

COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council (Virtual Meeting) Wednesday 17 February 2021 at 10.00am.

Present: Cllr M Best, Cllr N Bloomfield, Cllr A Bown, Cllr M Caswell, Cllr M Chilcott, Cllr J Clarke, Cllr P Clayton, Cllr S Coles, Cllr A Dance, 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 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 C Paul, Cllr H Prior-Sankey, Cllr M Pullin, Cllr F Purbrick, Cllr L Redman, Cllr B Revans, Cllr M Rigby, Cllr D Ruddle, Cllr N Taylor (Chair), Cllr J Thorne, Cllr G Verdon, Cllr L Vijeh, Cllr W Wallace, Cllr A Wedderkopp, Cllr J Williams, Cllr R Williams and Cllr J Woodman.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Broom, Cllr H Davies, and Cllr M Keating (Vice Chair).

The Monitoring Officer called for a proposer and a seconder for Vice Chair for this meeting. Cllr Peter Clayton was proposed by Cllr David Fothergill and seconded by Cllr Ann Bown. There being no other proposers the Council agreed to appoint Cllr Clayton as Vice Chair for the meeting.

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

The Chair reminded the meeting that details of all Members' interests in District, Town and Parish Councils could be viewed on the Council's Website and there is no need for members to individually declare these personal interests in those other councils at the meeting.

Members were reminded that the Monitoring Officer had granted a dispensation to enable all elected members to participate and vote on setting the Revenue 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 that as they could not take part in the vote relating to the Budget.

226 **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18 November 2020** - Agenda Item 3

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2020 were accepted as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair of the meeting.

227 **Public Question Time** - Agenda Item 4 (7 minutes)

Notice was received of Public Questions/Statements/Petitions (under 5000 signatures) and Elected Member Questions regarding:

Council tax increases and Debt borrowing

1-3. From: Alan Debenham

Responses from Cllr Mandy Chilcott, Deputy Leader of the Council

Council tax increase

4. From: Andrew Pope

Responses from Cllr Mandy Chilcott, Deputy Leader of the Council

Air Quality and Climate Change

5-6. From Nigel Behan

Responses from Cllr Clare Paul, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Well-being and Climate Change

Reform of Health and Care Services

7. From Nigel Behan

Response from Cllr Clare Paul, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Well-being and Climate Change

Buses in Somerset

8-10. From Lucy Travis

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

Trains in Somerset

11-13. From David Redgewell

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

Trains in Somerset

14-15. From John Hassell

Responses 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).

228 **Chair's Announcements** - Agenda Item 5

The Chair referred to:

Some inappropriate comments that he had made at the last meeting and he wished to make a public apology for those remarks.

The events the Chair had attended since the last meeting of the County Council in November 2020, as listed in the Chair's Information Sheet No. 10, circulated and published with the agenda.

The Chair also noted the passing of Mr John Brunsdon, MBE who had served as a County Councillor for Glastonbury. By leave, Cllr Napper recalled that Mr Brunsdon had come to Glastonbury as a vet in 1952 and became a County Councillor in the late 60's. He served the people of Glastonbury as a Councillor for 40 years and was Mayor on 3 occasions. He was awarded the M.B.E. for his service to the National Trust and until recently he would climb the Tor every day. Cllr Napper reflected that, like many, he was sad at the passing of John, a stalwart, true gentleman and servant to Glastonbury. The Council observed a period of silence to reflect Mr Brunsdon's passing.

229 **Report of the Leader of the Council** - Agenda Item 6

The Council considered a report by the Leader and Cabinet setting out recommendations arising from Cabinet meetings held on 16 December 2020, 20 January and 8 February 2021 on the Medium-Term Financial Plan and related matters and the Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 Budget and Council Tax Setting – Paper A including: the Revenue Budget; the Capital Strategy; the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement; and the Section 25 Statement from the Section 151 Officer

Cllr David Fothergill, Leader of the Council, made a speech introducing the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2021/22 and the budget. Matters referred to by Cllr Fothergill included:

Reflecting on the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and he provided a detailed overview of the wide range of activities and support undertaken by all staff, volunteers, partners and service providers across all sectors in Somerset. Recognising that although the pandemic had brought hardship and grief, he suggested a period

of applause and Members joined him and in so doing thanked and acknowledged the commitment and hard work of everyone in Somerset during the emergency response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Suggesting the creation of a 'Somerset Medal' to be awarded as a symbol of recognition to those who had contributed in the towns, parishes and communities for the benefit of others during the pandemic.

Looking forward to the year ahead and the Council's improved financial position (as reflected in the agenda papers) putting in place a progressive budget for Somerset, that included increased funding for Adults Services (£10m), Children's Services (£9m), Climate change initiatives (£6.5m), Major infrastructure schemes (£130m) and he hoped all Members would endorse the budget.

Noting the forthcoming Government consultation on local government reform in Somerset, and he reflected on how the unified approach of One Somerset had already shown its merits as the County came together for the benefit of all residents and he believed working together as one would benefit all residents in future.

Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21 - 2022/23 - Reports and Proposals

The Chair of Council invited Cllr Mandy Chilcott, Cabinet Member for Resources, to introduce the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) proposals which were set out in the Leader and Cabinet's report to Council as Paper A (and its appendices).

Cllr Chilcott indicated that the MTFP was considered by the Council's three Scrutiny Committees ahead of the Cabinet meeting on 8 February 2021. The Scrutiny Committees received an update and overview that summarised key messages from the MTFP (2021/22) Strategy Report approved by Cabinet on 16 December 2020. This included an overall assurance narrative from the Cabinet Member for Resources and the Section 151 Officer alongside more details about the key areas of focus for transformation in the next few years, and further explanation of the reasons for movements in the levels of spend and funding between the years over the MTFP period.

The Scrutiny Committees had provided challenge to the process and while none had made any formal recommendations, each had made comments and observations regarding the proposed MTFP, which were set out in the report. The Cabinet duly considered the MTFP and feedback from the Scrutiny Committees, and at its meeting on 8 February 2021 endorsed the recommendations, for approval by Council.

Cllr Chilcott reminded Members of the need to consider the Section 151 Officer's statement in Appendix L to Paper A regarding the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the reserves and balances and to have due regard to the equalities impact assessments within the papers.

Proposed Amendment

Further to Cllr Fothergill's budget speech, Cllr Chilcott, seconded by Cllr Liz Leyshon, moved that the recommendations relating to the Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 of the Leader and Cabinet be amended by the addition of the following, as set out in Annex A to the report:

To provide a grant of up to £400,000 to the Citizens Advice and for this to be financed from the Covid-19 funding that the Council has received.

Cllr Liz Leyshon, Opposition Spokesperson for Resources, confirmed her support of the proposed amendment and she thanked Officers for their work and she suggested that the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee might like to invite Citizens Advice to provide an update to one of its future meetings.

A named vote was taken on the proposed amendment, with votes being cast as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
Cllr Mike Best Cllr Neil Bloomfield Cllr Ann Bown Cllr Peter Clayton Cllr Mike Caswell Cllr Mandy Chilcott Cllr John Clarke Cllr Simon Coles Cllr Adam Dance Cllr Martin Dimery Cllr Bob Filmer Cllr David Fothergill Cllr Giuseppe Frascini Cllr Andrew Govier Cllr Anna Groskop Cllr David Hall Cllr Philip Ham Cllr Mark Healey Cllr Nigel Hewitt-Cooper Cllr James Hunt Cllr John Hunt Cllr David Huxtable Cllr Andy Kendall Cllr Christine Lawrence Cllr Mike Lewis		

Cllr Liz Leyshon Cllr Jane Lock Cllr Tony Lock Cllr Dave Loveridge Cllr Tessa Munt Cllr Terry Napper Cllr Frances Nicholson Cllr Graham Noel Cllr Linda Oliver Cllr John Parham Cllr Claire Paul Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey Cllr Mike Pullin Cllr Leigh Redman Cllr Bill Revans Cllr Mike Rigby Cllr Dean Ruddle Cllr Nigel Taylor Cllr John Thorne Cllr Gemma Verdon Cllr Linda Vijeh Cllr William Wallace Cllr Alan Wedderkopp Cllr Josh Williams Cllr Rod Williams Cllr John Woodman		
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The Council therefore **RESOLVED** by 51 votes to 0 to adopt the amendment.

Substantive Motion and Decisions

Cllr Fothergill, Cllr Chilcott and Jason Vaughan responded to further points of clarification etc raised by members on matters including:

Cllr Prior-Sankey, Chair of the Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee, noted the demographic additional demands increase and additional money for Discovery and the employment support for Discovery and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care noted those details had been considered by Adults and Health Scrutiny and he highlighted further details were provided on page 49 of the agenda pack.

Cllr Liz Leyshon, Opposition Spokesperson for Resources, noted the low Council Tax base and the resultant low income from Council Tax in Somerset and the difficulties this imposed would continue whatever the outcome of local government reorganisation. She welcomed the capital budget proposals and investment plans for

specific areas, and regarding borrowing she noted table 6 on page 118 showed that by 2023-2024 the Council's borrowing would stand at £504m.

(The Chair left the meeting and the Vice Chair took the Chair for the remainder of this agenda item)

Cllr Ruddle asked given the Council's projected shortfall how the proposed savings targets would be achieved and he asked about borrowing in 2021 on page 118 and in response Cllr Chilcott noted the Council's reserves were within the required range for budget contingencies and the Director of Finance confirmed the Council's internal borrowing details were set out in page 117 of the agenda pack.

Cllr David Fothergill, seconded by Cllr Mandy Chilcott, moved the recommendation relating to the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2021/22 (Paper A), as amended, as the substantive motion.

A named vote was taken on the motion, with votes being cast as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
Cllr Mike Best Cllr Ann Bown Cllr Peter Clayton Cllr Mike Caswell Cllr Mandy Chilcott Cllr John Clarke Cllr Simon Coles Cllr Adam Dance Cllr Martin Dimery Cllr Bob Filmer Cllr David Fothergill Cllr Giuseppe Fraschini Cllr Anna Groskop Cllr David Hall Cllr Philip Ham Cllr Mark Healey Cllr Nigel Hewitt-Cooper Cllr James Hunt Cllr David Huxtable Cllr Andy Kendall Cllr Christine Lawrence Cllr Mike Lewis Cllr Liz Leyshon Cllr Jane Lock Cllr Tony Lock Cllr Tessa Munt		Cllr Andrew Govier Cllr John Hunt Cllr Dave Loveridge Cllr Leigh Redman

Cllr Terry Napper Cllr Frances Nicholson Cllr Graham Noel Cllr Linda Oliver Cllr John Parham Cllr Claire Paul Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey Cllr Mike Pullin Cllr Bill Revans Cllr Mike Rigby Cllr Dean Ruddle Cllr John Thorne Cllr Gemma Verdon Cllr Linda Vijeh Cllr William Wallace Cllr Alan Wedderkopp Cllr Josh Williams Cllr Rod Williams Cllr John Woodman		
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The Council **RESOLVED** by 45 votes to 0, with 4 abstentions, to adopt the substantive motion, and accordingly to:

Approve the General Fund net revenue budget for 2021/22 of £356,072,100 and the individual service budgets for 2021/22 as outlined in Appendix 1 including,

- a) The transformation, savings and income generation plans outlined in Appendix 2(i), in conjunction with the Equalities Impact Assessments where required in Appendix 2 (ii).
- b) The additional funding requirements set out in Appendix 3.
- c) An increase in Council Tax of 1.99% in 2021/22 (an increase of £25.66 per Band D property).
- d) An increase of 3.00% to Council Tax for the Adult Social Care Precept is approved in recognition of the current demands and financial pressures on this service. This is equivalent to an increase of £38.67 on a Band D property.
- e) 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 £2,560,700,

- f) Agree the precept requirement of £269,934,700 and set the County Council precept for Band D council tax charge at £1,353.53 for 2021/22.
- g) The use of reserves for once-off spend and the overall estimated position of Earmarked Reserves outlined in Appendix 4.
- h) Note the adequacy of General Reserves at £19.690m within a risk assessed range requirement of £18.70m - £20.67m
- i) The Capital & Investment Strategy attached at Appendix 6.
- j) The Capital Programme for 2021/22 of £152.138m including new capital bids of £73.913m outlined in Appendix 7, planned sources of funding, and notes the overall programme of £231.711m for 2022/23 to 2023/24, outlined in Appendix 8.
- k) The MRP Policy attached at Appendix 9.
- l) The Capital Prudential Indicators outlined in tables 12-18.
- m) Delegate any amendments within the final Government Financial Settlement and the final Business Rates amendments to the Director of Finance in consultation with the Leader of the Council.
- n) Approve a grant of up to £400,000 to Citizens Advice Somerset finance from Covid-19 funding with the allocation decisions delegated to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources based upon suitable business plans.
(NB – Recommendation (n) was the amendment agreed at the meeting)

Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020/21 – Paper B

The Vice Chair invited Cllr Mandy Chilcott, Cabinet Member for Resources, to introduce proposals for the strategy and associated activities for the management of the Council's cash flows, borrowing and treasury investments and the associated risks to underpin the Council's business and service objectives which were set out in the report to the Cabinet attached to the Leader and Cabinet's report to Council as (Paper B (and its appendices)).

Cllr Chilcott, Cllr Fothergill and Jason Vaughan responded to further points of clarification etc raised by members on matters including:

Cllr Leyshon and Cllr Ruddle wished to record thanks to Officers for their diligence and experience in managing Somerset's money and borrowing so carefully.

Cllr John Clarke asked about total external borrowing and how this had been calculated as it appeared as if borrowing and debt would be increasing and in response the Director of Finance explained that the figures on page 145 comprised cumulative figures for all of the details provided in the budget papers such as the capital programme and all of the schemes approved and how those would be potentially funded.

Cllr Mandy Chilcott, seconded by Cllr David Fothergill, moved the recommendation relating to the Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22, noting that sections 2, 3 and 4 should read 12, 13 and 14.

A named vote was taken on the motion, with votes being cast as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
Cllr Mike Best Cllr Ann Bown Cllr Peter Clayton Cllr Mike Caswell Cllr Mandy Chilcott Cllr John Clarke Cllr Simon Coles Cllr Adam Dance Cllr Martin Dimery Cllr Bob Filmer Cllr David Fothergill Cllr Giuseppe Frascini Cllr Andrew Govier Cllr Anna Groskop Cllr David Hall Cllr Philip Ham Cllr Mark Healey Cllr Nigel Hewitt-Cooper Cllr James Hunt Cllr John Hunt Cllr David Huxtable Cllr Andy Kendall Cllr Christine Lawrence Cllr Mike Lewis Cllr Liz Leyshon Cllr Jane Lock Cllr Tony Lock Cllr Tessa Munt Cllr Terry Napper Cllr Frances Nicholson Cllr Graham Noel		Cllr Dave Loveridge

Cllr Linda Oliver Cllr John Parham Cllr Claire Paul Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey Cllr Mike Pullin Cllr Leigh Redman Cllr Bill Revans Cllr Mike Rigby Cllr Dean Ruddle Cllr Gemma Verdon Cllr Linda Vijeh Cllr William Wallace Cllr Alan Wedderkopp Cllr Josh Williams Cllr Rod Williams Cllr John Woodman		
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The Council **RESOLVED** by 47 votes to 0, with 1 abstention, to:

1. Adopt the Treasury Management Strategy (as shown in section 12 of the report).
2. Approve the Treasury Investment Strategy (as shown in Section 13 of the report) and proposed Lending Counterparty Criteria (attached at Appendix B to Paper B).
3. Adopt the Prudential Indicators (as set out in section 14 of the report)

(Following a motion by the Vice Chair of the Council, the meeting was
adjourned between 12.15pm and 12.20pm)

230 **Report of the HR Policy Committee** – Agenda item 7

The Chair of Council referred to a report by the HR Policy Committee, and he asked Cllr Mandy Chilcott, Chair of the Committee, to present it.

The report covered the Pay Policy Statement 2021/22 and Cllr Chilcott referred to the hourly rate for national living wage and the ratio of the pay of the Council's median earner to that of the Chief Executive.

Cllr Revans, noting the actions of local NHS Trusts that had given staff an extra day of leave to thank them for their work during the pandemic, asked if Cllr Chilcott and the Director for HR if the Council would consider granting staff an extra day of leave. Cllr Chilcott confirmed this was being considered by the Council's Leadership Team.

Cllr Mandy Chilcott, seconded by Cllr Leigh Redman, moved and the Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Pay Policy Statement (PPS) for the Council for 2021-22 as set out in Appendix A to the report.

231 **Report of the Monitoring Officer** - Agenda Item 8

The Council considered a report by the Monitoring Officer on the proposed Member Development Strategy 2021-2025, and the proposed appointment of an independent member of the Audit Committee.

The Monitoring Officer noted that the proposed Member Development Strategy would help Members to effectively carry out their functions and it included virtual learning and development opportunities and embracing new ways of working. The report also reflected a proposal from the Audit Committee following their consideration of a national review by Sir Tony Redmond that had suggested the appointment of an independent person to sit on local authority Audit Committees.

Cllr Mandy Chilcott, seconded by Cllr Jane Lock, moved and the Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Member Development Strategy 2021-2025, and the appointment of an independent co-opted member of the Audit Committee (without voting rights).

232 **Report of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel** - Agenda Item 9

The Council considered a report from the Monitoring Officer and Mr John Thomson (Chair of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel) to set out the Panel's report and recommendations.

Following presentation of the report by the Chair of the Panel, the Leader of the Council was invited to respond and he proposed that the Council agree to adjourn its consideration and debate of the Panel's report and recommendations until the next Full Council meeting in May pending clarification regarding the County Council elections and the Local Government Reorganisation review.

Cllr David Fothergill, seconded by Cllr Jane Lock, moved and the Council **RESOLVED** to defer consideration of the report until its next meeting in May 2021.

(Following a motion from the Chair of the Council, the meeting was adjourned between 1.00pm and 1.35pm)

233 **Requested Items** - Agenda Item 10

The Chair invited Cllr John Clarke to present and propose the requisitioned item about a pilot study for Universal Basic Income. Cllr Tessa Munt seconded the recommendations and hoped they would receive cross-party support.

The requisitioned item, in recognising the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Somerset's residents' incomes, and the urgent need to reduce inequality, disadvantage and poverty, asked the Council to request that the Leader:

1. To write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Somerset's MPs and the Secretary of State for Work & Pensions requesting the UK Government undertakes pilot studies for the Universal Basic Income, and that Somerset be included in any pilot.
2. That such pilot studies gather evidence of the effectiveness of a Universal Basic Income on reducing inequality, disadvantage and poverty.
3. That the Leader sends a copy of any responses from The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Somerset's MPs and the Secretary of State for Work & Pensions to all Somerset County Council Members as and when replies are received.

There was a brief debate on the requisitioned item and Cllr Munt proposed an amendment, seconded by Cllr Revans:

4. That, if there is a pilot study/trial, the Council should apply to be part of that pilot study/trail (for a Universal Basic Income).

The Council **RESOLVED** by majority not to support the amendment.

The Council then **RESOLVED** by majority not to adopt the requested item regarding a pilot study for universal Basic Income.

234 **Report of the Leader and Cabinet – Items for Information** - Agenda Item 11

The Council received a report by the Leader and Cabinet summarising key decisions which the Leader, other Cabinet Members and Officers had taken since the last Council meeting, including items of business discussed at Cabinet meetings on 16 December 2020 and 20 January and 8 February 2021.

Cllr David Fothergill and Cabinet Members responded to questions from members as set out below:

Cllr Mandy Chilcott responded to a written question from Cllr Lock regarding the refurbishment of A Block, County Hall.

Cllr Mandy Chilcott responded to a written question from Cllr Lock regarding the Brexit transition grant.

Cllr John Woodman responded to a question from Cllr Redman about the process for advisory disabled parking bays for residential areas.

Cllr John Woodman responded to a question from Cllr Kendall about yellow parking lines in Yeovil and he asked Cllr Kendall to send him the details.

Cllr David Hall responded to written questions from Cllr Redman regarding the impact of the proposed workforce increase at Hinkley Point C.

Cllr Huxtable offered to provide a written answer to a question from Cllr Revans regarding non consent of vulnerable people in respect of do not resuscitate orders.

At Cllr David Fothergill's invitation, Cllr Clare Paul, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Well Being and Climate Change, presented her Annual report and she recognised the work of the Council's Public Health team to manage the response to the Covid-19 pandemic whilst also maintaining their other work during that time to protect, support and improve the health and well-being of Somerset residents.

Cllr Paul offered to provide written answers to questions from Cllr Clarke regarding active travel initiatives, the Community Climate Emergency Fund and the 'Baby tree project'.

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.

The Council received and noted this report.

235 Annual Report of the Constitution and Standards Committee - Agenda item 12

The Council received and noted the report of the Constitution and Standards Committee, which was presented by Cllr William Wallace, Chair of the Committee.

The report covered the Committee's work between June 2019 and December 2020 and its work to maintain an effective, up to date and legally compliant Constitution. Cllr Wallace thanked the fellow Members of the cross-party Committee for their work to ensure the Council's Constitution was effective, up to date and fit for purpose.

236 Report of the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee - Agenda Item 14

The Council received and noted a report by Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee, which was presented by Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey, Chair of the Committee.

The report covered the work of the Committee since its last update to Council and Cllr Prior-Sankey thanked all those who worked across the Care and Health services to look after Somerset residents. She noted a future meeting would consider details about the integration of the care and health services.

237 Report of the Scrutiny Committee for Policies and Place – Agenda Item 15

The Council received and noted a report by the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee, which was presented by Cllr Anna Groskop, Chair of the Committee.

The report covered the work of the Committee since its last update to Council and Cllr Groskop welcomed her Committee being able to review reports prior to their submission to Cabinet, and she thanked the Director of Finance and his team for their work to ensure a robust budget setting process.

238 Report of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee – Agenda Item 16

The Council received and noted a report by Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee, which was presented by Cllr Leigh Redman, Chair of the Committee.

The report covered the work of the Committee since its last update to Council and Cllr Redman welcomed and encouraged Member participation in the work of the Committee, noting a Task and Finish Group was about to begin. He also referred to a recent all Member workshop held on Adverse Childhood Experiences that he and other Members had found very interesting and informative and he thanked Officers for their on-going work to support the Committee.

(The meeting ended at 3.05pm)

Chair of the Council