

## MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on Monday, 6 March 2023 in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council, Cannards Grave Road, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BT, commencing at 6.30 pm

### COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Simon Carswell	Portfolio Holder for Economic Development
Garfield Kennedy	Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development Management
Liz Leyshon	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and Projects
Barry O'Leary	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Enterprise and Finance
Richard Pinnock	Portfolio Holder for Housing Services and Governance
Tom Ronan	Portfolio Holder for Strategic Policy and Climate Change
Heather Shearer	Portfolio Holder for Community Health and Services
Ros Wyke (Chair)	Leader of Mendip District Council

### OTHER COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Councillor Laura Water, Cabinet Assistant

### OFFICERS PRESENT:

Tracy Aarons	Deputy Chief Executive
Richard Bates	Section 151 Officer
Stuart Brown	Chief Executive
Claire Dicken	Democratic Services Supervisor
Julie Jackson	Performance and Improvement Officer
Ally Laing	Senior Media and Communications Officer
Curtis Lakin	Environmental Protection Manager
Claire Malcolmson	Assistant CEO and Head of Community Health Services
Jeremy Manners	Assistant Head of Housing
Sara Skirton	Head of Corporate Services
Haylee Wilkins	Assistant CEO and Head of Neighbourhood Services

Agenda Item	Subject	Actioned by
1	<b>Chair's Announcements</b>  The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	

2	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Drew Gardner, Cabinet Assistant</p>	<p><b>Claire Dicken</b></p>
3	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>None.</p>	<p><b>David Clark</b></p>
4	<p><b>Public Participation</b></p> <p>a) <b>Items on the agenda:</b> None</p> <p>b) <b>Items not on the agenda:</b> None</p>	
5	<p><b>Questions From Members</b></p> <p>None</p>	
6	<p><b>2022-23 Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring Report</b></p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Enterprise and Finance presented a report which summarised the forecast outturn position against the agreed Council budget for 2022-23 based on Quarter 3 projections.</p> <p>The report indicated a projected revenue budget variance of £67k underspend. The detail underpinning this had been included within the report.</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder thanked the Cabinet and the Officers for their work.</p> <p>The Section 151 Officer was invited to speak. He said in terms of pooling; final calculations would happen when the Councils closed their accounts. However, he confirmed there was potential for additional money to be available to the new Council.</p> <p>He thanked his staff for their hard work. Particularly in retrieving debts and allocating hardship funds.</p> <p>During the discussion that followed Members thanked the Portfolio Holder for his work.</p> <p>Councillor Simon Carswell proposed additions to the recommendations in the report to approve the transfer of the unspent corporate priorities funding from Cleaner / Greener Mendip to Active Travel / Multi-user paths. And to delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder for Enterprise and Finance,</p>	<p><b>Richard Bates</b></p>

	<p>after consultation with the Leader and Section 151 Officer to allocate the final New Burdens non ring-fenced grant allocation of £21k.</p> <p>Councillor Heather Shearer seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To note the report</li> <li>2. To approve the drawdown of reserves and balances as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.</li> <li>3. Approve the transfer of the unspent corporate priorities funding from Cleaner / Greener Mendip to Active Travel / Multi-user paths.</li> <li>4. Delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder for Enterprise and Finance, after consultation with the Leader and Section 151 Officer to allocate the final New Burdens non ring-fenced grant allocation of £21k.</li> </ol>	
7	<p><b>Corporate Performance Quarter 3 Performance Report</b></p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and Projects presented a report which provided a summary of the high-level priorities that supported the delivery of the Corporate Delivery Plan.</p> <p>The report included a summary of the achievements and challenges throughout the term of the administration.</p> <p>She thanked the Officers for their support and hard work.</p> <p>During the discussion that followed Members were pleased to note that all the priorities and projects were progressing or complete.</p> <p>The Leader said that contacts at the Somerset County Council had been impressed by the work of Mendip Officers and she hoped that the new Somerset Council would continue to work as successfully as Mendip had done.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>To note the report, and further note the performance indicator outturns for Quarter 4 2022-2023 would be used as a baseline for Somerset Council.</p>	Julie Jackson

<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Enhancing Air Quality in Mendip (Update Report)</b></p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Community Health and Services presented a report which explained that air quality remained good within Mendip. Nevertheless, air pollution was associated with several adverse health impacts and as such air quality was recognised as a key public health consideration.</p> <p>Since the March 2022 Cabinet report, achievements contributing to the enhancement of air quality have included the following key successes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have maintained the diffusion tube monitoring network for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>).</li> <li>• The 2022 annual report for air quality (for 2021 data) was approved by DEFRA and was subsequently uploaded to the Mendip Website. DEFRA were complimentary regarding the approach Mendip has adopted towards air quality.</li> <li>• We have, offered anti-idling signage to 16 supermarkets and to the NHS Estate. Two signs have been provided to a surgery in Shepton Mallet.</li> <li>• An Earthsense Zephyr (Zephyr Air Quality Monitor   EarthSense) Continuous Air Quality monitor, which measures Nitrogen Dioxide, Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) has been installed in Frome. This has been as a result of have an initiative of 2 Somerset Air Quality Steering Group funding identified from Somerset County Council budget.</li> <li>• Resources permitting, the option to run the school's campaign on air quality, will be taken forward as an initiative for the new Somerset Council.</li> </ul> <p>During the discussion that followed Members said they were concerned that air quality should not suffer as a result of increased housing developments. They hoped that in future the new Somerset Council would be in a position to be aware of the impact of developments on the environment.</p> <p>Members noted the new Council would be required to have an Air Quality Strategy, and that some areas would be allocated additional air quality monitoring.</p> <p>There was a discussion about pollution in general. It was hoped that the new Council would be able to make tackling pollution a priority.</p>	<p><b>Curtis Lakin</b></p>
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	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To note the progress and successes identified since March 2022.</li> <li>2. To be aware that Officers will seek to continue measures designed to enhance air quality, as they move into the new Somerset Council.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF)</b></p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Housing Services and Governance presented a report which explained that Mendip District Council had developed a proposal which had been accepted by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). It was to accept £975,004 of Government capital funding, matched by £1,122,934 of funding from Somerset County Council (SCC), to acquire and deliver 8 homes in Mendip to provide settled homes for Afghan's and Ukrainian's who had arrived through the resettlement and relocation schemes.</p> <p>As a result Cabinet was asked to approve the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as issued by Central Government subject to the Somerset County Council agreeing s24 consent, agreeing to commit the required match funding up to £4million and approving the addition of £7.5million capital funding to the Capital Programme Budget in 2023/24 for the new Somerset Council. And to authorise the Council's Monitoring Officer to sign the MoU after 15 March 2023 once confident the necessary consent and commitment was in place from Somerset County Council.</p> <p>No capital or revenue funding was being sought from Mendip District Council.</p> <p>During the discussion that followed Members said they were pleased to support people in need. However, there concern that finding housing was challenging. There was further concern that the timeframe was very tight.</p> <p>Members hoped that the new Somerset Council would be able to work with greater resources than Mendip would have been able to, thus improving the situation.</p> <p>Councillor Richard Pinnock proposed the recommendations in the report. Councillor Heather Shearer seconded the proposal, which was carried unanimously.</p>	<p><b>Jeremy Manners</b></p>

	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To approve the signing of the MoU as issued by Central Government subject to Somerset County Council agreeing s24 consent, agreeing to commit the required match funding up to £4million and approving the addition of £7.5million capital funding to the Capital Programme Budget in 2023/24 for the new Somerset Council.</li> <li>2. To authorise the Council’s Monitoring Officer to sign the MoU after 15 March 2023 once confident the necessary consent and commitment is in place from Somerset County Council.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Urgent Business</b></p> <p>None</p> <p>The Leader of the Council thanked the Officers and her fellow Cabinet Members for their support whilst she had been Leader.</p>	

The meeting closed at approximately 7.45 pm