

CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 JULY 2015

AT 4.30 PM

IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WILLITON

Present:

Councillor M J Chilcott Deputy Leader

Councillor M O A Dewdney
Councillor C Morgan
Councillor D J Westcott

Councillor K Mills
Councillor S J Pugsley

Members in Attendance:

Councillor I Aldridge
Councillor G S Dowding
Councillor T Hall
Councillor B Maitland-Walker
Councillor T Venner

Councillor A Behan
Councillor A P Hadley
Councillor I Jones
Councillor P H Murphy
Councillor R Woods

Officers in Attendance:

Assistant Chief Executive (B Lang)
Assistant Director – Resources (P Fitzgerald)
Assistant Director – Energy Infrastructure (A Goodchild)
Assistant Director – Operational Delivery (C Hall)
Assistant Director – Housing and Community (S Lewis)
Economic Regeneration and Tourism Manager (C Matthews)
CIM Fund Manager (L Redston)
Meeting Administrator (K Kowalewska)

CAB13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A H Trollope-Bellew and K Turner.

CAB14 Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 June 2015

(Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 3 June 2015 - circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 3 June 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

CAB15 Declarations of Interest

Members present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Member of a County, Parish or Town Council:

Name	Minute No.	Member of	Action Taken
Councillor C Morgan	All	Stogursey	Spoke and voted
Councillor D Westcott	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted
Councillor I Aldridge	All	Williton	Spoke
Councillor B Maitland-Walker	All	Carhampton	Spoke
Councillor P Murphy	All	Watchet	Spoke
Councillor T Venner	All	Minehead	Spoke

In addition, the following interest was declared:

Name	Minute No.	Description of interest	Personal or Prejudicial	Action Taken
Cllr D Westcott	CAB20	Landlord	Personal	Spoke and voted

CAB15 Public Participation

Agenda Item 8 – HPC Planning Obligations Board – Allocations of CIM Funding:

Mo Young, Holford and District Village Hall Committee Member spoke in support of the Holford and District Village Hall Amenity Enhancement Project.

Alison Eyley, Chair of Kilve Village Hall spoke in support of the Kilve Village Hall Refurbishment Project.

Both applications had been recommended for refusal by the Hinkley Point C Planning Obligations Board (POB) and the speakers urged Members to reconsider the POB's decision and to pass the projects on to Full Council for approval.

CAB16 Forward Plan

(Copy of latest Forward Plan published 18 June 2015 – circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of this item was to approve the latest Forward Plan published 18 June 2015.

During the discussion of this item, it was agreed to delete the fourth column 'Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker' due to the lack of information contained therein; and it was

requested that the Forward Plan should only detail the proposed items for the next Cabinet meeting on all future agendas. It was noted that the complete Forward Plan would remain available on the Council's website.

RESOLVED that the latest Forward Plan published 18 June 2015 be approved.

CAB17 Cabinet Action Plan

(Copy of the Action Plan – circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED (1) that CAB9 – Hinkley Point C - Economic Development Allocation be deleted as actioned.

RESOLVED (2) that CAB10 – HPC Section 106 Agreement - Allocations of Housing Fund - Administration Fees be deleted as actioned.

RESOLVED (3) that CAB11 – HPC Planning Obligations Board - Allocations of CIM Funding deleted as actioned.

CAB18 Request for Allocation of Planning Obligations Funding

(Report No. WSC 96/15 – circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to make proposals for the allocation of monies secured through planning obligations to individual schemes.

The report was presented by the Lead Member for Resources and Central Support, who highlighted the procedure for allocating monies secured through planning obligations. The Lead Member provided details of the two proposals which had been considered by the internal planning obligations group, namely the Williton Pavilion Project and the Huish Champflower Village Hall.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendations of the report, which were duly seconded by Councillor S J Pugsley.

Members expressed support for the very worthy projects and wished them well, especially in terms of their future fundraising efforts and leveraging in extra match funding.

RESOLVED (1) that it be recommended to Full Council to approve that the allocation of £149,500 for phase 1 of the Williton Pavilion project be added to the capital programme and funded from planning obligations contributions.

RESOLVED (2) that the allocation of £10,000 towards the construction of a new village hall and pavilion at Huish Champflower to be added to the capital programme and funded from planning obligations contributions be agreed.

CAB19 HPC Planning Obligations Board – Allocations of CIM Funding

(Report No. WSC 94/15, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to present the recommendations of the Hinkley Point C Planning Obligations Board (HPC POB), for the allocation of monies from the Community Impact Mitigation (CIM) Fund secured through the Section 106 legal agreement for the Site Preparation Works at Hinkley Point; and to inform Cabinet of the decision made by the Planning Obligations Board to allocate funding from the Community Impact Mitigation Small Grants Fund.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the item and provided Members with the background information, as well as a brief outline of the applications which had been considered by the HPC POB. The amount of work and effort undertaken by volunteers in the local communities was acknowledged and appreciated. The Lead Member emphasised that it was vital for applicants to provide as much detail as possible about the project in the application form to enable POB to make an informed decision. The applicants whose projects had been recommended for refusal were advised to address the issues raised as there was a second opportunity to submit a revised application for reconsideration by POB.

During the discussion, the following main points were raised:

- It was essential that applicants sought advice from the experienced officers prior to completing and submitting the application form in order that the project fitted the nine criteria upon which it was evaluated.
- It was hoped that the neighbouring parishes closest to Hinkley Point would work together to prevent duplication within that area to secure appropriate and complementary facilities for the community; and it was confirmed that Engage West Somerset and Somerset Active Sports Partnership would provide assistance in this regard.
- The CIM Fund Manager provided clarification on points raised in connection with funding for refurbishment projects and the requirement to provide evidence of engagement with young people.
- The Assistant Director Energy Infrastructure advised that the Council could retain the amount of money received from EDF and spend it within the provisions of the legal agreement.
- Experience was continually being gathered on the applications coming forward and it was hoped that communities would work together and pass on expertise to help and support one another.

It was agreed that the recommendations contained within the report should be voted on separately. On being put to the vote recommendations 3.1, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3 and 3.2.4 were declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED (1) that the decision of the Planning Obligations Board to award funding of £750 to Stogursey Football Club for the purchase of removable goal posts be noted.

RESOLVED (2) that it be recommended to Council to endorse the recommendations of the Hinkley C Planning Obligations Board, as follows:

- That the Holford and District Village Hall application for £507,984 is refused as it does not demonstrate value for money given the level of funding sought relative to the size of the community who would benefit and the lack of match funding.
- That the Kilve Village Hall Refurbishment application for £54,290 is refused given lack of a link between the refurbishment and the impacts that HPC will cause.
- That the North Petherton Playing Fields applications for £46,000 is approved subject to securing the remaining match funding and the grant of planning permission.
- That the Sydenham Together application for £60,000 is approved.

CAB20 **HPC Section 106 – Housing Funding Strategy: Amendment to Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy**

(Report No. WSC 95/15, circulated prior to the Meeting.)

The purpose of the report was for Members of the Executive to consider and approve the attached amendment, at Appendix 1, to the Somerset West Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy, which sets out the types of financial assistance that the Council can offer owner occupiers and landlords to carry out essential repairs on their property, and to bring empty properties back into use. The Policy needs to be amended in order to be able to offer the grants and loans for empty properties, Landlord Accreditation and the Living Over the Shops grant, contained within the Hinkley Housing Funding Strategy approved by West Somerset Council on 19 November 2014.

In the absence of the Lead Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing, the Lead Member for Environment introduced the item and outlined the details in the report. He went on to propose the recommendation which was duly seconded by Councillor M Chilcott.

The Assistant Director Housing and Community provided further clarification on the grant policy and the take up of loans by landlords for works to refurbish properties to bring them up to the decent homes standard.

RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council to approve the amendments to the Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy.

CAB21 **Hinkley Point C: Section 106 Agreement – Provisional Allocation of Leisure Contribution**

(Report No. WSC 90/15, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was for Cabinet to consider and to recommend to Council that the list of projects set out within the report are invited to make application within the allocation of £250,000 paid from the Section 106 agreement for Site Preparation Works at Hinkley Point C. The projects would then be asked to submit information via an application process similar to that provided for other Section 106 agreement allocations before any release of funding.

The Lead Member for Energy Infrastructure introduced the item and the Assistant Director Energy Infrastructure provided Members with the background information. He reported that by giving a group of officers and Members delegated powers the timescales would be shortened and the process of granting applications accelerated. He confirmed that the process was robust and criteria guidelines would be used when determining the projects.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendations of the report, with an addition to the printed recommendation 3.2 to include 'the Lead Member for Community and Customer'. These were seconded by Councillor M Dewdney.

The main points raised during the discussion included:

- This was a once in a generation opportunity which would benefit the whole of the West Somerset Community for many years to come.
- It was confirmed that the shortlisting of projects had been undertaken by SASP, the Assistant Director Energy Infrastructure and the Housing and Community Project Officer; other funding opportunities had also been considered.
- Cllr I Aldridge expressed thanks on behalf of the Williton community for the funding opportunities available to them to progress with the Williton Pavilion and MUGA project.

RESOLVED (1) that it be recommended to Council that the list of projects at paragraph 5.4 of the report be invited to make an application within the allocation of £250,000 paid from the Section 106 agreement for Site Preparation Works at Hinkley Point C.

RESOLVED (2) that it be recommended to Council that delegated powers be granted to the Lead Member for Resources and Central Support, the Lead Member for Energy Infrastructure, the Lead Member for Community and Customer and the Assistant Director Energy Infrastructure to grant monies to projects in accordance with the list of projects at paragraph 5.4 upon receipt of the necessary financial and governance information.

CAB22 **Hinkley Point Connection Project – Development Consent Order – Section 106 Agreement Update**

(Report No. WSC 91/15, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to provide an update to Members on the status of the Section 106 Agreements (the Agreements) between National Grid and the six Local Authorities (West Somerset Council, Sedgemoor District Council, Somerset County Council, North Somerset Council, South Gloucestershire Council and Bristol City Council) relating to the Development Consent Order application which is currently being Examined by the Planning Inspectorate, to advise Members on the content of the Agreements and how the Agreements affect West Somerset Council in particular, and sets out the process if Members wish to comment further on the content of the Agreements prior to the close of the Examination. The report also gives a general update on the progress of the Examination to date and outlines the remaining aspects of the process.

The item was presented by the Lead Member for Energy Infrastructure who provided Members with detailed background information. He went on to propose the recommendation contained within the report, which was duly seconded by Councillor D Westcott.

RESOLVED that the Assistant Director Energy Infrastructure be instructed, on behalf of the Council, to submit representations to the Planning Inspectorate for Deadline 7 on Monday 13 July indicating that the Council wish for the Panel of Examining Inspectors to positively consider the Joint Councils requests for additional mitigation.

CAB23 Allocation of HPC S106 Tourism Information Funds

(Report No. WSC 92/15, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to consult with Cabinet on a suggested approach for the allocation of the HPC S106 Phase 2 (Part Two) Visitor Information funds.

The Lead Member for Regeneration and Economic Growth presented the item and referred to the details contained within the report, drawing Members attention to the resource allocation to date. She summarised by stating that tourist information centres were vital assets to the community and the businesses they support and went on to propose the recommendation of the report which was seconded by Councillor M Dewdney.

RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council that the allocation of the Phase 2 (Part Two) S106 Tourism allocation of £50,000 to those Local Authorities and Visitor Centres identified as requiring support by the Local Authorities party to the S106 Agreement as follows:

- (i) £20,000 to West Somerset Council for the purposes of supporting Minehead, Porlock and Watchet Visitor Information Services.
- (ii) £20,000 to Sedgemoor District Council for the purposes of supporting Burnham-on-Sea, Cheddar and Bridgwater Tourism Information Services.

- (iii) £10,000 reserved for Somerset County Council to be released upon production of a fully costed proposal to be submitted to the Hinkley Tourism Action Partnership for delegated approval.

CAB24 **Final Report of the Secondary Education in West Somerset Task and Finish Group**

(Report No. WSC 84/15, circulated with the Agenda.)

The report set out the recommendations of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group which was established to consider the provision of secondary education in West Somerset. The recommendations of this Task and Finish Group (set out in their report at Appendix A to the report) had been agreed by the Scrutiny Committee and were presented to Cabinet for their endorsement.

The Chairman of Scrutiny Committee presented the report in detail and drew attention to the amended recommendations circulated prior to the meeting. Councillor Murphy thanked all who have been involved in helping to understand the issues surrounding secondary education in West Somerset. He urged Members to support the continued engagement and dialogue with the education providers as it was important for the future of the children and the economic development of West Somerset to not lose sight of the matter. It was advised that continuing updates were being received from West Somerset Community College as a result of the work of the Task and Finish Group.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support thanked the Scrutiny Committee for the work undertaken in this regard. It was noted that the report had been well put together and thoroughly researched. She proposed the recommendations, as amended, which were duly seconded by Councillor C Morgan.

RESOLVED (1) that the recommendations of Scrutiny Committee be noted and the committee be commended for the quality of the report produced in relation to this matter.

RESOLVED (2) that the Cabinet endorse the interest expressed by Scrutiny Committee in finding out more about the potential for a multi academy trust in West Somerset; share the interest for the continuation of a wide range of post 16 courses in West Somerset; and undertakes to lobby government to secure improvements to the transparency and local accountability of academy governance.

RESOLVED (3) that the Cabinet fully supports the principle of ongoing engagement between the West Somerset College and the Council and is committed to being supportive in promoting the highest possible standard of education provision for the young people of West Somerset.

RESOLVED (4) that the Cabinet would welcome any further reports from the Scrutiny Committee on the whole issue of education provision in the district with particular reference to the potential for joint scrutiny working across the county on educational matters.

CAB25 Temporary Licensing Officer – Extension of Contract

This item was deleted from the agenda.

CAB26 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded during consideration of Item CAB27 on the grounds that, if the press and public were present during that item, there would be likely to be a disclosure to them of exempt information of the class specified in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended as follows:

The item contained information that could release confidential information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). It is therefore agreed that after consideration of all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

CAB27 Street and Toilet Cleaning Services Contract

(Report No. WSC 93/15, circulated with the Agenda.)

The report set out the history of the Veolia contract and sought support from Cabinet to extend this for a further 12 months.

The Lead Member for Environment presented the item and proposed the recommendations of the report which were seconded by Councillor D Westcott.

RESOLVED (1) that it be recommended to Council to support extending the existing contract for 12 months.

RESOLVED (2) that the use of the saving to deliver the functions as identified within the report be supported.

The meeting closed at 6.25 pm