

COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council held in the Council Chamber, Shire Hall, Taunton on Wednesday 28 November 2018 at 10.00 am

Present: Cllr C Aparicio Paul, Cllr M Best, Cllr N Bloomfield, Cllr A Broom, Cllr M Chilcott, Cllr J Clarke, Cllr P Clayton (Vice-Chair, in the Chair), Cllr S Coles, Cllr A Dance, Cllr H Davies, Cllr M Dimery, Cllr B Filmer, Cllr D Fothergill, Cllr G Frascini, 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 Munt, Cllr T Napper, Cllr F Nicholson, Cllr G Noel, Cllr L Oliver, Cllr J Parham, Cllr H Prior-Sankey, Cllr F Purbrick, Cllr L Redman, Cllr B Revans, Cllr M Rigby, Cllr D Ruddle, Cllr G Verdon, Cllr L Vijeh, Cllr W Wallace, Cllr A Wedderkopp, Cllr J Williams, Cllr R Williams and Cllr J Woodman

95 **Apologies for Absence** - Agenda Item 1

Apologies for absence were received from: Cllr A Bown, Cllr M Caswell, Cllr T Lock, Cllr D Loveridge, Cllr M Pullin, Cllr N Taylor and Cllr J Thorne.

The Leader of the Council wished those who were unwell a speedy recovery.

96 **Declarations of Interest** - Agenda Item 2

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

Cllr Prior-Sankey declared an interest as the Taunton Deane Borough Council member of Somerset Waste Board.

97 **Minutes from the Council meeting held on 18 July and the Extraordinary meeting on 17 October 2018** - Agenda Item 3

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2018 and the addendum to the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 February 2018 were accepted as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

98 **Chair's Announcements** - Agenda Item 4

The Chair informed members of the visits he had made in July, August, September, October and November 2018 and thanked the Vice-Chair for attending those events he was unable to.

99 **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. Bid for Cycling and Walking Scheme

From Chris Rix

Response from Cllr John Woodman, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

2. Safe Passage

From Melanie Hudson

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

3. Six Acres

From Cheryl Freeman

Response from Cllr Mandy Chilcott, Cabinet Member for Resources

4. New Social Value Contracts

From Nigel Behan, Unite

Response from Cllr David Fothergill, Leader of the Council

5. Getset

From Nigel Behan, Unite

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

6. Broadband

From Andrew Lee

Response from Cllr David Hall, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure

7. Council Spending

From Eva Bryczkoswki

Response to Q1 from Cllr David Fothergill, Leader of the Council and Q2 & Q3 from Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr Mandy Chilcott Cabinet Member for Resources

8. Public Transport

From David Redgewell

Response from Cllr John Woodman, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

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.

100 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 expansion of the Capital Investment Programme following consideration at Cabinet on 17 October 2018, Treasury Management mid-year 2018-19 and the Heart of the South

West Joint Committee following consideration at Cabinet on 19 November 2018.

- (2) The Leader, Cllr Fothergill, reminded members that difficult budget decisions had been taken in February and September 2018. As a result of the decisions taken the overspend had now come down to £2.36m with a relatively high success rate of delivering the decisions. He was confident that by the end of the year that it would be a balanced budget. There was no intention to raise council borrowing.
- (3) Members were also reminded of the progress of the Heart of the South West Joint Committee which was a unique partnership of 17 authorities and 2 national park authorities to attract investment into the South West to increase productivity in the area.
- (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.
- (5) The recommendations were proposed by Cllr David Fothergill and seconded by Cllr David Hall.
- (6) The Council **RESOLVED** by majority to:
 - (a) **Expansion of the Capital Investment Programme**
approve the expansion of the Capital investment Programme in 2019/20 to commit a sum of up to £10m to facilitate the purchase of waste vehicles and depot infrastructure for the Somerset Waste Partnership, provided that it can be proved that this offers better value for money than the vehicles being supplied by the private sector provider.
 - (b) **Treasury Management mid-year 2018-19**
endorse the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report for 2018-19.
 - (c) **Heart of the South West Joint Committee**
 - 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) Agree to 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 is asked to make provision for a financial contribution towards the costs of the Joint Committee for 2019/20 in line with the 2018/19 contribution (£10,500). A further budget update will be provided in advance of the 2019/20 financial year and any additional contribution requested (including in-year) will be submitted as a fully costed agreed proposal within a work programme and only after all other potential sources of funding have been exhausted.

- d) Agree the Budget and Cost-sharing Agreement set out in Appendix B to this report.

101 **Report of the Monitoring Officer – for decision – Agenda Item 7**

- (1) The Council considered a report from the Monitoring Officer regarding appointments to committee and outside bodies, the appointment of the Deputy Section 151 officer, and Data Protection Officer.
- (2) The Leader paid tribute to all members who sat on committees and gave their time. He also thanked the current Deputy Section 151 officer, Martin Gerrish, who would be leaving his post shortly, for his hard work over the years and wished him every success for the future.
- (3) Members were reminded of the procedure when sending substitute members to committee and Board meetings.
- (4) The recommendations were proposed by Cllr David Fothergill and seconded by Cllr Christine Lawrence.
- (5) The Council **RESOLVED** by majority to:
 1. approve the changes to Committee and Outside Bodies appointments – see section 3.1 and Appendix 1 to this report.
 2. appoint the post of Strategic Finance Manager – Adults, Health and Children, currently held by Elizabeth Watkin, as a Deputy Section 151 Officer.
 3. appoint the post of Data Protection Manager, currently held by Lucy Wilkins, as the Council's Data Protection Officer.

102 **Strategy for Single Use Plastics – Agenda Item 8**

- (1) The Council considered a report regarding the reduction in single use plastics: a strategy for Somerset County Council. The Strategy sets out the issues that the Council is trying to address and how it will tackle this important matter.
- (2) Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure, Cllr David Hall, informed members that this not only set out a framework for the Council's own activities but also how it would work with its partners and providers. The strategy was designed to be deliverable with tasks to be carried out in stages in a realistic timeframe.
- (3) Cllr John Clarke said that the Council should be eliminating single use plastic wherever possible and proposed a slight amendment to the recommendation to replace the word reduce with eliminate in Objective 5 of the strategy and minimise with reduce in Objective 6.
- (4) This was seconded by Cllr Martin Dimery, who thanked officers for their support with the strategy but felt there should not be any room for ambiguity.
- (5) Cllr Hall recognised the ambition in the proposal but stated the report had been crafted to make sure it could be delivered and was comfortable with

the wording as it stood. Cllr Liz Leyshon seconded the report and recommendations and wanted to see a reduction in plastic particularly in cafes.

- (6) The Council then voted on the amendment to the recommendation proposed by Cllr Clarke but there was only a minority in favour of this so the amendment failed.
- (7) The Council then voted on the original recommendation put forward by Cllr Hall and it **RESOLVED** to:
 1. note the growing concern locally, nationally and globally about the impact single use plastics are having on our environment, and that action is needed to reverse this trend of negative impacts. The Council can act positively in reducing the use of plastics, and can use its position of influence with partners, providers and stakeholders, and this Strategy is designed to provide a framework for this work.
 2. adopt the strategy "Reduction in the use of Single Use Plastics: A Strategy for Somerset County Council" shown at Appendix A to the report.

103 **Requisitioned Items** – Agenda Item 9

1. 100 years of women county councillors

- (1) The Council considered a requisitioned item proposed by Cllr Bill Revans and seconded by Cllr Christine Lawrence recognising the contribution of Councillor Norah Fry the first woman Somerset County Councillor.
- (2) Members were given further information about Cllr Fry who was elected to Council in 1918 and later became an alderman in 1938 and was one of the first women JPs in the country. Cllr Revans paid tribute to Cllr Fry and explained she was a pioneer in many fields and an advocate for better services for people with learning disabilities and contributed greatly to the health and education of the county.
- (3) The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to recognise the contribution of Councillor Fry and commemorate the contribution of women to the council over the last 100 years, by asking the Chief Executive to work with the Chair of the Council to identify and name a prominent meeting room after her.

2. Opposing the closure of Norton Manor Camp and relocation of 40 Commando out of Taunton Deane

- (1) The Council considered a requisitioned item on the closure of Norton Manor Camp proposed by Cllr Simon Coles and seconded by Cllr Alan Wedderkopp.
- (2) Cllr Coles introduced the motion and explained that Taunton had hosted military forces for many years and 40 Commando had been in the town since 1942. They had been given freedom of the borough and the service

they provide is exemplary. They also benefitted local businesses, schools and the community.

- (3) Cllr Wedderkopp seconding the proposal said the military personnel and their families were here so long that they had become Tauntonians and it was important to keep the camp here.
- (4) The proposal read:
 - 1) The Council opposes the decision of the Government to close Norton Manor Camp and relocate the Royal Marines out of Taunton Deane, will support the retention of 40 Commando Unit and stands behind the local 40 Commando community of serving and veteran Royal Marines who want the Camp to remain in Taunton Deane;
 - 2) the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State for Defence strongly opposing the closure of the Camp, urging him to remove Norton Manor Camp from the list of sites to be disposed of on the MOD website, and
 - 3) the Leader of the Council write to all of Somerset's Members of Parliament pointing out that the County is in danger of losing 40 Commando Royal Marines and urging them to take up the importance of Norton Manor Camp to the County of Somerset and to Taunton Deane in particular in Parliament and oppose its closure and the relocation of 40 Commando to another area, and that the Chief Executive should report back to the whole Council placing copies of any replies received on the public record.
- (5) Cllr Giuseppe Frascini agreed with opposing the closure of the camp but proposed an amendment stating 'Somerset County Council acknowledges and supports the local MP for Taunton Deane and other elected representatives to retain 40 Commando at Norton Manor Camp. In support the Council therefore resolves that:
 1. it will continue to work with the local MP, Taunton Deane Borough Council, and other elected bodies to advance the case for retaining 40 Commando at Norton Manor Camp
 2. the Leader of the Council be asked to write to the Secretary of State outlining the Council support for the campaign and opposing the closure of the camp urging him to remove Norton Manor Camp from the list of sites to be disposed of
 3. the Leader of the Council to be asked to write to all Somerset Members of Parliament urging them to support the campaign to retain 40 Commando at Norton Manor Camp and to recognise the importance of Norton Manor Camp to the wider economy of Somerset.
- (6) Cllr David Fothergill seconded the amendment and said the best approach to this was to support the campaign spearheaded by the local MP.
- (7) Cllr Andy Kendall suggested that this proposal be deferred and it be re-written in a way that the whole council could agree on as it was such an important matter. This was seconded by Cllr John Hunt.
- (8) Cllr Liz Leyshon then proposed another amendment 'That all Somerset County Councillors work together with all Somerset's MPs and every

elected representative to advance the case for retaining 40 Commando at Norton Manor Camp.'

- (9) Cllr Mark Keating said it was important not to defer this and come to a conclusion today and work with the elected MP of Taunton Deane about this.
- (10) Cllr John Hunt seconded Cllr Leyshon's amendment and felt it could be supported by all councillors.
- (11) Cllr Mike Rigby also suggested deferring the proposal so that it could be discussed and a new proposal be put together that all members could agree on.
- (12) Cllr David Huxtable then called for named vote on and this was supported by more than 10 members.
- (13) Cllr Jane Lock also suggested finding a suitable form of words outside of the meeting to support the proposal.
- (14) Cllr Faye Purbrick agreed this matter could not be delayed as the next meeting of the Council was in February and felt it needed to be moved forward today.
- (15) The Chair then asked for members to move to the vote on this item and asked for the Monitoring Officer to advise members on the approach. There were three amendments put forward and the Monitoring Officer suggested that the amendment that would counter the other two should be voted on first 'To defer this matter to the next meeting to allow for cross-party working in terms of joined wording' proposed by Cllr Andy Kendall and seconded by Cllr John Hunt. If this was agreed it would counter the other proposals.
- (16) Cllr Kendall asked that the words 'to get 100% council backing or as many as possible' be added to his suggested amendment. The Monitoring Officer then clarified the wording of the proposal 'To defer the item and for all 5 group leaders to work together collectively to bring forward a requisitioned item in respect of 40 Commando and Norton Manor Camp to the February meeting of Council.'
- (17) Cllr Rigby explained that the camp was not scheduled for closure until 2028 and that a deferment seemed to be the sensible solution to agree the wording until the February meeting.
- (18) The Monitoring Officer then asked for members to vote if they were in agreement with the amendment proposed by Cllr Kendall.

Vote cast as follows:

For Cllr Best Cllr Bloomfield Cllr Broom Cllr Clarke	Against Cllr Aparicio Paul Cllr Clayton Cllr Filmer Cllr Fothergill
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Cllr Coles	Cllr Frascini
Cllr Dance	Cllr Groskop
Cllr Davies	Cllr Hall
Cllr Dimery	Cllr Healey
Cllr Govier	Cllr Hewitt-Cooper
Cllr John Hunt	Cllr James Hunt
Cllr Kendall	Cllr Huxtable
Cllr Leyshon	Cllr Keating
Cllr Jane Lock	Cllr Lawrence
Cllr Munt	Cllr Lewis
Cllr Prior-Sankey	Cllr Napper
Cllr Redman	Cllr Nicholson
Cllr Revans	Cllr Noel
Cllr Rigby	Cllr Oliver
Cllr Wedderkopp	Cllr Parham
	Cllr Purbrick
	Cllr Ruddle
	Cllr Verdon
	Cllr Vijeh
	Cllr Wallace
	Cllr J Williams
	Cllr R Williams
	Cllr Woodman

- (19) The Monitoring Officer declared that the votes were 19 in favour of the amendment with 27 against and so that amendment failed.
- (20) Members were then asked to vote on the amendment put forward by Cllr Leyshon and seconded by Cllr John Hunt. 'That all members of the Council work with all Somerset MPs to advance the case to retain 40 Commando at Norton Manor Camp'.
- (21) Cllr Woodman asked if this amendment was any different to the next amendment because it appeared they both appeared to be very close in wording.
- (22) The Monitoring Officer confirmed that there was a single amendment which is very similar to the first recommendation but Cllr Frascini's proposal contained two further proposals unlike Cllr Leyshon's which made it different. This was then put to the vote.
- (23) Cllr Fothergill then proposed a new amendment that Cllr Leyshon's amendment be incorporated as point 4 of Cllr Frascini's amendment.
- (24) Cllr Govier stated that the vote had already started on Cllr Leyshon's proposal and therefore it should continue.
- (25) Cllr Leyshon said she had proposed an amendment which was very short and simple deliberately aimed at attracting cross party support.
- (26) The Chair announced he was going to put this to the vote.
- (27) Cllr Frascini said he was happy with the amendment proposed by Cllr Fothergill to his amendment.

- (28) Cllr Govier stated again that the vote had already started and it needed to continue.
- (29) The Monitoring Officer said unless there were any further points of clarity the vote should commence on Cllr Leyshon's proposal.

Vote cast as follows:

For	Against
Cllr Best	Cllr Aparicio Paul
Cllr Bloomfield	Cllr Clayton
Cllr Broom	Cllr Filmer
Cllr Clarke	Cllr Fothergill
Cllr Coles	Cllr Fraschini
Cllr Dance	Cllr Groskop
Cllr Davies	Cllr Hall
Cllr Dimery	Cllr Healey
Cllr Govier	Cllr Hewitt-Cooper
Cllr John Hunt	Cllr James Hunt
Cllr Kendall	Cllr Huxtable
Cllr Leyshon	Cllr Keating
Cllr Jane Lock	Cllr Lawrence
Cllr Munt	Cllr Lewis
Cllr Prior-Sankey	Cllr Napper
Cllr Redman	Cllr Nicholson
Cllr Revans	Cllr Noel
Cllr Rigby	Cllr Oliver
Cllr Ruddle	Cllr Parham
Cllr Wedderkopp	Cllr Purbrick
	Cllr Verdon
	Cllr Wallace
	Cllr J Williams
	Cllr R Williams
	Cllr Woodman
Abstain	
Cllr Vjeh	

- (30) The Monitoring Officer declared that the votes were 20 in favour of the amendment with 25 against and 1 abstention so the amendment failed.
- (31) Cllr Fothergill said he withdrew his amendment to Cllr Fraschini's amendment.
- (32) Cllr Redman asked for clarification about the vote that members were being asked to vote on Cllr Fraschini's amendment and that if it was then passed it would become the substantive motion and members would be asked to vote on this again. This was confirmed as correct.
- (33) Cllr Prior-Sankey asked for details about the campaign that the Taunton Deane MP was promoting. It was suggested that this could be discussed after the meeting.

(34) The amendment as originally proposed by Cllr Frascini and seconded by Cllr Keating was then put to the vote. This read 'Somerset County Council fully acknowledges and supports the campaigning work of Rebecca Pow, MP for Taunton Deane and other elected representatives to retain 40 Commando at Norton Manor Camp. In support the Council therefore resolves that:

1. It will continue to work with the local MP and Taunton Deane Borough Council to advance the case for retaining 40 Commando at Norton Manor Camp.
2. The Leader of the Council be asked to write to the Secretary of State outlining the council support for Rebecca Pow MP's campaign and opposing the closure of the camp urging him to remove Norton Manor Camp from the list of sites to be disposed of.
3. The Leader of the Council be asked to write to all of Somerset's Members of Parliament urging them to support the campaign to retain 40 Commando at Norton Manor Camp and to recognise the important role of Norton Manor Camp to the wider economy of Somerset.

(35) Votes cast as follows:

<p>For</p> <p>Cllr Aparicio Paul Cllr Clayton Cllr Filmer Cllr Fothergill Cllr Frascini Cllr Groskop Cllr Hall Cllr Healey Cllr Hewitt-Cooper Cllr James Hunt Cllr John Hunt Cllr Huxtable Cllr Keating Cllr Kendall Cllr Lawrence Cllr Lewis Cllr Napper Cllr Nicholson Cllr Noel Cllr Oliver Cllr Parham Cllr Purbrick Cllr Rigby Cllr Verdon Cllr Vijeh Cllr Wallace Cllr J Williams Cllr R Williams Cllr Woodman</p>	<p>Against</p>
<p>Abstain</p> <p>Cllr Best Cllr Bloomfield Cllr Broom</p>	

Cllr Clarke Cllr Coles Cllr Dance Cllr Davies Cllr Dimery Cllr Govier Cllr Leyshon Cllr Jane Lock Cllr Munt Cllr Prior-Sankey Cllr Redman Cllr Revans Cllr Wedderkopp	
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(36) The Monitoring Officer declared that the votes were 29 in favour of the amendment, no votes against and 16 abstentions, so the amendment was carried.

(37) This then became the substantive motion for councillors to vote upon.

(38) Votes cast as follows:

For	Against
Cllr Aparicio Paul Cllr Clayton Cllr Clarke Cllr Dimery Cllr Filmer Cllr Fothergill Cllr Fraschini Cllr Govier Cllr Groskop Cllr Hall Cllr Healey Cllr Hewitt-Cooper Cllr James Hunt Cllr John Hunt Cllr Huxtable Cllr Keating Cllr Kendall Cllr Lawrence Cllr Lewis Cllr Napper Cllr Nicholson Cllr Noel Cllr Oliver Cllr Parham Cllr Prior-Sankey Cllr Purbrick Cllr Redman Cllr Rigby Cllr Verdon Cllr Vjeh	

Cllr Wallace Cllr J Williams Cllr R Williams Cllr Woodman	
Abstain Cllr Best Cllr Bloomfield Cllr Broom Cllr Coles Cllr Dance Cllr Davies Cllr Leyshon Cllr Jane Lock Cllr Munt Cllr Revans Cllr Wedderkopp	

(39) The Monitoring Officer declared that there were 34 votes in favour, no votes against and 11 abstentions, so the substantive motion was carried.

104 **Report of the Leader and Cabinet - Items for Information - Agenda Item 10**

- (1) The Council considered a report that summarised the key decisions taken by the Leader and Cabinet Members and officers between 10 July 2018 and 19 November 2018, together with items of business discussed at Cabinet meetings on 12 September 2018, 17 October 2018, 5 November 2018 and 19 November 2018.
- (2) Cllr Clarke asked the Leader, Cllr Fothergill, if he would support the council writing with cooperation from all group leaders to make an open letter to the Government about our position as a council. He proposed the following wording: "All members of all parties of Somerset County Council call on Her Majesty's Government to recognise the serious financial position of Somerset County Council. In the past five years we have made savings and efficiency measures of around £145m but recent cuts and likely further savings will potentially impact the health and well-being of our community and increase risks for our most vulnerable. We believe it is time for a greater recognition of the issues our communities face. We ask that action is taken in the forthcoming local government settlement to address the long-term financial security of public services in Somerset many of which remain at risk despite the measures we have taken. Specifically, we ask the following:
 1. That the government recognise and positively addresses the inequalities of financial support through a revised Fairer Funding model.
 2. That the Government allow Somerset to consider implementing a two-year Children's Services precept in 2019/20 and 2020/21 of up to 3%.
 3. That the Government allows Somerset greater flexibility in settings its precept by removing Council tax cap.
- (3) Cllr Fothergill responded and said he fully endorsed this and hoped other leaders would and that this could be sent to the Government.

- (4) Cllr Andy Kendall then asked the Leader about the refurbishment of county hall and the connection with exploring a unitary authority for Somerset.
- (5) Cllr Fothergill responded and said work was ongoing with the district councils and there were a number of different options open but members needed to wait and see what came out of the process. The refurbishment of A Block needed to happen to allow the council to move out of 7 other premises and for staff to move into A Block.
- (6) Cllr John Woodman responded to a written question from Cllr Terry Napper regarding the A361 near Glastonbury.
- (7) Cllr Christine Lawrence presented the Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing. The Council was informed that this year the focus was on influencing across the health and wellbeing system and developing a more joined-up approach. Cllr Lawrence encouraged members to fill in the 'Fit for my Future' consultation online to give their views on health services.
- (8) Cllr David Hall presented the Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure. The report focused on key highlights from the past year including the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership, the Heart of the South West Productivity Strategy, Superfast Broadband, Somerset Energy Innovation Centre, Hinkley Point C and Waste.
- (9) Cllr Hall responded to a written question from Cllr Amanda Broom about Cresta Pool. Cllr Broom also welcomed Cllr Nicholson's views regarding the impact on children following the pool's closure.
- (10) Cllr David Huxtable presented the Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care. The report highlighted work during the past year which included the strategy of 'Promoting Independence', the expansion of the 'Home First' scheme, Community Agent scheme, Extra Care Housing, and the transformation of learning disability services.
- (11) Cllr Revans asked for Cllr Huxtable's thoughts regarding the Home First scheme and response to delayed transfer of care as universally successful as he had received anecdotal information that it was not. He also asked for more information about the carers service. Referring to the possible sale of Six Acres centre, he also asked for a message to be given to Discovery regarding the managing their communications with families very sensitively.
- (12) Cllr Huxtable responded to Cllr Revan's questions and said that success of the response on delayed transfer of care and Home First referred to the saved bed days and that people continued to be able to return to home quicker and regain independence in their own home. It was necessary for providers to change their business model and he was happy to discuss this further outside of the meeting.

- (13) Cllr Munt asked for information about a performance bond for Discovery as she did not know what this was. She was informed this came into effect in the event of provider failure. A briefing to explain this more fully would be arranged.
- (14) There was further conversation about concerns regarding the lack of outings for some people who were users of learning disability facilities, the need to continue to improve service and being sensitive to language used in communications.

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 Committee for Policies, Adults and Health – Agenda item 11**

- (1) The Council received and noted the report from the Chair of the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey. She said that there had been a lot of health items brought to the committee to look at and invited all members to come to the committee.
- (2) Cllr Prior-Sankey asked for the briefing note regarding Six Acres and Discovery outlining when a decision was due to be made about this to be sent out to members as soon as possible.

106 **Report of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee - Agenda Item 12**

- (1) The Council received and noted the report from the Chair of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee Cllr Leigh Redman. He thanked members and officers who had contributed to the In Care Fund.

107 **Report of the Scrutiny for Policies, and Place Committee - Agenda Item 13**

- (1) The Council received and noted the report from the Chair of the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee Cllr Anna Groskop. She praised the work of the committee and said that some amendments to reports and recommendations had been sent to decision makers after being reviewed by the committee. Cllr Groskop was commended for her role as Chair.

108 **Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure – Agenda Item 14**

This was taken under agenda item 10.

109 **Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing – Agenda Item 15**

This was taken under agenda item 10.

110 **Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care – Agenda Item 16**

This was taken under agenda item 10.

111 **Annual Report of the Somerset Armed Forces Community Covenant Partnership – Agenda Item 17**

- (1) Chair of the Somerset Armed Forces Covenant Partnership, Cllr Rod Williams, updated the Council on the partnership's work since the last report in November 2017. The main activities during this time included the annual Partnership Conference, support for Armed Forces Day, 40 Commando Royal Marines climbing demonstration at County Hall, the opening of Trenchard Way, unveiling of the Poppy of Honour, poppy appeal, and partnership work on the creation of 'Somerset Wood'.
- (2) There was some discussion regarding the link between this and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and also regarding the mental health and wellbeing of former military personnel.
- (3) The Council commended the report and noted it.

(The meeting ended at 13.10)

CHAIR of the Council