

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **South Somerset District Council** held on **Thursday 13 December 2018** in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

(7.30 pm - 8.20 pm)

Present:

Members: Councillor Tony Capozzoli (Chairman)
Councillor Mike Best (Vice-Chairman)

Jason Baker
Neil Bloomfield
Dave Bulmer
John Clark
Nick Colbert
Sarah Dyke
John Field
Nigel Gage
Henry Hobhouse
Val Keitch
Andy Kendall

Jenny Kenton
Mike Lewis
Mike Lock
Graham Middleton
Graham Oakes
Sue Osborne
Crispin Raikes
Wes Read
Jo Roundell Greene
Dean Ruddle
Sylvia Seal

Gina Seaton
Peter Seib
Angie Singleton
Alan Smith
Sue Steele
Rob Stickland
Gerard Tucker
Andrew Turpin
William Wallace
Nick Weeks
Derek Yeomans

Officers:

Alex Parmley
Paul Fitzgerald
Clare Pestell
James Divall
Angela Cox

Chief Executive
Section 151 Officer
Director (Commercial Services & Income Generation)
Income Opportunity Development Manager
Democratic Services Specialist

64. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cathy Bakewell, Marcus Barrett, Mike Beech, Amanda Broom, Hayward Burt, Adam Dance, Gye Dibben, Carol Goodall, Anna Groskop, Peter Gubbins, Kaysar Hussein, Sarah Lindsay, Tony Lock, Paul Maxwell, Sam McAllister, David Norris, Tiffany Osborne, Stephen Page, Ric Pallister, Clare Paul, David Recardo, Garry Shortland, Linda Vijeh, Martin Wale, and Colin Winder.

65. Minutes (Agenda Item 2)

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 15th November 2018, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as correct records of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

66. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

67. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)

A resident of Langport asked what was delaying the sale of Amphora House in Langport? She said the developer who was purchasing the house had agreed to rent it to local businesses, but, because the sale was delayed, they could not use building. She understood the issue was Land Registry and boundaries and asked if this was the case, when what was being done to resolve them.

Councillor Henry Hobhouse, Portfolio Holder for Property and Climate Change and Income Generation, responded that it was very unfortunate that there had been a number of issues arising with the completion of this property sale involving third party organisations. Utilities and Land Registry records appeared to have held either incomplete or inaccurate information, which had taken time to resolve before the sale could complete. Both the purchaser and SSDC were very keen for the matter to conclude, so that the property could be put back into use as soon as possible for the benefit of the local economy. The issues had been regularly progressed and followed up, however SSDC had no control over third party response times. It was understood there was only an access rights matter that now remained outstanding and were therefore hopeful of completion early in the New Year if not before.

A resident of North Perrott asked what South Somerset District Council were planning to do in response to the recent UN statement that "we have 12 years to limit the rising global temperature to 1.5 degrees, or face runaway climate change". He noted that a number of councils had declared a Climate Change Emergency including Bristol and London City Councils and asked SSDC to urgently review the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Councillor Henry Hobhouse, Portfolio Holder for Property and Climate Change and Income Generation, responded that since 2011, SSDC had invested in low-carbon technology including Thin Client servers which used 30% less energy, and Photovoltaic panels on SSDC buildings. He noted that the shortage of Transmission Lines in the Yeovil area was holding up the switch to electric vehicles and SSDC had invested in a battery storage scheme to store excess energy for when it was needed. He said the electric charging points in SSDC car parks would be supplied with PV panels and battery storage and the Council would be announcing further plans in February 2019.

68. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 5)

There were no announcements from the Chairman.

69. Chairman's Engagements (Agenda Item 6)

The list of Chairman's engagements were noted.

70. Presentation from the Income Generation Board (Agenda Item 7)

The Portfolio Holder for Property, Climate Change and Income Generation introduced James Divall, Income Opportunity Development Manager within the Commercial Services and Income Generation team to present the work of the team.

The Income Opportunity Development Manager provided a short power point presentation, advising that his team were working on

- Supporting new business cases & feasibility studies
- Reviewing & adjust (if needed) SSDC Pricing policy, fees & offerings
- Developing plans (where possible) for 'full cost recovery' or profitability on all traded statutory services with quantification of financial impact
- A framework & campaign for progressing new propositions from staff and residents for income generation ideas (#WeShape)
- Reviewing opportunities to bid for external funding including using Grant Finder
- Investigating and establishing opportunities for staff commercial awareness training across the organisation
- Establishing a frame work for a SSDC trading vehicle for new revenue streams.

He concluded that his target was to increase income by £250,000 and review the 5% annual yield improvements across SSDC services.

In response to questions from Members, the Income Opportunity Development Manager advised:-

- The target was to increase income by £250,000 by 2021
- He would be working with service managers to ensure their services were fully costed for the actual cost
- A productivity expert would help to review the fees and charges and produce a toolkit for managers for the future.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Chairman thanked the Income Opportunity Development Manager for attending and updating Members on the work of the service.

71. Heart of the South West (HotSW) - Joint Committee - Council Update (Agenda Item 8)

The Leader of Council advised that the Heart of the South West (HotSW) – Joint Committee had been established to improve productivity in the area and to influence Government. They had agreed a challenging ambition to double the size of the economy in the South West over 20 years with a vision of productivity and prosperity for all. There were three cross cutting themes on inclusive growth, capitalising on distinctive assets and to maximise the potential from digital technology. The Local Industrial Strategy was key to this as it encouraged joint working with combined authorities and it had been expanded to include the nuclear and aerospace industries.

During discussion, the following points were made:-

- Priorities would be set by this partnership and SSDC was one of 14 councils who must work to get the maximum from it for the area.
- The Growth Board must work as a team to come up with projects it wishes to progress with money from the Local Enterprise Partnership.
- Concerned that the Great South West Partnership would become another quango and projects could fall between authorities.
- Concern this was creating another layer of Government.
- Pleased to see that aerospace was now included as a priority under the Local Industrial Strategy and Smart specialisations.

At the conclusion of the debate, the Leader of Council said that the cost of £1,400 to SSDC for administration of the Joint Committee was a small price for inclusion in the partnership.

RESOLVED: That Full Council agreed to:-

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

Reason: To note the progress of the work of the Heart of the South West (HotSW) Joint Committee, endorse the HotSW Local Industrial Strategy (LIS), note the Budget statement for 2018/19 set out in Appendix B and agree the cost sharing agreement.

(Voting: 32 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions)

72. Report of Executive Decisions (Agenda Item 9)

The report of executive decisions was noted.

73. Motions (Agenda Item 10)

There were no Motions submitted by Members.

74. Questions Under Procedure Rule 10 (Agenda Item 11)

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.

75. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 12)

Members noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Full Council would take place on **Thursday, 17th January 2019** in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil **commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

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Chairman

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Date