

## South Somerset District Council

**Minutes** of a meeting of the **District Executive** held at the **Council Chamber, Brympton Way, Yeovil, Somerset. on Thursday 6 December 2018.**

(9.30 am - 11.30 am)

**Present:**

Councillor Val Keitch (Chairman)

Jason Baker  
Henry Hobhouse  
Graham Middleton  
Jo Roundell Greene

Sylvia Seal  
Angie Singleton  
Nick Weeks



**Also Present:**

Sue Steele

Derek Yeomans

**Officers:**

Alex Parmley  
Clare Pestell  
Martin Woods  
Paul Fitzgerald  
Angela Watson  
Mickey Green  
Chris Cooper  
Robert Orrett  
Peter Paddon  
Jan Gamon  
Jo Wilkins  
Leisa Kelly  
Angela Cox

Chief Executive  
Director (Commercial Services & Income Generation)  
Director (Service Delivery)  
Section 151 Officer  
Monitoring Officer  
Managing Director, Somerset Waste Partnership  
Environment Services Manager  
Commercial Property Manager  
Lead Specialist (Economy)  
Lead Specialist (Strategic Planning)  
Acting Principal Spatial Planner  
Specialist – Strategic Planning  
Democratic Services Specialist

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

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

The minutes of the District Executive meetings held on 4<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and, having been approved as a correct record, were signed by the Chairman.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Peter Gubbins and Peter Seib.

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

There were no declarations of interest made by members of the Committee.

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## **80. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)**

There were no questions raised by members of the public present.

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## **81. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 5)**

The Chairman advised that there had been a delay in the publication of the Local Government Finance Settlement due to the pressure of government business in Parliament.

The Chairman confirmed that the new Ward Boundaries for South Somerset had now been confirmed by a Parliamentary Order.

The Chairman asked for Councillors agreement to discuss Agenda item 8, Commercial Assets Update Report, after Agenda item 11 at the end of the meeting in the event that they wished to discuss the content of the confidential appendix. Councillors were in agreement with this.

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## **82. Somerset Waste Partnership Annual Report and Draft Business Plan 2019 - 2024 (Agenda Item 6)**

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Economic Development and Transformation introduced the report and advised that the Somerset Waste Partnership were moving towards their new waste contracts.

Mr Mickey Green, Managing Director of the Somerset Waste Partnership, drew Members attention to the main points in the Business Plan 2019 – 2024. He advised that a new resource policy was expected from the Government which would make producers responsible for the recyclability of their packaging, rather than council tax payers for disposing of it. He also provided Members with a power point presentation on the new materials to be collected under Sort-It Plus, the approach to risk sharing with the new contractors and the move to 3 weekly collections of residual waste.

In response to questions from Members, the Managing Director of the Somerset Waste Partnership advised that:-

- New refuse collection vehicles were not expected until March 2020.
- Some new housing developments were not being planned with roads wide enough for the refuse vehicles.
- The Waste Partnership's developer guidance would be re-circulated to Councils with a request that it be integrated into their Local Plans.
- It was proposed to work actively with the residents in blocks of flats to encourage more recycling.
- The Waste Partnership would continue to monitor their budget and the risk around recycle value and discuss this with their Partner Authorities Section 151 officers.
- The Waste Partnership had not invested any money in the Avonmouth Resource Recovery Centre but they had an anchor-contract to give them their residual waste.

At the conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the Managing Director of the Somerset Waste Partnership for attending to answer Members questions and the recommendations of the report were confirmed.

**RESOLVED:** That District Executive agreed to:-

- a. approve the Somerset Waste Partnership's Draft Business Plan 2019-24 attached at Appendix A;
- b. approve the projected budget for 2019/24 subject to the comments in section 6 of the SWP Business plan relating to the finalisation of the budget.

**Reason:** To confirm the Somerset Waste Partnership's Draft Business Plan 2019-2024 and the projected budget for 2019/24.

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### **83. Heart of the South West (HotSW) - Joint Committee - Council Update (Agenda Item 7)**

The Chief Executive introduced the report and advised that the Local Industrial Strategy would be a powerful tool for the local economy. The Government were in favour of them and it would put the Joint Partnership in a good position when the UK Shared Prosperity Fund was launched in 2019. He had been chosen to represent the Chief Executives of the District Councils within the Joint Partnership and their focus was the local economy, housing delivery and a proposal for a 3-year housing land supply rather than the existing 5-years. He said all Councils were concerned that the Government were not sharing any information with them on the impact of Brexit and a letter would shortly be sent to the Government from the Council Leaders asking that they share more information.

In response to questions from Members, the Chief Executive confirmed:-

- The impact of a 3-year housing land supply on SSDC had not been calculated.
- The National Infrastructure Commission would look at the infrastructure required in an area to enable growth.
- Somerset County Council were currently the Administering Authority for the Joint Committee.

At the conclusion of the debate, the majority of Members were content to recommend the report to full Council for confirmation.

**RESOLVED:** That District Executive recommends that Council:-

- a. note the progress report setting out the work of the Heart of the South West (HotSW) Joint Committee since its establishment in March 2018;
- b. agree to delegate the development and endorsement of the HotSW Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) to the HotSW Joint Committee (noting that final approval of the HotSW LIS rests with the HotSW Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the Government);
- c. note the Budget statement for 2018/19 set out in Appendix B, and that in accordance with the decisions taken at the time the

Committee was established, the Council will be asked to make an annual budgetary provision to meet the support costs of the Joint Committee in line with the 2018/19 contribution. Final clarification on any additional 2019/20 budget requirement will be provided following the completion of the review of the Joint Committee's role, function and management support arrangements and development of its work programme for 2019/20;

- d. agree the Budget and Cost-sharing Agreement set out in Appendix B to this report.

**Reason:** To note the progress made by the South West (HotSW) Joint Committee over recent months and agree the Budget and Cost-sharing Agreement set out in Appendix B to this report.

*(Voting: 7 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention)*

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#### **84. Commercial Assets Update Report (Agenda Item 8)**

The Portfolio Holder for Property and Climate Change and Income Generation introduced the report and advised that staff were looking at investments which met the Council's requirements but sometimes were out-bid by other investors.

The Commercial Property, Land and Development Manager advised that the report focussed on property investment within the financial strategy to acquire commercial investments to provide an income for the Council.

Councillor Nick Weeks noted that business units within his Ward were not being built because of lack of investment although all the units had prospective tenants. The Director for Commercial Services and Income Generation agreed to look at this.

Members agreed to continue the remainder of the debate in confidential session and at the conclusion of the debate, were content to note the contents of the report.

**RESOLVED:** That District Executive agreed to:-

- a. note progress made to date in acquiring new commercial investments;
- b. note progress being made in securing income from our existing assets;
- c. note progress being made in disposals and transfers of existing assets, resulting in a reduction of future liabilities associated with these assets.

**Reason:** To update members on commercial investments and management of the existing asset portfolio since the last half yearly update in June 2018.

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#### **85. Draft Economic Development Strategy (2019 - 2028) (Agenda Item 9)**

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Economic Development & Transformation introduced the report and confirmed that a great deal of work and evidence gathering had gone into the draft Economic Development Strategy. There would be a Delivery Plan underneath the Strategy which would help to monitor its progress. She said the comments from the Scrutiny Committee would be taken on board and unless there were any substantial changes, the final version would be presented to Council in February 2019.

In response to questions from Members, the Lead Specialist – Economy advised:-

- During the consultation period, officers would be working on the delivery plan and speaking to finance officers to ensure delivery of the Strategy would commence during 2019.
- The organisations named in the report had already been consulted on the draft Strategy and they would be asked for their input again.

Councillor Singleton noted that the market town of Crewkerne was not mentioned in the Strategy and she had been assured it would appear in the final document.

At the conclusion of the debate, Members were content to confirm the draft Economic Development Strategy 2019 - 2028 for public consultation.

**RESOLVED:** That District Executive:-

- a. agreed the draft Economic Development Strategy 2019 - 2028 for public consultation;
- b. delegated authority to the Portfolio Holder to make amendments to the EDS in consultation with the appropriate Director/s, and;
- c. agreed that unless there are substantial changes as a result of the consultation, agree that the draft Strategy go before Full Council for agreement following the end of the consultation period.

**Reason:** To agree the text version of the Council's Economic Development Strategy (2019 – 2028) draft for public consultation.

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## 86. The 'Making' of the East Coker Neighbourhood Plan (Agenda Item 10)

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning (Place Making) introduced the report and said that a great deal of work had gone into its preparation by local residents and it was now incumbent on the Council to accept it and confirm that it be 'made'.

The Acting Principal Spatial Planner confirmed that the £20,000 grant towards the costs of progressing the Neighbourhood Plan had been submitted to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government. She also introduced Leisa Kelly, Specialist – Strategic Planning, who would be responsible for Neighbourhood Plan work in the future. She concluded by advising there were now 3 confirmed Neighbourhood Plans in the district and the turnout for the referendum had been 29.2% which was the highest of the 3 plans.

The Chairman congratulated the residents of East Coker for progressing their Neighbourhood Plan and Members were content to confirm the making of the East Coker Neighbourhood Plan.

**RESOLVED:** That the District Executive agreed to the making of the East Coker Neighbourhood Plan.

**Reason:** To note the result of the Referendum in relation to the East Coker Neighbourhood Plan and to confirm that the Plan be 'made' (or adopted).

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**87. District Executive Forward Plan (Agenda Item 11)**

The following additions and amendments to the Forward Plan were noted:

- Peer Review Report – January 2019
- Presentation on the work of SPARK – moved to February 2018

Councillor Nick Weeks asked if information on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) could be circulated to Town and Parish Councils.

**RESOLVED:** That the District Executive:-

1. approved the updated Executive Forward Plan for publication as attached at Appendix A, with the following amendment;
  - Peer Review Report – January 2019
  - Presentation on the work of SPARK – moved to Feb 2018

**Reason:** The Forward Plan is a statutory document.

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**88. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 12)**

Members noted that the next scheduled meeting of the District Executive would take place on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil commencing at 9.30 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date