

South Somerset District Council
Decisions taken by the District Executive on Thursday 10 January 2019

| Agenda Item No | Agenda item | Decision |
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| 6. | Corporate Peer Challenge: Follow Up Visit | <p>RESOLVED: That the District Executive noted the findings of the Peer Challenge Follow up Team, as set out in their report at Appendix 1.</p> <p>Reason: To note the report of the LGA Peer Challenge team, who assessed the Council's progress since their last visit in March 2017.</p> |
| 7. | A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme - Local Impact Report | <p>RESOLVED: That District Executive agreed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. to note the report and its contents; b. to approve delegation of the Local Impact Report (LiR) to the Lead Specialist, Strategic Planning, Strategic Planning Portfolio Holder and Property, Climate Change and Income Generation Portfolio Holder; and c. that the Council submit a Written Representation to the Examining Authority and give delegation of the contents of that Written Representation to the Leader of the Council, Strategic Planning Portfolio Holder and Property, Climate Change and Income Generation Portfolio Holder and the Ward Members for Camelot and Ivelchester. |

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| | | <p>Reason: To update District Executive on the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme and set out the Examination timetable for the Development Consent Order (DCO). Also to note the emerging issues to be covered in the Local Impact Report and to agree that the Council submit a Written Representation to the Examining Authority.</p> |
| 8. | Assessing Needs and Opportunities for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities in South Somerset | <p>RESOLVED: That District Executive agreed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. to note and comment on the emerging issues from the draft Needs Assessment. b. to encourage Members to attend the upcoming workshop on 24th January 2019 at 5.00pm to share their reactions and to participate in a prioritisation exercise. <p>Reason: To update Members on the Needs Assessment for Indoor/Outdoor Sports Facilities in South Somerset before the development and adoption of a new strategy for sports facilities.</p> |
| 9. | 2019/20 Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan Update | <p>RESOLVED: That District Executive agreed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. to note the current estimates and next steps in respect of the draft Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme. b. to approve in principle the changes to budget estimates in respect of pressures and savings included within the report (para 14). |

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| | | <p>Reason: To update Members on the latest estimates for 2019/20 draft budget and Medium Term Financial Plan estimates for the period 2019/20 to 2023/24, together with an update on the Capital Programme.</p> |
| 10. | Council Tax Support Scheme 2019/20 | <p>RESOLVED: That District Executive recommended that Full Council agree:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the introduction of a minimum award value of £0.50 a week in line with Housing Benefit; b. the introduction of a £5 a week tolerance on income increases and decreases before it affects a Council Tax Support award; c. that personal allowances and premiums are uprated in line with those for Housing Benefit; d. that non-dependent deductions are uprated in line with the annual percentage increase in Council Tax; e. that the non-dependent income bands are increased by the same percentage as those applied to the national Council Tax Support scheme for pensioners; f. that the hardship scheme budget be set at £30,000 for the 2019/20 financial year; |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> g. to note the recommendations of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group attached at Appendix 1; h. to note the scheme has been amended to reflect changes to the Prescribed Requirements; i. that the 2019/20 Council Tax Support Scheme at Appendix 2 (to follow) is adopted; j. to note that the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme has been reflected within the overall Council Tax Base. <p>Reason: To request that the District Executive recommend the proposed amendments to the Council Tax Support scheme for the 2019/20 financial year to Full Council for approval.</p> |
| 11. | Council Tax Discount Review | <p>RESOLVED: That the District Executive:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. approved the use of the Councils local discretionary powers to implement a Care Leavers Discount from April 2019. b. approved that the additional amount to fund the Care Leavers discount is added to the budget which currently funds Council Tax Discretionary reductions. c. agreed to defer the decision to increase in the Empty Home Premium on empty properties to the maximum percentage, as detailed in the Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018, to a future meeting of the |

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| | | <p align="center">District Executive</p> <p>Reason: To request the use of the Council’s local discretionary powers to implement a Care Leavers discount from 1 April 2019, in accordance with the provisions contained in section 13A Local Government Finance Act 1992. Also to reconsider an increase to the Empty Home Premium charged on properties that have been empty for 2 years or more, in accordance with the Rating (property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018.</p> |
| 12. | Business Rates Relief | <p>RESOLVED: That the District Executive agreed to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. approve the use of the Councils local discretionary powers to implement Retail Rate Relief from April 2019 for two years; b. approve the use of the Councils local discretionary powers to extend the Business Rate Relief Scheme for Local Newspapers for the 2019/20 financial year; c. approve the use of the Councils local discretionary powers to extend the doubling of the Rural Rate Relief for the 2019/20 financial year and future financial years until the primary legislation has been changed. <p>Reason: To approve the use of the Council’s local discount powers to implement three Rate Relief schemes in relation to local businesses from 1 April 2019.</p> |

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| 13. | SSDC Transformation Programme - Progress Report | <p>RESOLVED: That the District Executive noted the Transformation Programme progress report</p> <p>Reason: To note the progress report has been prepared in accordance with the Transformation Programme Governance arrangements agreed by Full Council in April 2017 where it was agreed that the District Executive would receive quarterly updates on the progress of the council's Transformation Programme.</p> |
| 14. | Notification of an Urgent Executive Decision - Short term funding facility required to SSDC Opium Power Ltd to accommodate VAT cashflow during VAT reclaim period | <p>RESOLVED: That the District Executive noted urgent executive decision made by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Council Leader and Portfolio Holder for Property, Climate Change and Income Generation to use short term funding facility required to SSDC Opium Power Ltd to accommodate VAT cashflow during VAT reclaim period. This decision was taken under Part 3, Section 6 (4) of the Council's constitution.</p> <p>Reason: To note the urgent executive decision made by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Council Leader and Portfolio Holder for Property, Climate Change and Income Generation under Part 3, Section 6 (4) of the Council's constitution.</p> |
| 15. | District Executive Forward Plan | <p>RESOLVED: That the District Executive:-</p> |

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| | | <p>1. approved the updated Executive Forward Plan for publication as attached at Appendix A, with the following additions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy for Awarding Private Sector Housing Grants/Loans and other Financial Assistance – February 2019 • Somerset Housing Strategy – February 2019 • Empty Home Premium on empty properties – February 2019 <p>2. noted the contents of the Consultation Database as shown at Appendix B.</p> <p>Reason: The Forward Plan is a statutory document.</p> |