

**Somerset West and Taunton Shadow Council – Decisions taken by the SWT Executive on Wednesday, 22 January 2020**

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
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**Part A – Items considered in public**

A6	Somerset Waste Partnership Draft Business Plan 2020-25 and Variations to the Inter-Authority Agreement	<p><b>Resolved</b> that the Executive approved:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The Somerset Waste Partnership’s Draft Business Plan 2020-25;</li> <li>2) The projected budget for 2020-21 subject to the finalisation of the figures; and</li> <li>3) The variations to the Inter-Authority Agreement.</li> </ol>
A7	Taunton Strategic Flood Alleviation Improvements Scheme - Phase 2	<p><b>Resolved</b> that Executive:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Accepted the findings of the project development plan report and endorsed the recommended strategic and long term approach to the management of flood risk in Taunton, listed in section 6 of the non-technical summary;</li> <li>2) In partnership with EA to progress the identified short term priorities of: Longrun Meadow, the town centre defence improvements on the left bank of the River Tone (Frieze Hill to Town Bridge) and Firepool Lock to an appropriate design standard to secure the necessary consents and implementation;</li> <li>3) Sought the approval of Full Council for the allocation of £6,000,000 capital funding from already earmarked Community Infrastructure Levy, New Homes Bonus and s106 contributions, to be apportioned in consultation with the S151 Officer, to progress the identified short term priorities of Longrun Meadow and improvements to the left bank of the River Tone (Frieze Hill to Town Bridge);</li> <li>4) Used the project development plan as a basis for future investment planning. To develop a funding strategy to support implementation of the entire preferred approach, noting that a number of schemes had wider benefits such as increased bio-diversity and public amenity that might attract sources of funding other than flood defence related. Work with partners and stakeholders including the Environment Agency to secure appropriate national ‘Flood Defence Grant in Aid’ ((FDGiA) and Local Levy; Somerset River Authority grant; as well as partnership opportunities with Somerset County Council, Wessex Water; Natural England; Canal and Rivers Trust and others towards those schemes;</li> </ol>

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		<p>5) Noted that consultation and engagement would take place with residents, stakeholders and partners on the individual schemes in the preferred approach as they progressed to detailed design and necessary consents for implementation; and</p> <p>6) Supported the appointment of dedicated project management capacity, to be funded from the capital allocation referred to above for an initial period of two years, to secure the necessary expertise and approvals to progress the shorter term priorities identified in recommendation 3, and to identify funding and wider opportunities as they arose.</p>
A8	Purchase of Otterford B Gypsy and Traveller Transit Site	<b>Resolved</b> that the Executive deferred the item for further investigation.
A9	East Quay Wall	<p><b>Recommended</b> that the Executive requested Full Council approve the following additions to the Capital Programme, which would be funded through borrowing:</p> <p>1) Add the following to the Capital Programme for 2019/20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The sum of £100,000 be allocated to the wall design works at Splash Point; and</li> <li>b. The sum of £100,000 be allocated to the wall design works at East Quay.</li> </ul> <p>2) Add the following to the Capital Programme for 2020/21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The sum of £500,000 be allocated to reinforce the East Quay wall in the central section; and</li> <li>b. The sum of £40,000 for project management resource to deliver this project to its conclusion.</li> </ul>
A10	Budget Update and Outline Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21	<p><b>Resolved</b> that Executive:-</p> <p>1) Noted and considered the latest Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan</p>

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		<p>forecasts and the areas to be finalised; and</p> <p>2) Supported the MTFP bids and savings targets/proposals, considering feedback from the Scrutiny Committee, and resolved to finalise balanced budget proposals for presentation to Scrutiny, Executive and Full Council in February 2020.</p>
<b>A11</b>	Budget Monitoring	<b>Resolved</b> that Executive noted the Council's forecast financial performance and projected reserves position for 2019/20 financial year as at 30 November 2019.
<b>A12</b>	Housing Revenue Account Business Plan	<p>Executive <b>recommended</b> that Council:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Approved the revised 30 year Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan as set out in this report;</li> <li>2) Approved the proposed vision for the Housing service along with three new service Objectives;</li> <li>3) Approved the proposed Housing Revenue Account Rent Setting policy 2020;</li> <li>4) Increased rents i.e. social formula and affordable by CPI plus 1%, in line with the Regulator of Social Housing's new standard; and</li> <li>5) Approved the use of flexibility on social formula rents, to be applied when properties are re-let to tenants new to the Council.</li> </ol>
<b>A13</b>	Housing Revenue Account Budget Estimates 2020/21	<p>Executive <b>recommended</b> to Council:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) In accordance with the Regulator of Social Housing's new Rent Standard from April 2020, the Dwelling Rent for 2020/21 for existing tenants would be an increase of CPI+1% to the average weekly rent, from £80.87 per week to £83.05 per week;</li> <li>2) In accordance with the Regulator of Social Housing's new Rent Standard from April 2020, the Dwelling Rent for 2020/21 for new tenants only would be an</li> </ol>

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		<p>increase of CPI+1% plus an additional 5% for general needs to the average weekly rent, from £80.87 per week to £87.21 per week;</p> <p>3) In accordance with the Regulator of Social Housing’s new Rent Standard from April 2020, the Dwelling Rent for 2020/21 for new tenants only would be an increase of CPI+1% plus an additional 10% for sheltered/supported and extra care dwelling rents to the average weekly rent, from £80.87 per week to £91.36 per week;</p> <p>4) To increase non-dwelling rent and service charges in line with national policy by CPI+1% for 2020/21, with the exception of garages for private and shared ownerships tenants which would increase from £10.32 (including VAT) to £12.00 (including VAT);</p> <p>5) To approve the HRA Annual Revenue Budget for 2020/21; and</p> <p>6) To approve the HRA Capital Programme for 2020/21.</p>
<b>A14</b>	Access to Information - Exclusion of the Press and Public	<b>Resolved</b> that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the item numbered 15 on the Agenda as the items contained exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972, and the public interest in withholding the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.
<b>A15</b>	Housing Revenue Account Acquisitions	<b>Resolved</b> that Executive approved the confidential recommendations.