

CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 AUGUST 2012

AT 4.30 PM

IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WILLITON

Present:

Councillor T Taylor Leader

Councillor K V Kravis
Councillor S J Pugsley
Councillor K H Turner

Councillor C Morgan
Councillor D J Sanders
Councillor D J Westcott

Members in Attendance:

Councillor H J W Davies
Councillor A P Hadley
Councillor E May
Councillor K J Ross

Councillor P N Grierson
Councillor A F Knight
Councillor D D Ross

Officers in Attendance:

Corporate Director (B Lang)
Group Manager – Finance and Central Support (G Carne)
Group Manager – Housing and Economy (I Timms)
Group Manager – Environment and Community (S Watts)
Climate Change and Community Liaison Manager (A Lamplough)
Economic Regeneration and Tourism Manager (C Matthews)
Meeting Administrator (K Kowalewska)
Meeting Administrator (H Dobson)

CAB18 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

CAB19 Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 July 2012

(Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 4 July 2012 - circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 4 July 2012 be confirmed as a correct record.

CAB20 **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 K Turner	All	Brompton Ralph	Spoke and voted
Councillor D Westcott	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted
Councillor P N Grierson	All	Alcombe	Spoke
Councillor K J Ross	All	Dulverton	Spoke

CAB21 **Public Participation**

No member of the public had requested to speak.

CAB22 **Forward Plan**

The purpose of this item was to approve Forward Plan No. 3 – September 2012 to September 2013.

RESOLVED that Forward Plan No. 3 – September 2012 to September 2013 be approved.

CAB23 **Cabinet Action Plan**

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

There were no resolutions/recommendations from the meeting held on 4 July 2012 that required monitoring.

CAB24 **Corporate Performance and Budget Monitoring Report 2011-12 Quarter 4**

(Report No WSC 104/12, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an update on progress in delivering the corporate priorities, performance of council services including budgetary information and customer satisfaction covering the period from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012.

The Leader presented the part of the report that related to performance and drew Members' attention to the start of each group section of the quarterly report where an overview of each group's performance was included. He wished to commend the group managers for the impressive work that was being undertaken which could be viewed under the list of achievements.

The Leader reported that following discussions with the five neighbouring authorities in Somerset regarding West Somerset Council's financial position, the seriousness of the situation was now

being recognised, and the Local Government Association had agreed to lead an external review of the Council's finances. It was hoped that work would start in September.

The report made due reference to the questions and comments raised by Scrutiny Committee when this matter was considered at its meeting held on 16 July 2012.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the element of the report that related to the budget who advised that all the groups had contributed to the Council's underspend.

The Leader proposed the recommendations in the report which were duly seconded by Councillor K H Turner.

RESOLVED (1) that the progress in delivering the corporate priorities for 2011/12 be noted.

RESOLVED (2) that the performance against Group and Service Indicators, including Budget Monitoring Indicators, be noted.

CAB25

Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 – Services to Village and Community Halls

(Report No WSC 97/12, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to consider a recent change in legislation that affects the waste collection from some village and community halls within West Somerset.

The report was presented by the Lead Member for Environment who proposed the recommendations in the report and this was seconded by Councillor S J Pugsley.

During the discussion it was pointed out that there was a discrepancy in the figures contained in the report which related to the financial implications for WSC and the Group Manager Environment and Community agreed to circulate the correct figures to Members after the meeting.

In reply to a question as to whether village halls could request a waste collection if not currently receiving the service, the Group Manager Environment and Community advised that he was meeting with the Somerset Waste Partnership to identify the village and community halls and confirmed that requests could probably be accommodated within the costings stipulated.

The Lead Member advised that village and community halls would have the opportunity to make alternative arrangements for their waste collection in six months time when the Council looked at savings as part of the budget setting process.

RESOLVED (1) that a basic collection service (as described in section 4.9 of the report) should be made available to all village and community halls from 1 October 2012 if they so request.

RESOLVED (2) that the maximum anticipated cost of this six month service from 1 October 2012 to 31 March 2013 is £2,628 and will be borne by West Somerset Council.

RESOLVED (3) that the funding of this activity for post April 2013 be determined as part of the 2013/14 budget set process.

RESOLVED (4) that the Somerset Waste Partnership be notified of the Cabinet decisions by 31 August 2012.

RESOLVED (5) that the village and community halls within West Somerset be notified of the waste collection changes and the outcome of the Cabinet meeting at the earliest opportunity.

CAB26 **Medium Term Financial Plan 2013-2016**

(Report No WSC 103/12, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to present the updated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2013-2016 to Cabinet and to provide the context and framework for the budget for 2013-14.

The report was presented by the Resources and Central Support Lead Member who advised Members that the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) update was the start of the budget setting process and advised that the Council's financial situation rested largely on the Formula Grant Settlement and the New Homes Bonus payments from central government. The report, therefore, contained a set of assumptions for next year's budget and identified the budget gap which would have to be addressed in the 2013/14 financial year. She indicated that the government grant reduction forecast was estimated at 7.5% and the MTFP was based on a 3.5% increase in council tax. She drew Members' attention to the extremely large budget gap which needed to be addressed

The Lead Member proposed the recommendations in the report which were seconded by Councillor D J Sanders.

RESOLVED (1) that the assumptions made in the MTFP be noted.

RESOLVED (2) that the budget gap of £928,000 for 2013-14 and £1.28m for the life of the MTFP (3 years) be noted.

CAB27 **Request for Allocation of Seaside Strategy Funding for Minehead Vision Manager and Apprenticeship Posts**

(Report No WSC 99/12, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to consider proposals for the allocation and use of an element of the seaside strategy earmarked reserve funding, for the creation of an 18-month Minehead Vision Manager post and a 12-month Apprenticeship role.

The Lead Member for Economic Regeneration and Growth presented the item and outlined the details in the report, he then proposed the recommendation in the report which was duly seconded by Councillor S J Pugsley.

During the debate the following main points were raised:

- The apprenticeship role would provide a training opportunity and would be advertised locally.
- Further clarification was sought regarding the budget breakdown and this was provided in detail by the Economic Regeneration and Tourism Manager who confirmed that the figures were in line with how the Council would normally budget for staff recruitment.
- A steering group would be set up to monitor the progress and results against delivery of the action plan.
- Minehead Development Trust had received advice from the Council's Human Resources team regarding taking on the role of employer to these posts to successfully deliver the project, and the Council would continue to provide support.

RESOLVED that Council be recommended to approve a supplementary estimate in the sum of £70,000 to Minehead Development Trust from the unallocated Seaside Strategy Funds to employ an 18-month Minehead Vision Manager post and a 12-month Apprentice role as described in section 4 of the report.

CAB28

Request for Allocation of Planning Obligations Monies

(Report No WSC 100/12, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to make a proposal for the allocation of capital monies secured through planning obligations to provide a cricket pavilion in Minehead.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the report and advised that various issues had been addressed and support had been received from Minehead Town Council and West Somerset Community College.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendation in the report, which was seconded by Councillor C Morgan.

During the course of the debate the points raised included:

- Planning permission for the cricket pavilion had already been granted.

- It was very important for town and parish councils to list their priorities in order to allocate funding from the planning obligations monies; to regularly revise the list and advise the Council accordingly.
- Concern was raised regarding the proposed amount to be allocated and communication/consultation between the applicant and the Council. It was confirmed that approximately £103,000 Section 106 monies had been received for the Bircham Road development with a second payment due at a later date. Members noted that the Scrutiny Committee had agreed to review the Section 106 process and that these issues could be included.

RESOLVED that Council approve the recommendation of Cabinet to allocate £50,000 for the provision of a cricket pavilion in Minehead for inclusion in the current year's capital programme.

CAB29 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Item CAB30 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.

The item contained information that could release confidential information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information). It was therefore proposed 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.

CAB30 Sale of Land at Parkhouse Road, Minehead

(Report No WSC 98/12, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to consider the sale of an area of West Somerset Council owned land at Parkhouse Road, Minehead.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the report and after a lengthy discussion it was agreed not to dispose of the land at this stage, as it may prejudice the development potential/value of land under the Council's ownership within the close proximity of the land in question.

RESOLVED that the freehold sale of an area of land adjacent to 51 Parkhouse Road, Minehead be not proceeded with at this stage.

The meeting closed at 6.17 pm