

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **South Somerset District Council** held on **Tuesday 26 February 2019** in the Council Chamber - Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

(7.30 pm - 9.00 pm)

Present:

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

Clare Paul	Henry Hobhouse	David Recardo
Jason Baker	Kaysar Hussain (to 8.40pm)	Jo Roundell Greene
Cathy Bakewell	Val Keitch	Dean Ruddle (to 8.30pm)
Neil Bloomfield	Andy Kendall	Sylvia Seal
Amanda Broom	Jenny Kenton	Gina Seaton
Dave Bulmer	Mike Lewis	Peter Seib
Hayward Burt	Mike Lock	Angie Singleton
John Clark	Tony Lock	Sue Steele
Nick Colbert	Paul Maxwell	Rob Stickland
Adam Dance	Graham Middleton	Andrew Turpin
Gye Dibben	David Norris	Martin Wale
Sarah Dyke	Graham Oakes	William Wallace
John Field	Sue Osborne	Nick Weeks
Nigel Gage	Stephen Page	Derek Yeomans
Carol Goodall	Ric Pallister	
Peter Gubbins	Wes Read	

Officers:

Alex Parmley	Chief Executive
Netta Meadows	Director (Strategy & Support Services)
Martin Woods	Director (Service Delivery)
Angela Watson	Monitoring Officer
Paul Fitzgerald	Section 151 Officer
Nicola Hix	Lead Specialist (Finance)
Jan Gamon	Lead Specialist (Strategic Planning)
Peter Paddon	Lead Specialist (Economy)
Angela Cox	Democratic Services Specialist

92. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marcus Barrett, Mike Beech, Anna Groskop, Sarah Lindsay, Sam McAllister, Tiffany Osborne, Crispin Raikes, Garry Shortland, Alan Smith, Gerard Tucker, Linda Vijeh and Colin Winder.

93. Minutes (Agenda Item 2)

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 17th January 2019, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as correct records of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

94. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

95. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)

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

96. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 5)

There were no announcements from the Chairman.

97. Chairman's Engagements (Agenda Item 6)

The list of Chairman's engagements were noted.

98. SSDC Council Plan Update 2019-20 (Agenda Item 7)

The Leader of Council introduced the report and thanked officers for their work in producing a user friendly Council Plan which clearly set out the priorities for the following year.

During discussion, the following points were made:-

- The change in the amount of employment land in the Local Plan had been debated at workshops and was the result of extensive consultation and surveys.
- The Area Chapters could be renamed Area Volumes.
- Parish Councils were having some difficulty accessing planning applications on the new website and were also having difficulty contacting planning officers.
- Although regeneration was mentioned in the corporate priorities, they were not mentioned in the Area Chapters.
- There could be greater emphasis on agriculture and the food industry>.

At the conclusion of the debate, Members unanimously confirmed the updated Council Plan and key performance indicators for 2019-20.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- a) agreed the updated Council Plan and key performance indicators for 2019-20;
- b) noted the detailed milestones and desired outcomes for each Priority Project;

- c) agreed the Area Chapters;
- d) agreed the Key Performance Indicators and performance monitoring plan.

Reason: To agree the adoption of the South Somerset District Council (SSDC) Council Plan 2019-20, together with a revised set of Key Performance Indicators.

(Voting: unanimous in favour)

99. SSDC Economic Development Strategy (2019 - 2028) (Agenda Item 8)

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Economic Development introduced the report and advised that the strategy was the result of very detailed and informative work and it was a most comprehensive and well evidenced Economic Development Strategy. Funding had been set aside in the budget for the regeneration plans and partnership working was key to their success.

In response to a question, the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Economic Development advised that the agri-food sector was mentioned in the strategy and a section on climate change mitigation would also be added.

At the conclusion of the debate, the majority of Members were content to approve the Economic Development Strategy 2019 – 2028 and delegate any necessary final amendments to the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Economic Development and Transformation with the appropriate Director/s and the Lead Specialist Economy.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- i) Approved the Economic Development Strategy 2019 – 2028.
- ii) Delegated authority to the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Economic Development and Transformation to make any necessary final amendments to the EDS in association with the appropriate Director/s and the Lead Specialist Economy.

Reason: To approve the Economic Development Strategy (EDS) 2019-28 which sets out the vision, key outcomes, priority themes and action plan to deliver economic development over the next ten years.

(Voting: 33 in favour, 10 against, 3 abstentions)

100. 2019/20 Revenue and Capital Budgets and Medium Term Financial Plan (Agenda Item 9)

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Legal Services introduced the report and provided a comprehensive overview of the financial position of the Council. He drew Members attention to the Section 151 officer's comments at page 56 and the movement of money into reserves to cover risk and the future payback of Rate Support Grant in the future.

During discussion, it was noted that recommendation C should refer to paragraph 54 and a small correction in the table at page 49 which should be a minus figure.

In response to questions from Members, the Section 151 Officers confirmed that funding previously set aside for flooding issues was within the Revenue Grants reserve of £691,000 on page 51 and this could be listed by individual reserve.

At the conclusion of the debate, a named vote was taken and Members unanimously confirmed the Council's revenue budget and council tax increase for 2019/20.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (a) approved the Net Revenue Budget for 2019/20 of **£16,197,800**, as set out in the Revenue Account Summary (paragraph 46) and in detail in Appendix A for the District Executive and four Area Committees, subject to any final amendments;
- (b) approved the 2019/20 Council tax annual increase of 2.85%, increasing the annual Band D rate by £4.63 to £167.11. Full Council to note this new annual rate comprises £165.26 for SSDC services, raising £9,959,571, and £1.85 on behalf of the Somerset Rivers Authority, raising £111,492.
- (c) approved the reprioritisation of £2.5m from the MTFP support fund to Regeneration as detailed in paragraph 54.
- (d) approved the additions to the Capital Programme for new capital bids of £1.7395m as shown in Appendix D.

Reason: To approve the Council's proposed budget and council tax for 2019/20.

(Voting: unanimous in favour)

101. Council Tax Setting 2019-20 (Agenda Item 10)

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Legal Services introduced the report noting that this was the formal resolution to agree the Council tax for 2019/20.

Councillor Martin Wale, as the Council's representative on the Police Crime Panel, advised that they had reluctantly agreed the Police Crime Commissioners proposed budget increase of £12.00.

It was also noted that the Yeovil Town Council precept on page 156 was £1,033,517.

At the conclusion of the debate, a named vote was taken and Members unanimously confirmed the Council tax increase for 2019/20.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- a. Approved the formal council tax resolutions referred to in paragraphs 5 to 14
- b. Approved the individual tax settings as follows:
 - i. that the **Somerset County Council; Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset and Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority** has stated that amounts shown in paragraphs 8 to 11 respectively of this report in precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Act 1992 (as amended), for each of the categories of dwelling:
 - ii. that the **total amount** of council tax for each band of property in the South Somerset area for 2019/20 be as given in the table below:

A-	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
950.66	1,140.78	1,330.90	1,521.04	1,711.17	2,091.44	2,471.68	2,851.96	3,422.34

NB The above figures exclude all **town/parish precepts**. The Police & Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset approved their figures on the 5th February 2019, Somerset Fire and Rescue on the 19th February 2019 and Somerset County Council on the 20th February 2019.

- iii. that, having calculated the totals of each precepting authority's amounts (including town and parish precepts), The Council (in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Act 1992) (as amended) hereby sets the amounts shown at **TOTAL** in the table shown at Appendix A as the council taxes for the financial year 2019/20 for each category of dwelling.
- c. Noted that the formal Council Tax Resolution was approved, and the total Band D Council Tax as follows:

	2018/19 £	2019/20 £	Increase %
South Somerset District Council	162.48	167.11	2.85
Somerset County Council	1,115.99	1,151.64	3.99
Somerset County Council (Adult Social Care)	76.17	88.09	
Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset	193.81	217.81	12.38
Devon And Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority	84.01	86.52	2.99
	1,632.46	1,711.17	4.82%
Town and Parish Council (average)	87.15	91.05	4.48%
	1,719.61	1,802.22	4.80%

Reason: To approve the calculation and setting of the Council Tax for 2019/20

(Voting: unanimous in favour)

102. SSDC Capital Strategy 2019-20 (Agenda Item 11)

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Legal Services introduced the report and advised that Council were required to approve the annual capital strategy before the start of the financial year in line with the revised CIPFA Prudential Code.

There was no debate and Members unanimously approved 2019/20 capital strategy and the borrowing and investment limits.

RESOLVED: That Full Council approved the 2019/20 capital strategy and the borrowing and investment limits contained within.

Reason: To approve the annual capital strategy before the start of the financial year in line with the revised CIPFA Prudential Code.

(Voting: unanimous in favour)

103. SSDC Investment Strategy 2019-20 (Agenda Item 12)

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Legal Services introduced the report and advised that the income from the Council's investments was contributing more than £1m income to the budget. He noted that paragraphs 59 to 62 of the report covered the financial guarantees.

In response to questions from Members, the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Legal Services and the Section 151 Officer confirmed:-

- The cost of the Council's property team and the cost of repaying capital and interest were netted off the return on the Council's investments.
- The South West Audit Partnership would review the Council's investments and although their final report was not yet complete, they had given a good level of assurance.

The Portfolio Holder for Property and Climate Change and Income Generation advised that Treasury Management investments and Commercial investments were not the same. He also advised that he had rejected some proposed commercial investments as they were not promising the rate of return expected.

At the conclusion of the debate, the majority of Members were content to confirm the Investment Strategy for 2019/20

RESOLVED: That Full Council approved the Investment Strategy for 2019/20.

Reason: To approve the Investment Strategy for 2019/20 by 31 March as a mandatory requirement of the revised Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments (3rd edition) issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2 February 2018.

(Voting: 29 in favour, 16 against, 1 abstention)

104. Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2019-20, Prudential Indicators and Annual MRP Statement (Agenda Item 13)

The Chairman of the Audit Committee confirmed that the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2019/20 had been discussed and agreed by them.

The Section 151 Officer paid tribute to the Lead Specialist – Finance and her team of Specialist Finance officers for their work in compiling the numerous financial reports on the Agenda.

There was no debate and the majority of Members were content to confirm the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2019/20 and approve the Capital prudential indicators and the annual MRP statement.

RESOLVED: That Full Council:

- (a) approved the details of the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2019/20 as set out in Appendix 1.
- (b) noted and approved the Capital prudential indicators and the annual MRP statement as set out in Appendix 2.

Reason: To approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2019/20.

(Voting: 45 in favour, 1 against, 0 abstentions)

105. Statutory Pay Policy Statement for Chief Officers 2019 20 (Agenda Item 13a)

The Leader of Council thanked the Section 151 Officer for his work in co-ordinating the many finance reports on the Agenda. She advised that Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011 required English local authorities to produce an annual statutory pay policy statement. The policy helped towards securing and retaining high quality staff.

The Leader of the Conservative group seconded the recommendations and also thanked the Section 151 Officer and his team for their work on the budget reports.

There was no debate and Members unanimously approved the proposed Statutory Pay Policy Statement for publication.

RESOLVED: That Full Council approved the proposed Statutory Pay Policy Statement for publication.

Reason: Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011 requires English local authorities to produce an annual statutory pay policy statement.

(Voting: unanimous in favour)

106. Report of Executive Decisions (Agenda Item 14)

The report of executive decisions was noted.

107. Audit Committee (Agenda Item 15)

Councillor Derek Yeomans, Chairman of the Audit Committee, presented the report of the Committee.

The report of the Audit Committee was noted.

108. Scrutiny Committee (Agenda Item 16)

Councillor Sue Steele, Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, presented the report of the Committee. She noted that the Private Members Bill sponsored by David Warburton MP regarding the Somerset Rivers Authority had passed its second reading in the House of Commons.

The report of the Scrutiny Committee was noted.

109. Motions (Agenda Item 17)

There were no Motions submitted by Members.

110. Questions Under Procedure Rule 10 (Agenda Item 18)

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.

111. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 19)

Members noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Full Council would take place on **Thursday, 21st March 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