

CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE 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 M J Chilcott
Councillor G S Dowding
Councillor B Heywood
Councillor R P Lillis
Councillor D J Sanders

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

Officers in Attendance:

Assistant Chief Executive (B Lang)
Director of Operations (S Adam)
Director of Housing and Communities (James Barra)h
Assistant Director – Business Development (I Timms)
New Nuclear Programme Manager (A Goodchild)
Major Projects Manager (J Holbrook)
Media and Public Relations Officer (D Rundle)
Meeting Administrator (A Randell)

Also in Attendance:

Matt Ballard, Project Lead (Broadband) – Somerset County Council

The Leader introduced and welcomed to the meeting officers and Councillors.

CAB1 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

CAB2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 April 2014

(Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 2 April 2014 - circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 2 April 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.

CAB3 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 H J W Davies	All	SCC	Spoke
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

CAB4 Public Participation

Agenda Item 11 – Superfast Broadband Extension.

CAB5 Forward Plan

(Copy of latest Forward Plan published 21 May 2014 – circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of this item was to approve the latest Forward Plan published 21 May 2014.

RESOLVED that the latest Forward Plan published 21 May 2014 be approved.

CAB6 Cabinet Action Plan

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

RESOLVED that CAB119 and CAB123 – Volunteer Policy and Corporate Plan for 2014-16 be deleted as actioned.

CAB7 Cabinet Appointments to Outside Bodies

(Copy of the Cabinet Appointments – Circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to appoint representatives to serve on outside bodies for the period to the annual meeting in 2015.

It was noted that the West Somerset Health Forum met four times a year.

RESOLVED that the representatives detailed in the document be appointed.

CAB8 Member Reporting on Membership of Outside Bodies

(Copies of Member Reports – Circulated with the Agenda.)

Reports on The Somerset Waste Partnership, Engage West Somerset, CLOWNS and Home-Start West Somerset were presented to Cabinet for information.

RESOLVED that the Member Reports be noted and approved; Councillors were thanked for their reports.

CAB9 **Dulverton Weir Repair Works**

(Report No. WSC 85/14, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to provide an update on steps taken to secure a repair to the damaged Weir in Dulverton and to seek consent for a Capital contribution to initiate works.

The Lead Member for Environment - General presented the item highlighting the proposals and also providing an update on the current position.

During discussion of the Dulverton Weir Repair Works, the following points were raised:-

- The proposals were wholly welcomed by Members, who felt the proposals were a large part of a more permanent solution.
- Discussion took place over the timescale of the project.

RESOLVED (1) To approve the proposed temporary repair to Dulverton Weir.

RESOLVED (2) To recommend Full Council to approve an increase to the 2014-2015 Capital Programme by £20,000 to support the works.

RESOLVED (3) To waive standing orders and appoint the Councils preferred contractor to undertake this work as a matter of urgency.

CAB10 **Hinkley Point C: Community Impact Mitigation Fund**

(Report No. WSC 83/14, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to present to Cabinet the recommendations of the Hinkley Point Planning Obligations Board and approve the release of an allocation of funds from the recently allocated Community Impact Mitigation Fund that had been paid by EDF Energy to West Somerset Council.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the item. She explained the importance of quickly progressing the launch of the Community Mitigation Fund to enable the Council to deliver against its agreed Corporate Priority relating to Hinkley Point.

The availability of funding would help ensure local communities directly affected by the Site Preparation Works at Hinkley Point C would have some access to the funding at the earliest opportunity.

The deadline for the submission of the first applications under the Fund would be 1 July 2014. Councillors were encouraged to direct community groups to apply for funding of under £1,000.

It was the intention that the initial funding would be released in advance of more substantial bids being received during the remainder of the summer.

During the discussion of this item the following points were raised:-

- It was very likely the main transport route – the A39 – would be impacted on negatively.
- Was there any provision in the fund for projects in Dulverton?
- It was reported that the likely impacts of the Hinkley Point project were subjective and could not be ascertained fully until the development was in full swing.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approved the proposal to allow for the release of an initial £24,000 of funds from the £3,500,000 that has been paid by EDF Energy to West Somerset Council for the Community Impact Mitigation Fund.

CAB11 Superfast Broadband Extension – Request for Match Funding

(Report No. WSC 86/14, circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to provide an update on the proposal to extend the superfast broadband rollout project from 90% to 95% coverage for the district.

Members of the public Peter Grandfield and Mike Copleston, voiced their concerns about the apparent lack of superfast provision in the areas of Holford and Kilve in the current extension plans. They were concerned about the Council spending £240,000 when there would still be areas that would not be able to receive superfast broadband.

The Lead Member for Regeneration and Economic Growth along with Matt Ballard, Service Manager for Economy and Planning – Somerset County Council (SCC) - presented the item. They made reference to various points of information contained in the report and sought to address the concerns expressed by the members of the public about the extent of future coverage in West Somerset.

During the discussion of this item the following points were raised:-

- There was no certainty what would be gained from the £240,000 investment and where this would benefit West Somerset;
- The extension would promote opportunities in the area along with education;
- There would be a danger that the area would remain stagnant if this

- proposal was not pursued;
- Concerns were raised about the exclusion of commercial post codes in the area although it was hoped that coverage in the area would be raised to over 90%;
- The risks to economic development if this project was not pursued were stated;
- It was reassuring that any money provided by the Council would remain in the district.

Members were informed that a value for money exercise would be used in certain rural areas to determine whether the cost ceiling had been reached. In such situations, alternative solutions could be considered as being more appropriate considering new technology in the market.

To allow discussion to take place on the confidential appendix submitted to Members it was **resolved** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting 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.

Members took the opportunity to discuss and raise issues in relation to the confidential appendix.

It was duly **resolved** that the press and public be re-admitted for the remainder of the item.

RESOLVED (1) that Cabinet register their support for the rollout of superfast broadband in West Somerset, recognising the significant benefits that it would bring to the whole community.

RESOLVED (2) that Full Council be requested to determine the issue of whether this authority should make a financial contribution towards the project taking into account its wider Corporate Priorities.

The meeting closed at 7.02 pm