

South Somerset District Council

Decisions taken by the South Somerset District Council on Thursday 17 March 2022

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
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Part A – Items considered in public

A8	Chard Shop Front Design Guide	<p>RESOLVED: That Council:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. agreed to formally adopt the attached Chard Shop Front Design Guide (Appendix A) as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), and subsequently to delegate to the HSHAZ Project Manager to make copies of the SPD and adoption statement available to the public for the prescribed period;b. noted that the Chief Executive had delegated to the Acting Director/HSHAZ Project Manager the authority to make any factual or typographical corrections to the SPD prior to making the copies available in this way. <p>Reason: To seek formal adoption of the Chard Shop Front Design Guide as a Supplementary Planning Document, supporting policies in the South Somerset Local Plan 2006-2028, in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Voting: unanimous in favour)</i></p>
A9	Review of SSDC Commercial Strategy	

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		<p>RESOLVED: That Council noted the report and agreed that the Commercial Strategy continue to 31 March 2023 subject to the amendments set out in paragraph 16 of the report.</p> <p>Reason: To review of the Commercial Strategy 2017-2021 and recommend a course of action to cover the period to 31 March 2023, following which the new Somerset Council will take responsibility.</p> <p align="center"><i>(Voting: 37 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions)</i></p>
A10	Proposed Update to the Audit Committee Terms of Reference	<p>RESOLVED: That Council:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. approved the proposed Audit Committee Terms of Reference at Appendix A; b. authorised the Monitoring Officer to make the necessary amendments to the Council’s Constitution. <p>Reason: To approve the proposed updated Audit Committee Terms of Reference (Appendix A) produced by the Audit Committee Terms of Reference Working Group and update the Council’s Constitution accordingly.</p>

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		<i>(Voting: unanimous in favour)</i>
A12	Motion 1	<p>RESOLVED: That Full Council agreed to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. instruct the Chief Executive to write to the relevant Government Ministers, i.e. the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural affairs (Rebecca Pow MP), and the Secretary of State (The Right Honourable George Eustice MP) requesting urgent intervention and immediate resourcing for statutory agencies to address the issues of phosphate overload which are ravaging South Somerset’s economy, ecology and communities; b. press the recently-established Defra/DLUHC Ministerial Task Force to work to reduce nutrient pollution by establishing a strategically-led co-ordinated approach through the Environment Agency (EA) or Natural England (NE) with non-government stakeholders such as the Home Builders Federation (HBF), Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and Local Government Association (LGA), recognising that this is an industry responsibility. And press the EA and NE to recognise their joint responsibility to establish a strategically led co-ordinated approach; c. urge Central Government to pressure Ofwat to adopt a

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		<p>strategic approach to adopting measures which ensure development is phosphate neutral in the catchment area for the Somerset Levels and Moors Ramsar Site, including short term temporary measures followed up by long term strategic mitigation measures, such as a large-scale habitat creation scheme, to ensure phosphate neutrality;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. demand that Wessex Water bring forward and increase its 5-10 year investment in the removal of phosphates from sewage at its treatment plants of all sizes which discharge into the catchment of all local rivers, including their tributaries, rhines and ditches; e. record its dissatisfaction with the severely delayed progress of Wessex Water EnTrade in setting up mitigation arrangements, especially that the necessary legal controls were not presented earlier in the process, thus to unlock development; f. invite the LGA to bring further pressure on Government and non-Government stakeholders to deliver a strategic programme to ensure phosphate neutrality. <p>Council registers its considerable disappointment that neither the Environment Agency (EA) nor Natural England (NE) have been forthcoming with a solution.</p>

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		<p>Council is deeply concerned that this situation has a major negative effect on our local communities and economy, with our Five-year Housing Land Supply projections now negatively affected by NE's moratorium, disadvantaging South Somerset communities in the long term.</p> <p>Reason: To propose a resolution to the excessive phosphate issue within the Somerset Levels and Moors Ramsar site which is delaying development.</p> <p align="center"><i>(Voting: 39 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention)</i></p>
A13	Motion 2	<p>RESOLVED: That Full Council agreed that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. all planning permissions must include sufficient information and conditions to ensure that not only are the surface water designs appropriate and meet best practice requirements but also that all future management arrangements are approved by the planning authority in conjunction with the LLFA; b. all relevant sites should have a maintenance plan in place that has been approved by the LLFA;

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		<p>c. members request that SSDC contact the LLFA to ask that schemes are be periodically inspected to ensure correct maintenance is taking place and an enforcement policy is put in place if schemes are not maintained;</p> <p>d. whether through providing feedback on individual planning applications or through direct representation, to seek the Council's support to ensure that water companies focus upon maintaining and improving existing infrastructure to meet current and future needs;</p> <p>e. to ensure that in setting priorities for the new Somerset Council and its planning policy works, that SSDC emphasises the importance of future proofing new developments in relation flood risk and flood management.</p> <p>Reason: To propose a number of measures to reduce the risk of future flooding in the district.</p> <p align="right"><i>(Voting: unanimous in favour)</i></p>
A1		
A2		