

SWT Executive

Wednesday, 16th June, 2021,
6.15 pm



Somerset West
and Taunton

The John Meikle Room - The Deane
House

[SWT MEETING WEBCAST LINK](#)

Members: Federica Smith-Roberts (Chair), Derek Perry (Vice-Chair),
Chris Booth, Dixie Darch, Caroline Ellis, Ross Henley,
Marcus Kravis, Mike Rigby, Francesca Smith and
Andrew Sully

Agenda

1. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Executive

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee.

(Pages 5 - 8)

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive and note any declarations of disclosable pecuniary or prejudicial or personal interests in respect of any matters included on the agenda for consideration at this meeting.

(The personal interests of Councillors and Clerks of Somerset County Council, Town or Parish Councils and other Local Authorities will automatically be recorded in the minutes.)

4. Public Participation

The Chair to advise the Committee of any items on which members of the public have requested to speak and advise those members of the public present of the details of the Council's public participation scheme.

For those members of the public who have submitted any questions or statements, please note, a three minute time limit applies to each speaker and you will be asked to speak before Councillors debate the issue.

Temporary measures during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Due to the temporary legislation (within the Coronavirus Act 2020, which allowed for use of virtual meetings) coming to an end on 6 May 2021, the council's committee meetings will now take place in the office buildings within the John Meikle Meeting Room at the Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton. Unfortunately due to capacity requirements, the Chamber at West Somerset House is not able to be used at this current moment.

Following the Government guidance on measures to reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), the council meeting rooms will have very limited capacity. With this in mind, we will only be allowing those members of the public who have registered to speak to attend the meetings in person in the office buildings, if they wish (we will still be offering to those members of the public that are not comfortable in attending, for their statements to be read out by a Governance and Democracy Case Manager). Please can we urge all members of the public who are only interested in listening to the debate to view our live webcasts from the safety of their own home to help prevent the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

5. Executive Forward Plan

To receive items and review the Forward Plan.

6. Access to Information - Exclusion of the Press and Public

During discussion of the following items it may be necessary to pass the following resolution to exclude the press and public having reflected on Article 13 13.02(e) (a presumption in favour of openness) of the Constitution. This decision may be required because consideration of this matter in public may disclose information falling within one of the descriptions of exempt information in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The Executive will need to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption, outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Recommend that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the next items of business on the ground that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 respectively of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

(Pages 9 - 12)

7. Future High Street Fund Grant

(Pages 13 - 22)

This matter is the responsibility of Councillor Marcus Kravis, Portfolio Holder for Asset Management and Economic Development & Councillor Mike Rigby, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation.

8. Revised Sale Price of Land

(Pages 23 - 26)

This matter is the responsibility of Councillor Marcus Kravis Portfolio Holder for Asset Management and Economic Development.



**JAMES HASSETT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Please note that this meeting will be recorded. You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. Data collected during the recording will be retained in accordance with the Council's policy. Therefore unless you are advised otherwise, by taking part in the Council Meeting during Public Participation you are consenting to being recorded and to the possible use of the sound recording for access via the website or for training purposes. If you have any queries regarding this please contact the officer as detailed above.

Following Government guidance on measures to reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), we will be live webcasting our committee meetings and you are welcome to view and listen to the discussion. The link to each webcast will be available on the meeting webpage, but you can also access them on the [Somerset West and Taunton webcasting website](#).

If you would like to ask a question or speak at a meeting, you will need to submit your request to a member of the Governance Team in advance of the meeting. You can request to speak at a Council meeting by emailing your full name, the agenda item and your question to the Governance Team using governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

Any requests need to be received by 4pm on the day that provides 2 clear working days before the meeting (excluding the day of the meeting itself). For example, if the meeting is due to take place on a Tuesday, requests need to be received by 4pm on the Thursday prior to the meeting.

The Governance and Democracy Case Manager will take the details of your question or speech and will distribute them to the Committee prior to the meeting. The Chair will then invite you to speak at the beginning of the meeting under the agenda item Public Question Time, but speaking is limited to three minutes per person in an overall period of 15 minutes and you can only speak to the Committee once. If there are a group of people attending to speak about a particular item then a representative should be chosen to speak on behalf of the group.

Please see below for Temporary Measures during Coronavirus Pandemic and the changes we are making to public participation:-

Due to the temporary legislation (within the Coronavirus Act 2020, which allowed for use of virtual meetings) coming to an end on 6 May 2021, the council's committee meetings will now take place in the office buildings within the John Meikle Meeting Room at the Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton. Unfortunately due to capacity requirements, the Chamber at West Somerset House is not able to be used at this current moment.

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Full Council, Executive, and Committee agendas, reports and minutes are available on our website: www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

For further information about the meeting, please contact the Governance and Democracy Team via email: governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

If you would like an agenda, a report or the minutes of a meeting translated into another language or into Braille, large print, audio tape or CD, please email: governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

SWT Executive - 26 May 2021

Present: Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts (Chair)
Councillors Derek Perry, Chris Booth, Dixie Darch, Caroline Ellis, Ross Henley and Francesca Smith

Officers: Alison North, Andrew Pritchard, Marcus Prouse, Clare Rendell, Emily Collacott, Malcolm Riches and Dan Webb

Also Present: Councillors Loretta Whetlor

(The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm)

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors M Kravis, M Rigby and A Sully.

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting of the Executive**

(Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 17 March 2021 and 27 April 2021 circulated with the agenda)

Resolved that the minutes of the Executive held on 17 March 2021 and 27 April 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

Members present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Councillor or Clerk of a County, Town or Parish Council or any other Local Authority:-

Name	Minute No.	Description of Interest	Reason	Action Taken
Cllr C Booth	All Items	Wellington and Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr C Ellis	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr D Perry	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr F Smith	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr F Smith-Roberts	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr L Whetlor	All Items	Watchet	Personal	Spoke

4. **Public Participation**

Mr Roger House asked the following questions:-

Regards the Taunton Debenhams Store.

There was a gravel path on the Goodland's Garden side. It had a ramp and two flights of steps up to the current ground floor building escape doors. The planning application red boundary line excluded this land which continued on behind the café.

Could the Council advise the owners that they would be willing to sell the freehold of the informal foot path along the Northwest elevation onto Goodland Gardens. This would allow a new flood prevention wall and raised pathway to provide level access to doors of the ground floor.

It would aid reuses of the current structure as demanded by groups including the Twentieth Century Society, South West Heritage Trust and Arts Taunton. To borrow a phrase from the Sheffield John Lewis Store campaign "the greenest building was one that already exists".

The Leader responded:-

We were not currently proactively seeking the sale of this strip of land that you refer to in your question. If we were approached – as we sometimes were for the sale of public land – we would consider the offer in the same way as we did for any Council Assets, with each approach being taken on its merits taking into account public realm use and any restrictions such as covenants that may prevent the sale or use of such land.

5. **Executive Forward Plan**

(Copy of the Executive Forward Plan, circulated with the agenda).

Councillors were reminded that if they had an item they wanted to add to the agenda, that they should send their requests to the Governance Team.

Resolved that the Executive Forward Plan be noted.

6. **Corporate Risk Management Update**

During the discussion, the following points were raised:-

- Councillors queried whether the area was still in a state of emergency with regards Covid 19.
The Director for External Operations advised that the Leader and Senior Management Team were regularly updated on the current status of the Covid Pandemic by Public Health and Somerset County Council. The district appeared to be coping well and had low recorded number of cases and high vaccine take up, which was encouraging.
- Councillors advised that the report had a good airing by the Scrutiny Committee and that all officers and councillors should be made aware of the Strategy.
- Councillors queried CR20 and whether the poor data mentioned was historic data transferred over from the predecessor councils.

The Business Intelligence and Performance Manager advised that yes it was legacy data brought over from the previous councils. Some of the data had been duplicated in multiple locations but officers were in the process of cleaning the data to improve storage.

- Councillors supported the Strategy and agreed that it was good that risks were checked and reported on every quarter.

Resolved that the Executive noted the risks and issues held on the Councils register.

7. **SWT Cultural Strategy**

During the discussion, the following points were raised:-

- Councillors agreed that it was important to highlight that there were many creative ways to support the culture sector within the district.
- Councillors were really enthused to hear how passionate the Portfolio Holder for Culture was in presenting her report to the Committee.
- Councillors agreed that it was the right time to start to showcase the arts within the district. Due to lockdown easing, residents needed to start focusing on culture rather than survival.
- Concern was raised on the communication aspect of the Strategy, as councillors struggled to find out what events were taking place across the wider area.
The Portfolio Holder for Culture advised she would look into ways of engagement and communication.
- Concern was raised that the Strategy was too Taunton centric and that the wider district area needed to be included.
The Portfolio Holder for Culture understood their concern. However, other areas of the district were mentioned, including the National Parks, Harbour Towns and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- Councillors suggested an audit was periodically carried out to monitor the work done through the Strategy.
- Councillors agreed that a budget needed to be found to support culture activities within the area, as it had a positive impact on resident's wellbeing especially after lockdown.
- Councillors highlighted that the Brewhouse Theatre was not the only venue within the district. The Regal Theatre in Minehead survived without any funding from the Council and was the venue for many varied events.
The Portfolio Holder for Culture thanked all for their comments.

Resolved that the Executive:-

- Recommended that Full Council approved the vision and objectives within the attached appendix.
- Authorised the Strategy Specialist and Communications team (in consultation with the Culture Portfolio holder) to agree the final written content, design and publication style for the Strategy.

8. **Scrutiny Recommendations**

During the discussion, the following points were raised:-

- Councillors agreed it was a good idea to start talks about where the Post Office could be sited within the town centre of Taunton.
- Councillors were happy to support the recommendations.

At the Special Scrutiny Committee held on 29 April 2021, the Committee made the following recommendation when discussing Post Office Provision in the district with Richard Hall, External Affairs Manager South England and Wales – Post Office Ltd.

Resolved that the Executive agreed:-

A request was made of the relevant Portfolio Holders on SWT's Executive to commence a line of communication with the Post Office Ltd, in order to consider a mutually agreeable solution to the re-siting of the Main Post Office in Taunton.

(The Meeting ended at 7.20 pm)

EXECUTIVE

Executive Meeting	Draft Agenda Items	Lead Officer
16 June 2021	Future High Street Fund Award (confidential)	Joe Wharton
venue =	Liddymore Farm (confidential)	Sally Stark
Exec RD = 4 June		
Informal Exec RD = 11 May		
SMT RD = 28 April		
21 July 2021	Belvedere Road Public Space	Chris Hall
venue =	2020/21 Financial Outturn	Emily Collacott
Exec RD = 9 July	Financial Strategy 2021-2023	Paul Fitzgerald
Informal Exec RD = 15 June	Corporate Performance Report	Malcolm Riches
SMT RD = 2 June		
18 August 2021	Single Homeless accommodation strategy and delivery plan	Chris Brown/Mark Leeman
venue =	Employment Land Feasibility Study in West Somerset	Robert Downes
Exec RD = 6 August	Firepool Design Guidance and Masterplan	Graeme Thompson/Tim Bacon
Informal Exec RD = 13 July		
SMT RD = 30 June		
15 September 2021	Financial Performance 2021/22 Q1	Paul Fitzgerald
venue =	Corporate Performance Report	Malcolm Riches
Exec RD = 3 September	Tower Street	Natalie Kirbyshire
Informal Exec RD = 10 August		
SMT RD = 28 July		
20 October 2021	Public Realm Design Guide for Taunton Garden Town – Feedback	Fiona Webb
venue =	Somerset West and Taunton Districtwide Design Guide	Fiona Webb
Exec RD = 8 October		
Informal Exec RD = 14 September		
SMT RD = 1 September		

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17 November 2021	Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Review	Scott Weetch
venue =	General Fund 2022/23 Draft Budget Update	Paul Fitzgerald
Exec RD = 5 November	Housing Revenue Account 2022/23 Draft Budget Update	Paul Fitzgerald
Informal Exec RD = 12 October		
SMT RD = 29 September		
15 December 2021	Financial Performance 2021/22 Q2	Paul Fitzgerald
venue =	Corporate Performance Report	Malcolm Riches
Exec RD = 3 December		
Informal Exec RD = 9 November		
SMT RD = 27 October		
19 January 2022		
venue =		
Exec RD = 7 January		
Informal Exec RD = 7 December		
SMT RD = 24 November		
Budget - 9 February 2022	Housing Revenue Account 2022/23 Budget	Paul Fitzgerald
venue =	General Fund 2022/23 Budget	Paul Fitzgerald
Exec RD = 28 January		
Informal Exec RD = 4 January		
SMT RD = 8 December		
16 February 2022		
venue =		
Exec RD = 4 February		
Informal Exec RD = 11 January		
SMT RD = 22 December		
16 March 2022	Financial Performance 2021/22 Q3	Paul Fitzgerald
venue =	Capital, Investment and Treasury Strategy 2022/23	Paul Fitzgerald

Exec RD = 4 March	Corporate Performance Report	Malcolm Riches
Informal Exec RD = 8 February		
SMT RD = 26 January		
20 April 2022		
venue =		
Exec RD = 8 April		
Informal Exec RD = 15 March		
SMT RD = 2 March		

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Agenda Item 7

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
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Agenda Item 8

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