



**South Somerset  
District Council**

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## **Scrutiny Committee (Informal)**

**Tuesday 5th April 2022**

**10.30 am**

**A virtual meeting via Zoom meeting software**

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The following members are requested to attend this meeting.

**Chairman:** Gerard Tucker  
**Vice-chairmen:** Sue Osborne

Robin Bastable  
Louise Clarke  
Karl Gill  
Brian Hamilton

Charlie Hull  
Andy Kendall  
Mike Lewis  
Paul Maxwell

Robin Pailthorpe  
Oliver Patrick  
2 Vacancies

Any members of the public wishing to address the virtual meeting at Public Question Time need to email [democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk) , by 9.00am on Monday 4 April.

The meeting will be viewable online by selecting the committee meeting at:  
**[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSDst3IHGj9WoGnwJGF\\_soA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSDst3IHGj9WoGnwJGF_soA)**

For further information on the items to be discussed, please contact  
[democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk)

This Agenda was issued on Monday 28 March 2022.

**Jane Portman**, *Chief Executive Officer*

**This information is also available on our website  
[www.southsomerset.gov.uk](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk) and via the mod.gov app**

## Information for the Public

In light of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), Scrutiny Committee will meet virtually via video-conferencing to consider reports. As of 7 May 2021 some interim arrangements are in place for committee meetings.

At the meeting of Full Council on 15 April 2021 it was agreed to make the following changes to the Council's Constitution:

- a) To continue to enable members to hold remote, virtual meetings using available technology;
- b) To amend Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council's Constitution to allow those remote meetings to function as consultative bodies and delegate decisions, including Executive and Quasi-Judicial decisions, that would have been taken by those meetings if the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 had continued in force to the Chief Executive (or the relevant Director in the Chief Executive's absence) in consultation with those meetings and those members to whom the decision would otherwise have been delegated under Part 3 of the Constitution;
- c) The delegated authority given under (b) will expire on 31 July 2021 unless continued by a future decision of this Council;

For full details and to view the report please see -

<https://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=137&MId=2981&Ver=4>

Further to the above, at the meeting of Full Council on 8 July 2021, it was agreed to extend the arrangements for a further 6 months to 8 January 2022. For full details and to view the report please see -

<https://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=137&MId=3033&Ver=4>

Further to the above, at the meeting of Full Council on 16 December 2021, it was agreed to extend the arrangements for a further 6 months to 8 July 2022 for all meetings apart from Full Council - Full Council will be in person. For full details and to view the report please see -

<https://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=137&MId=2991&Ver=4>

## Scrutiny Committee

The Local Government Act 2000 required all councils in England and Wales to introduce new political structures which provide a clear role for the Council, the Executive and non-executive councillors.

One of the key roles for non-executive councillors is to undertake an overview and scrutiny role for the council. In this Council the overview and scrutiny role involves reviewing and developing, scrutinising organisations external to the council and holding the executive to account. Scrutiny also has an important role to play in organisational performance management.

The Scrutiny Committee is made up of 14 non-executive members and meets monthly to consider items where executive decisions need to be reviewed before or after their implementation, and to commission reviews of policy or other public interest.

Members of the public are able to:

- attend meetings of the Scrutiny Committee except where, for example, personal or confidential matters are being discussed;

- speak at Scrutiny Committee meetings (limited to up to 3 minutes per person and at the Chairman's discretion usually no more than a total of 15 minutes is allocated for public speaking); and
- see agenda reports.

Meetings of the Scrutiny Committee are usually held monthly at 10.00am on the Tuesday prior to meetings of the District Executive (unless advised otherwise). However during the coronavirus pandemic these meetings will be held remotely via Zoom and the starting time may vary.

Agendas and minutes of committee meetings are published on the Council's website at: <http://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

Agendas and minutes can also be viewed via the mod.gov app (free) available for iPads, Windows and Android devices. Search for 'mod.gov' in the app store for your device, install, and select 'South Somerset' from the list of publishers, then select the committees of interest. A wi-fi signal will be required for a very short time to download an agenda but once downloaded, documents will be viewable offline.

## **Public participation at meetings (held via Zoom)**

We recognise that these are challenging times but we still value the public's contribution to our virtual meetings.

If you would like to address the virtual meeting during Public Question Time please email [democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk) by 9.00am on Monday 4 April 2022. When you have registered, the Chairman will invite you to speak at the appropriate time during the virtual meeting.

This meeting will be streamed online via YouTube at:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSDst3IHGj9WoGnwJGF\\_soA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSDst3IHGj9WoGnwJGF_soA)

### **Virtual meeting etiquette:**

- Consider joining the meeting early to ensure your technology is working correctly.
- Please note that we will mute all public attendees to minimise background noise. If you have registered to speak during the virtual meeting, the Chairman or Administrator will un-mute your microphone at the appropriate time. We also respectfully request that you turn off video cameras until asked to speak.
- Each individual speaker shall be restricted to a total of three minutes.
- When speaking, keep your points clear and concise.
- Please speak clearly – the Councillors are interested in your comments.

## **Recording and photography at council meetings**

Recording of council meetings is permitted, however anyone wishing to do so should let the Chairperson of the meeting know prior to the start of the meeting. The recording should be overt and clearly visible to anyone at the meeting, but non-disruptive. If someone is recording the meeting, the Chairman will make an announcement at the beginning of the meeting. If anyone making public representation does not wish to be recorded they must let the Chairperson know.

The full 'Policy on Audio/Visual Recording and Photography at Council Meetings' can be viewed online at:

<http://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/documents/s3327/Policy%20on%20the%20recording%20of%20council%20meetings.pdf>

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# Scrutiny Committee (Informal)

## Tuesday 5 April 2022

### Agenda

#### *Preliminary Items*

#### 1. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 March 2022. The draft minutes can be viewed at:

<http://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=141&Year=0>

#### 2. Apologies for absence

#### 3. Declarations of Interest

In accordance with the Council's current Code of Conduct (as amended 26 February 2015), which includes all the provisions relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), personal and prejudicial interests, Members are asked to declare any DPI and also any personal interests (and whether or not such personal interests are also "prejudicial") in relation to any matter on the Agenda for this meeting.

#### 4. Public question time

#### 5. Issues arising from previous meetings

This is an opportunity for Members to question the progress on issues arising from previous meetings. However, this does not allow for the re-opening of a debate on any item not forming part of this agenda.

#### 6. Chairman's Announcements

##### *Items for Discussion*

#### 7. Customer Connect - Verbal Update (Page 6)

#### 8. Verbal update on reports considered by District Executive on 3 March 2022 (Page 7)

#### 9. Reports to be considered by District Executive on 7 April 2022 (Page 8)

#### 10. Verbal update on Task and Finish reviews (Page 9)

#### 11. Update on matters of interest (Page 10)

#### 12. Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 11 - 13)

#### 13. Date of next meeting (Page 14)