

Taunton Deane Borough Council

At a meeting of the Taunton Deane Borough Council held in the Principal Committee Room, The Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton on 22 January 2007 at 8.00 pm.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Hindley)

Councillors Beaven, Mrs Biscoe, Bishop, Bowrah, Mrs Bradley, Cavill, Miss Cavill, Coles, Croad, Davies, Denington, Durdan, Floyd, Govier, Guerrier, Hayward, Henley, C Hill, Mrs Marie Hill, Mrs M Hill, House, Lees, Leighton, Mrs Lewin-Harris, Lisgo, Meikle, Morrell, Mullins, Murphy, Paul, Phillips, Prior-Sankey, Slattery, Mrs Smith, P Smith, Stone, Stuart-Thorn, Vail, Watson, Wedderkopp, and Williams.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 12 December 2006 and 19 December 2006, copies having been sent to each Member, were signed by the Mayor.

2. Apologies

Councillors Mrs Allgrove, Clark, Edwards, Garner, Hall, Weston, Mrs Whitmarsh and Mrs Wilson.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Paul, Henley, Govier and Prior-Sankey declared personal but not prejudicial interests as members of Somerset County Council.

4. Response to the White Paper “Strong and Prosperous Communities” on the Proposed Alternatives for Local Government Structure in Somerset

Following the meeting of the Executive, which had taken place immediately before this meeting, further consideration was given to the various options that had been proposed as a response to the above White Paper. Further detailed discussion took place on the strengths and weaknesses of each of the various options.

Council had previously agreed (Minute 6/2006) not to support the decision of the Somerset County Council to prepare a bid for submission to the Government seeking unitary status for the whole of Somerset. Consideration was given to two further options relating to an enhanced partnership approach for working in Somerset and the bid being promoted by Sedgemoor District Council relating to a unitary structure for Somerset West.

Moved by Councillor Prior-Sankey, seconded by Councillor Henley that a recorded vote be taken in relation to this proposal. The motion was put and was not agreed.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the enhanced partnership approach be supported and the prospectus submitted as Appendix 2 to the report be submitted to the Department of Communities and Local Government as this Council's response to the White Paper.
- (2) any bid for a West Somerset Unitary, covering the areas of West Somerset, Sedgemoor and Taunton Deane be not supported in the event of it coming forward.

Further discussion took place on whether the Council should actively look into the establishment of a Taunton Town Council.

RESOLVED that no further action be taken on this matter.

(The meeting ended at 9.15 pm.)