

CHAIR'S SCHEDULE AND MEETING BUSINESS PLAN

County Council Meeting – Wednesday 25 May 2022 (10.00am)

Scott Wooldridge, Monitoring Officer will welcome new members to the meeting:

- **Remind everyone that in line with legal requirements this meeting is being held face to face but members can join online and participate at the meeting.**
- **Explain that it is only the County Councillors present that are taking the decisions at the meeting - officers 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 meeting will be webcast and the Council will be making an audio recording of the meeting and this will be published on the Council's website in due course.**
- **Explain that there are no planned fire drills today and in the event of a fire alarm please follow the fire exit signs and congregate in the car park. If anybody present might need assistance in exiting the building, then please let one of the Democratic Services team know.**
- **If Members in the room wish to speak, please raise your hand and the Monitoring Officer and County Solicitor will note your name and when it comes to your turn please use the microphone on the desk in front of you. For members joining the meeting virtually, please raise use 'hand facility' in MS Teams and the Chair will invite you to speak.**
- **Please only speak when invited to address the Council.**
- **Please say your name and role before speaking for the first time.**

1 Election of the Chair of the Council Guide Time 10.05am

Cllr Peter Clayton, former Vice Chair of Council to invite nominations from proposers and seconders for the election of Chair of Council, to serve until the first Annual General Meeting of Somerset Council in May 2023.

Cllr Bill Revans will propose Cllr Mike Best to be elected as Chair. Cllr David Fothergill will second the nomination.

The member elected will read and sign the formal Declaration of Acceptance of Office and receive the Chain of Office.

Questions

Public Questions / Statements / Petitions (under 5000 signatures)

Questions received from – Mr David Redgewell (3 questions) and Mr Alan Debenham (2 questions).

For Decision

11 Report of the Monitoring Officer Guide Time 11.25am

To be introduced by Scott Wooldridge, Monitoring Officer. The three reports set out decisions that are required at the Council's Annual General Meeting (AGM) regarding the appointment of members to internal, partnerships and outside bodies for 2022/23 (up until the next Annual General Meeting).

Note – an updated **Appendix 1** (appointments schedule) with names of members was published prior to the meeting.

Council is asked to consider the recommendations of the three reports regarding:

- A) Committee proportionality, Committee appointments and annual calendar of meetings
- B) Appointments to Partnership and Outside Bodies
- C) Interim Constitution 2022/23

Paper A – Appointments to Committees and calendar of meetings

Chair to invite the Monitoring Officer to highlight key points from the report. Cllr Bill Revans to propose the recommendations and Cllr Leigh Redman to second the recommendations. Chair to then invite members to ask any questions.

Following debate the Chair to highlight the recommendations that are set out at paragraph 2.1 of the report, to be proposed by Cllr Bill Revans seconded by Cllr Leigh Redman, debated and voted upon as detailed below:

- 1. Note the election and appointment of the Chair of the Council, Vice Chair of the Council and Leader of the Council agreed at this Annual General Meeting prior to this agenda item.**
- 2. Approve the County Council Appointments Schedule to this**

report (Appendix 1), to include, as necessary, summary revised terms of reference for proposed new committees, the proposed committees for appointments to be made to and the proposed appointments to Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority and Exmoor National Park Authority – see sections 3.1 and 3.2 for more detail.

- 3. To approve the payment of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) for any new equivalent SRA qualifying posts created in 1 and 2 above that fit within the existing SRA bandings scheme, pending the Council considering recommendations of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the review of the Members' Allowances Scheme.**
- 4. To agree the dates already agreed for ordinary meetings of the County Council for the year as set out in section 3.3.**

Paper B – Appointments to Internal, Partnership and Outside Bodies

Chair to invite the Monitoring Officer to highlight key points from the report. Cllr Bill Revans to propose the recommendations and Cllr Liz Leyshon to second the recommendations. Chair to then invite members to ask any questions.

Following debate the Chair to highlight the recommendations that are set out at paragraph 2.1 of the report, to be proposed by Cllr Bill Revans seconded by Cllr Liz Leyshon, debated and voted upon as detailed below: -

- 1. Approve the appointment of members to internal, partnerships and outside bodies for 2022/2023 as set out at Appendix 1.**
- 2. Appoint Councillor Henry Hobhouse as the Armed Forces Member Champion.**

Paper C – Interim Constitution for 2022/23

Chair to invite the Monitoring Officer to highlight key points from the report. Monitoring Officer to highlight the revision to **Appendix 2** (published on 19 May) to clarify that the proposed quorum for a Full Council meeting is now 28 members. Cllr Bill Revans to propose the recommendations and Cllr David Fothergill to second the recommendations. Chair to then invite members to ask any questions.

Following debate the Chair to highlight the recommendations that are set out at paragraph 2.1 of the report, to be proposed by Cllr Bill Revans seconded by Cllr David Fothergill, debated and voted upon as detailed below: -

- 1. Approve the proposed revisions to its Constitution as set out in Appendices 2-5;**
- 2. Approve the proposed guidance documents set out in Appendices 6-9;**
- 3. Note the further constitutional work to be undertaken during 2022; and**
- 4. Authorise the Monitoring Officer to make the necessary amendments required as a result of the decisions above to the Council's Constitution and publish the revised documents on the Council's website.**

MEETING CLOSE

Estimated end time 12.00pm

Public and Member Questions County Council 25 May 2022

ANNEX A

<u>Public Questions</u>			
PQ	From	Topic	Question/Statement
PQ1	Mr David Redgewell	Railfuture Severnside	<p>What plans do the council have for providing an integrated Transport system for Somerset, including investment in new local railway stations at Wellington, Somerton, Langport Parkway and chard junction?</p> <p>To support the bids by Network rail western route and First group Great western for access for all bids at Bridgwater, Castle Cary for lifts - Castle Cary being designed as a Transport interchange and for lifts at Yeovil junction railway station by First group MTR South Western railway Network. Where disabled passengers and mothers and fathers miss main line passengers trains due to signalling and Barrow crossing. This an important bus link to Yeovil Town and Yeovil pen mill. Has the county council support the bids to the Department for transport and Secretary of state Grant Shapps?</p> <p>What equalities Training is being undertaken by the Department for transport and Somerset County Council on member of South Wessex railway partnership and Severnside railway partnership on diversity and disability.</p>
PQ	From	Topic	Question/Statement
PQ2	Mr David Redgewell	Railway	<p>With the West Somerset railway being an important Tourist Railway and part of west Somerset integrated Transport system and community railway, what progress is being on integration with the main line at Taunton, with First group Great western railway services and the bus 28 First group South west, Watchet and Bishop Lydeard to Taunton station and Town centre bus service.</p>

PQ	From	Topic	Question/Statement
PQ3	Mr David Redgewell	South West Transport Network	<p>What is the county council doing as the public transport Authority to promote Bus services ,coaches and trains services this summer across the Historic county of Somerset and South West England to residents and Tourists - to such centres as Burnham on Sea, Taunton Minehead ,Watchet Wells ,Glastonbury Street, Yeovil, Bath ,Bristol Frome and Cheddar and Weston Super Mare; and Sunday bus service to Cheddar from Weston Super Mare and Wells bus station?</p> <p>Working jointly with the public transport companies such as First group buses and trains, stagecoach, National Express coaches, Megabus Falcon and Flexibus Berry coaches, and local operators and west Somerset railway.</p>
PQ	From	Topic	Question/Statement
PQ4	Mr Alan Debenham	Democracy	<p>(1) Democracy, measured by the amount of active engagement in government of the people at large, from the lowest level upwards - not the reverse - has become a big thing worth fighting for again, both in Ukraine and at home. Once again in local elections the turnout of registered voters ranged from about 25 % to 45% with the average in SWaT being 38.7%, with 43.2% in the Taunton Division where I was a Green Party candidate.</p> <p>In SWaT's parish and town elections the democracy picture was even bleaker, although much the same as in 2017, resting at the unbelievable figure again of less than 10% actually managing to drum-up enough democratic urge to have a contested election at all.</p> <p>In other words, the "don't vote" and "don't be a candidate" democracy wreckers have clearly won at all levels once again. Bearing in mind the big democratic deficit conjured-up in the enormous reduction in total frontline Councillors for the new Somerset Council (from 269 to 110), myself and many others are extremely</p>

			interested in:- How and what will the new Liberal DEMOCRAT Council do to radically improve this pathetic state of democracy which currently exists throughout Somerset?
PQ	From	Topic	Question/Statement
PQ5	Mr Alan Debenham	Council administration	Now we have the great news for Somerset Council of a return to control by the Liberal Democrats, when can us green democrats, if at all, expect, a return to the former much fairer (both for all councillors and voters), more efficient and easily understood, system of Council administration, comprised of a power-shared top Executive Management Committee, plus power-shared, spending 'Services Committees' underneath it, simultaneously getting rid of ineffectual so-called 'Scrutiny' committees and any 'Mayors' with executive, rather than ceremonial, roles?
<u>MEMBER QUESTIONS</u>			
MQ	From	Topic	Question/Statement
MQ			