

COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council held in the Council Chamber - Shire Hall, Taunton, on Wednesday 21 February 2018 at 10.00 am

Present: Cllr C Aparicio Paul, Cllr M Best, Cllr N Bloomfield, Cllr A Bown, Cllr A Broom, Cllr P Burridge-Clayton (Vice-Chair), Cllr M Caswell, Cllr M Chilcott, Cllr J Clarke, 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 Lock, Cllr D Loveridge, Cllr T Munt, Cllr T Napper, Cllr F Nicholson, Cllr G Noel, Cllr J Parham, Cllr H Prior-Sankey, Cllr M Pullin, Cllr F Purbrick, Cllr L Redman, Cllr B Revans, Cllr M Rigby, Cllr N Taylor, Cllr G Verdon, Cllr L Vijeh, Cllr W Wallace (Chair), Cllr A Wedderkopp, Cllr J Williams, Cllr R Williams and Cllr J Woodman.

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

Apologies for absence were received from: Cllr Terry Napper

45 **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

46 **Minutes from the Council meeting and Extraordinary Council meeting held on 29 November 2017** - Agenda Item 3

The Minutes, including attached Appendices, of the Council meeting and Extraordinary Council both held on 29 November 2017 were signed as a correct record.

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

The Chair made a formal presentation and awarded the title of Honorary Alderman to ex County Councillors Dr G Court, Ralph Clark, John Edney, and Alan Gloak.

The Chair acknowledged the death of Autism Somerset founder Campbell Main.

The Chair informed members of the visits he had made in December 2017 and January and February 2018 and thanked the Vice-Chair for attending those events he was unable to.

48 **Public Question Time** - Agenda Item 4

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

1. Webcasting of Somerset County Council Meetings

From Nigel Behan

Response from Cllr David Fothergill, Leader of the Council

2. Effective Scrutiny

From Nigel Behan

Responses from Cllr David Fothergill, Leader of the Council

3. Constitution and Standards Committee – Change to contact standing orders

From Nigel Behan, Unite

Response from Cllr David Fothergill, Leader of the Council

4. MTFP and the Revenue Budget

From Nigel Behan, Unite

Response from Cllr David Hall, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Resources

5. Medium Term Financial Plan

From Liz Payne-Ahmadi

Response from Cllr David Hall, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Resources

6. Medium Term Financial Plan

From Alan Debenham

Response from Cllr David Hall, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Resources

7. The Future of the Library Service – Libraries Consultation 2018

From Nigel Behan

Response from Cllr David Hall, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Resources

8. Library Services

From Alan Debenham

Response from Cllr David Hall, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Resources

9. Highbridge Library

From Dave Chapple

Response from Cllr David Hall, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Resources

10. A358 Upgrade

From Patricia Power

Response from Cllr David Hall, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Resources

11. A358 Consultation

From Frank O'Sullivan

Response from Cllr David Hall, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Resources

12. A358 Consultation

From Mike Baddeley

Response from Cllr David Hall, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Resources

13. A358 Consultation

From David Orr

Response from Cllr David Hall, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Resources

14. Extension of the Devon Metro

From Andrew Turpin

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

15. Public Transport in Somerset

From David Redgewell

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

16. Rail issues

From David Redgewell

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

17. Bus issues

From David Redgewell

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

18. Buses on Sundays

From John Hassall

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

19. Petition 1: Withdrawal of bus service from Wellington to Musgrove Park Hospital

From Debbie Pendleton

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

20. Petition 2: Reduction of service on route 25 – Taunton, Wiveliscombe, Dulverton

From Phil Cookson

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

21. Family Support Services and Health Visitors

From Nigel Behan

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

22. Family Support Service

From Kathrine See

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

23. Children's Centres

From Alan Debenham

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

24. Children's Centres

From Siobhan Lennon-Patience

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

25. Somerset Family Support Service & Children's Centres

From Jenny Lennon-Wood

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

26. Local Government Pay

From Kris Black

Response from Cllr Anna Groskop, Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services

27. Revenue Budget Monitoring re: Learning Disabilities

From Nigel Behan

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

28. Learning Disability Service – Operated by Dimensions UK Ltd

From Nigel Behan

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

29. Post Freedom of Information Request (re Learning Disability Provider Service transfer to Dimensions UK Ltd).

From Nigel Behan

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

30. Learning Disability Service provider Discovery

From Sarah Mainwaring

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

31. Learning Disability Service provider Discovery

From Cheryl Freeman

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

33. Learning Disability Service

From Ewa Marcinkowska

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.

49 **Report of the Head of Finance on the Robustness of the Estimates and the Adequacy of Reserves and Balances - Agenda Item 6**

- (1) The Council considered a report by the Director of Finance, Legal and Governance which purpose was to provide an opinion under Section 25 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003 which requires the Section 151 officer to report to the council on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the reserves and balances.
- (2) The recommendation was proposed by Cllr David Fothergill and seconded by Cllr David Hall.
- (3) The Council RESOLVED by majority vote to note that the estimates used in the production of the budget proposal for 2018/19 are adequately robust. The Council further noted the following statement from the S151 Officer, made on the basis of the assessments contained in the report: Based on the assessment of the reserves, contingencies and balances, the key financial risks identified, and the thorough process used for developing the Medium Term Financial Plan, I have determined that the level of reserves, contingencies and balances for the 2018/19 financial year is adequate.

- (1) The Council considered a report by the Leader and Cabinet which set out the recommendation to Council regarding the 2018/19 Capital Investment Programme report arising from the meeting held on 12 February.
- (2) A named vote was taken regarding was taken regarding the 2018/19 Capital Investment Programme and the Council RESOLVED by a majority vote of 42 for, and 11 abstentions to adopt the following recommendations:
 1. A Capital Investment Programme for 2018/19 of £91.973m shown in Appendix A. Full details of individual schemes are available online as background papers;
 2. That the Chief Executive and relevant Senior Leadership Team Officer(s) 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 specific individual projects to be delivered within generic approvals for their area of control and to secure any necessary decisions in order to implement the projects;
 3. The Prudential Code Indicators as shown in Section 5 & Appendix C.
 4. The statement on the Minimum Revenue Provision be endorsed for the 2018/19 financial year (section 4)

Vote cast as follows:

<p>For Cllr Aparicio Paul Cllr Bloomfield Cllr Bown Cllr Burridge-Clayton Cllr Caswell Cllr Chilcott Cllr Clarke Cllr Davies Cllr Dimery Cllr Filmer Cllr Fothergill Cllr Fraschini Cllr Govier Cllr Groskop Cllr Hall Cllr Ham Cllr Healey Cllr Hewitt-Cooper Cllr James Hunt Cllr John Hunt Cllr Huxtable Cllr Keating Cllr Lawrence Cllr Lewis Cllr Loveridge Cllr Nicholson Cllr Noel</p>	
---	--

Cllr Parham Cllr Pullin Cllr Purbrick Cllr Redman Cllr Rigby Cllr Ruddle Cllr Taylor Cllr Thorne Cllr Verdon Cllr Vijeh Cllr Wallace Cllr Wedderkopp Cllr J Williams Cllr R Williams Cllr Woodman	
Abstained Cllr Best Cllr Broom Cllr Coles Cllr Dance Cllr Kendall Cllr Leyshon Cllr J Lock Cllr T Lock Cllr Munt Cllr Prior-Sankey Cllr Revans	

(3)The Council then considered a report by the Leader and Cabinet which set out a recommendation to Council regarding the 2018/19 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and Revenue Budget arising from the meeting held on 12 February.

(4) A named vote was taken regarding was taken regarding the 2018/19 Revenue Budget and the medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19-2021/22 and the Council RESOLVED by a majority vote of 33 for, and 20 against to adopt the following recommendations:

1. The 2018/19 Revenue Budget which sets:
 - a. Net Revenue Budget of £316,881,900;
 - b. Council Tax Requirement of £230,250,000;
 - c. A Council Tax increase of 5.99% (including a 3% precept for Adult Social Care) giving a Band D value of £1,192.16;
 - d. Specific savings targets as shown in Appendix A after having due regards to the potential impacts identified in this report and its appendices.
2. 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 £2,506,900.

Vote cast as follows:

<p>For Cllr Aparicio Paul Cllr Bloomfield Cllr Bown Cllr Burridge-Clayton Cllr Caswell Cllr Chilcott Cllr Filmer Cllr Fothergill Cllr Fraschini Cllr Groskop Cllr Hall Cllr Ham Cllr Healey Cllr Hewitt-Cooper Cllr James Hunt Cllr Huxtable Cllr Keating Cllr Lawrence Cllr Lewis Cllr Nicholson Cllr Noel Cllr Parham Cllr Pullin Cllr Purbrick Cllr Ruddle Cllr Taylor Cllr Thorne Cllr Verdon Cllr Vijeh Cllr Wallace Cllr J Williams Cllr R Williams Cllr Woodman</p>	
<p>Against Cllr Best Cllr Broom Cllr Clarke Cllr Coles Cllr Dance Cllr Davies Cllr Dimery Cllr Govier Cllr John Hunt Cllr Kendall Cllr Leyshon Cllr J Lock Cllr T Lock Cllr Loveridge</p>	

Cllr Munt Cllr Prior-Sanke Cllr Redman Cllr Revans Cllr Rigby Cllr Wedderkopp	
--	--

(5)The Council then considered a report by the Leader and Cabinet which set out a recommendation to Council regarding the Treasury Management Strategy Statement arising from the meeting held on 12 February.

(6)The recommendation was proposed by Cllr David Hall and seconded by Cllr Simon Coles.

(7)The Council RESOLVED by unanimous vote to agree to:

1. Adopt the Treasury Management Strategy (as shown in Section 2 of the report).
2. Approve the Annual Investment Strategy (as shown in Section 3 of the report) and proposed Lending Counterparty Criteria (attached at Appendix B to the report).

51 Report of the HR Policy Committee – for decision – Agenda Item 8

- (1) The Council considered a report from the HR Policy Committee which set out recommendations for the 2018/2019 Pay Policy Statement.
- (2) The recommendations were proposed by Cllr Anna Groskop and seconded by Cllr Simon Coles.
- (3) The Council RESOLVED to approve the Pay Policy Statement (PPS) for the Council for 2018-19 (attached as Appendix A to the report).

52 Requisitioned Item – Single Use Plastic – Agenda item 9

- (1) The Council considered a requisitioned item on Single Use Plastic proposed by the Conservative and Green groups.
- (2) The recommendation was proposed by Cllr John Clarke and seconded by Cllr David Fothergill.

The Council RESOLVED to ask the Cabinet Member for Resources to:

1. Work with partners, suppliers and customers to develop a strategy and timetable to make Somerset County Council (SCC) a 'single-use-plasticfree' authority, specifically the phasing out of sales and use of Single Use Plastic (SUP) bottles and other SUP products across all premises and events.
2. Present the strategy and timetable to the Scrutiny Committee for Policies and Place before consideration at Full Council in November 2018.
3. Actively encourage the institutions, businesses and residents of Somerset to adopt similar measures.

4. Lobby the Somerset MP's for national legislation on reducing the use of SUP's.
5. To actively encourage additional plastic recycling facilities through the Somerset Waste Partnership.

53 Report of the Chief Executive - Agenda Item 10

- (1) The Council considered a report from the Chief Executive regarding a proposed change to the appointment of the Council's Monitoring Officer and the appointment of a Data Protection Officer.
- (2) The recommendation was proposed by Cllr David Fothergill and seconded by Cllr Simon Coles.

The Council RESOLVED to agree:

(a) The post of Service Manager (Executive) – currently held by Scott Wooldridge - as the Council's Monitoring Officer initially for a two year period and to be reviewed in advance of the February 2020 Council meeting;

(b) The post of Service Manager – Information Governance – currently held by Peter Grogan – as the Council's Data Protection Officer with effect from 25th May 2018 – a new statutory post as defined by the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (Articles 37-39).

And to note:

(c) The action taken by the Chief Executive in agreeing a six month leave of absence from Council duties for Cllr Linda Oliver.

54 Report of the Leader and Cabinet - Items for Information - Agenda Item 11

- (1) The Council considered a report that summarised the key decisions taken by the Leader and Cabinet Members and officers between 15 November 2017 and 12 February 2018, together with the items of business discussed at the Cabinet Meetings on 13 December 2017, 17 January 2018 and 12 February 2018.
- (2) The Council received the Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care (Agenda Item 15) and the Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Families (Agenda Item 16) which highlighted key activities and achievements of the past year within these areas.
- (3) Cllr David Hall responded to a written question from Cllr Tessa Munt regarding library consultation and to Cllr Liz Leyshon regarding Somerset Library Service.
- (4) Cllr John Woodman responded to a written question from Cllr Amanda Broom regarding public transport in Somerset.
- (5) Cllr John Woodman responded to a written question from Cllr Bill Revans regarding the strategic plan for highways infrastructure.

- (6) Cllrs Frances Nicholson and David Huxtable responded to a written question from Cllr Bill Revans regarding services to vulnerable people.
- (7) Cllr David Huxtable responded to a written question from Cllr Bill Revans regarding delayed transfer of care.

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

55 Report of the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee - Agenda Item 12

(1) The Council received and noted the report from the Chair of the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey.

56 Report of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee - Agenda Item 13

(1) The Council received and noted the report from the Chair of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee Cllr Leigh Redman.

57 Report of the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee – Agenda Item 14

(1) The Council received and noted the report from the Chair of the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee Cllr Tony Lock.

(The meeting ended at 15.19)

CHAIR