

**CABINET**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2015**

**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 S Y Goss  
Councillor A F Knight  
Councillor I R Melhuish  
Councillor D D Ross

Councillor B Heywood  
Councillor E May  
Councillor P H Murphy  
Councillor M A Smith

**Officers in Attendance:**

Chief Executive (P James)  
Assistant Chief Executive (B Lang)  
Director of Operations (S Adam)  
Director – Housing and Communities (J Barrahan)  
Assistant Director Resources (P Fitzgerald)  
Assistant Director – Planning and Environment (T Burton)  
Corporate Strategy and Performance Manager (P Harding)  
Economic Regeneration Manager (C Matthews)  
Media and Communications Officer (D Rundle)  
Meeting Administrator (K Kowalewska)

**CAB88     Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

**CAB89     Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 January 2015**

(Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 7 January 2015 - circulated with the Agenda.)

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 7 January 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

**CAB90     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:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Member of</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
Councillor K H Turner	All	Brompton Ralph	Spoke and voted
Councillor D J Westcott	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted
Councillor S Y Goss	All	Stogursey	Spoke
Councillor P H Murphy	All	Watchet	Spoke

In addition, the following interests were declared:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Description of interest</b>	<b>Personal or Prejudicial</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
Cllr P H Murphy	CAB96	Wife works for Artlife	Personal	Spoke
Cllr D D Ross	CAB95	Regal Theatre Board Member	Prejudicial	Left the Chamber
Cllr I R Melhuish	CAB95	Council representative on MATA	Personal	Spoke

**CAB91      Public Participation**

Molly Quint, Chair of Watchet Conservation Society, and Harry Singer, MD of Singer Instruments, spoke in support of Agenda Item 7 Regeneration of East Quay, Watchet.

Graham Sizer, Minehead Chamber of Trade Chairman, spoke in support of Agenda Item 11 Request for Allocation of Planning Obligations Funding – Minehead Illuminations Project.

**CAB92      Forward Plan**

(Copy of latest Forward Plan published 27 January 2015 – circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of this item was to approve the latest Forward Plan published 27 January 2015.

**RESOLVED** that the latest Forward Plan published 27 January 2015 be approved.

**CAB93      Cabinet Action Plan**

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

**RESOLVED (1)** that CAB82 – Housing Funding Strategy - Three Allocations be deleted as actioned.

**RESOLVED (2)** that CAB85 – HPC Planning Obligations Board – Allocations of CIM Funding be deleted as actioned.

**RESOLVED (3)** that CAB87 – Proposed Business Case for Shared Legal Service be carried forward.

**CAB94      Regeneration of East Quay, Watchet**

(Report No. WSC 23/15 – circulated prior to the Meeting.)

The purpose of the report was to consider the outcome of the recent process of seeking expressions of interest from relevant organisations for proposals to facilitate regeneration of the area around the harbour at Watchet and to approve a preferred bidder to continue to work with the Council towards potential asset transfer.

The Leader welcomed the representatives of the Onion Collective to the Cabinet meeting and invited the Director, Jessica Prendergrast to give a presentation.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the item in detail, explaining that although the Council had a duty to get the best consideration for its assets, it could approve a Community Asset Transfer. The importance of the Onion Collective, the Watchet Harbour Marina and WSC working together to develop a plan to benefit all was emphasised, and details of the marketing campaign were reported on. It was advised only one application had been received. The business plan submitted by the Onion Collective was very detailed and of very high professional quality and the Lead Member drew Members' attention to the high evaluation score given to the application. The Council needed to focus on the next steps and the asset management implications contained within the report were also highlighted. The Lead Member stated that this was an opportunity to deliver some of the Council's financial commitments, and the proposals to regenerate and develop the East Quay for the community of Watchet should be applauded and welcomed.

The Lead Member went on to propose the recommendations contained in the report which were seconded by Councillor C Morgan.

The following points were raised during the discussion:

- The content of Onion Collective's business plan was commended.
- Members praised the exemplary work of the Onion Collective, and strongly expressed their support for the project.
- It was hoped that the Watchet Harbour Marina would support and get involved in the development proposals.
- Concern was expressed regarding the term 'foundry building' within the business plan as it could give the impression that a steel works would be built on the East Quay and it was requested that consideration be given to providing a better name for the building.
- Changing the perception of Watchet would be very beneficial to the town.
- The positive impacts of the scheme on community health and wellbeing, such as corporate social responsibility and reskilling, were acknowledged.
- The proposed development on the East Quay, regarded as Watchet's number one asset, should provide attractive facilities, enhance and compliment the Marina and the Esplanade, and appeal to the younger generation, the residents and give tourists reasons to visit.

**RESOLVED (1)** that it be recommended to Council to appoint the Onion Collective as the Council's preferred bidder for asset transfer of land at East Quay, Watchet.

**RESOLVED (2)** that it be recommended to Council to approve the principle of entering into a three year option agreement with the Onion Collective to allow them to develop a detailed scheme design and funded business case that complies with the Council's conditions, prior to full asset transfer taking place.

**RESOLVED (3)** that it be recommended to Council to delegate authority to the Director of Housing and Communities to work with the Lead Member for Asset Management to negotiate and agree full terms of the option agreement.

**CAB95**     **Request for Allocation of Planning Obligations Funding – Minehead Illuminations Project**

(Report No. WSC 19/15, 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 Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the item, providing background information and advised that a lot of community and business consultation had been undertaken and overwhelming positive responses had been received in regard to the Minehead Illuminations project. She proposed the recommendations of the report which were seconded by Councillor S J Pugsley.

The commitment and enthusiasm of everyone who had been involved in the project was recognised and appreciation for the hard work was expressed by Members.

**RESOLVED (1)** that it be recommended to Council that the allocation of £34,416.76 for the Minehead Illuminations Project be added to the capital programme and funded from planning obligations contributions.

**RESOLVED (2)** that it be recommended to Council that £4,102.33 underspend from previous approved allocation from planning obligation contributions (related to same Agreement as outlined in paragraph 5.3 of the report) be reallocated to the Minehead Illuminations Project.

**Note:** With the agreement of the Leader this item was brought forward on the Agenda.

**CAB96**     **Draft Corporate Plan 2015/16**

(Report No. WSC 18/15 – circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to introduce the draft WSC Corporate Plan for 2015/16 for recommendation to Council.

The Leader presented the item providing Members with the background information and drew Members' attention to the 'Golden Thread' illustrated in the report.

During discussion of this item it was proposed to amend the first sentence of the fifth paragraph of the Foreword to read "We also recognise that the development of the new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point C in our district offers great opportunity and challenges for our residents and businesses". It was also suggested to replace the photograph on page 5 and it was agreed that the Corporate Strategy and Performance Manager would take this under advisement.

The Leader proposed the recommendation of the report, as amended, which was duly seconded by Councillor K H Turner.

**RESOLVED** that it be recommended to Council to approve the Corporate Plan for 2015/16, subject to the first sentence of the fifth paragraph of the Foreword being amended to read "We also recognise that the development of the new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point C in our district offers great opportunity and challenges for our residents and businesses".

**CAB97     Annual Budget and Council Tax Setting 2015-16**

(Report No. WSC 21/15, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with all information required for Cabinet to recommend its proposed revenue budget for 2015/16 to Full Council, and for the Cabinet to recommend its proposed Council Tax rate for 2015/16. The proposed 2015/16 Capital Programme, the revenue implications of which were taken into account within the revenue budget, was included as a separate report for the Cabinet meeting.

The item was presented in detail by the Lead Member for Resources and Central Support who reported that the budget for 2015-16 was balanced despite the huge financial challenges. She advised that general reserves had not been used and despite the inevitable spending reductions, the protection of frontline services had been the main priority. The budget gap had been addressed and the Lead Member advised Members on how this had been achieved; she also reported that the Settlement Funding Assessment figures detailed in the report had been confirmed.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendations contained within the report which were duly seconded by Councillor C Morgan.

Members then asked some detailed questions about issues relating to community grants to voluntary organisations and the New Homes Bonus grant.

**RESOLVED (1)** that the forecast Medium Term Financial Plan and the Council's forecast reserves position be noted.

**RESOLVED (2)** that the Section 151 Officer's Robustness Statement as set out in Appendix A to the report be noted.

**RESOLVED (3)** that it be recommended to Council to approve the draft 2015/16 Budget.

**RESOLVED (4)** that it be recommended to Council to approve a 2015/16 Council Tax increase of 1.99%.

**CAB98**     **Capital Programme 2015/16**

(Report No. WSC 22/15, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to seek agreement by the Cabinet for the Draft Capital Programme 2015/16 to be submitted to Full Council for approval in February.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the item in detail and went on to propose the recommendations of the report which were duly seconded by Councillor D J Westcott.

In response to questions raised, the reasons for deferring the capital bid relating to Barnsclose Industrial Estate in Dulverton was explained and the Lead Member confirmed that further information would be presented to Members at a later date. Clarification was also provided as to why the Microsoft Licence Fee was classed as a capital scheme.

**RESOLVED (1)** that the prioritisation applied to, and proposed funding arrangements for, the draft initial Capital Programme for 2015/16 be approved.

**RESOLVED (2)** that it be recommended to Council to approve the 2015/16 Capital Programme Budget totalling £790,000, comprising scheduled spend of £461,000 for previously approved schemes plus £329,000 related to new prioritised schemes.

**CAB99**     **Hinkley Tourism Action Plan Strategy and Action Plan**

(Report No. WSC 20/15, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to consult with Cabinet on the contents of the Hinkley Tourism Action Partnership (HTAP) Strategy and Action Plan; and to outline proposals to Cabinet for the drawdown of HPC S106 Tourism mitigation funding to support delivery of four projects in the action plan.

The Lead Member for Regeneration and Economic Growth presented the report, providing a summary of the background information. She drew Members' attention to the vision of the Strategy and reported on its three clear aims and priorities. She went on to propose the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor K H Turner.

In response to a question, the Economic Regeneration Manager provided clarification on the method to be used to monitor the potential impact of Hinkley workers on the tourism accommodation. Members also asked questions regarding issues surrounding houses in multiple occupation, and the possible need for more overnight accommodation in the area, and the Lead Member confirmed that the strategic aim of increasing industry resilience would address these issues. The point was also raised that there could be planning issues concerning accommodation change of use

which would need proactive publicity to highlight these matters, and it was confirmed that advice from the Planning department would be sought and the information included in the electronic tourism newsletter.

**RESOLVED (1)** that it be recommended to Council to formally approve the HTAP Strategy and activity in the Action Plan.

**RESOLVED (2)** that it be recommended to Council to approve the drawdown of the Phase 1 S106 Tourism Contribution of £125,385 to support the delivery of the four projects identified within the HTAP Action Plan.

**RESOLVED (3)** that it be noted that the action plan delivery was previously agreed by Council in November 2014.

The meeting closed at 6.41 pm