

CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 OCTOBER 2014

AT 4.30 PM

IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WILLITON

Present:

Councillor T Taylor Leader

Councillor K V Kravis
Councillor C Morgan
Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew
Councillor D J Westcott

Councillor K M Mills
Councillor S J Pugsley
Councillor K H Turner

Members in Attendance:

Councillor A P Hadley
Councillor R P Lillis
Councillor P H Murphy
Councillor K J Ross
Councillor M A Smith

Councillor A F Knight
Councillor E May
Councillor D D Ross
Councillor D J Sanders

Officers in Attendance:

Assistant Chief Executive (B Lang)
Director of Operations (S Adam)
Assistant Director – Resources (P Fitzgerald)
Assistant Director – Planning and Environment (T Burton)
New Nuclear Programme Manager (A Goodchild)
Planning Policy Manager (N Bryant)
Housing and Community Project Lead (A Summers)
Economic Regeneration and Tourism Manager (C Matthews)
Scrutiny Officer (S Rawle)
Meeting Administrator (K Kowalewska)

CAB41 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

CAB42 Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 September 2014

(Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 3 September 2014 - circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 3 September 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.

CAB43 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 H Turner	All	Brompton Ralph	Spoke and voted
Councillor D J Westcott	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted
Councillor P H Murphy	All	Watchet	Spoke
Councillor K J Ross	All	Dulverton	Spoke

CAB44 Public Participation

No member of the public had requested to speak.

CAB45 Forward Plan

(Copy of latest Forward Plan published 19 September 2014 – circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of this item was to approve the latest Forward Plan published 19 September 2014.

RESOLVED that the latest Forward Plan published 19 September 2014 be approved.

CAB46 Cabinet Action Plan

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

RESOLVED (1) that CAB38 – Hinkley Point C CIM Fund be deleted as actioned.

RESOLVED (2) that CAB40 – Blue Anchor Coastal Protection Scheme be deleted as actioned.

CAB47 Request for Allocation of Planning Obligations Funding

(Report No. WSC 139/14 – 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 Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the item, providing details on the five requests for Section 106 funding. She referred to the Morrison's Section 106 Agreement advising that the remainder of the monies had to be allocated by 1 April 2015. Details were also provided on the allocated Section 106 Schedule 11 monies which gave £150,000 to leisure and recreation facilities outside the Stogursey parish, of which 10% could be used on feasibility studies.

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

Members expressed support for the projects and during the debate the following main points were raised:

- A request was made for monthly feedback on how money for feasibility studies was being spent.
- Would like to see more flexibility for projects within the Section 106 stipulations going forward.
- Following concerns, questions were asked about the spending of section 106 monies for future maintenance of the Heritage Hub Project and it was suggested that an allocation be made to ring fence monies and incorporate this into the cost breakdown for the project.

RESOLVED (1) that it be recommended to Council that the allocation of £43,053.097 for Minehead Heritage Trail be added to the capital programme and funded from planning obligations contributions.

RESOLVED (2) that the allocation of £2,000 for improvements to Burgage Road Play Area at Stogursey to be added to the capital programme and funded from planning obligations contributions be agreed.

RESOLVED (3) that the allocation of £4,000 in respect of carrying out technical and feasibility studies relating to the Steam Coast Trail Project from the HPC Schedule 11 Para 2.2 allocation be agreed.

RESOLVED (4) that the allocation of £5,000 from the Employment and Skills Outreach Operational Budget to support the development of the West Somerset Our Place Project be agreed.

RESOLVED (5) that the allocation of up to a maximum of £10,000 from the HPC Schedule 11 Para 2.2 allocation in respect of carrying out feasibility studies relating to leisure facilities in West Somerset be agreed.

CAB48 Corporate Budget Principles

(Report No. WSC 138/14 – circulated prior to the Meeting.)

The purpose of the report was to seek agreement for a core set of budget principles which provides a framework for the Council's approach to budget setting for 2015/16 and the medium term financial plan.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the item and drew Members' attention to the High Level Principles contained within the report; the transformation project which would look at the delivery of services across West Somerset and Taunton Deane Borough councils and the next steps timetable for the budget setting process.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendation which was duly seconded by Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew.

The Leader appreciated the work currently being undertaken by both councillors and officers and recognised that what was being achieved was a credit to the Council during the current financial challenges and uncertain times.

RESOLVED that the proposed framework of principles for setting the 2015/16 budget and updating the Medium Term Financial Plan be approved.

CAB49 Scrutiny Recommendations – Quantock Hills AONB

(Report No. WSC 140/14, circulated with the Agenda.)

The report detailed the recommendation of Scrutiny Committee to Cabinet, arising from the presentation received from Chris Edwards, Manager of the Quantock Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty at the meeting of Scrutiny Committee on 7 August, 2014.

The report was presented by the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee who drew Cabinet's attention to the resolutions made by the Scrutiny Committee, as follows:

(i) That Scrutiny Committee recognises the developments that have taken place relating to changes in funding the Quantock Hills Area of Outstanding Beauty (QHAONB) in recent years and in particular recent discussions hosted by Somerset County Council aimed at achieving a sustainable funding position going forward. Scrutiny Committee recommends that Cabinet consider maintaining the Council's contribution at least at the current level for future years if required.

(ii) That Cabinet be recommended to consider lobbying DEFRA through the LGA to secure a more sustainable funding arrangement of all AONBs, in the same way that National Parks are funded, thus recognising the value of these designated parts of England and Wales, and in the interim request Somerset County Council provide sufficient funding to sustain the operation of the Quantock Hills AONB.

The recommendation contained within the report was duly proposed and seconded.

The following main points were discussed:

- Grant funding to organisations should be considered as a whole in the wider budget setting process and Members were not in favour of separately ring fencing monies to a specific group.
- Concerns were raised regarding the lobbying of DEFRA for further funding and Members were asked to think around the issue to see what other avenues were available, and that consideration should be given to consulting with the National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Quantock Hills Advisory Committee in this regard.

Councillor P H Murphy concluded that the points raised would be taken forward and also confirmed that the Scrutiny Committee would review all external bodies funded by WSC and as part of this process a request would be made for them to submit statements of accounts. He asked Members to take into consideration the leverage effect of grant funding when deliberating the budget setting.

RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee as set out in paragraph 5.3 of the report be supported and considered.

CAB50 **West Somerset Local Plan – Request for Additional Budget**

(Report No. WSC 137/14, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to seek Cabinet approval for recommendation to Council for the provision of a supplementary estimate of £74,750 in the year 2014/15. Subject to approval this budget would allow for the progression of the West Somerset Local Plan to publication.

The Lead Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing presented the item and provided Members with the background information, highlighting that the Local Plan was coming into fruition and the costing figures were reasonable to progress the document to the examination and publication stages. He further advised that there was also a requirement to build in an annual provision in future budgets to cover costs associated with reviews, supplementary planning documents and updates once the Local Plan had been adopted. He went on to introduce and welcome Nick Bryant, the Planning Policy Manager to the meeting.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendations in the report which were duly seconded by Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew.

In response to concerns, the Lead Member for Resources and Central Support drew Members' attention to the fact that an additional sum (in the region of £10,000 per year) would be included in the Medium Term Financial Plan from 2016/17 onwards rather than having to rely on the availability of reserves.

RESOLVED (1) that it is recommended to Council to approve a supplementary estimate request of £74,750 to cover additional costs arising and relating to the West Somerset Local Plan preparation through to examination and beyond to adoption. Of this sum, £18,400 to be added to the Planning Policy Budget in 2014/15, with the balance of £56,350 transferred to a Planning Policy earmarked reserve to be drawn down in 2015/16.

RESOLVED (2) that the supplementary estimate is funded by General Fund Reserve balances.

RESOLVED (3) that the requirement for Local Plan funding on an ongoing basis, and support the addition of an annual provision within the Medium Term Financial Plan from 2016/17 onwards be noted.

The meeting closed at 5.45 pm