

## **Executive – 2 February 2011**

**Present:** Councillor Williams (Chairman)  
Councillors Mrs Adkins, Cavill, Hall, Hayward, Mrs Herbert and  
Mrs Lewin-Harris

**Officers:** Penny James (Chief Executive), Maggie Hammond (Strategic Finance Officer), Adrian Priest (Asset Holdings Manager, Southwest One), Tonya Meers (Legal and Democratic Services Manager) and Richard Bryant (Democratic Services Manager).

**Also present:** Councillors Mrs Allgrove, Beaven, Bishop, Bowrah, Brooks, Coles, Mrs Copley, Critchard, Denington, D Durdan, Ms Durdan, Farbahi, Mrs Floyd, Gaines, Guerrier, C Hill, Mrs Hill, Horsley, House, Miss James, R Lees, Mrs Lees, McMahon, Meikle, Mrs Messenger, Morrell, Murphy, Paul, Prior-Sankey, Mrs Stock-Williams, Stuart-Thorn, Swaine, Thorne, Watson, Mrs Waymouth, A Wedderkopp, D Wedderkopp and Mrs Wilson.  
Mrs A Elder, Chairman of the Standards Committee

(The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm.)

### **14. Apology**

Councillor Edwards

### **15. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 19 January 2011, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and were signed.

### **16. Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Mrs Adkins declared a personal interest as an employee of Somerset County Council.

### **17. Executive Forward Plan**

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

**Resolved** that the Forward Plan be noted.

### **18. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

**Resolved** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item because of the likelihood that exempt information would otherwise be disclosed relating to Clause 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 and the public interest in withholding the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

19. **Former Nursery Site, Mount Street, Taunton**

(Prior to the discussion of this item, the Legal and Democratic Services Manager advised those Councillors who were Members of the Planning Committee that they would be able to join the debate and vote without “fettering their discretion”, if they wished to do so. This was because the details received from bidders as to their particular development schemes were indicative only at this stage. The decision would be subject to contract and the grant of planning permission. Therefore Members simply needed to make their usual declaration that they would consider any planning application on its merits at the time of considering that application.

If and when any scheme came forward for consideration by the Planning Committee, Councillors would then be able to make the declaration that they had not previously fettered their discretion and that they now had all the necessary details before them which would enable the planning merits of the application to be fully taken into account.)

Considered report previously circulated, concerning the outcome of the marketing exercise for the former Nursery Site at Mount Street, Taunton which had recently been undertaken by Southwest One.

The marketing exercise had tested a number of disposal options, details of which had been circulated.

A total of three bids were received by the closing date of 21 January 2011 and the main details of each bid were submitted for the information of Members. All of the bidders had proposed schemes for sheltered housing on the site.

Each bid was subject to contract and conditional upon the interested party obtaining a satisfactory planning consent for its proposed development scheme. Furthermore, a sale of the site would be subject to respective board approvals and satisfactory site surveys and investigations.

**Resolved** that it be recommended to Full Council that:-

- (a) The sale of the part of the former Mount Street Nursery Site shown on the plan included with the report, be progressed;
- (b) Southwest One be authorised to negotiate exclusively with the bidder identified in the report with a view to finalising appropriate terms and conditions that would protect the Council’s best interests, including price, for the sale of the site, conditional upon appropriate planning permission being obtained and due regard being paid to the existing Traffic Survey information for the local area;
- (c) Once terms and conditions had been agreed, Southwest One be also Authorised to instruct solicitors to proceed to the exchange of conditional contracts accordingly; and
- (d) Should negotiations with the bidder identified in the report prove abortive, the matter be brought back to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the Executive for further consideration as to how the Council should next proceed.

(The meeting ended at 7.03 pm.)

## **Executive – 10 February 2011**

**Present:** Councillor Williams (Chairman)  
Councillors Mrs Adkins, Edwards, Hall, Hayward, Mrs Herbert and Mrs Lewin-Harris

**Officers:** Penny James (Chief Executive), Shirlene Adam (Strategic Director), Brendan Cleere (Strategic Director), Joy Wishlade (Strategic Director), Maggie Hammond (Strategic Finance Officer), Paul Fitzgerald (Financial Services Manager), Fiona Gudge (Principal Accountant), Tracey Healy (Trainee Accountant), James Barrahan (Community Services Manager), Tim Burton (Growth and Development Manager), Simon Lewis (Strategy and Corporate Manager), Richard Sealy (Client and Performance Manager), Stephen Boland (Housing Services Lead), Phil Webb (Housing Manager – Property Services), Tonya Meers (Legal and Democratic Services Manager) and Richard Bryant (Democratic Services Manager).

**Also present:** Councillors Brooks, Henley, R Lees, Morrell, Mrs Stock-Williams, Stuart-Thorn, A Wedderkopp and Mrs Wilson.

(The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm.)

### **20. Apology**

Councillor Cavill.

### **21. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mrs Adkins declared a personal interest as an employee of Somerset County Council.

### **22. Proposals to increase Summons and Liability Costs for Council Tax and Business Rate Defaulters**

Considered report previously circulated, concerning the current level of “reasonable costs” levied for issuing Summonses and Liability Orders for non-payment of Council Tax and Business Rates.

The Council was allowed to add reasonable costs to the debts if recovery was assisted through the Magistrates’ Court. The level of costs for a standard application was agreed in advance with the Court. If agreed, the Council would seek Civil Cost Structure Approval from the Court.

The last increase for the Council’s Summonses and Liability Orders took effect from 1 April 2006. However, since then costs charged by neighbouring authorities had increased, details of which were submitted.

Council Tax and Business Rate payers had a statutory right to pay their bills by a maximum of 10 instalments when they received their bill at the start of

the financial year concerned. Where an account remained unpaid, adequate warning was given prior to a Summons being issued.

Failure to collect Council Tax due to non-payment had a direct impact because those losses had to be subsidised by higher charges to those who did pay on time.

It was thought that an increase in the level of the Summons cost could act as a deterrent to non-payment or late payment of Council Tax and Business Rates. There was also the possibility of improving fairness by ensuring those people who failed to pay, contributed to the costs associated with that failure.

Finally, increased costs had the potential to increase the percentage of tax collected.

The current costs charged were as follows:-

Summons costs	£40
Liability Order costs	£5
Combined costs	£45

However, the actual cost of issuing Summonses and Liability Orders for non-payment of Council Tax and Business Rates had been calculated at £74.57.

Allowing for small variations in the assumptions made in calculating the above figure, it was proposed to increase the charge for a Summons to £63.50 and for a Liability Order to £10 with effect from 1 April 2011. It was anticipated that the proposed increase would generate further income of £50,000 per annum.

**Resolved** that:-

- (1) Full Council be recommended to increase the costs for Summonses and Liability Orders for non-payment of Council Tax and Business Rates to £63.50 (from £40) and £10 (from £5) respectively; and
- (2) The costs for Summonses and Liability Orders for non-payment of Council Tax and Business Rates be reviewed annually along with the other Fees and Charges.

## 23. **General Fund Revenue Estimates 2011/2012**

Considered report previously circulated regarding the Executive's final 2011/2012 budget proposals, prior to submission to Full Council on 22 February 2011 for approval.

Each year the Council set an annual budget which detailed the resources needed to meet operational requirements. It was prepared within the context of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which included the 2011/2012 proposals within a 5-year rolling forecast.

Full Council had approved a Budget Strategy at its meeting on 5 October

2010. This was agreed in the face of unprecedented financial challenges and uncertainty and the need to adopt a robust but flexible Budget Strategy to deal with the tightening economic and funding conditions. The Strategy could be summarised as follows:-

- Plan for a 40% reduction in grant over four years;
- Adopt a strategic approach that required managers to review spending and offer choices of savings that could be delivered over a four year period;
- Be flexible to enable some services to deliver savings earlier than others, and consider investment in order to realise longer term savings;
- Support the flexible approach by using reserves to smooth the impact of cuts over the four year period;
- Look for innovative ways to deliver and charge for services;
- Be clear on priorities and undertake a thorough review of the existing stance on service area priorities;
- Undertake a complete review of the Corporate Strategy in the summer of 2011 once priorities had been finalised; and
- Adopt a more “traditional” savings plan approach to setting the 2011/2012 Budget.

Although discussions on the budget proposals, including the Savings Delivery Plans and the proposed Fees and Charges for the next financial year, had commenced in November 2010, the Final Settlement on the formula grant from Central Government was only received on 31 January 2011. Information on this, together with a number of emerging issues which needed to be addressed by the Executive, were detailed in the report.

The General Fund Revenue Account was the Council's main fund and showed the income and expenditure relating to the provision of services. Although the Council made charges for some of its services which reduced the net cost of providing them, the remaining expenditure was funded by the Government through the Revenue Support Grant and Business Rates and by the Council Tax payer.

Reported that the funding position contained in the Final Settlement showed a cut to funding of 13.2% and 11.2% in 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 respectively (compared to 13.7% and 10.6% as per the Provisional Settlement position).

A summary of the Final Grant Settlement was reported as follows:-

	2011/12 £'000		2012/13 £'000	
2010/11 Funding	8,721			
Base Adjustment 2011/12	-1,831	-21.0%		
Adjusted 2011/12 Base	6,890		5,981	
Funding Reduction	-909	-13.2%	-671	-11.2%
Final Settlement	5,981		5,310	
<i>Note:</i>				
Provisional Settlement was:	5,944		5,316	
Final v Provisional difference	+37		-6	

A summary of the final settlements made to the other Local Authorities in Somerset was submitted for comparative purposes.

Reported that a Council Tax Freeze for 2011/2012 had been proposed.

Noted that the Council Tax calculation and formal tax setting resolution was to be considered separately. However, a Council Tax Freeze would mean that the Band D Council Tax would remain at £135.19. The Band D taxpayer would therefore continue to receive all the services provided by the Council in 2011/2012 at a cost of £2.59 per week.

As part of the Finance Settlement, the Government had incentivised Local Authorities to voluntarily freeze Council Tax in 2011/2012 by offering a grant equivalent to a 2.5% increase in Council Tax.

If the proposal to freeze Council Tax was accepted by Members, the Council was expected to receive a grant of approximately £136,000. Following indications from the Government, it had been assumed in the MTFP that this grant would be received over the next four years, provided there was no increase in Council Tax.

Further reported that the Budget Proposals for 2011/2012 incorporated the impact of cuts in Government funding and the measures that were proposed to address the overall budget gap in line with the approved Budget Strategy.

The budget gap position had been reported to all Councillors at various points in the budget setting process and the following table showed the changes to the proposed budgets between the Draft Budget position reported to the Executive on 1 December 2010 and the updated Draft Budget reported to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 27 January 2011:-

	Change £000	Gap £000
<b>A Previous Gap – Executive 1 December 2010</b>		<b>1,151</b>
B Provisional Revenue Grant settlement	340	1,491
C Additional Cost Pressures		
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Admin Grant	91	1,582
Various changes moving to detailed estimates	47	1,629

D	Proposed increases in fees and charges	-358	1,271
E	Savings Delivery Plans (Public Acceptability 1&2)	-1,047	224
F	Other savings		
	Council Tax Base increase	-17	207
	Waste Services contract price provision	-75	132
<b>G</b>	<b>Estimated Budget Gap as at 22 December 2010 (per Members' Draft Budget Consultation Pack)</b>		<b>132</b>
H	Further Changes:		
	Proposed Council Tax Freeze	136	268
	Council Tax Freeze Grant from Government	-136	132
	Maintenance of Pop Up Urinal in Taunton High St	4	136
	Youth Initiatives - One-off in 2011/2012	10	146
	Building Preservation Trust grant	1	147
	Yearbook and diary savings plan item removed	1	148
	Employee benefits and travel allowances	-20	128
	Planning Fees	-70	58
	Court Costs Recovery	-50	8
	Updated Collection Fund Deficit Forecast	-26	-18
	Reduce Deane Helpline contribution to Gen Fund	26	8
	Movement in Support Service Recharges	-88	-80
	Revenue Contribution to Capital (RCCO)	80	0
	<b>Estimated Budget Gap 13 January 2011</b>		<b>0</b>
	RCCO – New Schemes from General Reserves	49	<b>49</b>
	Use of General Reserves for One-off RCCO	-49	<b>-49</b>
	<b>Budget Gap - Corporate Scrutiny 27 January 2011</b>		<b>0</b>

In the short period since the Corporate Scrutiny Committee's meeting, there had been three significant new pieces of information which had required urgent consideration:-

- The receipt of the Final Settlement information;
- A budget 'error' had been found relating to double-counting of recharges income; and
- Improvements to business processes had helped to identify an updated position on the Deane Helpline budget, highlighting a projected financial deficit in 2011/2012.

The following table identified the impact of the changes and the measures identified to balance the resultant budget gap position. The table also included modest investment in new initiatives that the Executive was minded to support:-



	Change £000	Gap £000
<b>Budget Gap as at 27 January 2011</b>		<b>0</b>
Budget error – recharges	150	150
Deane Helpline Trading Account	154	304
Final Finance Settlement	-37	267
Remove budget re the Pop up Urinal	-4	263
Taunton High Street improvements	4	267
Funding to support projects emerging from the Priority Areas Strategy and Action Plan	10	277
Support for rural Post Offices and shops	8	285
Updated pay award assumption	-70	215
Vacancy Factor (0.75%)	-61	154
Use of General Reserves for Deane Helpline	-154	0
<b>Final Budget Gap</b>		<b>0</b>

Noted that a detailed explanation for all of the proposals listed in the two tables above were included in the report.

Details of other significant budget changes were also submitted. These included:-

- Inflation;
- Concessionary Travel;
- Value Added Tax;
- The Southwest One Contract; and
- Investments, Borrowing and Capital Financing Costs.

Further reported on the following:-

### **Special Expenses – Taunton Unparished Area**

The proposed budget for 2011/2012 was £46,820, which represented a 0% increase in the special expenses per Band D equivalent of £2.92 per property per year in the Unparished Area.

It was proposed to use the money as follows:-

- £15,000 for Youth Initiatives; and
- £31,820 for minor works and capital projects.

### **Deane DLO Trading Account**

Deane DLO was in the middle of an Internal Transformation project and certain cost reductions and efficiencies had been taken into account within the Savings Plans. In addition, through the updating of the Client, DLO Management and Business Support functions, the direct costs and support service recharges budgets had been updated to reflect the latest position. Overall, the DLO was budgeting to make a surplus of £101,000.

There was also a proposed budget in the 2011/12 Capital Programme for vehicle replacement, to be funded from DLO reserves. The forecast reserves position at the end of 2011/2012 was currently a healthy £419,000.

The Council had also set aside a separate DLO Transformation Reserve related to the Internal Transformation project. The balance on this reserve currently stood at £226,000, before taking into account costs incurred in 2010/2011, which would be finalised at the end of the financial year.

### **Deane Helpline Trading Account**

The General Fund Base Budget included a contribution from the Deane Helpline Trading Account to the General Fund of £80,000. This assumed that the Trading Account would deliver a surplus of at least that amount.

There had been some uncertainty over the likelihood of achieving this level of contribution and it had therefore been proposed to reduce the contribution by £26,000, to £54,000 in 2011/2012.

During the past few weeks a further update on the financial position of the Deane Helpline had been completed showing that there now was a significant risk of the service operating at a net cost (or deficit) of £75,000 in 2011/2012. This investigation had also highlighted the requirement to invest in the financial administration capacity within the service.

It was therefore proposed to recognise this risk and 'investment-to-save' requirement by removing the remaining budgeted transfer of £54,000 from the Trading Account to the General Fund, and include a provision of £100,000 within the General Fund for the estimated deficit for next year. These factors had had the effect of increasing the budget gap by £154,000.

The following table compared the 2011/2012 proposed budget with the 2010/2011 original budget, based on the information contained in the report:-

	<b>Original Estimate 2010/2011 £</b>	<b>Forward Estimate 2011/2012 £</b>
Total Spending on Services	15,389,730	12,810,430
Capital Charges Credit	(1,930,000)	(1,930,000)
Interest payable on Loans	226,430	226,430
Minimum Revenue Provision	342,500	370,500
Interest Income	(69,000)	(69,000)
Less: Council Tax Freeze Grant	0	(136,000)
Transfer to Reserves – Previous Years commitments	90,820	300,700
Transfer from Reserve – RCCO 2011/12		(49,000)
Transfer from Reserves – Deane Helpline		(154,000)
<b>AUTHORITY EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>14,050,480</b>	<b>11,370,060</b>
Less: Revenue Support Grant	(1,105,826)	(1,412,330)
Less: Contribution from NNDR Pool	(7,615,394)	(4,569,120)
Surplus/Deficit on Collection Fund	130,210	71,800
<b>Expenditure to be financed by District Council Tax</b>	<b>5,459,470</b>	<b>5,460,410</b>
Divided by Council Tax Base	40,384.49	40,390.60
<b>Council Tax @ Band D</b>	<b>£135.19</b>	<b>£135.19</b>
<b>Cost per week per Band D equivalent</b>	<b>£2.59</b>	<b>£2.59</b>

The above figures did not include Parish Precepts or Special Expenses.

As stated above the Council prepared its annual budget within the context of the MTFP. This provided estimates of the budget requirement and budget gap into future years. The following table provided a summary of the current indicative MTFP:-

	<b>2011/12 £m</b>	<b>2012/13 £m</b>	<b>2013/14 £m</b>	<b>2014/15 £m</b>	<b>2015/16 £m</b>
Net Expenditure	11.578	12.237	14.092	14.876	15.609
<i>Financed By:</i>					
External Government Support	5.981	5.310	4.783	4.310	4.416
Council Tax Freeze Grant	0.136	0.136	0.136	0.136	0
Council Tax	<b>5.461</b>	<b>5.598</b>	<b>5.738</b>	<b>5.881</b>	<b>6.028</b>
<b>Predicted Budget Gap</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.193</b>	<b>3.435</b>	<b>4.549</b>	<b>5.165</b>

Noted that the above estimates included the following assumptions related to funding:-

- Government Grant would be reduced by the following rates: 2011/2012 by 13.2%; 2012/2013 by 11.2%; 2013/2014 by 10%; and 2014/2015 by 10%.

- A 2.5% increase had been assumed for 2015/2016;
- The Council Tax Freeze Grant relating to 2011/2012 would be receivable for four years; and
- Council Tax would increase by 2.5% each year from 2012/2013.

Further reported that the reserves position was always considered as part of the overall financial framework that underpinned the Budget Strategy. This framework included an acceptable minimum reserves position of £1,250,000 or £1,000,000 if funds were allocated to 'invest to save' initiatives.

The Proposed Budget for 2011/2012 would maintain reserves well above this minimum, but the MTFP indicated that the Council was expected to face significant financial pressures in the medium term as shown in the following table:-

#### General Reserves Forecast

	2011/12 £m	2012/13 £m	2013/14 £m	2014/15 £m	2015/16 £m
Estimated Balance B/F	2.163	2.261	1.061	-2.421	-7.017
Transfers – Previous Years commitments	0.301	0.040	0	0	0
RCCO in 2011/12	-0.049	0	0	0	0
Deane Helpline 2011/12	-0.154				
Predicted Budget Gap	0	-1.193	-3.435	-4.549	-5.165
<b>Estimated Balance C/F</b>	<b>2.261</b>	<b>1.108</b>	<b>-2.327</b>	<b>-6.876</b>	<b>-12.041</b>

Beyond 2011/2012, the MTFP included anticipated inflationary pressures related to staffing pay awards, price inflation on services and major contracts, and possible further cuts in Government funding. There was also a significant estimated reduction of parking income in 2013/2014 linked to Project Taunton town centre developments. Ways of mitigating this potential impact on the Budget were being investigated.

In line with the approved Budget Strategy, the Council was launching a Budget Review Programme which would lead to the creation of a four year funding plan designed to address the financial challenges ahead.

As part of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance there was a requirement for Full Council to approve the indicators as set out in the report. These were important as they detailed the expected borrowing requirement for both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account. They also set the operational boundaries for both the borrowing and investment levels and interest rate exposure for the Council.

The Council's S151 Officer had a duty in accordance with The Local Government Act 2003 to comment, as part of the budget setting process, on the robustness of the budget plans. In her response, Shirlene Adam had

stated that she believed the Council's reserves to be adequate and the budget estimates used in preparing the 2011/2012 budget to be as robust.

Noted that Equalities Impact Assessments had been undertaken on proposed budget savings items and other key changes within the proposed budget. Copies of the assessments were submitted to enable them to be taken fully into account by Members in confirming the recommended budget proposals for 2011/2012.

Reported that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee had considered the draft budget proposals at its meeting on 27 January 2011 and its comments were submitted.

The Committee had specifically recommended the Executive to reconsider the proposed budget saving of £29,500 to remove the funding for the Police Community Support Officer and the proposal to take over the maintenance of the 'pop up' urinal in High Street, Taunton at a cost of £4,000. However, no alternative budget savings had been forthcoming.

The Executive had considered these comments and had decided to effectively "mothball" the pop up urinal pending consultation with traders as to its future use. The cost of maintenance had therefore been deleted from the proposed budget.

**Resolved** that Full Council be recommended to agree the budget for General Fund services for 2011/2012 as outlined in the report and that:-

- (a) the transfer for any potential underspend in 2010/2011 back to General Fund Reserves be agreed;
- (b) the Equalities Impact Assessments provided in the report and appendices be considered as part of the budget decision process;
- (c) the proposed 2011/2012 budget, being Authority expenditure of £11,370,060 and Special Expenses of £46,820 be agreed in accordance with the Local Government Act 1992;
- (d) the projected General Fund Reserve balance of £2,260,000 in 2011/2012 be noted;
- (e) the forecast budget position within the Medium Term Financial Plan be noted;
- (f) the Prudential Indicators for 2011/2012 as set out in the appendix to these minutes be agreed.

#### 24. **Housing Revenue Account Estimates 2011/2012**

Considered report previously circulated, which set out in detail the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2011/2012 which showed a working balance of £1,467,520.

The Council set an annual budget which detailed the resources needed to meet operational requirements. The budget was prepared within the context of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which included a five year rolling forecast of expenditure and income.

The Government was planning to implement legislative changes to housing finance via the Localism Bill, which was expected to lead to the abolition of the current subsidy system.

Noted that the current Average Weekly Rent for Taunton Deane Council Dwellings was £64.16. This figure took into account disposals and demolition of dwellings since the rent was set last year.

In considering an increase in rents, the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) had provided three alternative means of calculating this – Average Rent, Limit Rent and Guideline Rent.

The increase in Average Rent was based on a formula laid down by the DCLG in the HRA Subsidy Determination. This was calculated as Retail Price Index (RPI) (4.6% September 2010) + 0.5% + a 'convergence factor' in order that Council rents were in line with those of Housing Associations.

For 2011/2012 this convergence factor was calculated as £1.14. Therefore the proposed Average Weekly Rent for 2011/2012 would be £68.57, an increase of £4.41 or 6.87%.

This was below the Limit Rent (£69.44, an increase of £5.28 or 8.23%) and Guideline Rent (£68.99, an increase of £4.83 or 7.52%) alternatives. Each of these alternatives had implications which were outlined in the report, and acceptance of the Average Rent increase was therefore recommended.

Each ½% rent increase was equivalent to approximately £100,000 for the HRA. If the average rent was set lower than the current proposal, the loss of income would have to be met by reducing expenditure.

The Dwelling Rents formed the major element of income for the HRA. However, the proposed budget for non-dwelling rents and charges for services and facilities was based on a 4.6% increase.

The Supporting People grant had been reduced for 2011/2012 by 11% which was less than had been anticipated. An estimated reduction of 15% year on year had been anticipated in the future for MTFP purposes.

The Negative Subsidy for 2011/2012 was based on the Final Determination figures and represented payments to Central Government under the subsidy system. For MTFP purposes, it had been assumed that the HRA would move to a 'self financing' model from 2012/2013 and therefore no subsidy would be payable. It had been assumed that the Council would take on a debt of £86,000,000 from the Government as the estimated cost of the move to self-financing. It was hoped that final figures would be confirmed shortly.

The HRA expenditure budgets were reported and significant changes included the following:-

- Management Expenses – Changes to the Direct Labour Organisation had impacted on the HRA. Costs had been increased in line with inflation, with the only increase proposed being £18,000 to the Tenant Forum budget to provide a contribution towards initiatives to aid the social environment in the areas that the HRA had properties.

There had been two changes to this budget since consideration of the draft by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 27 January 2011. A correction of £187,510 had been made to the budget for the Core and Democratic costs which had, unfortunately been omitted from the draft budget and a vacancy factor of 0.5% had been built into the staffing costs for the HRA amounting to a saving of £7,830.

- Maintenance – Although budgets had generally been increased to reflect inflation, some areas such as Pre-Planned Maintenance had decreased overall by 12% compared to 2010/2011 ;
- Provision for bad debt – An increase in the annual provision was proposed due to the current economic climate;
- Depreciation – This cost was based on the Major Repairs Allowances which were incorporated in the Final Subsidy Determination;
- Debt Management Expenses – These were based on a recharge from Treasury Management, covering bank charges and fees associated with managing cash flow, borrowing and investments;
- Repayment on Borrowing and Interest – These included the additional debt of £86,000,000 through the HRA Reform. Initial estimates assumed this would be repaid over 17 years at a rate of 6% interest; and
- Interest receivable – this was based on an estimated interest rate of 1.32% on investments.

Also reported on appropriations, in the form of transfers to reserves and revenue contributions to capital.

Based on the budget contained within the report, the expected deficit for 2011/2012 was forecast to be in the region of £175,000. This was after making a revenue contribution to capital of £361,000.

Reported that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee had considered the draft budget proposals at its meeting on 27 January 2011 and its comments were submitted for consideration by the Executive.

Noted that an Equalities Impact Assessment had been undertaken on the proposed rent increase. A copy of the assessment was submitted to enable it to be taken fully into account by Members in confirming the recommended

budget proposals for 2011/2012.

**Resolved** that Full Council be recommended to:-

- (1) approve the average rent increase of 6.87%; and
- (2) agree the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2011/2012.

**25. Capital Programme Budget Estimates 2011/2012**

Considered report previously circulated, concerning the proposed General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programmes for 2011/2012 to 2015/2016.

Full Council had approved a Capital Programme for 2010/2011 General Fund schemes totalling £2,852,000 in February 2010. Slippage from the previous year and supplementary budget approvals during the year had increased the Capital Programme to £6,689,000.

An additional supplementary estimate of £60,000 was required in the current year to fund the cost of replacing 13 payment machines in the car parks to enable new coinage to be accepted. This scheme had been brought forward as the coinage was due to be introduced from April 2011.

Since the Budget Consultation Packs had been distributed to Members, confirmation of the loss of a significant amount of Government funding for General Fund Housing Capital had been received. £462,000 of Housing Capital Grant had been cut in full and £620,000 of Supported Borrowing had also been cut.

As a result, the predicted funding gap of £123,000 had increased to £1,205,000. This had made it necessary to review and revise the proposed Capital Programme for 2011/2012.

The proposed General Fund Capital Programme for 2011/2012 now totalled £1,421,000. This assumed nil slippage from 2010/2011, although it was thought that the majority of costs of the Crematorium Mercury Abatement project would slip into 2011/2012.

Proposals to close the funding gap were in place. The funding gap of £1,205,00 had been closed by:-

£	
635,000	Reduced spending from the Initial Draft Programme targeted in areas where external funding had been cut
60,000	Remove replacement of car park pay and display machines. This scheme was brought forward to 2010/2011, with funding proposed from surplus earmarked reserves.
381,000	Use of existing Housing Enabling Reserve to fund current Registered Social Landlord (RSL) Grants commitments
49,000	Use revenue contribution to capital (RCCO) for New One-off Schemes (IT Infrastructure, Crematorium equipment) funded



	from General Reserves
80,000	Use RCCO towards Updated Existing Scheme (New Cremators) funded from 2011/2012 Budget.
1,205,000	Total

The updated proposed Capital Programme was reported as follows:-

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Initial Draft Programme £000</b>	<b>Draft Programme £000</b>	<b>Difference £000</b>
<b>Recurring Schemes (2011/12 onwards unless stated)</b>			
Grants to Clubs	46	46	0
Play Equipment – Grants to Parishes	20	20	0
Replacement Play Equipment	20	20	0
IT Improvements	59	59	0
Taunton Canal Grant	10	10	0
Replacement Parking Enforcement Equipment	10	0	-10
Disabled Facility Grants – Private Sector	405	359	-46
Private Sector Renewal Grants	301	0	-301
Grants to RSL's	728	450	-278
<b>Total Recurring Schemes</b>	<b>1,599</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>-635</b>
<b>Updated Existing Schemes</b>			
Taunton Crematorium New Cremators and Mercury Abatement Works (in addition to £1,085k in 2010/11)	235	235	0
Town Centre Improvements	8	8	0
<b>Total Updated Existing Schemes</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>New Schemes</b>			
ICT Infrastructure	35	35	0
Parking Payment Equipment Replacement	60	0	-60
Taunton Crematorium Equipment	14	14	0
Cemeteries/Crematorium Mower Replacement	0	15	15
DLO Vehicle Replacement	0	150	150
<b>Total New Schemes</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,951</b>	<b>1,421</b>	<b>-530</b>

Further reported that funding the Capital Programme would be on the basis of that set out below:-

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Initial Draft Programme £000</b>	<b>Draft Programme £000</b>	<b>Difference £000</b>
Revenue Funding – Capital Financing Reserve	0	15	15
Revenue Funding – Housing Enabling Reserve	0	381	381
Revenue Funding – DLO Reserve	0	150	150
Revenue Funding – 2011/12 Budget	0	80	80
Revenue Funding – General Reserves	0	49	49
Government Grants	721	259	-462
Capital Receipts	487	487	0
Supported Borrowing – Regional Housing Pot	620	0	-620
<i>Balance - To be identified</i>	123	0	-123
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,951</b>	<b>1,421</b>	<b>-530</b>

The Council's grant allocation for Disabled Facilities Grants had not been announced, but the assumption was that it would remain at £259,000.

The proposal was a reduction on the General Fund housing schemes of £625,000 despite the loss of £1,082,000 external funding. Commitments against areas of General Fund housing were being funded from the Housing Enabling reserve. The balance left in this reserve after the funding of the 2011/2012 programme was reported as follows:-

<b>Housing Enabling Reserve</b>	<b>Total £000</b>
Balance at 01/04/2010	782
Amounts committed in 2010/2011	(161)
Amount due in from Strong Vox (via s.106 agreement)	375
Proposed funding of 2011/2012 Capital Programme	(381)
<b>Balance left in Reserve</b>	<b>615</b>

Noted that future General Fund projects could be undertaken when resources became available. This could be through either borrowing, revenue contributions or through the sale of assets.

The Council had approved a Capital Programme for 2010/2011 HRA Schemes totalling £4,560,000 in February 2010. Slippage from the previous year had increased the estimated programme expenditure in 2010/2011 to £6,058,000.

The proposed HRA Capital Programme for 2011/2012 totalled £4,299,000 and assumed nil slippage. The proposed programme was detailed below:-

Scheme	Scheme Cost £000	Total £000
<b>Decent Homes</b>		
Bathrooms, Roofing, Windows and Heating Improvements	3,654	<b>3,654</b>
<b>Other Works</b>		
Integrated Housing Management System	15	
Door Entry Systems	20	
Aids and Adaptations	200	
Sound Proofing	20	
DDA Work	20	
Asbestos Works	20	
<b>Total Other Works</b>		<b>295</b>
<b>Other Schemes</b>		
Community Alarm Systems	45	
Tenants Improvements	5	
Disabled Facilities Grants (HRA Stock)	300	
<b>Total Other Schemes</b>		<b>350</b>
<b>Total Proposed HRA Capital Programme 2011/12</b>		<b>4,299</b>

#### Funding the HRA Capital Programme

	£'000
HRA Revenue Funding (RCCO)	361
Revenue Funding – Housing Enabling Reserve	3,938
<b>Total HRA Capital Resources</b>	<b>4,299</b>

General Fund Resources were reported as follows:-

- Revenue Funding – In 2011/2012 this would come from earmarked reserves, general reserves and Council Tax;
- Capital Grants and Contributions – With the withdrawal of the Regional Housing Grant, only Disabled Facilities Grant funding would be available in this category. The Department of Communities and Local Government had not announced the final allocations for 2011/2012, but the funding had increased by 6.22% nationally;
- Usable Capital Receipts – General – The balance of unallocated capital receipts was currently zero. Future capital receipts were expected from the sale of the former Nursery site at Mount Street, Taunton and the Bindon Road, Taunton site;
- Usable Capital Receipts – Housing – This related to income from the sale of council houses. It was estimated that only six Right to Buy

sales were likely in 2011/2012. 75% of the proceeds would be returned to Central Government;

- Supported Borrowing – This was borrowing for capital purposes. Central Government provided revenue support to meet the cost of debt repayment. Unfortunately the allocation would be zero for the Council in 2011/2012; and
- Unsupported Borrowing – Where the overall amount of capital expenditure exceeded the available resources, the Council would be required to undertake prudential borrowing for the difference. If borrowing was needed and approved it would only be taken after full consideration of Taunton Deane's Treasury Management Strategy and the indicators prescribed by the Prudential Code.

The capital resources attributable to HRA-related capital expenditure included the Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) (HRA Subsidy from central Government) and RCCO's. The MRA allocation for 2011/2012 included in the Final HRA Subsidy Determination was £3,938,000.

Reported that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee had considered the draft Capital Programme proposals at its meeting on 27 January 2011. No comments were submitted for consideration by the Executive.

Noted that Equalities Impact Assessments had been undertaken on the proposed cuts to the Housing Services Capital Budget. Copies of the assessments were submitted to enable them to be taken fully into account by Members in confirming the recommended budget proposals for 2011/2012.

**Resolved** that Full Council be recommended to approve:-

- (1) Both the General Fund Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme budgets for 2011/2012; and
- (2) The supplementary estimate required in 2010/2011 for the replacement of the car park payment machines.

## 26. **Council Tax Setting 2011/2012**

Submitted report previously circulated, which made recommendations on the level of Council Tax for 2011/2012.

The Council was required to make an annual determination, which set its gross expenditure and gross income (including the Housing Revenue Account and balances brought forward), with the difference as its budget requirement. This determination was set out in the resolution.

Noted that at this stage, whilst the precept figures for the Avon and Somerset Police Authority were known, the figures for Somerset County Council and the Devon and Somerset Fire Authority were provisional pending their respective approval processes. It was likely this element of the total Council Tax determination would have to be advised to Members at the meeting of Full

Council on 22 February 2011.

The estimated expenses chargeable to the non-parished area of Taunton in 2011/2012 amounted to £46,820 and this formed part of the total net expenditure of the Council. Details were also submitted of the Parish Precepts levied and the appropriate Council Tax at Band D.

The estimated balance on the Council Tax Collection Fund was a deficit of £694,745. Taunton Deane's share of this amounted to £71,800 and this was reflected in the General Fund Revenue estimates.

The Council's budget requirement was £11,872,520 including draft Parish Precepts and non-parished Special Expenses. This amount was then reduced by the amount notified in respect of Taunton Deane's Revenue Support Grant (RSG) amounting to £1,412,330 and Domestic Rates Distribution (NDR) from the national pool, amounting to £4,569,120.

The net amount, having taken the collection fund position into account, of £5,962,870 was used to calculate the Council Tax at Band D, reflecting the Parish Precepts and Special Expenses, by dividing it by the total of the Council Tax Base as approved by the Executive on 19 January 2011.

The Council Tax for Taunton Deane (excluding Parish Precepts and Special Expenses for the non-parished area) was £135.19, which was unchanged from the 2010/2011 Council Tax. The provisional total Council Tax, including the Somerset County Council, Police and Fire Authorities precepts was £1402.29 subject to confirmation by the County Council and the Fire Authority.

**Resolved** that Full Council be recommended that subject to final determination including the Council Tax for Somerset County Council and the Police and Fire Authorities, which was to be advised:-

That it be noted that at its meeting on 19 January 2011 the Executive calculated the following amounts for the year 2011/2012 in accordance with the regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended):-

- (1) 40,390.64 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its Council Tax Base for the year.

Ash Priors	78.84	Neroche	251.93
Ashbrittle	97.37	North Curry	748.27
Bathealton	88.08	Norton Fitzwarren	820.30
Bishops Hull	1,075.48	Nynehead	157.34
Bishops Lydeard / Cothelstone	1,116.85	Oake	333.62
Bradford on Tone	290.50	Otterford	170.04
Burrowbridge	205.44	Pitminster	458.91

Cheddon Fitzpaine	639.63	Ruishton/Thornfalcon	614.50
Chipstable	128.01	Sampfard Arundel	132.51
Churchstanton	335.61	Staplegrove	713.43
Combe Florey	121.40	Stawley	130.08
Comeytrowe	2,092.08	Stoke St Gregory	389.61
Corfe	132.48	Stoke St Mary	204.23
Cotford St Luke	800.55	Taunton	16,033.53
Creech St Michael	946.10	Trull	1,029.79
Durstun	59.57	Wellington	4,683.53
Fitzhead	123.27	Wellington (Without)	302.74
Halse	141.39	West Bagborough	168.06
Hatch Beauchamp	260.51	West Buckland	444.62
Kingston St Mary	452.76	West Hatch	141.96
Langford Budville	236.73	West Monkton	1,116.84
Lydeard St Lawrence/ Tolland	204.07	Wiveliscombe	1,119.67
Milverton	598.41		

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items related.

- (2) That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2011/2012 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-
- (a) £77,375,400 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimated for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) of the Act.  
*(Gross Expenditure including amount required for working balance).*
- (b) £65,502,880 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimated for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act.  
*(Gross Income including reserves to be used to meet Gross Expenditure).*
- (c) £11,872,520 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeded the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.
- (d) £5,909,650 being the aggregate of the sums which the

Council estimated would be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed Non-Domestic Rates, Revenue Support Grant, additional grant or SSA reduction grant (increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimated would be transferred in the year from its Collection Fund to its General Fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (*Council Tax Surplus*) and increased by the amount of any sum which the Council estimated would be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charge) directions under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 made on 7 February 1994 (*Community Charge Surplus*).

(e)	£147.63	$\frac{(c) - (d)}{(1)} = \frac{11,872,520 - 5,909,650}{40,390.64}$
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being the amount calculated at (c) above less the amount at (d) above, all divided by the amount at (1) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. (*Average Council Tax at Band D for Borough including Parish Precepts and Special Expenses*).

(f)	£502,465	being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act. ( <i>Parish Precepts and Special Expenses</i> ).
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(g)	£135.19	$\frac{(e) - (f)}{(1) \text{ above}} = \frac{147.63 - 502,465}{40,390.64}$
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being the amount at (e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (f) above by the amount at (1) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special items related. (*Council Tax at Band D for Borough Excluding Parish Precepts and Special Expenses*).

(h)			
Ash Priors	135.19	Neroche	151.07
Ashbrittle	153.68	North Curry	157.24
Bathealton	140.87	Norton Fitzwarren	165.83
Bishops Hull	155.65	Nynehead	160.61
Bishops Lydeard	/ 157.74	Oake	149.43
Cothelstone			
Bradford on Tone	154.12	Otterford	135.19
Burrowbridge	154.66	Pitminster	155.41
Cheddon Fitzpaine	146.13	Ruishton/Thornfalcon	154.72
Chipstable	149.64	Sampford Arundel	169.90
Churchstanton	156.79	Staplegrove	149.21
Combe Florey	151.66	Stawley	153.64
Comeytrowe	147.14	Stoke St Gregory	151.87
Corfe	154.06	Stoke St Mary	149.92
Cotford St Luke	153.93	Taunton	138.11
Creech St Michael	159.64	Trull	148.79
Durston	145.26	Wellington	154.99
Fitzhead	159.49	Wellington (Without)	151.87
Halse	147.57	West Bagborough	147.09
Hatch Beauchamp	152.46	West Buckland	153.18
Kingston St Mary	148.44	West Hatch	151.60
Langford Budville	152.09	West Monkton	163.48
Lydeard St Lawrence	/ 152.34	Wiveliscombe	153.95
Tolland			
Milverton	154.41		

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (g) above, the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at (2) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items related.  
*(Council Taxes at Band D for Borough, Parish and Special Expenses).*

- (i) See overleaf being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (h) above by the number which, in proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which is that proportion applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band D,



calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands. (Council Tax for Individual Parishes and the Borough)

**(a)****2011/12 by Parish by Band****Shaded figures represent indicative data only**

Valuation Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Ash Priors	90.13	105.15	120.17	135.19	165.23	195.27	225.32	270.38
Ashbrittle	96.97	113.14	129.30	145.46	177.78	210.11	242.43	290.92
Bathealton	93.91	109.56	125.21	140.87	172.17	203.47	234.78	281.73
Bishops Hull	103.76	121.06	138.35	155.65	190.23	224.82	259.41	311.29
Bishops Lydeard/Cothelstone	105.16	122.69	140.21	157.74	192.79	227.85	262.90	315.48
Bradford on Tone	102.75	119.87	137.00	154.12	188.37	222.62	256.87	308.25
Burrowbridge	103.11	120.29	137.48	154.66	189.03	223.40	257.77	309.32
Cheddon Fitzpaine	97.42	113.66	129.90	146.13	178.61	211.08	243.56	292.27
Chipstable	99.76	116.39	133.02	149.64	182.90	216.15	249.40	299.28
Churchstanton	104.53	121.95	139.37	156.79	191.64	226.48	261.32	313.58
Combe Florey	101.11	117.96	134.81	151.66	185.37	219.07	252.77	303.33
Comeytrowe	98.09	114.44	130.79	147.14	179.84	212.54	245.23	294.28
Corfe	102.71	119.83	136.94	154.06	188.30	222.53	256.77	308.12
Cotford St Luke	102.62	119.72	136.82	153.93	188.13	222.34	256.55	307.85

Creech St Michael	106.43	124.17	141.90	159.64	195.12	230.60	266.07	319.29
Durston	96.84	112.98	129.12	145.26	177.54	209.82	242.10	290.52
Fitzhead	106.32	124.04	141.77	159.49	194.93	230.37	265.81	318.97
Halse	98.38	114.77	131.17	147.57	180.36	213.15	245.95	295.13
Hatch Beauchamp	101.64	118.58	135.52	152.46	186.34	220.23	254.11	304.93
Kingston St Mary	98.96	115.45	131.95	148.44	181.43	214.42	247.40	296.88
Langford Budville	101.39	118.29	135.19	152.09	185.88	219.68	253.48	304.17
Lydeard St Lawrence/Tolland	101.56	118.49	135.41	152.34	186.19	220.05	253.90	304.68
Milverton	102.94	120.09	137.25	154.41	188.72	223.03	257.35	308.82
Neroche	100.71	117.50	134.28	151.07	184.64	218.21	251.78	302.13
North Curry	104.83	122.30	139.77	157.24	192.18	227.13	262.07	314.48
Norton Fitzwarren	110.55	128.98	147.40	165.83	202.68	239.53	276.38	331.65
Nynehead	107.08	124.92	142.77	160.61	196.30	232.00	267.69	321.23
Oake	99.62	116.22	132.82	149.43	182.63	215.84	249.05	298.86
Otterford	90.13	105.15	120.17	135.19	165.23	195.27	225.32	270.38
Pitminster	103.61	120.87	138.14	155.41	189.95	224.48	259.02	310.82

Ruishton/Thornfalcon	103.15	120.34	137.53	154.72	189.10	223.48	257.86	309.44
Sampford Arundel	113.27	132.15	151.03	169.90	207.66	245.42	283.17	339.81
Staplegrove	99.47	116.05	132.63	149.21	182.36	215.52	248.68	298.41
Stawley	102.43	119.50	136.57	153.64	187.78	221.92	256.07	307.28
Stoke St Gregory	101.25	118.12	135.00	151.87	185.62	219.37	253.12	303.75
Stoke St Mary	99.95	116.60	133.26	149.92	183.23	216.55	249.86	299.84
Taunton	92.07	107.42	122.76	138.11	168.80	199.49	230.18	276.22
Trull	99.19	115.72	132.25	148.79	181.85	214.91	247.98	297.57
Wellington	103.33	120.55	137.77	154.99	189.43	223.87	258.32	309.98
Wellington Without	101.25	118.12	135.00	151.87	185.62	219.37	253.12	303.74
West Bagborough	98.06	114.40	130.75	147.09	179.78	212.46	245.15	294.18
West Buckland	102.12	119.14	136.16	153.18	187.22	221.26	255.30	306.37
West Hatch	101.07	117.91	134.76	151.60	185.29	218.98	252.67	303.21
West Monkton	108.99	127.15	145.32	163.48	199.81	236.14	272.47	326.97
Wiveliscombe	102.63	119.74	136.84	153.95	188.16	222.37	256.58	307.89

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (h) above by the number which, in proportion set out in Section 5 (1) of the Act,

is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which is that proportion applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands (Council Tax for individual Parishes and the Borough)

**(b) (Provisional)**

That it be noted that for the year 2011/12 the Somerset County Council, the Avon and Somerset Police Authority and the Somerset and Devon Fire & Rescue Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwelling shown below.

Somerset County Council	684.87	799.01	913.16	1,027.30	1,255.59	1,483.88	1,712.17	2,054.60
Avon & Somerset Police Authority	112.02	130.69	149.36	168.03	205.37	242.71	280.05	336.06
Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority	47.85	55.82	63.80	71.77	87.72	103.67	119.62	143.54

Valuation Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Ash Priors	934.86	1,090.67	1,246.48	1,402.29	1,713.91	2,025.53	2,337.15	2,804.58
Ashbrittle	941.71	1,098.66	1,255.61	1,412.56	1,726.46	2,040.36	2,354.27	2,825.12
Bathealton	938.64	1,095.09	1,251.53	1,407.97	1,720.85	2,033.73	2,346.61	2,815.93
Bishops Hull	948.50	1,106.58	1,264.66	1,422.75	1,738.91	2,055.08	2,371.24	2,845.49
Bishops Lydeard/Cothelstone	949.89	1,108.21	1,266.52	1,424.84	1,741.47	2,058.10	2,374.73	2,849.68
Bradford on Tone	947.48	1,105.40	1,263.31	1,421.22	1,737.05	2,052.88	2,368.70	2,842.45
Burrowbridge	947.84	1,105.81	1,263.79	1,421.76	1,737.71	2,053.65	2,369.60	2,843.52

Cheddon Fitzpaine	942.16	1,099.18	1,256.21	1,413.23	1,727.29	2,041.34	2,355.39	2,826.47
Chipstable	944.49	1,101.91	1,259.33	1,416.74	1,731.57	2,046.41	2,361.24	2,833.48
Churchstanton	949.26	1,107.47	1,265.68	1,423.89	1,740.31	2,056.73	2,373.15	2,847.78
Combe Florey	945.84	1,103.48	1,261.12	1,418.76	1,734.05	2,049.33	2,364.61	2,837.53
Comeytrowe	942.83	1,099.96	1,257.10	1,414.24	1,728.52	2,042.79	2,357.07	2,828.48
Corfe	947.44	1,105.35	1,263.25	1,421.16	1,736.97	2,052.79	2,368.60	2,842.32
Creech St Michael	951.16	1,109.69	1,268.22	1,426.74	1,743.80	2,060.85	2,377.91	2,853.49
Durston	941.57	1,098.50	1,255.43	1,412.36	1,726.22	2,040.08	2,353.94	2,824.72
Fitzhead	951.06	1,109.57	1,268.08	1,426.59	1,743.61	2,060.62	2,377.64	2,853.17
Halse	943.11	1,100.30	1,257.48	1,414.67	1,729.04	2,043.41	2,357.78	2,829.33
Hatch Beauchamp	946.38	1,104.11	1,261.83	1,419.56	1,735.02	2,050.48	2,365.94	2,839.13
Kingston St Mary	943.69	1,100.98	1,258.26	1,415.54	1,730.11	2,044.67	2,359.24	2,831.08
Langford Budville	946.12	1,103.81	1,261.50	1,419.19	1,734.56	2,049.94	2,365.31	2,838.37
Lydeard St Lawrence/Tolland	946.29	1,104.01	1,261.73	1,419.44	1,734.87	2,050.30	2,365.73	2,838.88
Milverton	947.67	1,105.62	1,263.56	1,421.51	1,737.40	2,053.29	2,369.18	2,843.02
Neroche	945.44	1,103.02	1,260.59	1,418.17	1,733.32	2,048.46	2,363.61	2,836.33

North Curry	949.56	1,107.82	1,266.08	1,424.34	1,740.86	2,057.38	2,373.90	2,848.68
Norton Fitzwarren	955.28	1,114.50	1,273.71	1,432.93	1,751.35	2,069.78	2,388.21	2,865.85
Nynehead	951.81	1,110.44	1,269.08	1,427.71	1,744.98	2,062.25	2,379.52	2,855.43
Oake	944.35	1,101.74	1,259.14	1,416.53	1,731.31	2,046.10	2,360.88	2,833.06
Otterford	934.86	1,090.67	1,246.48	1,402.29	1,713.91	2,025.53	2,337.15	2,804.58
Pitminster	948.34	1,106.40	1,264.45	1,422.51	1,738.62	2,054.74	2,370.85	2,845.02
Ruishton/Thornfalcon	947.88	1,105.86	1,263.84	1,421.82	1,737.78	2,053.74	2,369.70	2,843.64
Sampfard Arundel	958.00	1,117.67	1,277.34	1,437.00	1,756.34	2,075.67	2,395.01	2,874.01
Staplegrove	944.20	1,101.57	1,258.94	1,416.31	1,731.04	2,045.78	2,360.51	2,832.61
Stawley	947.16	1,105.02	1,262.88	1,420.74	1,736.46	2,052.18	2,367.90	2,841.48
Stoke St Gregory	945.98	1,103.65	1,261.31	1,418.97	1,734.30	2,049.63	2,364.96	2,837.95
Stoke St Mary	944.68	1,102.13	1,259.57	1,417.02	1,731.91	2,046.80	2,361.70	2,834.04
Taunton	936.81	1,092.94	1,249.08	1,405.21	1,717.48	2,029.75	2,342.02	2,810.42
Trull	943.92	1,101.24	1,258.56	1,415.89	1,730.53	2,045.17	2,359.81	2,831.77
Wellington	948.06	1,106.07	1,264.08	1,422.09	1,738.11	2,054.13	2,370.15	2,844.18
Wellington Without	945.98	1,103.64	1,261.31	1,418.97	1,734.30	2,049.62	2,364.95	2,837.94

West Bagborough	942.79	1,099.93	1,257.06	1,414.19	1,728.46	2,042.72	2,356.98	2,828.38
West Buckland	946.86	1,104.66	1,262.47	1,420.28	1,735.90	2,051.52	2,367.14	2,840.57
West Hatch	945.80	1,103.44	1,261.07	1,418.70	1,733.97	2,049.24	2,364.51	2,837.41
West Monkton	953.72	1,112.68	1,271.63	1,430.58	1,748.49	2,066.40	2,384.31	2,861.17
Wiveliscombe	947.36	1,105.26	1,263.15	1,421.05	1,736.83	2,052.62	2,368.41	2,842.09



## 27. **Improvements to Goodland Gardens and Town Bridge, Taunton**

Considered report previously circulated, concerning proposals to greatly improve the pedestrian movement along the banks of the River Tone between the Brewhouse Theatre and Goodland Gardens and linking into the new Castle Green public realm scheme and museum.

Currently, the connection of the river walkway from the Brewhouse across the Tone Bridge was not very visible and followed a route by the side of Debenhams into an unattractive paved area. Due to flood defence requirements, the area had a number of different levels which made access difficult.

A scheme had been designed by Taunton based Landscape Architects Swan Paul Partnership under their current commission to work on the river corridor and a plan of the proposed works was submitted.

The purpose of the works was to make the connection between the River Tone walkway from the Town Bridge into Goodland Gardens much more visible. This would entail taking some panels out from the Town Bridge to allow access and creation of a ramped walkway down into the gardens which would be fully accessible for wheelchairs and those with prams or pushchairs. The whole paved area behind Debenhams would also be upgraded and would include activity areas for skateboarding.

Should the proposed scheme be accepted by the Executive and once planning permission had been obtained, the main contract works would be carried out by a contractor with specialist experience of the construction of bridges and the delivery of high quality public realm schemes.

Further reported that a budget of £300,000 had been allocated against this scheme from Growth Points Funding and would include all fees, planning costs and physical construction costs (estimated at £250,000).

The works were programmed to be submitted for planning approval during February 2011 with construction commencing in April and completed by the end of August 2011.

**Resolved** that the proposed works to Goodland Gardens and the Town Bridge, Taunton be approved.

## 28. **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 7.17 pm.)

# Appendix

## PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	<b>outturn</b>	<b>estimate</b>	<b>estimate</b>	<b>estimate</b>	<b>estimate</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>					
General Fund	£4,562	£6,689	£1,421	£1,910	£1,875
HRA	£5,142	£6,231	£4,300	£4,399	£4,020
TOTAL	£9,704	£12,920	£5,721	£6,309	£5,895
<b>Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream</b>					
General Fund	0.14%	1.08%	1.32%	1.70%	1.75%
HRA	1.89%	1.81%	2.28%	2.17%	2.07%
<b>Net borrowing projection</b>					
brought forward 1 April	£9,900	£7,786	£11,710	£11,710	£12,753
Carried forward 31 March	£7,786	£11,710	£11,710	£12,753	£14,103
in year borrowing requirement	<b>-£2,114</b>	£3,924	£0	£1,043	£1,350
<b>Capital Financing Requirement as at 31 March</b>					
General Fund	£8,586	£12,260	£12,015	£12,796	£13,864
HRA	£14,451	£14,451	£14,451	£14,451	£14,451
TOTAL	£23,037	£26,711	£26,466	£27,247	£28,315
<b>Incremental impact of capital investment decisions</b>	<b>£ p</b>	<b>£ p</b>	<b>£ p</b>	<b>£ p</b>	<b>£ p</b>
Increase in council tax (band D)	1.54	2.90	-0.84	0.00	0.16
<b>Authorised limit for external debt -</b>					
TOTAL	£40m	£40m	£40m	£40m	£40m
<b>Operational boundary for external debt -</b>					
TOTAL	£30m	£30m	£30m	£30m	£30m
<b>Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure</b>					
Net interest re fixed rate borrowing/ investments	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Upper limit for variable rate exposure</b>					
Net interest re variable rate borrowing/ investments	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%
<b>Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing</b> (Upper and lower limits)					
under 12 months	0% to 50%	0% to 50%	0% to 50%	0% to 50%	0% to 50%
12 months and within 24 months	0% to 50%	0% to 50%	0% to 50%	0% to 50%	0% to 50%
24 months and within 5 years	0% to 50%	0% to 50%	0% to 50%	0% to 50%	0% to 50%
5 years and within 10 years	0% to 50%	0% to 50%	0% to 50%	0% to 50%	0% to 50%
10 years and above	20% to 100%	20% to 100%	20% to 100%	20% to 100%	20% to 100%
<b>Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 364 days</b> (per maturity date)					
	£2m or 20%	£2m or 20%	£2m or 20%	£2m or 20%	£2m or 20%