

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **Area South Committee** held in the **Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil. on Wednesday 8 March 2023.**

(2.05 - 3.05 pm)

Present:

Members: Councillor Peter Gubbins (Chairman)

Andy Kendall	David Recardo
Mike Lock	Gina Seaton
Tony Lock	Peter Seib
Wes Read	Andy Soughton



Also present:

David Gubbins (On-line via Zoom)
Rob Stickland (On-line via Zoom)

Officers:

Jan Gamon	Director (Place, Recovery, Arts & Entertainment)
Peter Paddon	Acting Director (Place and Recovery)
Ian Timms	Yeovil Refresh Project Manager
Jo Boucher	Case Officer (Strategy & Support Services)
Becky Sanders	Case Officer (Strategy & Support Services)

NB: Where an executive or key decision is made, a reason will be noted immediately beneath the Committee's resolution.

38. Minutes of previous meeting (Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the Area South Committee held on 1st February 2023, copies of which had been circulated, were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

39. Apologies for absence (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barbara Appleby, John Clark, Nicola Clark, Pauline Lock, and Jeny Snell.

Councillors David Gubbins and Rob Stickland were in attendance virtually via Zoom.

40. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

Councillors Wes Read declared a personal interest in Item 7 Proposal for 'Home of British Helicopters' signage, as he is a contractor currently working for Leonardo Helicopters.

Councillors Tony Lock, Andy Soughton and David Recardo also declared a personal interest in Item 7 Proposal for 'Home of British Helicopters' signage, as they are previous employees of Leonardo Helicopters.

41. Public question time (Agenda Item 4)

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

42. Chairman's announcements (Agenda Item 5)

There were no Chairman's announcements.

43. Reports from representatives on outside organisations (Agenda Item 6)

Councillor Andy Kendall enquired on the representatives on outside organisations in the future. He acknowledged that this would be the responsibility of the new Unitary authority and would seek further information going forward.

44. Proposal for 'Home of British Helicopters' signage (Agenda Item 7)

The Acting Director Place & Recovery/Lead Specialist Economy presented the report and reiterated the recommendations as set out in the agenda report. He invited comments from members.

During member discussion, comments raised included:

- Fully supportive of the proposal and wished that all six signs be included.
- Felt the proposed wording 'The Home of British Helicopters' be placed directly underneath the 'Welcome to Yeovil' wording.
- Leonardo Helicopters were an extremely important part of the town and employer of the area and should look to support this proposal and ensure it is included as a prominent element of these signs.
- Acknowledged that the recommendation currently requests that only three signs be installed with the proposed wording but going forward asked that all six signs be included and be of a more prominent high-quality design.
- Felt that further help and financial support be given to Leonardo Helicopters in the future to ensure all six 'Welcome to Yeovil Signs' are modified.

In conclusion members voiced their full support on the recommendation for Leonardo Helicopters to seek permission to install three small 'Home of British Helicopters' signs on the locations as stated within the agenda report. They also wished it noted at the committee's request that going forward all six signs be adapted to include this wording together with a more high-quality prominent design.

RESOLVED:

That Area South members agreed:

1. To support the principle of Leonardo seeking permission to install three small 'Home of British Helicopter' signs at the following gateway locations on the approach to Yeovil: A37 Dorchester Road, A 359 Mudford Road and the A3088 Cartgate Link.
2. To note that Leonardo will approach Somerset (currently County) Highways to seek permission to install the signs.

(voting: unanimous)

45. Yeovil Refresh Update (Agenda Item 8)

The Acting Director Place & Recovery/Lead Specialist Economy presented the report and updated members on the progress of the Yeovil Refresh including the key areas of public realm enhancements, transport and travel connectivity and softer initiatives. This included:

- Westminster Street works to be completed by Easter.
- Explained the challenges of the Triangle area and ongoing works including ongoing discussion with the service utilities to ensure work can continue.
- Four town centre Walkway and Cycling packages are progressing well in particular the Stars Lane/South Street.
- Complementary Initiatives – recent service level agreements signed with 'Love Yeovil' and 'Yeovil Arts space' to ensure continued activity.
- Explained the reason why the declaration to use the Part III of the Food Act 1984 be recommended to operate and manage Yeovil Charter Market which will enable the Council to hold a market any day of the week and set opening hours and use as a statutory basis for market charges to take forward.

In response to members questions and comments the Acting Director Place & Recovery/Lead Specialist Economy, Yeovil Refresh Project Manager and Director Place, Recovery and Arts and Entertainment advised that:

- Although further discussions were required, ultimately the Council could devolve the use of Part III of the Food Act 1984 powers to other parties such as Yeovil Town Council in the future.
- Acknowledge updates and information should be frequently given to local parish councils and that where necessary any questions or observations are answered appropriately.
- Acknowledge the concerns regarding the hold ups and interruptions to the project, but these were extraordinary times with many problems around the utilities and its infrastructure.
- Work is envisaged to start on High Street/ Borough around mid/end of April 23 as slightly delayed due to design change.
- Wine Street nearing completion with minor works to be finished.
- Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) has been completed with order to be signed and sealed shortly.
- Ongoing and constant communication regarding 47 middle street with regards to the scaffolding, asbestos removal and demolition.

- Following the completion of a Section 185 diversion order regarding sewerage works will be able to continue at the Triangle.
- Explained the housing requirement was part of the project adjustment request that was currently with DLUHC.
- Part III of the Food Act 1984 and management of the Charter Market has no influence over any carnival operation.
- Cleansing trials have been undertaken regarding the issues around the street paving within Wine Street and are ongoing.
- More proactive communication will be coming forward in the coming months to inform and share information to the wider public and acknowledged other opportunities such as the LCN's are kept updated with the Yeovil Refresh project going into the new unitary authority.

Members wished to thank the officers for their excellent work in what was difficult times. They voiced their support to the progress being made with the Yeovil Refresh project and agreed to make a declaration that Part III of the Food Act 1984 be used to operate and manage Yeovil Charter Market. On being put to the vote this was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

1. That members noted the progress being made with the Yeovil Refresh project.
2. That members agreed to make a declaration that Part III of the Food Act 1984 is to be used to operate and manage Yeovil Charter Market.

(voting: unanimous)

46. Planning Appeals (For information only) (Agenda Item 9)

There was no discussion. Members noted the report that detailed the planning appeals which had been lodged, dismissed or allowed.

.....
Chairman