be taken at this point on this occasion. A question has been submitted with advance notice as follows:

**1. County Hall Restaurant**

From Cllr Liz Leyshon

Could Council please have an explanation on the reasons behind the decision to use only disposable cups in the Café and why reusable cups are not available for purchase, as they are at, for example, Waitrose? I'm sure staff and members who use the County Hall Restaurant regularly would be happy to invest in one.

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

**7. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

**Guide Time: 12.30am**

**Item 7 – to be introduced by Julian Gale, Strategic Manager – Governance & Risk and Monitoring Officer**

To consider this report. The recommendations at paragraph 2.1 of the report (and as repeated below) to be proposed by Cllr David Hall, seconded by Cllr Jane Lock, debated and voted upon as detailed below.

**Council is recommended to:**

- (1) Support the Administration's proposal to appoint Councillor David Fothergill as the Leader of the Council for 2017-21.**

- (2) Approve the County Council Appointments Schedule to this report - (Appendix A to follow), to include, as necessary, summary revised terms of reference, and operational arrangements including delegations for the Council and its committees – see section 3.2 for more detail.**
- (3) To reaffirm the dates already agreed for ordinary meetings of the full Council for the year as set out in section 3.3 of the report and the proposed dates for the remainder of 2018/2019 which will be included within Appendix A.**
- (4) Approve the revised Contract Standing Orders set out as Appendix B as recommended by the Constitution Committee from its April meeting.**
- (5) Delegate to the Monitoring Officer authority:**
  - (i) In consultation with the Group Leaders, to make in-year amendments to committee and other appointments which are the responsibility of the Council including those to be detailed in Appendix A – this delegation to last until May 2021. Where changes to committee appointments are required then appointments will be made in accordance with the wishes of the group leader. Other appointments will only be referred to Full Council for confirmation in the event that group leaders are not in agreement with the proposed appointment;**
  - (ii) In consultation with the Group Leaders and committee chairmen, to agree the detailed calendar of meetings of committees / sub-committees of the Council for 2017/18;**
- (6) To approve the payment of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) for any new equivalent SRA qualifying posts created in 1 above that fit within the existing SRA bandings scheme, pending the Council considering recommendations of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the review of the Members' Allowances Scheme in July 2017.**

**8. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

**Guide Time: 12.45pm**

**Item 8 – to be introduced by former councillor Jill Shortland**

To consider this report. The recommendations at paragraph 2.1 of the report (and as repeated below) to be proposed by Cllr Francis Nicholson, seconded by Cllr Leigh Redman, debated and voted upon as detailed below.

**The Corporate Parenting Board requests;**

- That Council recommends Corporate Parenting Board training to be mandatory for all Councillors.**

- That Council recommends that signed up councillors who do not attend Corporate Parenting Board meetings for three consecutive months are reported to Group Leads.
- That Council recommends Cabinet appoint District Councillor representation on the Corporate Parenting Board to provide support on housing and leisure issues.

**9. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Guide Time: 13.00pm**

The Chairman’s announcements will include reference to his plans and priorities for his role as Chairman of the Council for the next 12 months.

**10. LEADER’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Guide Time: 13.15pm**

The Leader of Council will make a statement to the Council.

## **Annex A**

### **Public Questions**

#### **1. County Council Meeting Venues**

From Andrew Lee

At a council meeting in this chamber in November 2015, we were told that despite serving a population of over half a million, a maximum of 25 members of the public could be accommodated at full meetings of this council.

I asked, through the press office, why did Somerset County Council felt that providing 25 places for members of the public to attend their meetings was sufficient? Especially bearing in mind that several district councils (indeed many parish councils too) make provision for far greater access for members of the public, or perhaps we should call them taxpayers.

The official response from SCC reads “There are various options which could be considered. It could be that we would find a larger venue, or we could set up a video link to another meeting room as has happened in the past.... One example would be SCAT [Somerset College of Arts and Technology] where we regularly hold Scrutiny/Cabinet meetings when we know a large turnout is expected.”

The last meeting of SCC in February saw between 30 and 40 members of the public turned away. Access to the meeting was controlled by cloakroom ticket for public and press alike. Whilst SCC staff handled matters with great courtesy and as much flexibility as they could under the circumstances, would you agree that this is completely unsatisfactory. The plain fact is that this meeting room is not fit for purpose.

Unless it is the intention of this council to avoid scrutiny and accountability by members of the public and press, a better solution needs to be found and I welcome suggestions on how to end this unsatisfactory state of affairs.

I would like a written answer too please.

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

#### **2. A303 Improvements**

From Andrew Lee

In connection with the work to upgrade and improve the A303 in Somerset: When does Somerset County Council expect to start work on the upgrading of the A303 to a dual carriageway road in Somerset?

Will Somerset County Council be responsible for deciding the exact route of the upgraded road in Somerset?

Will Somerset County Council be writing contracts to get the work done, and if so to what value does it expect those contracts to be?

Will Somerset County Council be responsible if the work is delayed or delivered late? In other words would blame (or praise if the contract were to be completed early) attach to the County Council or to some other body. If so which other body?



I would like a written answer too please.

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

### **3. Highways England A358 and M5 Junction Proposal**

From David Orr

Welcome to this new Council as our elected Councillors, here to serve all of the people in this historic County of Somerset.

Highways England Ltd have, in my opinion, mismanaged a key consultation for the A358 expressway and a new M5 junction, by running it during a known period of County Council purdah.

Today is the first opportunity for affected communities to seek your support.

Highways England Ltd is an unelected and unaccountable quango that has to date, and in my view, conducted a deeply flawed public consultation.

Consulting on one option only is not a genuine consultation.

Taunton Deane Council have reached a conclusion that the consultation should be re-run with all four options open for comment and with sufficient information for an informed response.

Our County Council owns and manages the A358 and as a democratic and accountable public body, we can stand before you today and make our representations.

Please don't give up our local control of the A358 and place our future in the hands of this remote quango and their autocratic Development Consent Orders.

Communities cannot meaningfully respond to Highway England Ltd until they know the views of their Councils as Highways Authority and Local Planning Authority.

Will Highways England Ltd close the consultation before this Council has a public position alongside Taunton Deane?

Should the criteria for an acceptable scheme be one that:

- bypasses Henlade and takes out the bulk of the through traffic;
- is joined up with the locally managed £20m A358 scheme at Junction 25 and Nexus Park;
- does NOT place a new M5 junction within the built conurbation where local roads cannot bear future M5 access traffic.
- creates real economic benefit for Taunton whilst minimising dis-benefits to our countryside and communities;
- minimises heavy traffic from the SE diverted past Taunton to get to Devon and Cornwall;
- is joined up with the Devon County Council A30 improvements scheme.

Taunton's role in this controversial scheme is more bypass town than garden town.

Written response please Chair.

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

#### **4. A303 / A358 Road Proposal**

From Patricia Power

This proposal will bring 12 lanes of traffic to Killams Avenue.

Yes 12.

6 existing M5 lanes, 4 new expressway lanes, 2 slip roads plus roundabouts all converging in one spot within a Designated Urban Boundary.

It will bring huge environmental impacts, noise, light and significant air pollution next to the Vivary Green Wedge in a town seeking Garden Status.

This will deeply affect existing homes in the Killams area causing much distress to residents.

Where are the detailed plans?

Will the expressway and infrastructure be in a cutting like the M5?

What will the junction physically look like?

How visibly intrusive will it be?

How much lighting will there be?

How does this expressway benefit Taunton?

Why is the junction placed in a position where there can be no access into Taunton because the local roads are already at capacity?

Why build a road that will disfigure ancient woodland and beautiful countryside which will be visible for miles around?

What is the point of this road?

As our elected County Councillors we look to you to represent our interests and bring economic benefit to Taunton without needlessly blighting our community with this flawed Highways England scheme.

Taunton Deane Borough Council have produced a comprehensive report that rejects a consultation of only one scheme and is critical of Highways England for not producing sufficient information for a meaningful consultation. If the expert Officers cannot form an informed opinion then how are we, as members of the affected community, able to respond properly as well?

Will Somerset County Council experts concur with Taunton Deane's opinion and reject this flawed single option consultation?

I ask that this Council requests a fresh consultation by Highways England, with all four options open for comment and with sufficient information provided, so that affected communities can have a proper voice in a genuine consultation.

Thank you chair.

A written response please.

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

## **5. A303 / A358 Road Proposal**

From Nigel Power

The road proposal submitted by Highways England Ltd is **fundamentally flawed**. It attempts to do two things that are **incompatible**:

- 1. Provide an additional route for traffic travelling South East to South West.**
- 2. Relieve traffic congestion and pollution through Henlade.**

**Neither of these objectives is achieved.**

**The additional route to the South West is not a viable solution** as by directing traffic in a north westerly direction; it adds 11 miles each way compared to the A303/30 route. The result is **more** personal cost (£7.70), **more** pollution, **more time** and **adding to** rather than relieving congestion on the M5.

**Why would residents of Taunton want their town to facilitate a polluting by- pass** when it has ambitions to call itself a garden town?

**Why isn't the local proposed £25 million upgrade of Junction 25** and Nexus business park connected to the HE proposal ?

**The by-pass does little to alleviate local traffic congestion around J25** - currently 10 % heads south, 60% into Taunton and 30% north according to HE. Those travelling north are unlikely to take the proposed route adding 4 miles to their journey.90% of traffic will continue on the A358 plus growth of additional South East traffic.

**The two objectives need independent plans.** They are connected out of convenience rather than practicality.

**While some choose to dismiss the A303/30 upgrade**, pleading 'AONB' status, it should be on the table (there are precedents) and further, Devon County council support this. One area of beautiful countryside (the proposed route) is as precious as the AONB status of the A303/30. HE Ltd owns associated land and it forms an existing route (simply needs widening).

**In conclusion**, the country is strapped for cash; not to be fritted away on ill thought out deeply floored plans. It fails to achieve the objectives of a viable alternative route to the south west or alleviate traffic congestion through Henlade.

**I urge you to join with TDBC** in persuading HE to restart the process again with all the options on the table. It is in all our interests that scarce money is spent wisely.

Thank you chair

I request a written response please

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

## **6. The Highways England proposals for the A358 Southfields to Taunton**

From Mike Farrell – Stoke St Mary Parish Council

### **Statement:**

1. We understand that Somerset County Council has yet to make its formal response to the Highways England Ltd proposal to dual the A358 and to add a 6km spur leading to a new North /South junction to the M5 motorway at Killams Lane.

### **Question:**

1. Is this statement correct and if so how does the Council intend to respond given that the consultation period will expire shortly:

### **Statement:**

2. Despite earlier reassurances, Highways England have failed to offer more than one route option and have presented their "preferred route" Is it our belief that Highways England Ltd should have held a consultation on more than one route option and that they have failed to supply sufficient detail within their "Technical Appraisal Report" (T.A.R.) for any consulted party to form a studied and considered view of the viability of the overall scheme. On 16 May 2017 the Taunton Deane Borough Council, Community Scrutiny Committee shared this view and have recommended rejection of the Highways England Ltd single option.

### **Question:**

2. Is the Somerset County Council Road Transport Policy: Titled; "**Somerset's Future Transport Plan**" still in place for the period 2011 - 2026 and if so how would the overall aspirations of that policy connect with the Highways England single option?

### **Statement:**

3. Given that the "**Somerset's Future Transport Plan**" states and I quote:  
"Transport is part of everything we do. It allows us to go to work or school, visit the people we care about and access the things we need. However, if not managed carefully the impacts transport has can also be bad for us. our economy and the environment."  
Furthermore the document goes on to state: "We will help our communities to help themselves. We will help them to make improvements to transport, allow them to shape our work and deliver improvements in partnership with other organisations."

### **Questions:**

3. How does the current Highways England Ltd single option help contribute to these two statements and how does the Highways England Ltd single option, which effectively by-passes the town of Taunton help either the town or county economically or improve our environment?

### **Statement:**

4. The Highways England Ltd. consultation process has failed. Democratically, they cannot hold a meaningful consultation on their "preferred option" Highways England Ltd should have conducted their consultation on all four options outlined in their T.A.R.

### **Question:**

4. Will the Council agree with the Taunton Deane Borough Council recommendation to ask Highways England Ltd to re-start this consultation with all route options open for consideration. To review a full Henlade by-pass and link to Nexus 25, plus the £20 million.

County Council lead, improvement to Junction 25 and for wider discussions with Devon County Council to take place regarding the current A30 extension?

Written response please Chair.

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

## **7. A358 Dualling (Southfields to M5)**

From Rob Hossell

As we are all aware Highways England (HE) has presented just one option for public consultation, reduced from the four options outlined in their Technical Appraisal Report.

Their preferred option fails to meet the three key objectives highlighted in a letter from Mott MacDonald, acting as Highways England consultant:

1. Relieve congestion – The report openly admits that the majority of traffic to Taunton and M5 North will still pass through J25 via the old A358, and hence congestion will not be relieved through Henlade.
2. Support economic growth – As there is no connection to J25 and there is no local access at J25A, there will be no local benefit. The road acts purely to connect traffic between the south-east and south-west.
3. Improve safety – The report states that this option is actually the only one to increase the cost of accidents, when new roads should be safer.

As Somerset County Council are a consultation partner for Highways England I have two key questions:

1. In your meetings with Highways England why have neither of the two options that connect to the roundabout shown on your detailed drawings (for the J25 employment development site) been put forward for consultation?
2. As our elected body will you make representations to Highways England in the remaining consultation period to persuade them to consult on other options that will be of benefit to Taunton?

Written response please.

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

## **8. The proposed A358 dualling scheme**

From Dr Gary Cox

The proposed A358 offline section with its' all directions M5-J25A (Option 8/8B+NFS) is an environmentally damaging and poor value for money road scheme of highly questionable benefit that cuts through several miles of attractive countryside close to the Blackdown Hills AONB. It will irreparably harm the local environment and wildlife habitats as well as destroy top quality, green-field agricultural land. It will also have a detrimental impact on the quality of life of thousands of residents of east Taunton and nearby villages. Due to the

offline section crossing several flood areas, such as the Broughton Brook at Stoke Lane, the A358 offline section will have to be raised rather than cut-in in many places. This will significantly add to the enormous cost of the scheme as well as to its negative visual, light, noise and air pollution impacts. Not least, situating a J25A at Killams Lane raises a number of serious issue.

The simplest, cheapest and most sensible option is simply to build a Henlade bypass to an upgraded M5-J25, rather than pursue any option that involves a new motorway junction. This option should be reconsidered and put to public consultation, rather than just the current 'no choice' option of 8/8B+NFS. This option will result in a completely unnecessary road that is sub-standard, dangerous, under-utilised, hugely environmentally damaging, useless as a Henlade bypass, of no real benefit to Taunton and extremely poor value for public money. The A30/A303 dualling option also needs to be put back on the table as the shortest route to the South West Peninsula from the South East, one that does not involve a long detour to the North West, therefore increasing fuel consumption and pollution.

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

## **9. University for Somerset**

From Alan Dimmick

Will the new Leader and his/her new team continue with the existing County Plan of creating a university for Somerset. The aim of which is to stop young people being forced to leave the county, to boost their prospects. Dorset suffers from the same problem of young people leaving the County but they have a university. The reason young people leave the County is lack of career prospects, over the last 25/30 years manufacturing businesses throughout the south west ceasing to exist, production moving abroad. Unless this stops and more is done to promote manufacturing businesses to relocate in the County then the creation of a university, in its self, will not end this issue.

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

## **10. Council Finances**

From Alan Dimmick

This Council will be fully aware of the funding cuts imposed by Central Government over the years, leading to service cuts in many areas. This Council having made calls for fairer funding for Somerset. Devolution of money and power from Central Government is a key issue, can I ask that the new Leader lobbies the new Government to request that monies raised by vehicle tax, vehicles registered in Somerset- circa 400,000- average £240 amounting to £100m- be returned to this Council (as the highway authority). The money to be ring-fenced for transport related issues. This can be done in stages (as business rates are done) with capitol expenditure alone amounting to over £20m (funded from council tax precept) per year. This will enable the £20m to be spent (at no extra cost to the tax or ratepayers of Somerset) supporting adult social care, children's services and many other vital services provided by this Council, in supporting the people of Somerset.

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

## **11. The Future of the recently Transferred Learning Disability Provider Service (LDPS) to Dimensions UK Ltd (Discovery)**

From Nigel Behan – Unite

Please find enclosed some follow on Questions from the responses provided to the questions submitted to the 26<sup>th</sup> April County Council meeting.

Q1 i) Now that the service has transferred to Dimensions UK Ltd (– and the Social Enterprise Vehicle known as Discovery) will the contract(s) now be released into the public domain?

ii) Do you know if the recent Freedom of Information request (to SCC) - “Please supply all contractual details, “the contract” between Somerset County Council and Dimensions UK Ltd which led to the transfer of the In House Learning Disability Provider Service (LDPS) to the Social Enterprise Vehicle (SEV) - named as Discovery - on 1st April 2017”- has been responded to and will the response be shared with Elected Members?

Q2 What steps and measures have been taken to address the recruitment and retention problem identified and acknowledged recently, what monitoring information has been produced and will this information be put into the public domain (as anecdotally, there has been increased amount of well trained and experienced staff leaving the service)? Are the number of leavers, joiners, relief staff and agency staff now available on a monthly basis? If so, please release the information.

Q3 This relates to the responses to our Q7-Q10

<http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/documents/s3532/County%20Council%20Minutes%20Appendix%20B%20PQT.pdf>

The transformation costs shown at the 15<sup>th</sup> March Cabinet of £5.1m (from the July paper) presumably appeared in the original bid. However the press release on 10<sup>th</sup> March noted that:

“And a compensation fund set up by Cabinet members last year to offset any changes to pay and conditions, could be in line for an increase, thanks to extra financial flexibility as a result of the major social care funding announced by the Government in the budget on Wednesday.”

How much additional funding is available (above the £5.1m agreed with Dimensions UK Ltd last year) for the Compensation Fund as indicated in the press release?

Q4 How much is the end of year (Quarter 4) “overspend” for the Learning Disability Provider Service (LDPS) - on the date of transferring the Service to Dimensions UK Ltd? Can you release the totals costs (expenditure, movement of funds from reserves, staffing costs etc.) of running the LDPS in the 2016-2017 financial year?

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

## 12. County Farms

From Sue Osbourne

Good morning Councillors and thank you for permitting me to address you again today. I am particularly delighted to see the infusion of new, young blood from my own local authority area of South Somerset. It is also good news that younger women make up a significant part of the South Somerset team.

My name is Sue Osborne and I am the wife of a County Farm Tenant.

I make no apology for raising the subject of County Farms again.

My questions regarding the issue of why was a tenant on a retained farm handed notice to quit when an officer confirmed to the March Scrutiny Committee that the retained policy was unchanged. Surely such a notice to quit is contrary to your existing policy. If policy has indeed changed, then why did an officer confirm otherwise to Scrutiny. With respect, you cannot have it all ways.

I have also asked about the basis on which the 2016 revaluation exercise was conducted and whether or not it was on the same basis as the 2010/11 once again, no answer.

On the subject of how many holdings Somerset County Council has now vs 2011, I was told to submit a freedom of information act request, reason being that as a member of the public, that is how requests from the public for information are dealt with by this authority.

I can now tell you that the information I requested is in the public domain. DEFRA publishes an annual report to parliament on local Authority small holdings in England. Somerset County Council contributes to this report.

For the year ended March 2016, you had a total hectarage of 1640, made up of 18 lifetime tenancies, 14 retirement tenancies and 14 Farm Business Tenancies with 10 bare land holdings. The total rental income was not declared.

This compares with with a total land holding of 2691 hectares at the year ended March 2011 generating a total rent roll of £552,338. The earlier reports do not break down holdings by tenancy type.

So from March 31st 2011 to March 31st 2016, this authority has disposed of 1051 hectares of County Farm land no doubt generating welcome funds for this authority but at the expense of long term income generation.

If you add in the proposed disposal of the eight farms due to be disposed of between now and the end of 2018, approximately some 300 - 350 hectares, you will see that the estate is dangerously close to losing critical mass.

So I now repeat my recommendation made at last months Full Council especially in the light of the lack of clarity over the sell/retain list policy as Farms on the retain list have indeed been sold as well as those on the sell list.



At the next scrutiny meeting a paper is being presented about this A List B List policy, I anticipate that officers will be asking you for a green light to dispose of ALL the holdings by abolishing this policy. Is this really what you want to happen?

What is needed is a root and branch, member led, cross party, Task and Finish review of the whole County Farms Estate and its Governance, which currently leaves a lot to be desired. No information should be withheld from members, unlike the Feb 2014 scrutiny Task and Finish where information was considered 'too sensitive' for members' eyes. Outside bodies and interested stakeholders, e.g. NFU, TFA, CLB, YFC, CA and even DEFRA should be consulted. Examples should be sought of best practice from other successful authorities, e.g., Cambridge County Council and Dorset CC to name but two. Above all, there is need to gather evidence from a wider stakeholder group, including your tenants, not just officers.

Councillors, this could be your last opportunity to save this estate. Once an asset is sold it can never be replaced and when you have no farms left to sell, what then?

One final point, Bovine TB is a real and ever present threat to Somerset Farmers. Most of your tenants have livestock and in order to sell must pre move test. In the event that a tenant is under TB restriction at the time their tenancy expires, can I have an assurance, in the interests of both animal and tenant welfare, that NO tenant will be evicted and forced to send their herd, including heavily pregnant females and very young calves to slaughter?

The risks to your reputation and that of your officers as compassionate human beings by enforcing such an action would indeed score highly on any risk register and may well bring you into disrepute as an authority.

Thank you for your time.

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

### **13. Carbon Emissions and Environmental Sustainability / Social Care Funding / County Councillors**

From Alan Debenham

1. In this historic and welcome advent of two new Green Party councillors to the Council's ranks, and in this light of rapidly escalating global warming and climate change dangers, exacerbated by President Trump's possible withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, how is this new Council likely to proceed regarding putting the whole questions of air polluting carbon emissions and environmental sustainability at the top of its agenda, e.g. making Somerset a frack-free zone, investment and procurement divestment from fossil fuel-based concerns and heavy promotion of Community Energy and cycling projects etc. ?

2. According to news from the Chancellor's Autumn statement, a £2.8 billion pot of new national funding was provided for Council's adult Social Care resulting in, so I gather, £11 million being allocated for Somerset. Has this extra funding now been received and if so how has its spending been planned and how much of this money has been spent to date ?

3. I was sorry to see the sad loss to the Council at the elections of two of its most prominent, knowledgeable and long-serving Councillors, John Osman and Sam Crabb. I would urge the Council to look for practical ways to look to continue to involve both of them in the work of the Council in the future for the wider benefit of the people of Somerset.

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

#### **14. Special School Funding**

From Rebecca Bartley

Inauara School in Burrowbridge provides education for children who have additional learning needs, especially those who have struggled to thrive in previous educational settings.

Can the Cabinet Member for Children and Families please assure parents whose children attend Inaura School that places for Somerset children will continue to be funded by the Local Authority.

The school has sought clarification from the Council on this matter at least 5 times and has yet to receive a response of any kind.

As a result there is a considerable amount of anxiety and your reassurance would be greatly appreciated.

*Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council*

Somerset County Council

# APPENDIX A

County Council

– 24th May 2017

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## Appointments Schedule

Cabinet Member: All

Division and Local Member: N/A

Lead Officer & Author: Julian Gale, Monitoring Officer & Strategic Manager –  
Governance & Risk

Contact Details: 01823 359047

### 1. Summary

1.1 This Schedule sets out proposed appointments to committees, includes some changes to the terms of reference and operational arrangements of some of those committees. It also includes:

- proposed dates for Full Council meetings through to 2019
- proposed appointments to internal groups, partnerships and outside bodies that are the responsibility of the County Council.

### 2. Recommendation(s)

#### 2.1 Council is recommended to:-

1. **Approve the committee appointments set out in the report including the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen where appropriate – see Annex A attached**
2. **Approve the proposal for the establishment of a Constitution and Standards Committee with the terms of reference and operational arrangements proposed in this report – see Annex B attached**
3. **Approve the revised ‘hearing panel’ arrangements for the hearing of complaints against members and co-opted members – see section 3.3 of this report**
4. **Agree that aside from the changes to the committee structure outlined above that the Council’s existing committee structure and operational arrangements should continue unchanged including the Scheme of Delegation contained in the Constitution – see section 3.4 of the report.**
5. **Approve the Full Council meeting dates set out in section 3.5 of the report.**
6. **Approve the appointments to internal groups, partnerships and outside bodies as set out in Annex A attached.**
7. **Note that any further amendments to the Constitution required as a result of the approval of the above recommendations will be brought to the Council for approval in July following consideration by the Constitution and Standards Committee.**

### 3. **Background**

#### 3.1 **Committee Appointments**

3.1.1 The Council is required to meet the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 which requires the application of certain rules to the appointment of council committees.

3.1.2 This appendix provides for:

- (a) The apportionment of places to the political groups across the Council's qualifying committees under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 in accordance with the size of the groups.
- (b) The appointment of chairmen and vice-chairmen of the committees, where appropriate.
- (c) Liberal Democrat group appointments as the main opposition group together with other Group Leader appointments for information.

3.1.3 Under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the allocation of places on committees of the Council is required to be made on the basis of the number of places that each group has on the Council. The Act sets out a series of principles which must be used to allocate places on committees of the Council. The principles must be followed so far as is reasonably practicable.

3.1.4 All of the committees in the table below are classified as decision making committees under the 1989 Act and therefore fall within the proportionality calculation.

<b>PROPOSAL</b>						
<b>Seats held on the Council</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Con</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Total</b>
Regulation	6	2	1 or	1		9
P&P (Place)	6	2	1 or	1		9
P&P (Adults & H)	6	2	1 or	1		9
P&P (Child's S)	6	2	1 or	1		9
HR Policy	4	1	1 or	1		6
Audit	6	2	1 or	1		9
Officer App	4	1	1 or	1		6
Pensions	3	1				4
Fire Authority	5	2	1 or	1		8
Exmoor NPA	3	1				4
Con & Standards	1	1	1	1	1	5
Individual cttee totals	<b>50</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>78</b>
Overall calculation - total places	49.64	17.02	4.25	4.25	2.84	<b>78</b>

#### Notes

- The overall calculation takes priority over individual committee allocations
- The Conservative Group must have a majority on each committee unless a 'local arrangement' is agreed

- On the larger committees (8/9 members) 1 seat needs to be filled either by the Independent or Labour Groups by agreement
- The proposal is to create a single Constitution and Standards Committee as 5 member committee without political proportionality being applied to the elected membership so that each political group has one place on the committee as of right. It is proposed that the membership of this Committee should also include the 5 co-opted members (non-voting) of the Standards Committee for a further 4 year term of office.
- The Green group are not entitled to any places on individual committees but will have a place on the Constitution and Standards Committee as of right under a proposed 'local arrangement'.

3.1.5 Application of the four principles set out in the 1989 Act to the allocation of seats to political groups' results in the following position. The principles (*together with a commentary in italics on the application of the principles to the above table*) are:

1. All the seats should not be allocated to the same political group. *Not applicable given the split of places on the Council between the political groups.*
2. A majority group is required to have a majority on all committees. *The table above satisfies this principle except where the Conservative Group decides to waive this right, eg, the Constitution and Standards Committee.*
3. Subject to principles (1) and (2), the total number of seats on all the committees of the Council allocated to each political group should reflect the number of seats held by that group on the Council. *The table above reflects this calculation and the proposed allocation of seats to the groups gets as close as possible to this calculation.*
4. Subject to principles (1), (2) and (3), the number of seats on each committee of the Council allocated to each political group should reflect the number of seats held by that group on the Council. *This calculation is also reflected in the table above. The result is a requirement for the Independent and Labour Groups to agree to give up a single seat of their choice to the Green Group.*

The detailed Appointments section of this Appendix – Annex A - applies these principles and is recommended to the Council for adoption.

3.1.6 The proposals for the allocation of committee seats include the application of the 'local arrangements' provision in the legislation in relation to the Constitution & Standards Committee where it is proposed to waive the political proportionality requirements to the elected member representation on the Committee. The same applies to the membership of the Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services with the inclusion of statutory and other co-opted voting

members. These local arrangements only apply if there are no votes against the recommendations for appointments in front of the Council at today's meeting. If there is a single vote against the recommendations then strict political proportionality will have to be applied requiring a recalculation of places across the system.

- 3.1.7 The Appointments section of this report also sets out nominations for the appointment of chairmen and vice-chairmen of committees, as appropriate, and where these appointments are in the gift of the Council or have not been delegated.

### **3.2 Establishment of a Constitution and Standards Committee**

- 3.2.1 The previous Council considered recommendations from the Constitution and Standards Committee for the amalgamation of these committees into a single Committee. The recommendations which are detailed below were referred to this, the first meeting of the new Council for consideration.

- 3.2.2 The recommendations provided for the establishment of a Governance & Standards Committee with responsibility for standards of conduct by members, including the hearing panel arrangements to deal with complaints against members, and the Council's Constitutional arrangements.

- 3.2.3 It was recommended that:

- Political proportionality requirements should not be applied to the elected membership of the new Committee so enabling all political groups to have equal representation as per the current Standards Committee
- The current non-voting co-opted members of the Standards Committee should be included within the membership of the new Committee;
- That the Chairman should be appointed by the Committee rather than the Council as was the case with the existing Standards Committee

- 3.2.4 It was felt that the single Committee would:

- Ensure sufficient business for 3 to 4 times meetings a year and with the ability to be supported effectively by the Monitoring Officer, the County Solicitor and the Community Governance Team.
- Bring together all key governance arrangements and conduct provisions within a single committee.
- Give scope to involving co-opted members in a wider role offering independent advice on all relevant aspects of the Council's constitutional arrangements. This would bring an independent voice to support the aim to maximise the transparency of the Council's arrangements and support the wider public understanding of how the Council works.
- Be cost effective – with a reduction in costs.

- 3.2.5 Having considered these recommendations, the new Administration is proposing the establishment of a Constitution and Standards Committee as set out in Annex B to this report and based on many (but not all) of the principles recommended above. The main difference is the proposed separation of complaint hearing panel arrangements which it is proposed will

be dealt with under separate provisions in the Constitution – see 3.3 below for details of the proposal. In addition it is proposed that the Committee Chairman will be appointed by the Council rather than the Committee in line with the majority of chairmanship appointments.

### **3.3 Hearing Panel Arrangements**

3.3.1 It is proposed that the provisions set out in 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 below are included within the Constitution for dealing with member complaints where the Monitoring Officer, following consultation with the Council's Independent Person, considers that a complaint against a member or a co-opted member requires determination by a panel of elected members. Given the wider provisions in place for determining such complaints, it is expected that these arrangements will only be required to be used in exceptional circumstances where the alleged breach of the Code of Conduct is particularly serious and it has not been able to reach a satisfactory outcome through the other stages of the process.

3.3.2 It is proposed that the Council should make provision for a Hearing Panel to be appointed by the Leader on the advice of the Monitoring Officer as and when required to determine a complaint that requires decision by members. The Panel will comprise of 3 members:

- (a) The Leader of the Council (or his/her nominated representative)
- (b) The Leader of the largest opposition group (or his/her nominated representative)
- (c) 1 other member from the opposition groups nominated by their Group Leader

Appointments to the Panel will be made by the Leader of Council on the basis of the nominations made by Group Leaders. If a Group Leader is the subject of the complaint to be considered, they will take no part in the selection of the members for the Panel. In these circumstances the nominations will be made by the Deputy Group Leader or the other members of a political group where there is no Deputy Group Leader.

The Panel will be chaired by the Administration's appointed representative.

3.3.3 The Panel will have authority to determine complaints and apply sanctions under the Council's procedure as required except where the decisions are not unanimous. In these circumstances the Panel's decision will require to be referred as a recommendation to Full Council for confirmation.

### **3.4 Other Committees of the Council**

3.4.1 Aside from the changes outlined in this paper, the Council's committee arrangements remain unchanged in the Constitution including their terms of reference, memberships and operational arrangements. The full detail of these will be brought before the Council in July 2017 as part of the annual review of the constitution. The relevant section in the Constitution is Part 1 -

section 6 (and including 6A, 6B and 6C – see below and follow the link on the webpage

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/organisation/key-documents/the-councils-constitution/>

### **3.5 Programme of ordinary meetings of Full Council:**

3.5.1 The full list of dates for Full Council meetings through to July 2019 is as follows, all meetings to be at 10.00am.

19<sup>th</sup> July 2017

29<sup>th</sup> November 2017

21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2018

28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018 (reserve date)

16<sup>th</sup> May 2018

18<sup>th</sup> July 2018

28<sup>th</sup> November 2018

13<sup>th</sup> February 2019

27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 (reserve date)

15<sup>th</sup> May 2019

17<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Please note that the reserve dates identified in each year in February will only be used if the annual budget is unable to be approved by the Council on the earlier February date.

### **3.6 Appointments to internal groups, partnerships and outside bodies**

3.6.1 Annex A includes a list of proposed appointments to internal groups, partnerships and outside bodies for approval. These appointments are within the gift of the Council to agree. A separate list of similar appointments that are the responsibility of the Leader will be subject to a separate decision of the Leader.



# ANNEX A - APPOINTMENTS SCHEDULE FINAL

## **LEADER APPOINTMENT**

**LEADER OF THE COUNCIL:** David Fothergill (Con)

This appointment is for a 4 year period continuing until the annual meeting of Council following the quadrennial election. Council may resolve to remove the leader by resolution under section 44C(1) or section 4C(2) of the Local Government Act 2000

## **CABINET APPOINTMENTS PROPOSED – for information**

*The Leader is proposing to appoint the following members to his Cabinet by way of a Leader's decision following the conclusion of the Full Council meeting.*

- Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy and Customers & Communities – David Fothergill
- Finance and Economic Development – David Hall
- Adult Social Care – David Huxtable
- Children and Families – Frances Nicholson
- Highways and Transport – John Woodman
- Corporate and Community Services – Anna Groskop
- Public Health and Wellbeing – Christine Lawrence

## **Junior Cabinet Member Appointments Proposed – for information**

- Finance and Economic Development – Clare Aparicio Paul
- Children and Families – Gemma Verdon
- Corporate and Community Services – Faye Purbrick
- Adult Social Care – Giuseppe Fraschini

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

**Group / Seats**

**REGULATION COMMITTEE (9 members)**

**Chairman: John Parham**

**Vice-Chairman: Nigel Hewitt-Cooper**

**Membership:** *(no Cabinet members. Members **must** receive training in planning, rights of way and village green issues before taking part in a committee meeting)*

John Parham  
Nigel Hewitt-Cooper  
Dean Ruddle  
Nigel Taylor  
Mike Pullin  
Mark Keating

Con (6)

Tony Lock  
Andy Kendall

Lib Dem (2)

John Clarke

Lab / Ind (1) – place allocated to Green Party

Named substitutes

Conservative substitutes to be confirmed

Dave Loveridge

Lab

Simon Coles  
Hazel Prior-Sankey

Lib Dem (2)

**SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES AND PLACE COMMITTEE (9 members)**

**Group / Seats**

**Chairman: Tony Lock**

**Vice-Chairman: Mike Lewis**

**Membership:** *(no Cabinet members to be appointed)*

Mike Lewis  
Philip Ham  
Terry Napper  
John Thorne  
Dean Ruddle  
Bob Filmer

Con (6)

Tony Lock  
Alan Wedderkopp

Lib Dem (2)

John Hunt

Ind (1)

**SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, ADULTS AND HEALTH  
COMMITTEE  
(9 members)**

**Chairman: Hazel Prior-Sankey  
Vice-Chairman: Rod Williams**

**Group / Seats**

**Membership:** *(no Cabinet members to be appointed)*

Rod Williams  
Mike Caswell  
Graham Noel  
Mark Keating  
Mandy Chilcott  
1 tbc

Con (6)

Hazel Prior-Sankey  
Bill Revans

Lib Dem (2)

Andrew Govier

Lab (1)

**SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, CHILDREN & FAMILIES  
(9 members)**

**Chairman: Leigh Redman  
Vice-Chairman: Mike Pullin**

**Membership:** *(no Cabinet members to be appointed)*

Mike Pullin  
Nigel Hewitt-Cooper  
Josh Williams  
Neil Bloomfield  
Ann Bown  
1 tbc

Con (6)

Jane Lock  
Martin Dimery

Lib Dem (2) – 1  
place allocated to  
Green Party

Leigh Redman

Lab (1)

Voting non-elected representatives for the consideration of  
education matters only:

Ruth Hobbs  
Vacancy

Parent Gov Reps  
(2)

Mrs E Tipper

Schools Education  
Partnership Board  
(1)

Mr R Berry

Schools Forum (1)

Ms H Fenn – Roman Catholic Diocesan Rep  
2 vacancies

Church Rep (3)

**AUDIT COMMITTEE (9 members)**

**Chairman: Dean Ruddle**

**Vice-Chairman: Neil Bloomfield**

**Membership:** *(CIPFA advice is no Cabinet members and preferably no high profile scrutiny members to be appointed)*

Dean Ruddle

Neil Bloomfield

Faye Purbrick

Gemma Verdon

Mike Caswell

Bob Filmer

Con (6)

Mr Simon Coles

Mrs Jane Lock

Lib Dem (2)

Mr M Rigby

Ind (1)

**OFFICER APPEALS COMMITTEE (6 members)**

**Chairman:** *(appointment delegated to the Committee)*

**Membership:** *(Committee of 3 members chosen from the 6 to hear each appeal – members must receive appropriate training in HR issues to be allowed to participate)*

Clare Aparicio Paul

Josh Williams

Rod Williams

John Parham

Con (4)

Jane Lock

Lib Dem (1)

Mike Rigby

Ind (1)

**PENSIONS COMMITTEE (4 elected members)**

**Chairman: Graham Noel**

**Membership:**

Graham Noel

James Hunt

Giuseppe Frashini

Con (3)

Simon Coles

Lib Dem (1)

**Non-elected Membership:** (4 voting non-elected representatives)

Mr R Parrish – representing the district councils

Mr M Simmonds – representing the Avon & Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner

Vacancy – representing other employers

Sarah Payne – representative of pension scheme members

**SOMERSET PENSIONS BOARD (6 – 3 Employer reps, 3 Member reps) Group / Seats**  
**Chairman: (appointment delegated to the Board)**

**Membership:** *(one elected member to be included as an ‘employer’ rep)*

3 ‘Employer’ reps:

Mark Healey  
Mr T O’Connor  
Mr P Deal

Con (1) Group / Seats

3 ‘Member’ reps

Mr J Gilbody  
Vacancy  
Vacancy

**HR POLICY COMMITTEE (6 elected members)**

**Chairman: Anna Groskop** *(This Committee is chaired by the Cabinet member with responsibility for HR issues)*

**Membership:**

Anna Groskop (Chair)  
Linda Oliver  
Mandy Chilcott  
Philip Ham

Con (4)

Liz Leyshon

Lib Dem (1)

Leigh Redman

Lab (1)

**CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE (5 elected members and 5 co-opted members)**

**Chairman: Nigel Taylor**

**Membership – elected members:** *(political proportionality requirements waved by the Council – all political groups represented – 1 member each)*

Nigel Taylor  
Simon Coles  
Dave Loveridge  
Hugh Davies  
Martin Dimery

Con (1)  
Lib Dem (1)  
Lab (1)  
Ind (1)  
Green (1)

**Membership – co-opted non-voting members:**

Robin Horton  
Jan Middleton  
Wesley Wooding  
Dr Tim Ward  
Vicky Chapman

**DEVON AND SOMERSET COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY  
(8 members)**

*Chairman's appointment is made by the Fire Authority itself*

**SCC's Membership:**

Ann Bown Mark Healey William Wallace Terry Napper Peter Burrridge-Clayton	Con (5)
Simon Coles Mike Best	Lib Dem (2)
Leigh Redman	Lab (1)

**EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY (4 members)**

*Chairman's appointment is made by the Park Authority itself*

**SCC's Membership:**

Frances Nicholson Christine Lawrence James Hunt	Con (3)
Bill Revans	Lib Dem (1)

**SOMERSET HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**Membership** *(overall membership agreed by the Council):*

**Proposed County Council membership – subject to the approval of the Leader** *(5 members appointed by the Leader – currently includes relevant Cabinet Members for Children's Services, HR and Adult Social Care)*

Christine Lawrence (Chair) Frances Nicholson (Vice-Chair) David Huxtable Linda Vijeh	Con (4)
Amanda Broom	Lib Dem (1)

**District Council Elected Representatives (1 elected member per Council)**

Mrs Jane Warmington – Taunton Deane Borough Council  
Mr N Woolcombe-Adams – Mendip District Council  
Mrs S Seal – South Somerset District Council  
Mrs G Slocombe – Sedgemoor District Council  
Mr K Turner – West Somerset Council

**Officers and Independent Members**

Ms T Grant (SCC)  
Mr S Chandler (SCC)  
Mr J Wooster (SCC)  
Lou Evans (CCG)  
Dr Ed Ford (CCG)  
David Slack (CCG)  
Mark Cooke (NHS England)  
Judith Goodchild (HealthWatch)

**OPPOSITION APPOINTMENTS – FOR INFORMATION**

**LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP**

**Leader:** Jane Lock  
**Deputy Leader:** Simon Coles

Cabinet Member	Opposition Group Spokesperson
David Fothergill	Jane Lock
David Hall	Simon Coles
Anna Groskop	Liz Leyshon
Christine Lawrence	Amanda Broom
John Woodman	Mike Rigby
David Huxtable	Bill Revans
Frances Nicholson	Jane Lock

**LABOUR GROUP**

**Leader:** Leigh Redman

**INDEPENDENT GROUP**

**Leader:** Mike Rigby

**GREEN GROUP**

**Leader:** Martin Dimery

**COUNTY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO INTERNAL GROUPS, JOINT BODIES AND OUTSIDE BODIES**

<b>Adoption Panel (2 members)</b>	Peter Burrige-Clayton (Con) Jane Lock (Lib Dem)
<b>Avon &amp; Somerset Police and Crime Panel (1 member)</b>	Neil Bloomfield (Con)
<b>County Councils Network (CCN) (4 members)</b>	David Fothergill (Con) David Hall (Con) David Huxtable (Con) Amanda Broom (Lib Dem)
<b>County Council Network Executive (1 member – the Leader of nominated substitute)</b>	David Fothergill (Con)
<b>Foster Panel – West (1 member) - East (1 member)</b>	Bill Revans (Lib Dem) Liz Leyshon (Lib Dem)
<b>Local Government Association – General Assembly (4 members)</b>	David Fothergill (Con) David Hall (Con) David Huxtable (Con) Jane Lock (Lib Dem)
<b>LGA Innov. &amp; Improvement Board (1)</b>	David Hall (Con)
<b>LGA People &amp; Places Board (1)</b>	David Fothergill (Con)
<b>LGA Fire Services Forum (1)</b>	Mark Healey (Con)
<b>Member Development Panel</b>	Faye Purbrick (Con) Clare Aparicio Paul (Con)  Simon Coles (Lib Dem)
<b>Passion for Somerset Board (1)</b>	tbc
<b>Safer Somerset Partnership (1)</b>	Christine Lawrence (Con)
<b>Somerset Armed Forces Community Covenant (1)</b>	Rod Williams (to Chair the Partnership)
<b>Somerset Association of Local Councils (1 member)</b>	tbc
<b>Somerset Buildings Preservation Trust (1)</b>	tbc
<b>South West Councils (1)</b>	Mr D Fothergill (Con)
<b>Employers Panel (SW Provincial Council) (1)</b>	tbc



## **ANNEX B**

### **CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

#### **FUNCTIONS:**

In summary, the Committee's main responsibilities relate to updating the Council's Constitution and the policies and procedures in relation to standards of conduct.

#### Constitutional matters:

The Committee is responsible for:

- (a) Maintaining an effective, up to date and legally compliant Constitution.
- (b) Considering proposals from Council committees for changes to the constitutional arrangements of the Council.
- (c) Approving in-year changes to individual parts of the Constitution and submitting an annual report to the Council recommending a revised Constitution for approval to the Council's Annual General Meeting. See notes below.
- (d) Taking all required decisions in respect of the County Council elections;
- (e) Overseeing the Council's input and response to boundary reviews as required by the Boundary Commission.

Notes: The delegation set out in (c) above exclude approval of:

- Any changes to the operational arrangements of the Council including the Committee structure – which will be referred to Council for approval as a recommendation
- The Scheme of Members' Allowances which is approved by the Council on the recommendation of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel;
- The Council's executive arrangements , which are the responsibility of the Leader of Council;
- Any change to the Council's model of democratic governance under the Localism Act 2011;

#### Conduct matters:

The Committee:-

- (a) Has responsibility for promoting high standards of conduct by Members, Co-opted Members and Officers and for the policies and processes which support this aim.
- (b) Advises on the induction and training of Members and Co-opted Members on standards of conduct ;
- (c) Monitors the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct and recommends any changes considered necessary to the Code to the Council for approval.
- (d) Has responsibility for overseeing the Standards of Conduct for officers and recommending any changes considered necessary to the Council for approval
- (e) Manages the members' and officers' registers of interests and gifts / hospitality;

- (f) Monitors the Council's Whistleblowing Policy and make recommendations to the Council in respect of any proposed changes.

The Committee will have no role in considering or determining member complaints.

**FORM AND COMPOSITION:** The Constitution and Standards Committee comprises of 1 elected member per political group (currently 5 elected Members) [but no Cabinet Members] and 5 Co-opted Members without voting rights. Substitutes will be permitted for the elected members appointed to the Committee. The Chairman is appointed by the Council on an annual basis. Council has agreed to waive the political proportionality requirements for appointments to the Committee to enable all of the political groups on the Council to be represented.

**QUORUM:** The minimum number of members required for a valid meeting of the Committee is 3 elected Members.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS:** The following can include items on the Committee's agenda:

- (a) The Committee itself
- (b) Full Council
- (c) The Leader
- (d) The Chairman of any Committee
- (e) A member of the Committee including a co-opted member
- (f) The Chief Executive
- (g) The Chief Finance Officer / Section 151 Officer
- (h) The Monitoring Officer
- (i) The County Solicitor.

**REPORTING:** The Committee shall make an annual report to Council and shall report as necessary outside of these occasions. To reflect the importance of the Committee its reports to Council always appear at the beginning of the Council agenda before any other reports.