



Executive

You are requested to attend a meeting of the Executive to be held in The John Meikle Room, The Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton on 8 October 2014 at 18:15.

Agenda

- 1 Apologies.
 - 2 Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 10 September 2014 (attached).
 - 3 Public Question Time.
 - 4 Declaration of Interests
To receive declarations of personal or prejudicial interests, in accordance with the Code of Conduct.
 - 5 Proposed Smoke Free Zone. Report of the Strategy Officer (attached).
- Reporting Officer: Lisa Redston
- 6 Executive Forward Plan - details of forthcoming items to be considered by the Executive and the opportunity for Members to suggest further items (attached)

Bruce Lang
Assistant Chief Executive

26 September 2014

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to the discussions.

There is time set aside at the beginning of most meetings to allow the public to ask questions.

Speaking under “Public Question Time” is limited to 4 minutes per person in an overall period of 15 minutes. The Committee Administrator will keep a close watch on the time and the Chairman will be responsible for ensuring the time permitted does not overrun. The speaker will be allowed to address the Committee once only and will not be allowed to participate further in any debate.

Except at meetings of Full Council, where public participation will be restricted to Public Question Time only, if a member of the public wishes to address the Committee on any matter appearing on the agenda, the Chairman will normally permit this to occur when that item is reached and before the Councillors begin to debate the item.

This is more usual at meetings of the Council’s Planning Committee and details of the “rules” which apply at these meetings can be found in the leaflet “Having Your Say on Planning Applications”. A copy can be obtained free of charge from the Planning Reception Desk at The Deane House or by contacting the telephone number or e-mail address below.

If an item on the agenda is contentious, with a large number of people attending the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group.

These arrangements do not apply to exempt (confidential) items on the agenda where any members of the press or public present will be asked to leave the Committee Room.

Full Council, Executive, Committees and Task and Finish Review agendas, reports and minutes are available on our website: www.tauntondeane.gov.uk



Lift access to the John Meikle Room and the other Committee Rooms on the first floor of The Deane House, is available from the main ground floor entrance. Toilet facilities, with wheelchair access, are also available off the landing directly outside the Committee Rooms.



An induction loop operates to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter.

For further information about the meeting, please contact the Corporate Support Unit on 01823 356414 or email r.bryant@tauntondeane.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 telephone us on 01823 356356 or email: enquiries@tauntondeane.gov.uk

Executive Members:-

Councillor J Williams - Leader of the Council (Leader of the Council)
Councillor J Warmington (Portfolio Holder - Community Leadership)
Councillor V Stock-Williams (Portfolio Holder - Corporate Resources)
Councillor N Cavill (Portfolio Holder - Economic Development, Asset
Management, Arts and Tourism)
Councillor J Hunt (Portfolio Holder - Environmental Services and
Climate Change)
Councillor J Adkins (Portfolio Holder - Housing Services)
Councillor M Edwards (Portfolio Holder - Planning and
Transportation/Communications)
Councillor C Herbert (Portfolio Holder - Sports, Parks and Leisure)

Executive – 10 September 2014

Present: Councillor Williams (Chairman)
Councillors Mrs Adkins, Mrs Herbert, Hunt, Mrs Stock-Williams and Mrs Warmington

Officers: Ann Rhodes (Planning Policy Officer), Nick Bryant (Policy Lead), Paul Harding (Corporate Strategy and Performance Manager), Steve Plenty (Finance Manager), Paul Fitzgerald (Assistant Director – Resources) and Richard Bryant (Democratic Services Manager and Corporate Support Lead)

Also present: Councillors Coles, Henley, Morrell and A Wedderkopp
Robin Upton, White Young Green (WYG)

(The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm.)

51. Apology

Councillor Cavill.

52. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 9 July 2014, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and were signed.

53. Jurston (Wellington) Development Brief

Considered report previously circulated, which proposed the adoption of the Jurston Development Brief as a Supplementary Planning Document.

The Taunton Deane Core Strategy 2011-2028 Development Plan Document which had been adopted in September 2012 set the strategic framework for development across the district for the period to 2028. It included a number of strategic sites including Cades/Jurston in Wellington.

In the Core Strategy Jurston was identified in Policy SS4 as a new compact urban extension east of Wellington which would include around 900 new homes at an overall average of 35-40 dwellings per hectare; 25% of new homes to be affordable homes in line with Policy CP4: Housing; A new local centre with associated community infrastructure; A new north-south link road between Taunton Road and the A38; A local bus loop to provide public transport access to and from the new residential areas; and a green wedge of approximately 30 hectares.

The Core Strategy also provided that development of strategic sites at Wellington would be further guided by a Masterplan and design code to ensure a coordinated approach to the delivery of these sites.

Reported that a draft Development Brief had been prepared which addressed the requirements of the allocation for a Masterplan. This set out contextual information (location, history, planning policy, consultation), constraints and opportunities presented by a site and a set of principles to guide the type, form, layout and look of development for it. A copy of the Brief had been circulated to Members of the Executive.

The design codes would be used to guide development proposals. The Brief – which had been prepared in conjunction with the site's promoters C G Fry and Son and their consultants, WYG - related solely to the Jurston parcel of the allocation as planning consent had already been granted on the Cades Farm part of the allocation.

The Masterplan has been shaped by community and stakeholder involvement. The Prince's Trust had been commissioned to facilitate independent consultation with statutory consultees, local interest groups and societies, Councillors and officers from the County, District and Town Councils.

The Council had published the draft Development Brief for public consultation and a full summary of representations received together with the Council's responses thereto were detailed in the report.

Under the National Planning Policy Framework and Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations, the Council could adopt documents such as Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) where they added value, detail and guidance to the existing policies in the Core Strategy Development Plan Document. A SPD would be an important material consideration in the determination of a future planning application for Jurston.

Further reported that as part of the procedure for SPD's a Sustainability Appraisal Screening process was usually undertaken. However, as the site allocation was underpinned by the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal and additional ecological assessment work, additional screening was not required. A copy of the Sustainability Appraisal Screening Determination was also submitted for the information of Members.

The Community Scrutiny Committee met on the 2 September 2014 to consider the Jurston Development Brief and had unanimously recommended the Executive to adopt the Brief as Supplementary Planning Document. In addition, the Committee had highlighted the need for negotiations to continue in respect of highways issues, school provision and sports provision.

Resolved that:-

- (1) The content of the report, the summary of consultation, Sustainability Appraisal Screening Determination and the Jurston Development Brief all be noted; and
- (2) Full Council be recommended to adopt the Jurston Development Brief as a Supplementary Planning Document to be used in the Development Management Process for assessing future applications of the Jurston site.

54. **Financial and Performance Monitoring – Quarter 1 2014/2015**

Considered report previously circulated, which provided an update on the projected outturn financial position and performance of the Council to the end of Quarter 1 of 2014/2015 (as at 30 June 2014).

Monitoring the Corporate Strategy, performance indicators and budget was an important part of the Council's performance management framework. Regular scrutiny of its performance was an essential part of the Council's Governance framework.

Reported that a summary of the Council's Financial Performance at the end of Quarter 1 was as follows:-

General Fund (GF) Revenue

The overall financial position of the Council was that the GF outturn position was currently projected at a level 0.79% below that budgeted - a £99,000 underspend. However, it was feasible that this forecast could range from £50,000 to £100,000 below budget at this stage.

The major underspends and overspends forecasted for year-end related predominantly to demand-led services where it is more difficult to predict income levels with certainty. The current position relating to the following services was reported:-

- Waste Collection and Recycling;
- Parking;
- Planning Advice and Applications;
- Crematorium and Cemeteries; and
- Housing Benefits.

Budgets and forecasts were based on known information and the best estimates of the Council's future spending and income through the budget monitoring process. During this process risks and uncertainties were identified which could impact the financial projections, but for which the likelihood, and/or amount were uncertain.

Reported that the risks identified through the Quarter 1 process were Fluctuation in demand for services; Bed and Breakfast; Business Rates and year-end adjustments.

General Fund (GF) Reserves

The GF reserve balance at the start of the year was £2,537,000 but this had been reduced to £2,092,000 as a result of the decisions taken at the special meeting of Full Council on 19 August 2014 relating to the use of the 2013/2014 underspend. If the current trend continued and the Council took no further alternative action in the year, the potential underspend of £99,000 would be transferred to this reserve, increasing the projected balance to £2,191,000 at the end of the financial year.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

The current forecast outturn for the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) was a surplus of £373,000 (1.4% of budget). The main variance being reported was

Rental Income.

Noted that the risks identified to date were Rental Income; Responsive Maintenance; and Voids.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Reserves

The HRA reserves at the start of the year were £3,059,000. Following approved budget allocations during 2014/2015, the budgeted balance was currently £2,171,000 and was forecasted to be £2,544,000 at the end of the current financial year.

Deane DLO Trading Account

At Quarter 1 the DLO was forecasting a zero variance to budget and would be able to meet its target to contribute £101,000 to the General Fund.

Deane Helpline Trading Account

The Deane Helpline was forecasting a year end outturn net deficit of £74,000 which was an underspend of £12,000, against a budgeted cost of £86,000.

General Fund (GF) Capital Programme

The GF approved Capital Programme for 2014/2015 was £14,307,000. This related to schemes which would be completed over the next five years. Of this, £7,018,000 was planned to be spent during the current financial year.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme

The HRA approved Capital Programme for 2014/2015 was £19,904,000. This related to schemes which would be completed over the next five years. The profiled budgeted spend for 2014/2015 was £17,354,000, with the remainder planned to be spent in 2015/2016.

Further reported that with regard to the Council's performance, the Corporate Scorecard (which had been submitted for the information of Members) contained details of Quarter 1 2014/2015 performance against the Council's key priorities, finance and corporate health indicators. In total there were 55 indicators which were reported against, covering these areas.

The following table detailed the High Level Performance Summary for Quarter 1:-

	No. of measures	Green	Amber	Red	Not Due
Total Measures Reported	55	39 (71%)	11 (20%)	1 (1.8%)	4 (7.2%)

At the corresponding point last year, 33 (59%) of indicators were Green and 5 (9%) Red.

The one red indicator this quarter related to the time taken to respond to complaints. There did not appear to be a single specific cause of this downturn in performance in respect of this measure although the indicator would continue to be closely monitored.

A further table was submitted which provided a quick means of identifying how the Council was performing against each Corporate Aim and against our Finance and Corporate Health indicators.

Resolved that the report be noted.

(The Chairman left the meeting at 7.04 p.m. during the discussion of the above item. Councillor Mrs Stock-Williams took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.)

55. **Executive Forward Plan**

Submitted for information the Forward Plan of the Executive over the next few months.

Resolved that the Forward Plan be noted.

(The meeting ended at 7.08 p.m.)

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Executive Committee – 8 October 2014

Proposed Smoke Free Zone

Report of the Strategy Officer

(This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Stock-Williams)

1. Executive Summary

This report relates to the decision made by Full Council on 10 December 2013 to sign up to the Local Authority Declaration on Tobacco Control, and the associated report.

It is proposed that Smokefree South West utilise the grassed area of Castle Green to pilot a Smoke free zone and relevant signage in Taunton Deane.

2. Background

- 2.1 A successful pilot was carried out in Sedgemoor to introduce signs to encourage a voluntary smokefree code in children's play parks. The pilot demonstrated a significant reduction in people smoking. Following this, Taunton Deane Borough Council has now implemented voluntary smoke free signs in children's play parks across Taunton Deane.
- 2.2 We know that smoking prevalence in Somerset is considerably lower than the national average at around 17.5% and that Taunton Deane stands at 12.8% which is the lowest in Somerset. Therefore 87.2% of people in Taunton Deane choose to be non-smokers. Added to this we also know that 70% of smokers wish to give up.
- 2.3 Research shows that reducing child exposure to smoking decreases the uptake of smoking amongst young people in the long term by promoting positive role modelling. A smokefree environment also creates a supportive environment for those who are interested in cutting back or stopping smoking.
- 2.4 The majority of cigarette filters are not bio-degradable and must be disposed of in landfill sites. In Taunton Deane around 57 million cigarettes are smoked each year resulting in approximately 10 tonnes of waste annually. Of this, more than 2 tonnes of cigarette waste is discarded on the streets as litter and collected by Taunton Deane street cleaning services.

- 2.5** Smokefree South West, an organisation funded through public health to drive down smoking prevalence, has recently commissioned several surveys across the South West. Both smokers and non-smokers were interviewed to explore attitudes towards a smokefree voluntary code in public outdoor spaces. Smokefree South West tested four different designs for signage and key messages, resulting in the production of a sign and a key message that resonates with smokers. The sign uses positive and emotional language that focuses on keeping our town healthy and clean, thus appealing to the desire of most people for a clean environment and to protect our children.
- 2.6** The next stage is to run a 6-8 month pilot to test the effectiveness of the signs in areas around the South West and to test whether the smokefree zone enhances the area for families, young people, businesses, smokers and non-smokers.

3. Proposal for a Smoke Free Zone Pilot in Taunton Deane

- 3.1** Smokefree South West has approached the Council to propose using the grassed area within Castle Green as a pilot site.
- 3.2** The pilot would involve Smokefree South West carrying out the following programme:

Timescale	Action
20 Oct - 7 Nov 2014	Carry out pre-evaluation survey - gather baseline information using face to face interviews in the area with members of the public.
24 Nov – 28 Nov 2014	Install signage.
24 Nov – 28 Nov 2014	Deliver communications plan - including local businesses and media.
1 December 2014	Voluntary smoke free zone comes into effect.
1 Aug 2015	Pilot ends.
3 Aug – 10 Aug 2015	Carry out post-evaluation survey.
September 2014	Present results of pilot to TDBC Scrutiny and Executive Committees.

- 3.3** It is suggested that a sign with a 'heritage' type design is tested that will complement the historic surrounds of Castle Green whilst still standing out to deliver the key message. Please refer to an example of the proposed signage in appendix A.

4 Benefits

- 4.1** In response to the enormous and on-going damage smoking does to our communities in December 2013 TDBC Full Council agreed to sign a Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control. The declaration states that TDBC is committed to take action and makes a statement about TDBC's dedication to protecting local communities from the harm caused by smoking. By taking part in this pilot TDBC is acting on the commitments that it has made.
- 4.2** Smoking is the greatest cause of health inequalities. While overall smoking prevalence is low in Taunton Deane, it stands at 29.2% among routine and manual workers. It is only through a comprehensive approach to tobacco control such as reducing exposure of people smoking in public that we can begin to reduce this divide.
- 4.3** If the pilot is successful and members of the community choose to not smoke in this area of Castle Green smoking related litter will be reduced improving the look and feel of the area.
- 4.4** Smokefree South West will be piloting smokefree signs in two other sites across the South West. By taking part in a larger pilot exercise TDBC will benefit from robust evaluation of the pilot and clear evidence of the effectiveness of smokefree zones in public spaces.
- 4.5** Smokefree South West will support the development of a communication plan to prepare the public and businesses ahead of the sign installation along with template press releases and PR.

5. Risks

- 5.1** There are currently a range of issues at Castle Green that have been raised by businesses. These are being dealt with holistically through the creation of an action plan led by the Assistant Director - Business Development, Ian Timms in conjunction with Mark Edwards, Deputy Leader of the council.
- 5.2** There are a number of unresolved issues with one being of particular concern to businesses. That issue is alleged anti-social behaviour linked to excessive use of Castle Green by skateboarders, especially in the night time hours. Evidence is being collected to enable the council to consider whether appropriate legal remedies should be applied. A range of other actions are also being considered around positive use of the space. The council is therefore trying to act positively to resolve the issues of businesses and to ensure the space is a place that may be enjoyed by all residents.
- 5.3** The introduction of a voluntary ban on smoking creates a reputational risk. It may be the perception of local businesses and the community that the

Council is not dealing with the existing issues and are merely adding to them for businesses. This could damage the relationship that the Council is trying to build with local businesses as we attempt to resolve the existing problems. Until the ongoing issues are resolved it seems inequitable to create a restriction on businesses in the area albeit one which is voluntary.

- 5.4 The placement of any signs would need to follow a Health and Safety risk assessment to ensure they do not pose a trip or fall risk to members of the public.
- 5.5 Due to the relationship between alcohol and incidents of vandalism there is potential that the signage may be vandalised due to their proximity to 3 licenced premises in the area. Smokefree South West would need to cover the costs of any ongoing repair and maintenance of the signs.

6. Finance Comments

- 6.1 Smokefree South West have committed to providing the resources for this pilot. This includes staff time to conduct the pre and post evaluation, production costs for the signage, consultation with local businesses and development of the communication plan. Somerset County Council public health will fund production costs for the signage.
- 6.2 As a financial gesture it is proposed that the Council DLO services install the signage and provide any materials required for their installation.
- 6.3 It is likely that there will staff resource requirements from the Council's Public and Media Relations Lead to deliver the communications plan.

7. Legal Comments

- 7.1 The Smoke Free Zone will not be legally enforceable and compliance will require members of the public to voluntarily refrain from smoking on the grassed area of Castle Green.

8. Links to Corporate Aims

- 8.1 As stated in the Corporate Business Plan 2013 the Council has an aim to have a "Vibrant Social, Cultural and Leisure Environment", delivery of this aim includes an action to "Reduce health inequalities in Taunton Deane and address agreed health issues".

9. Environmental and Community Safety Implications

- 9.1 The council has received feedback from members of the public on the environmental impact of smoking related litter on the grassed area of Castle Green. The successful delivery of the pilot should have a positive impact on the look and feel of the area.

9.2 The implementation of a smoke free zone should reduce the smoking air pollution in the area, protecting both non-smoking adults and children from second hand smoke.

9.3 There have been a number of studies that show links between smoking and alcohol and drug abuse both of which have further links to crime and antisocial behaviour. Smoking also presents a fire hazard with careless disposal of cigarettes.

10. Equalities Impact

10.1 There will be a positive impact for people in communities who either stop or reduce smoking as a result of the pilot and the positive messages being delivered to support people in not smoking.

10.2 Statistics indicate that smoking prevalence is relatively high for people with severe mental illness, lower socio-economic groups, Lesbian Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people and younger adults.

10.3 The promotion of the voluntary smoke free zone aims to give a positive message to encourage people not to smoke. This will go some way to help to reduce health inequalities caused by smoking.

11. Recommendation

We recommend that the Executive agrees for the Council to offer the grassed areas of Castle Green as the area for a Smoke Free Zone Pilot in Taunton and supports the pilot with resources as stated in this report.

Contact: Lisa Redston
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08/10/2014, Report:Smoke Free Zone Pilot

Reporting Officers:Lisa Redston

12/11/2014, Report:Compulsory Purchase of land and buildings on the north side of Firepool, Taunton

Reporting Officers:Tim Gillham

12/11/2014, Report:Community Asset Transfer Policy – Taunton Deane Borough Council and West Somerset Council

Reporting Officers:Kene Ibezi

12/11/2014, Report:Review of Council Tax Support scheme for 2015/2016

Reporting Officers:Heather Tiso

12/11/2014, Report:Upstream Flood Attenuation Report

Reporting Officers:Tim Burton

12/11/2014, Report:Rockwell Green, Wellington Housing Development Site Report

Reporting Officers:Caroline White,Jo Humble

12/11/2014, Report:Use of photovoltaics on Council properties

Reporting Officers:Jo Humble

03/12/2014, Report:Review of Deane Helpline

Reporting Officers:Chris Hall

Contains exempt information requiring private consideration: Yes

Exempt reason:The report may contain some commercially sensitive information.

03/12/2014, Report:Proposed relocation of Deane DLO

Reporting Officers:Chris Hall

03/12/2014, Report:Site Allocations and Development Management Plan

Reporting Officers:Nick Bryant

03/12/2014, Report:Quarter 2 Financial and Performance Monitoring

Reporting Officers:Paul Harding

03/12/2014, Report:Proposed Shared Legal Services Partnership

Reporting Officers:Bruce Lang

Contains exempt information requiring private consideration: Yes

Exempt reason:Paragraph 1 - Information relating to any individual. The report is likely to contain exempt information relating to staffing issues.

03/12/2014, Report:Hinkley Funding: Sustainable Management Scheme

Reporting Officers:Christine Chu Hui Davies

03/12/2014, Report:Fees and Charges for 2015/2016

Reporting Officers:Kerry Prisco