

COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council held in the Canalside Conference Centre, Marsh Lane, Nr. Bridgwater, TA6 6LQ, on Wednesday 22 February 2023 at 10.00 am

Present: Cllr S Ashton, Cllr J Baker, Cllr Cllr L Baker, Cllr M Barr, Cllr M Best (Chair), Cllr B Bolt, Cllr A Boyden, Cllr A Bradford, Cllr H Bruce, Cllr T Butt Philip, Cllr S Carswell, Cllr M Caswell, Cllr N Cavill, Cllr M Chilcott, Cllr N Clark, Cllr B Clarke, Cllr P Clayton, Cllr S Collins, Cllr J Cook-Woodman, Cllr N Cottle, Cllr A Dance, Cllr D Darch, Cllr H Davies, Cllr T Deakin, Cllr M Dimery, Cllr A Dingwall, Cllr L Duddridge, Cllr M Dunk, Cllr S Dyke, Cllr C Ellis, Cllr H Farbahi, Cllr B Ferguson, Cllr B Filmer, Cllr D Fothergill, Cllr A Govier, Cllr T Grimes, Cllr A Hadley, Cllr Pauline Ham, Cllr Philip Ham, Cllr S Hart, Cllr M Healey, Cllr B Height, Cllr A Hendry, Cllr R Henley, Cllr M Hewitson, Cllr E Hobbs, Cllr H Hobhouse, Cllr J Hunt, Cllr D Johnson, Cllr V Keitch, Cllr A Kendall, Cllr J Kenton, Cllr M Lewis, Cllr L Leyshon, Cllr T Lock, Cllr M Lovell, Cllr D Mansell, Cllr M Martin, Cllr H Munt, Cllr T Munt, Cllr M Murphy, Cllr F Nicholson, Cllr S Osborne, Cllr O Patrick, Cllr C Payne, Cllr K Pearce, Cllr E Pearlstone, Cllr D Perry, Cllr E Potts-Jones, Cllr T Power, Cllr H Prior-Sankey (Vice-Chair), Cllr S Pugsley, Cllr F Purbrick, Cllr W Read, Cllr L Redman, Cllr B Revans, Cllr M Rigby, Cllr T Robbins, Cllr D Rodrigues, Cllr J Roundell Greene, Cllr D Ruddle, Cllr P Seib, Cllr H Shearer, Cllr G Slocombe, Cllr B Smedley, Cllr F Smith-Roberts, Cllr F Smith, Cllr J Snell, Cllr A Soughton, Cllr M Stanton, Cllr C Sully, Cllr L Trimmell, Cllr S Wakefield, Cllr M Wale, Cllr R Wilkins, Cllr D Woan, Cllr R Woods, Cllr G Wren and Cllr R Wyke

1 **Apologies for Absence** - Agenda Item 1

Apologies were received from Councillors S Aujla, J Bailey, S Coles, D Denton, H Kay, T Kerley, M Kravis, C Lawrence and A Sully.

2 **Declarations of Interest** - Agenda Item 2

The Chair reminded the meeting that details of all Members' interests in Town and Parish Councils could be viewed on the Council's Website and there was no need for members to individually declare these personal interests in those other councils at the meeting.

There were no new additional declarations of interest made.

3 **Minutes from the meeting held on 23 November 2023** - Agenda Item 3

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair of the meeting.

4 **Chair's Announcements** - Agenda Item 3A

The Chair informed the Council of the sad passing of former County Councillor Alvin Horsfall. Alvin was first elected in 2005 and served as a councillor until 2017, between 2007 and 2009 he was the Executive Member for Economic Development.

Councillors paid tribute to the former County Councillor Alvin Horsfall.

The Chair noted a summary of the key visits undertaken by himself and the Vice Chair, and that other civic matters which had taken place since the last Council meeting would be reported at the meeting due to take place on 1 March 2023.

Public Question Time - Agenda Item 4

Notice was received of public questions and statements from the following (full details can be found in Appendix A):

- David Redgewell - Public Transport and Funding
- Pip Donovan – Hunt Meets and Road Closures
- Alyson Rodgers – Hunt Meets and Road Closures
- Alan Debenham – Council Tax, Unitary Councils and Community Renewable Energy Schemes
- David Preece – Council Tax and Unitary Budget

6 Report of the Leader and Executive - for decision - Agenda Item 5

Paper A set out the Leader and Executive's recommendations to Council which arose from their consideration of the report at the Executive meeting held on 13 February 2023.

Paper A outlined the spending plans for the next financial year which would be the first budget for the new Somerset Council. It highlighted areas of priority to support residents across Somerset including:

- Funding for Adult's and Children's Services
- Local Community Networks
- The protection of frontline services
- The below inflation Council Tax increase
- Budgeting for inflation and the national pay award

The budget also contained detail of the significant capital investment of over £332m in schools, roads, regeneration, climate change and other projects across the County. The report recognised: the overall complex financial picture, with budgets of the five Council's coming together into one; the size of the financial challenge faced by the new Somerset Council, yet it set a balanced budget and included details of the provisional Financial Settlement published

on 19 December 2022; and the low overall level of reserves was highlighted, noting the need for careful management.

The County Council discussed the proposed budget and the following points were raised:

- Councillors thanked the Executive and officers from all five councils for all their diligence in producing the budget.
- Concern was raised that it was not a balanced budget and the associated potential risk of a Section 114 Notice being issued was raised.
- Councillors were pleased to see the budget included work on climate change and net zero carbon projects.
- Councillors hoped that the lead political party would work collaboratively with all the parties within the council to achieve the best outcome for the communities of Somerset.
- Councillors thanked officers for the inclusion of the comments made at the special meeting of Scrutiny for Policies and Place which was held on 1 February 2023.
- Councillor D Mansell proposed the removal of the line '*not to send neighbour notification*' for clarification from appendix two which was seconded by Councillor L Leyshon, the Lead Member for Finance and Human Resources. A debate was had on the impact of the amendment. The Lead Member for Finance and Human Resources acknowledged the comments made and advised: that budget equalisation reserves had been utilised; of the importance of all members working together; of the diversity of services provided across the Council; and that the amendment would be made as proposed to ensure a continuity of service across the County.
- Councillors mentioned the Newton Adult Social Care Report and queried what level of risk was involved if the saving targets were not reached. In response, the Lead Member for Adult Social Care advised that the Newton Report gave information on the process improvements required going forward.
- Questions were raised regarding the tender process for work to be carried out on the Octagon Theatre and the possibility of the work going over budget. In response, the Lead Member for Local Government Reorganisation and Prosperity gave advice on the tender process along with information on the Culture Strategy and funds from the Arts Council. The Section 151 Officer further advised that the capital programme included a contingency for large projects.
- Concern was raised on the cuts in corporate support for schools and councillors further queried how many schools had responded to the

consultation. The Lead Member for Children and Families informed the Council of the consultation process.

- Councillors queried what work was being carried out to develop the Tree Strategy. In response, the Lead Member for Environment and Climate Change advised on progress including tree planning projects across the four District Councils.
- Councillors were pleased that the council had achieved the strategic objectives to be able to access the Public Work Loan Board funds.
- Councillors highlighted the importance of CCTV in the local communities and concern was raised on the budget for the project. The Lead Member for Adult Social Care advised that funding for CCTV contract needed further consideration and the potential for cross-organisational funding.
- In conclusion, councillors agreed it had been a challenging time for the Council with work being carried out to join the five councils together, along with the cost-of-living crisis, which was a nationwide issue.

In accordance with Standing Order 18(2)(i), the Chair called for a recorded vote to be taken and recorded in the Minutes.

Councillor Liz Leyshon proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Bill Revans. A vote followed and the recommendations were agreed with sixty-three for, one against and thirty-four abstaining, votes cast:

Those voting FOR: Councillors J Baker, L Baker, M Barr, M Best, A Boyden, H Bruce, T Butt Philip, S Carswell, N Clark, S Collins, N Cottle, A Dance, D Darch, T Deakin, M Dimery, M Dunk, S Dyke, C Ellis, H Farbahi, B Ferguson, A Govier, Pauline Ham, R Henley, M Hewitson, E Hobbs, H Hobhouse, D Johnson, V Keitch, A Kendall, J Kenton, L Leyshon, T Lock, M Lovell, D Mansell, M Martin, T Munt, H Munt, M Murphy, O Patrick, K Pearce, E Pearlstone, D Perry, E Potts-Jones, H Prior-Sankey, W Read, L Redman, B Revans, M Rigby, T Robbins, J Roundell Greene, D Ruddle, P Seib, H Shearer, B Smedley, F Smith, F Smith-Roberts, J Snell, A Soughton, M Stanton, C Sully, R Wilkins, D Woan and R Wyke.

Those voting AGAINST: Councillor H Davies.

Those ABSTAINING from voting: Councillors S Ashton, B Bolt, A Bradford, M Caswell, N Cavill, M Chilcott, B Clarke, P Clayton, J Cook-Woodman, A Dingwall, L Duddridge, B Filmer, D Fothergill, T Grimes, A Hadley, Philip Ham, S Hart, B Height, A Hendry, J Hunt, M Lewis, F Nicholson, S Osborne, C Payne, T Power, S Pugsley, F Purbrick, D Rodrigues, G Slocombe, L Trimnell, S Wakefield, M Wale, R Woods and G Wren.

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree:

- a) The General Fund net revenue budget for 2023/24 of £493,357,150 and the individual service budgets for 2023/24 as outlined in Appendix 1 including,
- b) The transformation, savings and income generation plans outlined in Appendix 2, considering the required detailed Equalities Impact Assessment in Appendix 3 and further consultation where necessary.
- c) The detailed Fees and Charges as set out in Appendix 4.
- d) The additional funding requirements set out in Appendix 5.
- e) An increase in Council Tax of 2.99% in 2023/24 to £1,434.93 (an increase of £46.88 per Band D property).
- f) An increase of 2.00% to Council Tax for the Adult Social Care Precept to £196.46 was approved in recognition of the current demands and financial pressures on this service. This was equivalent to an increase of £31.36 on a Band D property.
- g) to continue the Council Tax precept of £14.65 within the base budget for the shadow Somerset Rivers Authority (representing no increase). This resulted in a Council Tax Requirement of £3,013,125.
- h) the precept requirement of £338,767,850 (including Special Expenses Rate) £338,547,779 (excluding Special Expenses Rates) and set the Council precept for Band D council tax charge at £1,646.04 for 2023/24.
- i) A Special Expenses rate of £220,071 as detailed in Appendix 6.
- j) The formal council tax resolution which incorporated the precepts of all the precepting bodies in Appendix 15 (this would be circulated separately).
- k) The overall estimated position of Earmarked Reserves of £65.125m outlined in Table 17 and the proposed use of reserves detailed in Table 16 of this report.
- l) To note the conclusions of the Council's Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer) in Section 23 confirming the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of the level of reserves.
- m) the risk-based assessment of the level of General Reserves being maintained within range of £30m - £50m and noted the forecast level of General Reserves at £47.460m.
- n) The Capital Strategy attached at Appendix 8.
- o) The Flexible Capital Receipts Strategy attached at Appendix 9.
- p) The Capital Programme for 2023/24 to 2025/26 of £332.243m as outlined in Appendix 11 including new capital bids of £75.967 outlined in Appendix 10, and the planned sources of funding.
- q) To note that the Capital Programme would require resetting once the outturn positions of all five Councils were finalised.
- r) The Non-Treasury Investment Strategy attached at Appendix 12.

- s) The MRP Policy attached at Appendix 13.
- t) That it had considered the comments from Scrutiny Policies and Place in Appendix 14.
- u) Delegate any amendments within the final Government Financial Settlement and the final Business Rates amendments to the Director of Finance and Governance in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

Paper B set out the Leader and Executive's recommendations to Council which arose from their consideration of the report at the Executive meeting held on 13 February 2023.

The report summarised the proposed Council Plan for Somerset Council which detailed the strategic ambitions and direction of the authority for the term of the administration. The plan aimed to give residents, businesses, and communities a transparent view of the strategic direction of the organisation and provided a focal point from which all further strategic planning and decision making could grow.

The plan had been developed at a time of great change in Somerset and given the context of the ongoing work to form the Somerset Council it was designed to allow flexibility for the future development of the business plan.

The County Council discussed the Council Plan and the following points were raised:

- Concern was raised that some points had not been included, such as crime, safety and regeneration.
- Councillors agreed that they must not forget the ambition for Somerset.
- The Leader of the Council thanked councillors for their comments and the officers for their work on the Council Plan.

Councillor Bill Revans proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Liz Leyshon.

Having been duly proposed and seconded the Council **RESOLVED** to note the report from the stakeholder engagement and agree to adopt the Council Plan.

Paper C set out the Leader and Executive's recommendations to Council which arose from their consideration of the report at the Executive meeting held on 13 February 2023.

The report set out proposed Treasury Management strategy for the new Somerset Council for 2023-24. It brought together the legacy investment and

debt portfolios of the 5 councils and put forward proposals for how best to use and adapt current portfolios, to achieve the capital and revenue needs of the new Council going forward. Investments held for service purposes or for commercial activity primarily for yield, collectively referred to as non-treasury investments, were considered in a separate report, the Non-Treasury Investment Strategy.

The County Council discussed the Treasury Management Strategy and the following point was raised:

- Councillors thanked the Section 151 Officer for his presentation of the Treasury Management Strategy.

Councillor Liz Leyshon proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Mandy Chilcott.

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

- 1) Adopt the Treasury Borrowing Strategy (as shown in Section 12 of the report).
- 2) Approve the Treasury Investment Strategy (as shown in Section 13 of the report) and proposed Lending Counterparty Criteria (attached at Appendix B to the report).
- 3) Adopt the Prudential Treasury Indicators in section 14.
- 4) Note Appendix A, that was adopted as part of the Councils Financial regulations.

Paper D set out the Leader and Executive's recommendations to Council which arose from their consideration of the report at the Executive meeting held on 13 February 2023.

The report recommended that the Council resolved to maintain the current 100% disregard for War Disablement and War Widows Pensions, as operated by the existing district councils, in relation to the Housing Benefits scheme for Somerset Council from 1 April 2023 onwards. This was consistent with the approach already agreed by Council in relation to the Council Tax Reduction scheme on 23 November 2022.

The County Council discussed the report and the following point was raised:

- Councillors were keen to support the report as it was important work to support those who had served in the armed forces.

Councillor Andy Kendall proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Lucy Trimnell.

Having been duly proposed and seconded the Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Housing Benefits War Pensions Disregard Policy.

Paper E set out the Leader and Executive's recommendations to Council which arose from their consideration of the report at the Executive meeting held on 13 February 2023.

The report presented the Somerset Unitary Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Rent Set for 2023/24 and the updated 30-year business plan for the New Unitary Council.

It was highlighted that: Somerset Council would operate a single HRA from 1 April 2023, as both Somerset West and Taunton and Sedgemoor owned housing stock and currently operated separate HRAs as local authority social housing landlords; and that income and expenditure regarding Council housing landlord functions was accounted for in the HRA which was a ringfenced account separate from the General Fund.

Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Bill Revans.

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

- 1) The updated assumptions and figures in the HRA 30-Year Business Plan as summarised in Section 12 and detailed in Appendix A1 (Operating Account) and B1(Capital Programme).
- 2) The single HRA Revenue budget for 2023/24 as detailed in Table 3, section 13, Appendix C.
- 3) An increase of 7% to Dwelling Rents for 2023/24 in line with the Governments rent cap. To continue to increase rent for relets by Sept CPI plus 1% (11.1%).
- 4) An increase of 7% for Sheltered/Extra Care housing Rents in line with the dwelling rents increase.
- 5) An increase of 7% for Shared Ownership properties.
- 6) An increase of 7% on affordable rental tenures, with the rent being reviewed at relet based on 80% of market value capped at LHA rate.
- 7) An increase based on Sept CPI 10.1% on temporary accommodation charges
- 8) The continuation of rent flex at relet for properties in SWT as included in the Rent charging policy, with the rent flex policy being considered in the future for properties within Sedgemoor.

- 9) An increase in service charges for tenants in the Sedgemoor area based on actual costs in line with the service charging policy. The service charges were contained in Appendix D
- 10) An increase in service charges for tenants in SWT properties of 7% (with the exception of Piper Lifeline at 3%, communal areas at 37%, the introduction of a new management fee at 10%, a new charge for utility for internal areas charge and a new charge for door entry system) 7% was based on the governments rent cap with a commitment to review the option of 'depooling' service charges for 2024/25 to align service charge policies. The detailed service charges were contained in Appendix E alongside a supporting report.
- 11) An increase of 7% for garage rents in the Sedgemoor Area and an increase of 7% for garages rented by council tenants in SWT and 10.1% for private/owner occupier rented garages in this area.
- 12) An increase of 7% to other Fees & Charges for 2023/24 in the Sedgemoor area (Appendix D) and CPI in SWT area (Appendix E)
- 13) The HRA Major Works Capital Programme for 2023/24 totalling £20,910,180 and noted the previously approved Housing Development programme budget totalling £26,423,920 (Appendix F)
- 14) The growth bids requested in section 20 totalling £607,170 for two one-year bids and £688,170 per year for two years (totalling £1,376,340 over the two years)
- 15) That members noted the challenges and next steps for the HRA and landlord services.

Paper F set out the Leader and Executive's recommendations to Council which arose from their consideration of the report at the Executive meeting held on 13 February 2023.

The report detailed a proposed Asset Management Strategy and Plan for Somerset Council. It set out the Council's strategic objectives for property asset management, the approach the Council would take to managing its property assets, and a series of high-level commitments to guide property asset management decisions and policy making.

The County Council discussed the Asset Management Plan and Strategy and the following points were raised:

- Councillors raised queries on council owned farms and their tenancies.
- Concern was raised on schools and the backlog in the maintenance work and councillors queried whether there was any obligation to complete the maintenance work prior to schools moving over to academy contracts.

- Councillors queried the regeneration work on the town centres and what the plans were for land disposal,
- Councillors thanked officers for their work on the Strategy.

Councillor Ros Wyke proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Liz Leyshon.

Having been duly proposed and seconded the Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Asset Management Strategy for Somerset Council.

7 **Report of the Constitution and Governance Committee** - Agenda Item 6

The Leader of the Council introduced the report from the Constitution and Governance Committee which followed on from the Annual General Meeting held in May 2022, where the Council agreed an interim Constitution for 2022/23 and recognised that there would be a comprehensive review of the Constitution during 2022/23 through the Constitution and Governance Committee, culminating in the proposed Constitution for the new Somerset Council being recommended to the County Council ahead of vesting day on 1 April 2023.

It was highlighted that the Constitution and Governance Committee had completed a phased review of key elements of the new Constitution for the new Somerset Council over a series of meetings. The proposed new Constitution was appended to the report for consideration by the Committee and was recommended to the County Council for approval.

The County Council discussed the Constitution and the following points were raised:

- Councillors thanked the Monitoring Officer and the Constitution and Governance Committee for all their work on the new Constitution.
- Councillors agreed that a review would be required within the first year of the new Council following the operation of the new arrangements.
- Councillors highlighted that the section for the Planning Committees would need further review and suggested the use of a working group for the review.
- The Chair of the Constitution and Governance Committee advised that the wording within the public speaking section of the Planning Committee Terms of Reference had been amended.
- Councillors highlighted that the Constitution was a 'live' document and if any issues were spotted, they could be amended throughout the year.

Councillor Theo Butt Philip proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor David Fothergill.

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

- 1) Agree the proposed new Constitution for Somerset Council with effect from 1 April 2023 (as set out and appended to this report);
- 2) Note that the new Constitution also set out recommended executive arrangements for executive functions for approval by the Leader of the Council;
- 3) Delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Constitution and Governance Committee, to make any necessary revisions and additions to the new Constitution to meet business needs ahead of the Council's Annual General Meeting in May 2023;
- 4) Agree that the Chief Executive was appointed as the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer for the new Somerset Council;
- 5) Agree to give delegated authority to the Chief Executive to appoint all Statutory Officers and Proper Officers of the new Council, with the exception of any Statutory Chief Officers e.g. Section 151 Officer.
- 6) Agree that the word "county" be omitted from the Council's name and it be known as Somerset Council from 1 April 2023; and
- 7) Ask that the Constitution and Governance Committee undertook a review of the new Constitution and reported back to the Council no later than June 2024.

8 **Report of the HR Committee** - Agenda Item 7

The Deputy Leader of Council introduced the report from the Human Resources Committee which reviewed a number of reports, including NJC Green Book, Chief Officer and Chief Executive Annual Leave Entitlement.

Councillor Liz Leyshon proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor David Fothergill.

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

- 1) The Director of Customers, Digital and Workforce, on behalf of the Council to agree with the Green Book recognised trade unions, an amendment to the local collective agreement on annual leave entitlement for all staff on Green Book terms and conditions Somerset

Grades up to grade 4, in order to implement the increase agreed nationally for NJC Green Book staff (one day).

- 2) An increase to the annual leave entitlement by one day (pro-rata) for the Chief Executive and Chief Officers Grade 1 to 3, with effect from 1 April 2023, in line with NJC Green Book changes.

9 **Report of the Chief Executive (Senior Management Structure/Designation of Statutory Roles) - Agenda Item 8**

The Chief Executive introduced the report which detailed the process to appoint the Executive Directors and Service Directors of the senior leadership team ('tiers two & three') for the new Council.

Councillor Bill Revans proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor David Fothergill.

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

- 1) Endorse the proposed senior leadership structure (Tiers 1-3) for Somerset Council.
- 2) Accept the recommendations of the Appointments Committees to make the following appointments:
 - Executive Director of Resources and Corporate Services (151 officer) – Jason Vaughan
 - Executive Director of Community Services – Chris Hall
 - Executive Director of Strategy, Workforce and Localities – Alyn Jones
 - Executive Director of Climate and Place – Mickey Green
- 3) Appoint on the basis of the terms and conditions agreed by the Appointments Panel:
 - Executive Director of Resources and Corporate Services – pending further work on evaluating the role, within the range £129k - £150k
 - Executive Director of Community Services - £132k
 - Executive Director of Strategy, Workforce and Localities - £136k
 - Executive Director of Climate and Place - £142k
- 4) Designate and empower Jason Vaughan with the statutory chief officer functions of the Section 151 Officer for Somerset Council.
- 5) Endorse the change of job titles for the Director of Adult Social Services, Director of Children's Services and Director of Public Health and designated and empowered the following roles with the respective statutory chief officer functions:
 - Executive Director of Adult and Health Services (Mel Lock) – statutory chief officer role of Director of Adult Social Services

- Acting Executive Director of Children’s Services (Claire Winter) – statutory chief officer role of Director of Childrens Services
 - Executive Director of Public Health (Trudi Grant) – statutory role of Director of Public Health
- 6) Endorse the salary structure for Service Director roles:
 - Service Director 1 - £115k-£118k
 - Service Director 2 - £110k-£115k
 - Service Director 3 - £100k-£105k
 - 7) Delegate to the Chief Executive the final decision on the salary for the Executive Director of Resources and Corporate Services.
 - 8) Delegate to the Chief Executive the final decisions on salaries for Service Director appointments.
 - 9) Designate and appoint the statutory role of the Electoral Registration Officer within the remit of the Chief Executive.

10 **Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel - Agenda Item 9**

The Monitoring Officer introduced the report which set out the proposals in relation to the Members Allowances 2023/24 for the new Somerset Council. The proposals had been developed in consultation with the Somerset Independent Remuneration Panel following their review of the proposed Scheme of Member’s Allowances 2023/24 which was carried out by the Panel in January and February 2023.

The County Council discussed member allowances and the following points were raised:

- Councillors requested clarification on the recommendations and whether they were being asked to approve the allowances at the meeting. The Leader of the Council highlighted that Council was being asked to approve the allowances for 2023/24 today with the understanding that a review would be carried out within the first six months of the new Council, which would be reflected in the recommendations.
- A Panel Member gave an update on the work being carried out by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Councillor Bill Revans proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor David Fothergill.

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

- a) Thank the Panel for its report and recommendations set out in Appendix 1;

- b) Consider the Panel's recommendations when determining the Scheme of Members' Allowances 2023/24 set out in the Panel's report attached as Appendix 1 and the draft Scheme of Members' Allowances 2023/24 (set out in Appendix 2);
- c) Support the Panel's recommendation for a further review of the Members' Scheme of Allowances for 2024/2025, and for this to be reported to the Council by October 2023;
- d) Authorise the Monitoring Officer to finalise and make any amendments to the Scheme of Members' Allowances required as a result of the Council's decisions in (b) above.

11 Report of the Standards Committee - Agenda Item 10

The agenda item was deferred until the meeting due to be held on 1 March 2023.

12 Report of the Leader and Executive - for information - Agenda Item 11

The County Council discussed the Executive Report and the following points were addressed to the Lead Member for Transport and Digital:

- Concern was raised on the road closure along the B3171 and the impact on the local economy.
- Concern was raised on the 'late buses' and the reliability of the service.
- Councillors suggested the addition of more routes for the 'late buses'.
- Councillors thanked the Lead Member for the work on the Park and Ride and highlighted the use of the transport app, which had proved very useful.
- No further questions were asked of the other Lead members.

(The meeting ended at 2.50 pm)

CHAIRMAN