

# COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council held in the Council Chamber, Shire Hall, Taunton on Wednesday 20 February 2019 at 10.00 am

**Present:** Present: Cllr C Aparicio Paul, Cllr M Best, Cllr N Bloomfield, Cllr A Bown, Cllr A Broom, Cllr M Caswell, Cllr M Chilcott, Cllr J Clarke, Cllr P Clayton (Vice-Chair), Cllr S Coles, Cllr A Dance, Cllr H Davies, Cllr M Dimery, Cllr B Filmer, Cllr D Fothergill, Cllr G Fraschini, Cllr A Govier, Cllr A Groskop, Cllr D Hall, Cllr P Ham, Cllr M Healey, Cllr N Hewitt-Cooper, Cllr James Hunt, Cllr John Hunt, Cllr D Huxtable, Cllr M Keating, Cllr A Kendall, Cllr C Lawrence, Cllr M Lewis, Cllr L Leyshon, Cllr J Lock, Cllr T Lock, Cllr D Loveridge, Cllr T Munt, Cllr T Napper, Cllr F Nicholson, Cllr G Noel, Cllr L Oliver, Cllr J Parham, Cllr F Purbrick, Cllr L Redman, Cllr B Revans, Cllr M Rigby, Cllr N Taylor, Cllr J Thorne, Cllr G Verdon, Cllr L Vijeh, Cllr W Wallace (Chair), Cllr A Wedderkopp, Cllr J Williams, Cllr R Williams and Cllr J Woodman

## 112 **Apologies for Absence** - Agenda Item 1

Apologies for absence were received from: Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey, Cllr Mike Pullin, Cllr Dean Ruddle.

## 113 **Declarations of Interest** - Agenda Item 2

(1) Members' written notifications of interests were affixed to the Notice Board at the back of the Council Chamber for the duration of the meeting.

(2) Members were reminded that the Monitoring Officer had granted a dispensation to enable all elected members to participate and vote on setting the budget, council tax levels and the Members Allowance Scheme. Any member who had an amount of Council Tax due to be paid which had been unpaid for at least two months needed to declare they could not take part in the vote relating to the Revenue Budget.

## 114 **Minutes from the Council meeting held on 28 November and the Extraordinary meeting on 28 November 2018** - Agenda Item 3

(1) The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2018 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 28 November were accepted as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair of the meeting.

## 115 **Chair's Announcements** - Agenda Item 4

(1) The Chair informed members of the visits he had made in December, January and February and thanked the Vice-Chair for attending those events he was unable to.

(2) Members were also informed of the sad passing of Lord Paddy Ashdown, who was MP for Yeovil from 1983 to 2001 and Alan Dimmick, who was the County Councillor for Yeovil Central from 2013 to 2017.

(3) Councillor Jane Lock, who knew Lord Ashdown personally paid tribute to him outlining his career, achievements and personality.

(4) The Leader of the Council paid tribute to former County Councillor Alan Dimmick and commented on his commitment to his division, his desire for answers, contribution to the council, and his character.

(5) Members stood for a minute's silence in remembrance.

116 **Public Question Time - Agenda Item 5**

- (1) Public Questions / Statements / Petitions (under 5000 signatures) and elected member questions: Notice was received of questions / statements / petitions regarding: Public Questions / Statements:

**1. Outsourcing Oversight/ Revenue Budget**

From Nigel Behan

Responses from Cllr Faye Purbrick, Cabinet Member for Education and Transformation and Cllr Mandy Chilcott, Cabinet Member for Resources

**2. S151 Remuneration**

From Kevin Greenwood

Responses from Cllr Mandy Chilcott, Cabinet Member for Resources

**3. Get Set**

From Elvira Elliot

Response from Cllr Frances Nicholson, Cabinet Member for Children and Families

**4. Young Carers**

From Marianne and Gracie Evans

Response from Cllr Frances Nicholson, Cabinet Member for Children and Families

**5. Young Carers**

From Holly Baker

Response from Cllr Frances Nicholson, Cabinet Member for Children and Families

**6. Discovery**

From Eva Bryczkowski

Response from Cllr David Huxtable, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Full details of the questions and responses given at the meeting and / or in writing following the meeting are set out in Appendix A to these Minutes.

117 **Report of the Leader and Cabinet – for decision - Agenda Item 6**

- (1) The Council considered a report by the Leader and Cabinet which set out the recommendations to Council regarding the Capital Programme following consideration at Cabinet on 23 January, the expansion of the Capital Strategy, the Revenue Budget, and the Treasury Management Strategy Statement following consideration at Cabinet on 11 February.
- (2) The Leader, Cllr Fothergill, reminded members that difficult budget decisions had been taken in September 2018. It had been vital these

decisions were taken and as a result the current circumstances the Council was in now was much changed from 5 months ago.

- (3) The budget being put before councillors for their consideration was sound and met financial challenges and put the council back on sound financial footing.
- (4) There was some discussion about the repercussions of decisions on local residents, borrowing debts and the cost of servicing them, and costs of waste vehicles. There would be further challenges ahead with Brexit and the local government funding model. He proposed the recommendations in the reports to the Council.
- (5) The Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr Chilcott introduced the reports and explained that the Capital Strategy proposals were still being fully formulated and therefore agreement was being sought to key officers and members to design the arrangements for approval by Council before the end of July 2019.
- (6) The Council would continue to invest in Somerset providing new school places, transport infrastructure and improve facilities to meet the needs of the community and support continued economic growth.
- (7) There would be continued commitment to driving value from all the treasury management activities, keeping the council's money safe and working it hard. She seconded the recommendations with the reports.
- (8) The budget proposals had been presented to the scrutiny committees, Audit Committee, and Cabinet. The proposals had been given a lot of thought and it was proposed to raise council tax by 2.99%. The Director of Finance's comment at 6.12 was in particularly highlighted.
- (9) Members were informed that Somerset Waste Board had already agreed to make the savings recommended at recommendation 8 of the Revenue Budget at Paper C so the wording needed to be changed to endorsed.
- (10) The Director of Finance and his team were commended for their hard work and members were urged to heed their advice.
- (11) Cllr Liz Leyshon proposed an amendment to the budget recommendations in Paper C for the addition of a further one-off £500,000 to the ring-fenced Prevention reserve with a view to scoping and commissioning work in the following areas:
  - Pilot with partners into impacts of universal credit and possible SCC approaches to increase families' resilience, thereby reducing future pressures on the council up to £200,000 as a one-off figure
  - Increasing ability of Council to develop seed-grants to communities to lead to a redesign of young carers support – an additional £100,000
  - County ticket review, looking to encourage young people to use bus rather than cars – an amount up to £170,000
  - Access to specialist finance advice relating to the investment strategy – up to £30,000

- (12) Cllr Tessa Munt seconded this and the Section 151 Officer offered assurance that Somerset County Council will be able to allocate sufficient additional funding on a one-off basis.
- (13) The Leader and the Deputy Leader agreed there were some good ideas in the amendment but were concerned that this had not been fully costed or worked out.
- (14) Cllr Chilcott proposed and was seconded by Cllr Faye Purbrick that a further amendment be made that: The Council approves the addition of a further one-off £500,000 to the ring-fenced Prevention reserve with a view to considering additional projects aimed at increasing residents' resilience and reducing demand on services.
- (15) There was further discussion about the amount of detail needed in the amendment and concern at the lack of it in the further amendment proposed and also about being too proscriptive.
- (16) Cllr Leyshon then proposed an amendment to her proposal to take out any reference to specific sums allocated to specific projects within the prevention reserve and to take out the words scoping and commissioning work and replace with the word 'exploring'. The amendment asked for Council to approve the addition of a further one-off £500,000 to the ring-fenced Prevention reserve with a view to exploring work in the following areas:
- Pilot with partners into impacts of universal credit and possible SCC approaches to increase families' resilience, thereby reducing future pressures on the council
  - Increasing ability of Council to develop seed-grants to communities to lead to a redesign of young carers support
  - County ticket review, looking to encourage young people to use bus rather than cars
  - Access to specialist finance advice relating to the investment strategy
- (17) Cllr Munt seconded this amendment. All members had been emailed with a copy of the proposal.
- (18) A named vote was requested and was supported by more than 10 members. Votes cast as follows:

| <b>For</b>      | <b>Against</b>     |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Cllr Best       | Cllr Aparicio Paul |
| Cllr Bloomfield | Cllr Bown          |
| Cllr Broom      | Cllr Clayton       |
| Cllr Clarke     | Cllr Caswell       |
| Cllr Coles      | Cllr Chilcott      |
| Cllr Dance      | Cllr Filmer        |
| Cllr Davies     | Cllr Fothergill    |
| Cllr Dimery     | Cllr Fraschini     |
| Cllr Govier     | Cllr Groskop       |
| Cllr John Hunt  | Cllr Hall          |
| Cllr Kendall    | Cllr Ham           |
| Cllr Leyshon    | Cllr Healey        |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Cllr Jane Lock<br>Cllr Tony Lock<br>Cllr Munt<br>Cllr Redman<br>Cllr Revans<br>Cllr Rigby<br>Cllr Wedderkopp | Cllr Hewitt-Cooper<br>Cllr James Hunt<br>Cllr Huxtable<br>Cllr Keating<br>Cllr Lawrence<br>Cllr Lewis<br>Cllr Napper<br>Cllr Nicholson<br>Cllr Noel<br>Cllr Oliver<br>Cllr Parham<br>Cllr Purbrick<br>Cllr Ruddle<br>Cllr Taylor<br>Cllr Verdon<br>Cllr Vijeh<br>Cllr Wallace<br>Cllr J Williams<br>Cllr R Williams<br>Cllr Woodman |
|--|---|

(19) The Monitoring Officer declared that the votes were 20 in favour with 31 against and no abstentions and so that amendment was not carried.

(20) Members were then asked to vote on the second amendment put forward by Cllr Chilcott and seconded by Cllr Purbrick: 'The Council approves the addition of a further one-off £500,000 to the ring-fenced Prevention reserve with a view to considering additional projects aimed at increasing residents' resilience and reducing demand on services.'

(21) Votes cast as follows:

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>For</b><br>Cllr Aparicio Paul<br>Cllr Best<br>Cllr Bloomfield<br>Cllr Bown<br>Cllr Broom<br>Cllr Caswell<br>Cllr Chilcott<br>Cllr Clarke<br>Cllr Clayton<br>Cllr Coles<br>Cllr Dance<br>Cllr Dimery<br>Cllr Filmer<br>Cllr Fothergill<br>Cllr Fraschini<br>Cllr Govier<br>Cllr Groskop<br>Cllr Hall<br>Cllr Ham | <b>Against</b><br>Cllr Davies |
|--|-------------------------------|

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p> Cllr Healey<br/> Cllr Hewitt-Cooper<br/> Cllr James Hunt<br/> Cllr John Hunt<br/> Cllr Huxtable<br/> Cllr Keating<br/> Cllr Kendall<br/> Cllr Lawrence<br/> Cllr Lewis<br/> Cllr Leyshon<br/> Cllr Jane Lock<br/> Cllr Tony Lock<br/> Cllr Loveridge<br/> Cllr Munt<br/> Cllr Napper<br/> Cllr Nicholson<br/> Cllr Noel<br/> Cllr Oliver<br/> Cllr Parham<br/> Cllr Purbrick<br/> Cllr Redman<br/> Cllr Revans<br/> Cllr Rigby<br/> Cllr Taylor<br/> Cllr Verdon<br/> Cllr Vijeh<br/> Cllr Wallace<br/> Cllr Wedderkopp<br/> Cllr J Williams<br/> Cllr R Williams<br/> Cllr Woodman </p> |  |
|--|--|

- (22) The Monitoring Officer declared that the votes were 50 in favour with 1 against and no abstentions and so that amendment was carried and would be added to the Paper C motions that members would vote on later.
- (23) There was some discussion regarding the need for transparency on how the money will be spent and reassurance was given that it would be.
- (24) Cllr Fothergill proposed the recommendations for Papers A to D and was seconded by Cllr Chilcott.
- (25) Members were then asked to vote on Paper A Capital Strategy 2019/20 – 2021/22. The Council RESOLVED unanimously to agree:
1. the Capital Strategy 2019/20-2021/22, and the prudential indicators contained within Paper A (as set out in Appendix 1);
  2. to delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader, Opposition Spokesperson for Resources, Monitoring Officer and County Solicitor, to design the governance arrangements and remit of the non-treasury investments for recommendation to, and approval by, the Cabinet and the Council before the end of July 2019.

- (26) Members were then asked to vote on Paper B Capital Programme 2019/20 – 2021/2. The Council RESOLVED unanimously to agree:
1. Approval of the proposed capital programme for the period 2019/20 to 2022/23 of £224.121m, shown in Appendix A. Full details of individual schemes are available online as background papers. It is to be noted there is an existing programme approved in 2018/19 that overlaps with this one;
  2. That the Chief Executive and the relevant Senior Leadership Team Officer, following appropriate consultation and after giving due regard to the information contained within any associated impact assessments, are given delegated authority to decide on the individual projects to be delivered within block allocations;
  3. That the Section 151 Officer is given delegated authority to accept any additional grants or funding that is made available to the County Council together with authority to consequently expand the approved capital programme, providing there are no negative revenue budget implications as a result of that action.
- (27) The Revenue Budget and the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2019/20-2021/22 Paper C was put to the vote with addition of the amendment agreed earlier and the change in wording regarding the savings target for waste disposal costs.

(28) Votes were cast as follows:

| <b>For</b>         | <b>Against</b>  |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Cllr Aparicio Paul | Cllr Bloomfield |
| Cllr Bown          | Cllr Clarke     |
| Cllr Clayton       | Cllr Coles      |
| Cllr Caswell       | Cllr Dance      |
| Cllr Chilcott      | Cllr Govier     |
| Cllr Filmer        | Cllr John Hunt  |
| Cllr Fothergill    | Cllr Kendall    |
| Cllr Frascini      | Cllr Revans     |
| Cllr Groskop       | Cllr Rigby      |
| Cllr Hall          |                 |
| Cllr Ham           |                 |
| Cllr Healey        |                 |
| Cllr Hewitt-Cooper |                 |
| Cllr James Hunt    |                 |
| Cllr Huxtable      |                 |
| Cllr Keating       |                 |
| Cllr Lawrence      |                 |
| Cllr Lewis         |                 |
| Cllr Napper        |                 |
| Cllr Nicholson     |                 |
| Cllr Noel          |                 |
| Cllr Oliver        |                 |
| Cllr Parham        |                 |
| Cllr Purbrick      |                 |
| Cllr Taylor        |                 |
| Cllr Verdon        |                 |
| Cllr Vijeh         |                 |
| Cllr Wallace       |                 |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Cllr J Williams<br>Cllr R Williams<br>Cllr Woodman   |  |
| <b>Abstain</b><br>Cllr Best<br>Cllr Broom<br>Cllr Davies<br>Cllr Dimery<br>Cllr Leyshon<br>Cllr Jane Lock<br>Cllr Tony Lock<br>Cllr Loveridge<br>Cllr Munt<br>Cllr Redman<br>Cllr Wedderkopp |  |

(29) The Monitoring Officer declared that the votes were 31 in favour with 9 against and 11 abstentions and so the recommendations including the amendment were carried.

(30) The Council **RESOLVED** to:

1. Agree a gross revenue budget of £780.181m and a net revenue budget in 2019/20 of £327.967m
2. Agree the application of up to £2.791m in 2019/20 of capital receipts to fund the revenue costs associated with reforming services, subject to further development and review of business cases.
3. Delegate authority to the S151 Officer, in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Director for Customers & Communities – Corporate Affairs to review all business cases before agreeing to the use of capital receipts or the Invest to Save reserve.
4. Agree the replenishment of depleted reserves as follows:
  - a. Create Invest to Save earmarked reserve of £2.852m to ensure resources are available to support further service reform;
  - b. Addition of £2.000m to the General Fund, from the base budget provision, to bring the balance up towards a reasonable level for a Council of this size, and;
  - c. Contribute an additional £3.389m to repay the Buildings Maintenance Insurance Scheme (BMIS) deficit reserve as the scheme has now ended;
  - d. Addition of £0.540m to the Insurance Fund to partially replenish the fund to enable it to support likely claims against the Council.
5. Agree the actions required to manage the gap to be reduced to £15.112m in 2019/20:

- the reversal of previously identified savings and technical adjustments totalling £18.154m as set out in paragraph 4.5 and Appendix A
  - approve the revised Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) statement and policy (Appendix B), which delivers a saving in 2019/20 of £3.714m;
  - the reduction of the corporate contingency by £0.575m to £7.226m for 2019/20;
  - the use of the additional one-off Adult Social Care grant of £2.498m to meet the requirements set out by Government for this grant;
  - the use of the additional one-off Social Care grant of £4.267m for social care pressures, and;
  - approve the removal of the staff unpaid leave saving of £0.454m following rejection of the proposal by the Unions.
6. Agree the proposals for change (as set out in Appendices D and E1-E5) necessary to set a balanced budget for 2019/20, totalling £8.162m, and delegate the implementation to the relevant director(s) following due process.
  7. Agree that due regards have been taken to any equalities implications identified and risk implications prior to any decision being taken in relation to the recommendations in this report, noting the initial equalities impacts as set out in Appendix C.
  8. Agree that the savings target relating to Waste Disposal costs (£225k) is endorsed to the Somerset Waste Board to consider agreeing to make savings to this value as part of setting its 2019/20 budget.
  9. Agree the Strategy for the Flexible use of Capital Receipts (CRF) as set out in this report, in section 4.38.
  10. Agree to keep the Scheme of Members' Allowances unchanged for 2019/20.
  11. Note that the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Resources, Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer will oversee and monitor the delivery of the proposals for change and report on progress as part of the budget monitoring reports.
  12. Delegate authority for the development of any additional alternative proposals for change that may be necessary to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and relevant Director(s).
  13. Agree that the Cabinet and the Council have reviewed and confirmed that account has been taken of the Section 151 Officer's assessment of the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves as set out in section 6 of this report.
  14. Agree the Reserves and Balances Policy Statement in Appendix K
  15. Agree to increase the level of the general Council Tax by 2.99%, which will provide a further £7.073m to support the Councils expenditure.

16. Agree to increase Council Tax by a further 1% for the adult social care precept, which will provide a further £2.365m to support the growth in demand for services.
17. Agree to continue the Council Tax precept of £12.84 within the base budget for the shadow Somerset Rivers Authority (representing no increase). This results in a Council Tax Requirement of £2.547m
18. Agree to set the County Council precept for band D Council Tax at £1,239.73 which represents a 3.99% uplift. This is a rise of £0.91 per week for a Band D property, as set out in Appendix H.
19. Note that the amount of council tax payable for dwellings listed by valuation band, calculated in accordance with the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Local Government Act 1992, shall be as follows:

| Valuation Band | Amount (£) |
|----------------|------------|
| A              | 826.48     |
| B              | 964.23     |
| C              | 1,101.98   |
| D              | 1,239.73   |
| E              | 1,515.23   |
| F              | 1,790.72   |
| G              | 2,066.22   |
| H              | 2,479.46   |

20. Agree that the district councils are requested to make payments totalling £245.955m to Somerset County Council of sums due under precepts calculated in proportion to their council tax Band D equivalents as follows:

| District                        | Total Precept (£)     |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mendip District Council         | 50,204,179.15         |
| Sedgemoor District Council      | 50,839,974.83         |
| South Somerset District Council | 74,713,671.47         |
| Somerset West & Taunton         | 70,196,974.55         |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>245,954,800.00</b> |

21. Note that the district councils are required to make payments of precept by equal instalments of the above sums on the following dates:

|    |           |      |    |          |      |
|----|-----------|------|----|----------|------|
| 18 | April     | 2019 | 18 | October  | 2019 |
| 22 | May       | 2019 | 18 | November | 2019 |
| 21 | June      | 2019 | 17 | December | 2019 |
| 22 | July      | 2019 | 20 | January  | 2020 |
| 20 | August    | 2019 | 18 | February | 2020 |
| 19 | September | 2019 | 18 | March    | 2020 |

22. Additionally, note that payments be made by the district councils (or to them) in respect of the estimated surplus/(deficit) on their collection funds by the 31 March 2019 as follows:

| District                          | CT Surplus / (Deficit) (£m) | NNDR Surplus / (Deficit) (£m) |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mendip                            | 1,057,895.00                | (203,931.00)                  |
| Sedgemoor                         | 1,167,384.67                | 13,504.00                     |
| South Somerset                    | (169,962.55)                | 133,579.00                    |
| Somerset West and Taunton Council | 746,092.00                  | 299,679.00                    |
|                                   | 2,801,409.12                | 242,831.00                    |

23. The Council approves the addition of a further one-off £500,000 to the ring-fenced Prevention reserve with a view to considering additional projects aimed at increasing residents resilience and reducing demand on services.

- (31) Members were asked to consider the recommendations within Paper D Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2019-20.

- (32) The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to:

1. Adopt the Treasury Management Strategy (as shown in Section 2 of the report);
2. Approve the Treasury Investment Strategy (as shown in Section 3 of the report) and proposed Lending Counterparty Criteria (attached at Appendix B to Paper D)
3. Adopt the Prudential Treasury Indicators in section 4 of the report.

- (33) The Chair announced there would be a short break in proceedings here at 11.55am. The meeting reconvened at 12.08pm.

#### 118 **Report of the HR Policy Committee – for decision – Agenda Item 7**

- (1) The Council considered a report from the HR Policy Committee which covered two items of business considered at its meeting on 21 January 2019. These were the Pay Policy Statement 2019-20 and the Pension Discretions Policy.
- (2) Members were informed it was a statutory requirement for the Council's Pay Policy Statement to be reviewed annually.
- (3) The HR team were thanked for their work and the recommendations were proposed by Cllr Chilcott and seconded by Cllr Leyshon.
- (4) The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Pay Policy Statement (PPS) for the Council for 2019-20 (attached as Appendix A to this report).

#### 119 **Report of the Monitoring Officer – for decision – Agenda Item 8**

- (1) The Council considered a report from the Monitoring Officer which set out decisions on proposed changes to appointments to committees on outside

bodies, the appointment of a Section 151 Officer and the appointment of a Data Protection Officer.

- (2) The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the changes to Committee and Outside Bodies appointments – see section 3.1 and Appendix 1 to this report.

#### **Appointment of a Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer)**

The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Sheila Collins, Interim Director of Finance, as the Council's Section 151 Officer with effect from 1 March 2019, pending the recruitment of a permanent appointment to the Section 151 Officer role.

#### **Appointment of Data Protection Officer**

The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint the post of Service Manager- Customer Experience & Information Governance, held by Rebecca Martin, as the Council's Data Protection Officer.

- (3) Tribute was paid to Peter Lewis, the current Interim Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer for his hard work over the past year and his help and advice to members.

### 120 **Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Board - Agenda Item 9**

- (1) The Chair invited the Chair of Corporate Parenting Board, Jill Johnson OBE, to present the Board's annual report.
- (2) Members were reminded of the role of the Board to ensure that the County and Districts Councils fulfil their duties towards children looked after and care leavers corporately and in partnership with other statutory agencies.
- (3) The Corporate Parenting Strategy 2016-2019 and annual action plan aligns with and actively promotes the Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2019 and the Sufficiency Statement 2016-2019.
- (4) The Board met bi-monthly throughout the year, receiving regular updates from officers, partners, and the Somerset In Care Council and Somerset Leaving Care Council.
- (5) The Chair of the Board highlighted the many positive outcomes from the work of the Board and sub-groups shown at 4.3 of the report. There would also be further training and awareness raising of corporate parenting activity within SCC, district council and partners.
- (6) The seven principles of Corporate Parenting were also highlighted and there was a plea to promote the need for more foster parents. Members were encouraged to attend meetings and workgroups.
- (7) Cllr Nicholson proposed the recommendations and was seconded by Cllr Redman. The Council **RESOLVED** to:
  - Recommend Corporate Parenting Board training to be mandatory for all Councillors who are members of the Board.

- Recommend that councillors appointed to the Corporate Parenting Board who do not attend Board meetings for three consecutive meetings are reported to Group Leads.
- Invite District Councillor representation on the Corporate Parenting Board to provide support on housing and leisure issues.
- Acknowledge and thank the young people for the work that they undertake.

(8) The Cabinet Member for Children and Families and the Leader thanked Ms Johnson for her work and support.

## 102 **Requisitioned Items – Climate Change Emergency - Agenda Item 10**

- (1) The Chair invited Cllr Tessa Munt to present and propose the requisitioned item about the Climate Change Emergency.
- (2) Cllr Munt informed members of the protest last week by young people regarding this and said low carbon had to become the new norm and people had to be enabled to use the green options.
- (3) It was important that the Council take action and groups who had helped contribute to the report were thanked for assistance.
- (4) Cllr Hall seconded the recommendations and hoped this would receive cross-party support. He reinforced the importance of making sure the goals were achievable and said this had the backing from a number of the Somerset MPs.
- (5) The Chair then invited members of the public who had submitted questions about climate change to speak.
- (6) The following people spoke at the meeting: Timothy Eggins, Melanie Smith, Christopher Maunder, Sigurd Reimers, Bill Butcher, Ian Gauntlett, Callie Gauntlett, and Michael Dunk.
- (7) Cllr Hall responded to the questions.  
A full list of the questions and statements are shown in Appendix A to the minutes.
- (8) There was a debate among members who raised the following points: environmental concerns needed consideration when planning housing developments, important for the Council to lead on this, better public transport was needed and better cycle paths, this was an opportunity to invest in a green future, it was hoped this could be more than tokenism, green initiatives can also yield positive financial effects.
- (9) The Council **RESOLVED** by majority to:
  - a) affirm the Council's recognition of the scale and urgency of the global challenge from climate change, as documented by the latest Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and declares a climate emergency; and
  - b) mandate the Policy and Place Scrutiny Committee to review and recommend what further corporate approaches can be taken through a

SCC Climate Change Strategy and to facilitate stronger Somerset-wide action through collaboration at a strategic, community and individual level; and

- c) pledge to work with partners, including the Heart of the South West LEP, individuals and community action groups across the county to identify ways to make Somerset carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3); and
- d) write to the Secretaries of State for Business Energy & Industrial Strategy, Transport, Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Housing, Communities & Local Government calling for the creation, provision or devolution of powers and resources to make achievement of the 2030 target possible here in Somerset; and
- e) report to Full Council before the end of 2019 with the actions the Council has and will take to address this emergency; and
- f) allocate £25,000 from the Council's 2018/19 contingency budget and authorise the Lead Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure to utilise this funding to resource the work necessary to support Scrutiny Committee for Policies and Place and to assess any specific recommendations and financial implications. Any unspent allocation will be carried forward into 2019/20 to continue the work.

The meeting was adjourned here at 1.30pm.

#### 103 **Report of the Leader and Cabinet – Items for information** – Agenda Item 11

The meeting reconvened at 1.45pm.

- (1) The Council considered a report that summarised the key decisions taken by the Leader and Cabinet Members and officers between 20 November 2018 and 9 February 2019, together with items of business discussed at Cabinet meetings on 19 December 2018, 23 January 2019, and 11 February 2019.
- (2) Cllr Fothergill presented his report as read.
- (3) Cllr John Woodman responded to a written question from Cllr Broom regarding Chard Junction.
- (4) Cllr Hall responded to a written question from Cllr Broom regarding Cresta Pool.
- (5) Cllr Fothergill responded to a written question from Cllr Verdon about Numatic International.
- (6) Cllr Fothergill responded to a written question from Cllr Jane Lock regarding Brexit.
- (7) Cllr Nicholson responded to a written question from Cllr Redman regarding young carers.
- (8) Cllr Nicholson responded to a written question from Cllr Clarke regarding young carers.

- (9) Cllr Munt asked about the funding of the young carers service and consultation about the future of the service and assessments for carers.
- (10) Cllr Nicholson responded by saying this was a matter for the Cabinet members to consider in the future and was not appropriate to discuss in a public arena and that a written response would be provided.
- (11) Cllr Nicholson presented the Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Families. This was an open and upward looking report and tribute was paid to the early help work and external support the council had given other organisations.
- (12) Cllr Purbrick presented the Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Education and Transformation. The work of the School Build Programme team was particularly highlighted and members were informed that progress was continuing with ICT services and there was a renegotiating ICT contracts to support countywide. The transformation focus for the next year was on a refresh of the digital strategy and investment in Digital Customer capabilities.
- (13) There was some discussion regarding technology and the ability for staff to work at home which was more efficient and productive and making better use of it such as using Skype for meetings. It was hoped that this could be used for more meetings.

Full details of the submitted questions and responses given at the meeting and / or in writing following the meeting are set out in Appendix A to these Minutes.

**105 Report of the Scrutiny for Policies, and Place Committee - Agenda Item 12**

- (1) The Council received and noted the report from the Chair of the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee Cllr Anna Groskop. She informed members that the committee had brought a number of suggestions regarding recommendations through to decision makers and she looked forward to seeing the business plan when it came to the committee.
- (2) Cllr Fothergill thanked Cllr Groskop for her work.

**106 Report of the Scrutiny Committee for Policies, Adults and Health – Agenda item 13**

- (1) The Council received and noted the report from the Vice Chair of the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee Cllr Mark Healey. The Committee had discussed a number of issues including the Somerset Health and Care Strategy, Healthy Weston Programme, Community Hospitals update and the Medium-Term Financial Plan.
- (2) Cllr Thorne updated members about the current position of Wellington Community Hospital remaining closed.
- (3) Cllr Fothergill thanked the Chair of the Committee for her work.

107 **Report of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee -**  
Agenda Item 14

(1) The Council received and noted the report from the Chair of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee Cllr Leigh Redman. The main focus of the work was ensuring the continuous improvement and delivery of the 7 priorities within the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). He also highlighted the governor vacancies currently on the committee.

(2) Cllr Fothergill thanked Cllr Redman for his work on the committee.

108 **Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Families –** Agenda Item 15

This was taken under agenda item 11.

109 **Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Education and Transformation –** Agenda Item 15

This was taken under agenda item 11.

**(The meeting ended at 3.30pm)**

**CHAIR of the Council**