
FULL COUNCIL SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

Tuesday, 23 April 2024

Item No.	Title
6	<p>Report of the Leader and Executive</p> <p>DECISION</p> <p>Councillor Liz Leyshon proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Bill Revans.</p> <p>Having been duly proposed and seconded, the Council RESOLVED to approve the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2025/26 to 2029/30 and the savings targets for 2025/26.</p> <p>At the Executive Meeting held on 8 April 2024, the Executive further agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Council continued with the aim of avoiding a section 114 notice by taking all of the necessary actions and continuing to operate as if one had been issued. • To receive an updated Medium-Term Financial Plan in September 2024 which sets out the latest forecasts of future service costs, income and funding from 2025/26 to 2029/30. • To continue actively campaigning for the reform of funding of councils and greater local freedoms. • That the Financial Control Boards continued to operate in 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 3.
7	Report of the Chief Executive - Interim Service Director Appointment

	<p>DECISION</p> <p>Councillor Sarah Wakefield proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Sue Osborne.</p> <p>Having been duly proposed and seconded, the Council RESOLVED to confirm to extend the arrangement for Niki Shaw, Strategic Manager, Quality, Performance, Policy and Assurance, to provide continued emergency cover to the post of Service Director Strategy, Transformation and Performance, with effect from 1 April 2024 for a temporary period until 30 November 2024 or until a formal restructure decision is made on this post, whichever is sooner.</p>
9	Motions
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>Motion A - Plight of the Ukrainian People</p> <p>Councillor Mark Healey proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Henry Hobhouse.</p> <p>Having been duly proposed and seconded, the Council RESOLVED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note that as a result of the ongoing conflict over 1 million Ukrainians had been forced to leave the country fleeing the conflict, and that many of those people who had remained in the country were facing a humanitarian crisis. • Stand in solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people against Putin's illegal invasion along with their friends and relatives here in Somerset. • Note Somersets proud record of supporting refugees fleeing from Afghanistan, Syria and many other conflicts, helping them to settle in Somerset. <p>Full Council therefore would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide support locally to Ukrainian refugees, working in collaboration with the local voluntary and community sector. • Call on Government to continue to provide essential aid to Ukraine by sending a letter to the Prime Minister from the Chair of Council.

Supplemental Note in relation to Motion B:

On 23 April 2024, Somerset Council voted on a motion in respect of a commercial investment property it owns at 600 Aztec West. That motion included a statement that “*the tenant Elbit UK [is] a major UK based provider of weapons to the Israeli Defence Forces, used in the current Gaza catastrophe*“.

Elbit Systems UK Limited have contacted us to say this is factually incorrect and they do not supply weapons or military equipment to the Israeli Defence Forces or the Israeli Ministry of Defence.

The Council would like to apologise and withdraw the statement that Elbit Systems UK Limited supplies military equipment to the Israeli Defence Forces or the Israeli Ministry of Defence.

Motion B - Council Property Investment

Councillor Brian Smedley proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Shane Collins.

Having been duly proposed and seconded, the Council **RESOLVED** to:

- Note, that in the light of calls for an end of UK Arms sales to Israel, Somerset Council had been reviewing its interest in the Aztec West property in its commercial portfolio with a view to immediately disposing of the property or securing a means to legally evict the tenant Elbit UK, a major UK based provider of weapons to the Israeli Defence Forces, used in the current Gaza catastrophe.
- Explore all ways of legally evicting Elbit UK or otherwise, to dispose of the property;
- Ensure that moral and ethical considerations are fully appraised in addition to financial advantage in any future commercial property investments for yield.