

CHAIR'S SCHEDULE AND MEETING BUSINESS PLAN

County Council Meeting – Wednesday 18 November 2020 (10.00am)

Chair of Council, Cllr Nigel Taylor, to welcome everyone to the virtual meeting of the County Council and remind those present that:

- It is only the County Councillors present that are taking the decisions at the meeting - others in attendance are there to provide advice to the Council.
- The agenda and papers have been published on the council's website in advance of the meeting.
- The Council will be making an audio recording of the meeting and this will be published on the Council's website in due course.

Cllr Taylor to further highlight the following virtual meeting good practice:

- Please use the meeting chat function only for purposes of the meeting, primarily to indicate that you wish to speak
- Please only speak at the Chairs invitation
- Please say you name before speaking
- The importance of turning off microphones and cameras when not speaking (with the exception of the meeting chair)
- Members and Officers are invited to switch on their cameras when they speak

Invite Scott Wooldridge to clarify what defines a point of order, how members will vote on the decision items and what will happen if members experience connectivity issues during debate on decision items.

Anticipating this meeting lasting for approximately 3 hours and we will take a comfort break upon the completion of Item 8 (about 11.55) and then a ½ hr lunch before Item 12 (about 12.50pm).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Guide Time: 10.01am

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Guide Time: 10.02am

The County Solicitor will read out any prejudicial interests that have been declared by Members.

Details of all Members' interests in District, Town and Parish Councils can be viewed on the Council Website. Because of this there is no need for members to individually declare these personal interests in those other councils at the meeting.

Members are reminded that if any business of the Council relates to or affects a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest which you have declared you should disclose it at the meeting not later than the start of the consideration of the business in which you have an interest or (if later) the item at which the interest becomes apparent to you and you should leave the meeting whilst the business is being considered.

3. MINUTES **Guide Time: 10.03am**

To confirm the accuracy of the minutes together with the appendix attached of the Council meeting held on 29 July 2020 and if agreed, the Chair will subsequently sign the minutes as a correct record.

4 For Information **Guide Time: 10:05am**

CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair's announcements covers information regarding civic events between August and November 2020.

Chair to make a statement regarding a long-serving member of staff that passed away in service of the Council.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME **Guide Time: 10.10am**

Public Questions / Statements

Note: The questions / statements / public petitions submitted by each member of the public are detailed in **Annex A to this Schedule**.

Chair to then invite all public speakers registered to address the Council and highlight that there will be a 15 second delay before speakers address the meeting. **Each speaker reminded that they have up to 3 minutes to make any key points and to try and not repeat points made by other speakers on the same matter.**

Chair to highlight that every member has access to the statements and questions that have been submitted and therefore speakers may wish to summarise their key points and focus their available time to put their question(s) to the Council.

Members are reminded that there will be no debate on Public Questions

Invite Public Speakers in the following order:

- 1) Susannah Clemence – Road Safety
- 2) David Redgewell – Covid 19 transport
- 3) David Orr – Travel Plans
- 4) Eva Bryczkowski – Central Government Funding
- 5) Sigurd Reimers – Climate Change Strategy
- 6) Nigel Behan – Climate Change
/procurement/capital gains tax

6. Covid-19 Outbreak Update

Guide Time: 10:40am

The Chair to invite the Chief Executive and Director of Public Health to provide an update on the Covid-19 pandemic and the emergency response since the onset of the second national lockdown.

Item 11 is related to Covid 19 so the Chair of the Council will propose that the Council considers it at this point in the agenda.

Requisitioned Items (item 11)

- Chair to refer to the motion in requisitioned item to vote upon.
- Chair to invite Councillor Dimery as the proposer to present a requisitioned item set out on page 239 in the agenda
- Chair to invite Councillor Redman as the seconder
- Invite Council Members to speak
- Invite the Leader of the Council to respond

Following debate, Chair to propose the motion presented for voting by the Council. Monitoring Officer to read out the names and report on the vote.

7. One Somerset – Request for Deferral of 2021 County Council Elections (pages 27-32)

Guide Time: 11.10am

The Chair to invite the Cllr David Fothergill to introduce the item.

- Invite Cllr Fothergill to speak as proposer
- Invite the seconder Cllr Chilcott to speak
- Invite Cllr Lock to ask her submitted question in Annex A about One Somerset and elections
- Invite Council Members to speak
- Invite the Leader of the Council to answer any questions raised

Following debate, Chair to refer Members to the recommendations to vote upon.

The recommendations are:

To request that the Secretary of State defers the County Council elections scheduled for May 2021, the following motion is requested to be debated and approved:

“Council supports the Leader to make a request to the Secretary of State to defer the scheduled 2021 county council elections until such time as the Secretary of State determines to hold a County Council election as part of the transition towards a new local government structure for Somerset”.

REPORT OF THE LEADER AND CABINET – FOR DECISION

Item 8 - to be introduced by Cllr David Fothergill – Leader of the Council

Chair to invite the Leader of the Council to introduce and advise that there will be opportunities for members to ask questions as part of each item for decision.

Leader to outline that this report has two matters for decision:

1. Climate Change Strategy
2. Mid-Year 2020/21 Treasury Management

Leader to advise that each matter will be considered and voted upon separately

Paper A Climate Change

- Invite the Leader of Council as proposer to make an introductory speech and summarise the key points from Paper A and B on pages 33-190 requesting that members have had due regards to the Equalities Impact Assessment
- Cllr Fothergill to propose and Cllr Paul to second
- Invite debate on amendment
- Vote on amendment
- Invite Council Members to ask questions or make statements
- Cllr Fothergill to answer any questions

Following debate, Chair to refer Members to the recommendations to vote upon.

Chair to invite the Monitoring Officer to read out the names for members to then advise of their vote. Following the vote, the Monitoring Officer will inform the Council as to the voting figures and whether the recommendations were carried.

The Council is recommended to adopt – Towards a Climate Resilient Somerset – Somerset’s Climate Emergency Strategy

Treasury Management Mid Year Report 2020-21 (Paper B)

- Invite Cllr Mandy Chilcott to introduce the item and speak as proposer
- Invite the seconder Cllr Leyshon to speak
- Invite Council Members to speak
- Invite Cllr Chilcott and / or Jason Vaughan to answer any questions raised.

Following debate, Chair to refer Members to the recommendation to vote upon.

Chair to invite the Monitoring Officer to read out the names for members to then advise of their vote. Following the vote, the Monitoring Officer will inform the Council as to the voting figures and whether the recommendations were carried.

Recommendation:

The Council is recommended to endorse the Treasury Management Mid-Year report 2020/21.

Chair to call for a 5-minute adjournment

9 REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

Guide Time: 12.15pm

Appointments to Committees and empowerment of deputy statutory officer posts

- Invite the Monitoring Officer, Scott Wooldridge to introduce the item set out on pages 191 - 226
- Invite Cllr David Fothergill to speak as proposer
- Invite the seconder Cllr Jane Lock to speak
- Invite Council Members to speak
- Invite Scott Wooldridge to answer any questions raised

Following debate, Chair to refer Members to the recommendations to vote upon.

Chair to invite the Monitoring Officer to read out the names for members to then advise of their vote. Following the vote, the Monitoring Officer will inform the Council as to the voting figures and whether the recommendations were carried or rejected.

It is recommended that the Council:

- 1. Notes the latest position in terms of committee appointments at Appendix 1 and agrees the minor membership changes to Scrutiny Committee for Policies, Adults & Health and Scrutiny Committee for Policies, Children and Families.**
- 2. Acknowledges the work undertaken by Councillor Graham Noel as the Chair of the Pensions Committee for many years and agrees the proposed appointment of Councillor John Thorne as the Chair of the Pensions Committee.**
- 3. Appoints and empowers the post and postholder of Governance Specialist-Democratic Services, currently held by Julia Jones, as a Deputy Scrutiny Officer with immediate effect.**
- 4. Appoints the post of Data Protection Manager, held by Lucy Wilkins, as the Council's Data Protection Officer with immediate effect.**
- 5. Notes the progress made with the Scrutiny review recommendations.**

10 Report of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel - Parental Leave and Carers Allowances (Pages 227 - 238)

Guide Time: 12.30pm

- Welcome and invite John Thomson (Chair of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel) to introduce the item set out on pages 227 - 238
- Invite Cllr Fothergill to speak as proposer
- Invite Cllr Redman to speak as seconder
- Invite Council Members to speak
- John Thomson and Scott Wooldridge (Monitoring Officer) to answer any questions raised

Following debate, Chair to refer Members to the recommendations to vote upon.

Chair to invite the Monitoring Officer to read out the names for members to then advise of their vote. Following the vote, the Monitoring Officer will inform the Council as to the voting figures and whether the recommendations were carried or rejected.

The recommendations are:

The Council is recommended to:

- (a) Consider the Panel's recommendations set out in section 7 of the Panel's report attached as Appendix A to this report and decide accordingly.**
- (b) Authorise the Strategic Manager - Governance and Democratic Services, to make any amendments to the Scheme of Members' Allowances 2020-21 required as a result of the Council's decisions in (a) above.**

Chair to advise the meeting of LUNCH BREAK FOR ½ HR FROM 12.50PM

12. REPORT OF THE LEADER AND CABINET – ITEMS FOR INFORMATION (pages 251-254)

Guide Time: 1.20pm

Item 12 – to be introduced by the Chair

- Chair to advise item is for information and this is where Member questions to Cabinet Members will also be considered.
- Member questions are set out in Annex A.

Member Questions to the Leader and Cabinet Members will be taken under this item in the following order of Cabinet speakers:

- **Cllr David Fothergill**
- Invite Cllr Redman to ask his question about Council Tax and Care Leaders for the Chief Executive
- Cllr Fothergill / Chief Executive to respond

- **Cllr Mandy Chilcott**
- Invite Cllr Leyshon to ask her submitted question about Covid 19 funding
- Cllr Chilcott to respond

- **Cllr John Woodman**
- Invite Cllr Woodman to summarise key points from his annual report
- Invite members to ask any questions on the Cabinet Member's annual report
- Invite Cllr Redman to ask his submitted question in Annex A
- Invite Cllr Rigby to ask his submitted question in Annex A
- Cllr Woodman to respond
- Chair to thank Cllr Woodman for his annual report

- **Cllr Frances Nicholson**
- Invite Cllr Nicholson to summarise key points from her annual report
- Invite members to ask any questions on the Cabinet Member's annual report
- Invite Cllr Rigby to ask his submitted question in Annex A about funding for families in need
- Cllr Nicholson to respond
- Chair to thank Cllr Nicholson for her annual report

- **Cllr Clare Paul**

- **Cllr David Hall**
- Invite Cllr Hall to summarise key points from his annual report
- Invite members to ask any questions on the Cabinet Member's annual report
- Cllr Hall to respond
- Chair to thank Cllr Hall for his annual report

- **Cllr David Huxtable**

- **Cllr Christine Lawrence**

- **Cllr Faye Purbrick**
- Invite Cllr Purbrick to summarise key points from her annual report
- Invite members to ask any questions on the Cabinet Member's annual report
- Invite Cllr Munt to ask her submitted question in Annex A
- Cllr Purbrick to respond
- Chair to thank Cllr Purbrick for her annual report

Following debate the Council will be asked by the Chair to note that it has considered the Leader and Cabinet's report for information and items 13, 14, 15 and 16 (Cabinet Member Annual Reports) as part of this agenda item.

13 Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure Annual Report Guide Time: 1.50pm

Noted as considered under Item 12.

14 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport Annual Report Guide Time: 1.50pm

Noted as considered under Item 12.

15 Cabinet Member for Children's and Families Annual Report Guide Time 1.50pm

Noted as considered under Item 12.

16 Cabinet Member for Education & Transformation Annual Report Guide Time 1.50pm

Noted as considered under Item 12.

17 REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, ADULTS AND HEALTH COMMITTEE Guide Time: 1.50pm

Item 17 – to be introduced by Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey – Chair of the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee

- Chair to advise item is for noting only
- Chair to invite Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey to present key points from the report
- Invite members to ask any questions

Chair to thank the Scrutiny Adults and Health Committee for their report and that it is noted by the Council.

18 REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE Guide Time: 2.00pm

Item 18 – to be introduced by Cllr Leigh Redman – Chair of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee

- Chair to advise item is for noting only
- Chair to invite Cllr Leigh Redman to present key points from the report
- Invite members to ask any questions

Chair to thank the Scrutiny Children and Families Committee for their report and that it is noted by the Council.

Item 19 – to be introduced by Cllr Anna Groskop – Chair of the Scrutiny for Policies and Place

- Chair to advise item is for noting only
- Chair to invite Cllr Anna Groskop to present key points from the report
- Invite members to ask any questions

Chair to thank the Scrutiny Place Committee for their report and that it is noted by the Council.

Annual Report of the Somerset Armed Forces Covenant Partnership**Item 20 – to be introduced by Cllr Rod Williams – Chair of the Somerset Armed Forces Covenant Partnership.**

- Chair to advise item is for noting only
- Chair to invite Cllr Rod Williams to present key points from the report
- Invite members to ask any questions

Chair to thank the Somerset Armed Forces Covenant Partnership for their report and that it is noted by the Council.

Chair to thank all attendees, wish everyone a Happy New Year and advise that the next scheduled meeting of the County Council will be on Wednesday 17th February 2021

Estimated Meeting Finish: 2.35pm

Public Questions			
PQ	From	Topic	Question/statement
PQ1 – John Woodman	Susannah Clemence	Road Safety	<p>For the Climate Emergency, the mental and physical health emergencies and the imminent employment emergency:</p> <p>our historic main roads between towns are scenic, level and direct. Originally created by walkers and drovers, they are now virtually inaccessible to anyone not travelling at speed in a motor vehicle.</p> <p>Make it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • possible, • easy, and • normal <p>to commute between towns and villages without a car, ie active travel: cycle, walk, skate, run, mobility scooter, pushchairs, wheelchairs</p> <p>And: Make these paths visible and appealing to people now driving on the roads, so they are tempted to cycle or walk next time they commute.</p> <p>To this end, it would be reasonable to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • devote 1/3 of Highways funding, in addition to any specific Government grants, to laying and maintaining permanent pathways running alongside the direct, main routes <p>What is the Council's aspiration for the proportion of car journeys switching to active transport in the next 20 years?</p> <p>Background: Somerset, has a network of ancient and wonderful ridgeways and level droves, created by and for travellers on foot and with animals. Most of these direct, efficient routes are now inaccessible other than in a car, due to their being entirely taken over by fast, heavy motor vehicles. They have become the A39, the B3161, the A303 and so on.</p>

			<p>Now we want, and urgently need, to get out of our cars, to cycle, walk, or use mobility scooters, and we can't. Whether to get to work, to or from school, to visit relatives or medical services or to go shopping, we have to get in a car. At best, we might have to go a very long way round, using ill maintained routes with many intervals of dangerous high roads. We are campaigning to lower motor traffic through Glastonbury, to make it easier for us all to move around town without resorting to cars. This will be ineffectual as long as people can't get out beyond the town, to Street, and on to Bridgwater, to villages such as Meare en route to Burnham and Cheddar, to Wells, to Pilton and Shepton Mallet.</p> <p>All these are within easy cycling distance for daily commuting. Yet none of them is linked to Glastonbury by a safe, direct path wide enough to accommodate cyclists and walkers.</p>
<p>PQ2 – John Woodman & David Fothergill</p>	<p>David Redgewell</p>	<p>Public Transport and Covid-19 impact.</p>	<p>I would like to address the meeting regarding public transport infrastructure in the county.</p> <p>It would appear from inspection by South West Transport Network and Somerset Catch Bus Campaign that bus shelters have not been cleaned adequately across the county and are not COVID-19 secure. The bus shelters need urgent attention and clean district wide. Bus shelters in the West of England Combined Authority, Gloucestershire and North Somerset undergo regular special COVID-19 cleaning. For example, some Frome bus shelters haven't been cleaned in years. The bus shelter at Badcox, Frome, has around 20 full dog poo bags stuck around the timetable casing and is a public health hazard.</p> <p>The government has allocated money to Avon and Somerset Police. Are you able to advise how this money is being distributed across Somerset. What enforcement on the public transport network has happened to date for wearing face coverings in Somerset?</p> <p>We would like to see covid-19 marshals at Bus stops in Taunton town centre and in Town and city centres and in Bus stations in Yeovil, Wells Wellington, Bridgwater, Minehead and smaller towns.</p> <p>There needs to be proper enforcement of wearing face coverings across the Somerset bus network. School children often take off their face coverings once they are sat down on the buses. COVID Marshals and Journey Makers are now in operation in Bath and Bristol to ensure</p>

enforcement of face coverings. Can Somerset County Council look into getting some COVID marshals to cover the Somerset public transport network?

We welcome the wear of face covering by all children on Somerset school and college buses as well as service bus we would like to screen fixed to all driver's passengers safe scheme fitted to all buses. The bus timetables need updating with First Group, especially in Mendip District and also with the other operators.

We also have a social distancing problem at the main bus stop in Taunton town centre in Castle Way, Corporation Street and The Parade. There are too many buses and coaches trying to use bus stands. A proper safer bus departure plan needs to be put in place and this should also include using the old bus station site. and a new Public transport interchange facility in Taunton town centre.

We would like bus facilities included in Yeovil town centre Bridgwater, Glastonbury in social distancing and pedestrians scheme and cycling schemes.

We are very concerned with Travelwatch south west about the proposals to turn Taunton bus and coach station into a car park. This will undermine climate change emergency and cause poor air quality in the Town centre and undermine the Taunton park and rise service from Gateway and silk mills via Musgrove Park Hospital.

We are opposed with other transport user group to this proposal.

It also is a good reason for one Unitary Authority in the Taunton area dealing with planning and transport functions.

The D2 school bus service, funded by Somerset County Council and West of England Combined Authority runs from Frome via the villages to Bath. However, the afternoon service omits Rode village. This means school children from the age of 11 have to walk 2 miles down narrow predominantly single country lanes or across muddy fields (this will soon be done in the dark) to get home. We need a school bus service that covers all the villages on the D2 route.

A proper COVID-19 secure bus waiting facility needs to be developed in Taunton including new

bus interchange facilities and shelter with provision for disabled castle kerbs. If a new bus interchange is designed and developed it could be funded by the Department for Transport grant through the South West Transport Board. A great example of new bus and coach interchange facilities are Gloucester and facilities under CONSTRUCTION in Weston-Super-Mare.

Please could the Council write to all Parish, Town, City and District Council's about the important of bus shelters cleaning and update bus service information. We welcome real time information system displays being installed in Frome town centre and should be rolled out county wide.

Waiting shelters are required at Minehead town centre and railway station. Welcome the West Somerset railway reopening over Christmas 2020. And work on new stations at Wellington, Langport and Somerton. We welcome proposals to reopen Chard junction station. The Radstock to Frome line should be protected as should the Frome to Shepton mallet route via the East Somerset railway and tracked to Wells.

It must be remembered that all public transport is funded by the Department for Transport COVID-19 grant's £27500 million for bus a week and £182 million for railway services.

Frome Town Centre redevelopment has been a success, improving traffic flow and bus shelters. However, the wheelchair castle kerbs is the wrong place and too short meaning that two buses can't park in the bus bays (Boots side) at one time. and more sides on the shelter s to keep passengers dry from the wind and rain.

We welcome First group new proposal for the D2x between Bath Spa bus and coach station to Frome. The D2x will increase capacity on the route which is especially needed as bus capacity is reduced at the moment due to COVID social distancing measures (single decker only carries 18-20 while a double decker can carry 33 people).

We would like to see improved bus services to Frome train station. We also need good bus rail

interchange facilities at Frome railway station and Castle Cary station. Need to provide public transport network bus information at the stations too.

We would like to see an integrated bus ticket for all operators in Somerset like Wiltshire and a bus rail integrated ticket. We also need a new local bus depot in Frome following the closure of Westbury bus depot.

The barriers again need repairing at Wells bus and coach station There needs to be a discussion with First group about reopening the travel shop and information centre facilities at Wells bus and coach station. Also, in Bath spa bus and coach station.

The timetable also needs to be displayed for Berry Coaches to London Hammersmith bus station.

To restore the late bus service on First Bus 172,173 and 174 to Wells bus station and Shepton Mallet from Bath Spa bus station. And later and Sunday bus service on 126 from Wells bus station to Cheddar and Weston-Super-Mare bus and railway stations Weston super mare to Burnham on sea 20 Sunday services .. These will require further local authorities support or Department for Transport funding.

On planning we ask that the new planning application for the new development known as Selwood Garden Village near Sainsbury's (Frome) has a full sustainable transport plan. This should include proper road width for buses, a bus service to Frome town center and Frome train station, plus walking and cycling.

We also hope Mendip District Council will respond to the government's White Paper: Planning for the Future. There is little mention of public transport access and planning in the paper.

With regards to Somerset County Council reorganisation we would like to see the option of a merger with BANES Council and becoming part of the West of England Combined Authority. Mendip District Council look north to Bath and the Wells. There should be full consultation on this issue. It is very important to get full public support for the reorganization of the Somerset

			<p>region. North Somerset council needs to become part of the west of England combined authority.</p> <p>We would suggest that full public consultation take place in Somerset North Somerset and Banes about the local government reorganisation and mayoral combined authority with the county and mayoral elections take place in may 2022 to allow for public consultation on the unity option proposed by Somerset county council and the District s. and unity authorities and WECA.</p> <p>A review will need to be undertaken of the Two region transport board: Western Gateway and South West Transport Board.</p> <p>David Redgewell South West Transport Network and Railfuture Severnside.</p>
PQ3 – John Woodman	David Orr	Travel Plans	<p>Councillor John Woodman has submitted a generally positive review of the ECI service. However, I have evidenced concerns about a lack of oversight of Section 106 agreements and Travel Plans.</p> <p>I welcome the undertaking in section 2.1 to “improve the way planning applications are considered and processed between the planning authorities and the County Council as highway authority”.</p> <p>During a recent Parking Review undertaken for the Richard Huish College area, where student on-street parking is the principal issue, the Parking Manager decided to utilise a residents’ petition urging the College to take responsibility for the student parking problems.</p> <p>The petition count was added into consultation returns that were inadequate on their own to justify charged parking schemes.</p> <p>Richard Huish College had no active Travel Plan despite a Planning Condition requiring one as long as new teaching blocks were occupied.</p>

The Parking Manager saw no issue with allowing the College to take no part in a parking review for their student parking problems in an area named after the College!

Despite this Council's claims to support a unitary council, I was left playing "two-tier council bingo" between the Local Planning Authority and SCC as the Travel Plan Authority.

ECI stated that the requirement for an active Travel Plan by the College had been discharged, but on further legal advice it was shown that viewpoint was wrong, so the College does need a current Travel Plan.

ECI maintains a web-based Travel Plan system whereby monitoring records submitted by the developer are made. For Richard Huish College, their original Travel Plan 2011-16 had no ECI monitoring records. I then checked the Travel Plan for the Killams Park development in the Taunton South division. Again, there were no monitoring records showing and repeated requests to ECI for them have been ignored for weeks.

On completion of Travel Plans, ECI does not review them to see how effective they were in reducing car journeys and shifting people to walking, cycling and bussing. This lack of a review of completed Travel Plans to assess their effectiveness is, in my view, a failure of policy and common sense.

We are here today debating climate change yet it appears that Travel Plans are not managed and resourced effectively by ECI.

I ask that the Audit Committee now place Travel Plans on to the SWAP audit schedule to ensure that the policy is fit for purpose and that Travel Plans are effectively managed for compliance by developers. I found out in 2016 that a key s106 condition for Killams Park to have a Travel Plan had been overlooked by ECI.

I asked ECI many weeks back (with follow-ups) for a simple report on the current s106 agreement status for Killams Park.

			<p>In October 2016, SWAP auditors investigated s106 monitoring in ECI and, in a “partial opinion”, concluded that “the current system relies upon the honesty of the developers”.</p> <p>ECI Management then gave commitments that a costly new IT system would be implemented by March 2017, with updated processes to address the many failings found.</p> <p>Why now can't ECI simply print a progress report on the Killams Park s106 status?</p> <p>Should SWAP auditors review the s106 oversight system again? Would ECI also commit to web-publishing s106 status by planning permission and area, so that Councillors, Town and Parish councils and engaged citizens can track progress and assist in s106 compliance?</p>
<p>PQ 4-6 Cllr Fothergill</p>	<p>Eva Bryczkowski</p>	<p>Central Government Funding</p>	<p>QUESTION ONE: County Councillors, regarding getting increased funding from central government, will you, in groups, brainstorm and and create a long list of various imaginative activities that SCC can take in order to capture the attention of the media and government - eventually leading to the treasury coughing up the necessary funding on a sustainable basis?</p> <p>QUESTION TWO: Coming from the premise that</p> <p>THERE IS NO FAILURE ONLY FEEDBACK</p> <p>What are the reasons as to why you might not carry out various actions, described above, that are imaginative, inspiring and more likely to achieve success than what the LGA has been doing for many years?</p> <p>QUESTION THREE: Turning the above doubts into clear goals, will SCC provide a rough outline of what needs to happen in order to achieve the outcomes described in question one?</p> <p>*For example</p> <p>i) Turning problems into opportunities and</p>

			<p>clarifying what SCC wants to achieve.</p> <p>ii) Stating when will the above happen.</p> <p>iii) Decide who will be mainly responsible for overseeing the above and making sure this happens.</p> <p>iv) Outline the criteria and checkpoints along the way that will let you know your outcomes are being achieved.</p>
PQ5 Cllr Clare Paul	Sigurd Reimers	Climate Change Strategy	<p>Towards a Climate Resilient Somerset Somerset's Climate Emergency Strategy: The County Council and the District Councils are to be commended for having produced such a comprehensive and accessible report.</p> <p>In Section 4, Our Goals, (pages 96-98) the report rightly outlines the role that the Councils themselves have in decarbonizing their own operations, estates and assets ("Goal 1: To decarbonise Local Authorities, the wider public sector estates and reduce our carbon footprint"). In this section there are some laudable and important proposals, but I see no reference to the investments that the County Council holds, particularly via its Pensions Scheme, many of which are placed in fossil fuel companies. How is the County Council (and the District Councils) intending to influence the upcoming review of Council pensions when it comes to phasing out these investments?</p> <p>Sigurd Reimers, Somerset CC Pensioner</p>
PQ6 Cllr Clare Paul and Cllr Mandy Chilcott	Nigel Behan	Climate change /procurement /capital gains tax	<p>Q1 We submitted questions to Somerset West & Taunton Council and received this reply (see attached):</p> <p>"Good afternoon Nigel.</p> <p>Apologies for the delay, but please see below the answers to your questions submitted to Special Full Council on 26 October 2020:-</p>

Q1 How can SWT ensure that cross boundary (other areas/councils etc.) actions don't have an adverse impact and ensure there will be integrated working with other public bodies etc?

The Council cannot guarantee that actions by other bodies including other Councils and central Government won't have adverse impacts. However, we have stated an intention to establish a multi-agency Climate Emergency Task Force to help implement and deliver our CNCR Action Plan. The principle purpose of this would be to ensure we are working in close partnership and co-operation with other organisations active within the district and as such we would be actively working to reduce the chances of adverse impacts. We are also working on governance proposals for ongoing partnership working across Somerset to reduce the impacts here. A number of other groupings exist to help reduce wider impacts also, including the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership which covers all of Somerset, Devon, Torbay and Plymouth, and there are frequent meetings of authorities across the South West at a formal and informal, officer and Member level in relation to both strategic and specific issues. These forums will be vital to ensuring that we work together towards common goals and do not undermine one another's approach. We highlight multiple issues on which we need to lobby Government. These lobbies have specifically been identified to ensure that we are urging Government to act in ways that will support, rather than work against local action.

Q2 Will SWT (and other councils) consider whether Procurement (and commissioning/contracting etc...) "**is necessary in the first place**" when applying the proposed strategy?

As a local authority, we are bound by rules on procurement and ultimately must use public finances prudently and responsibly. This means that we only look to procure goods and services when they are required. The Assessment of Corporate Emissions and Environmental Impact report which forms appendix 3 to the CNCR Action Plan, contains high level assessment of the carbon impacts associated with our procurement. The CNCR contains various potential actions around addressing procurement going forwards including actions 91, 95, 251, 252, 263, 274 and 275 in the Indicative Action Plan to 2030 (Appendix 1 to the CNCR). Assessing whether procurement is necessary in the first place would be a first port of call in seeking to reduce emissions associated with procurement. Where it is necessary, then we would look to explore ways that it could be improved. The Green Procurement Strategy mentioned in action 252 will likely explore this more fully. In addition to this, there will be other actions that may require external consultancy support, but the extent of this is not yet fully

known. The Council is committed to growing its own expertise and investing in its own staff (see Corporate Strategy), and the CNCR includes a number of potential new officer roles to reduce the reliance on external support.”

Does SCC have any additional (or contradictory) points to add/amend to these responses?

Q2 Given the recently reported review “**Capital gains tax: Rate should double, says government review**”

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-54908037>

The BBC report noted that “...about £14 billion could be raised by cutting exemptions and doubling rates, which [the report] was commissioned by Chancellor Rishi Sunak.”

And it is reported that: “The County Councils Network (CCN), said just a fifth of authorities were confident they could meet their legal duty to set a balanced budget next year and avoid effective bankruptcy.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/nov/12/tory-council-leaders-warn-of-severe-cuts-in-england>

SCC is a part of the County Councils Network (CCN) <https://www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk/>.

- a) Will SCC (& with the CCN) lobby the government for additional (prioritising and allocating) resources (e.g. doubling capital gains taxes and using the receipts etc) for specifically addressing the Climate Emergency?
- b) Will SCC support “the brand **new Robin Hood Tax on fossil fuel corporations** to help communities affected by the drought, floods and wildfires of the climate emergency.”

Member Questions			
MQ - 1&2 John Woodman & Pat Flaherty	Cllr Leigh Redman-	Highways and Council Tax Exemption for young people leaving care	<p>Q1. Question to cabinet member for Highways. Small improvement schemes. There is an assumption that next years county election may be delayed. In the previous quadrennium members of council were able to submit annual requests for safety based highways improvements in their divisions, at the start of this quadrennium this was changed (I would say surprisingly) to limit applications from local members, in some cases disadvantaging some of the more proactive members, you will recall that we were in a concerning financial position when the decision to limit applications was made, at the time although frustrated I agreed with the decision because of our financial position, as a council we now find ourselves in a slightly better financial position, having had an injection of highways money, I would argue that the position has changed and therefore could be reviewed.</p> <p>I have had a project in my division that has been dipping in and out of action for the last 6 years, in fact I was a little surprised that it was not included in the 'shove ready' list of projects that benefited from the last round of government cash, the project could have saved a number of vehicles being written off or damaged and improved safety on a busy road in my division. My question is, can we reopen the SIS scheme for applications so that members can action opportunities to make it safer for constituents in our divisions?</p> <p>Q2. Question for Chief executive. Council tax exemption for young people leaving care. You will recall I asked a question of full council a while ago, seeking support to have a simple and effective process in place across all councils for young people when leaving care that may be required to pay council tax. The tax would mean some of the most at risk young people we are charged with supporting are dealt a financial blow when living alone for the first time, the Chief executive agreed to try and find a process by liaising with district leaders, I know that this was raised and work started. Can I ask for an update please?</p>
MQ 3&4 – John Woodman	Cllr Mike Rigby	Brexit Lorry Parks and Funding for	Q1. In September, Communities Secretary, Robert Jenrick, announced that Government was awarding itself the power to build Brexit lorry parks, required in the event that contrary to promises made, cross-border trade was not in fact frictionless and significant numbers of lorries

& Frances Nicholson		families in need.	<p>could not get out of the country as planned. These lorry parks would not require planning permission and would be built without reference to local residents. Somerset County Council is on the list where such lorry parks can be built. Can you tell us where in Somerset these lorry parks might be built and detail the consultation that this council has had with government before and after the new legislation was introduced</p> <p>Q2. At the beginning of the recent half term, in response to pressure from Marcus Rashford's campaign, Somerset County Council announced a fund of £125,000 to help families in need through the holidays. Please can you tell me how much of that fund was spent during the Autumn half term and what it was spent on.</p>
MQ5 Cllr Fothergill	Cllr Jane Lock	One Somerset	<p>Should the Secretary of State for Housing Communities & Local Government decline to accept both the One Somerset and the Stronger Somerset business cases, what will happen and what is the process in terms of:</p> <p>a. re-submission of a different or amended business case? b. will a rescheduled election then take place later in the year ? c. will the entire cost of a rearranged election fall to SCC ?</p>
MQ6 Cllr Chilcott	Cllr Leyshon	Covid-19 funding	<p>How can Members of this Council be assured that the Covid-19 funding from Government, now forming part of budget equalisation reserves, will be spent where it is most needed for the residents of Somerset. This Council has recently placed £9.5m in a reserve (Cabinet decision, 23rd September) while other Councils may need to draw on their reserves this financial year.</p>
MQ7 Cllr Purbrick	Cllr Munt	Covid 19 and IT	<p>1. How many laptops, computers and tablets have been distributed during the first Coronavirus lockdown from supplies held:</p> <p>a. by the Government? b. by Somerset County Council? i. to Somerset students, and in which years of school or college? ii. to other individuals?</p>

