

CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2011

AT 4.30 PM

IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WILLITON

Present:

Councillor T Taylor	Leader
Councillor K V Kravis		Councillor S J Pugsley
Councillor D J Sanders		Councillor K H Turner
Councillor D J Westcott		

Members in Attendance:

Councillor M J Chilcott	Councillor H J W Davies
Councillor M O A Dewdney	Councillor J Freeman
Councillor A P Hadley	Councillor A F Knight
Councillor R P Lillis	Councillor E May
Councillor I R Melhuish	Councillor P H Murphy
Councillor D D Ross	

Officers in Attendance:

Chief Executive (A Dyer)
Economic Regeneration and Tourism Manager (C Matthews)
Efficiencies and Performance Manager (K Batchelor) (Item 7)
Scrutiny and Performance Officer (S Rawle)
Meeting Administrator (K Kowalewska)

CAB41 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor C Morgan.

CAB42 Minutes of the Meetings held on 21 July and 3 August 2011

(Minutes of the Meetings of the Cabinet held on 21 July and 3 August 2011 – circulated with the Agenda).

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Cabinet held on 21 July and 3 August 2011 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 J Ross	All	Dulverton	Spoke
Councillor K Turner	All	Brompton Ralph	Spoke and voted
Councillor D Westcott	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted
Councillor P H Murphy	All	Watchet	Spoke

In addition, Councillor H J W Davies declared a prejudicial interest relating to Agenda Item 9, Performance Monitoring – Target Savings 2011/12 as he was in receipt of business rate relief and left the chamber for that item.

CAB44 **Public Participation**

No member of the public had requested to speak.

CAB45 **Forward Plan**

The purpose of this item was to approve Forward Plan No. 4 – October 2011 to October 2012.

RESOLVED that, subject to the following amendments, Forward Plan No. 4 – October 2011 to October 2012, be approved.

- (1) Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) – Final Report – due to ongoing negotiations with Somerset County Council, the report would be delayed and probably considered in December 2011.
- (2) Following new legislation regarding best value, a budget report be inserted for December 2011.

CAB46 **Cabinet Action Plan**

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

There were no resolutions/recommendations from the meetings held on 21 July and 3 August 2011 that required monitoring.

CAB47 **Corporate Performance and Budget Monitoring**

(Report No. WSC 109/11, 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 30 June 2011.

The Leader presented the part of the report that related to performance and the Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the element that related to the budget.

The Efficiencies and Performance Manager advised that 29% of the key actions contributing to the delivery of the 2011/12 corporate plan had been completed within timescale in Quarter 1 and then went on to

highlight those actions that were flagged as red (not actioned) and amber (not delivered within the timescale).

Members were advised that the timetable for the implementation of CPE had been delayed until April 2012, at the earliest, and as a result it was felt that the target date should be changed so that a report could be considered by Cabinet before the end of December 2011.

Concern was expressed that a more definite timescale was needed in Community Engagement Objective 15, key task 15.2 "To respond to the review in arrangements with the community partner organisations by March 2012". It was felt that consideration to partner organisations was very important, and therefore should not be removed or ignored. The Leader advised that this matter would be discussed by informal Cabinet and would be reported to a future meeting of Cabinet in 3 months time.

Members agreed that the matter of identifying options for shared management/services would be kept under informal review and an update would be presented to Cabinet in due course.

It was also agreed to change the action date for the re-alignment of tasks/responsibilities from October to December. (Ref 9.1.1 Management review – Senior Management (Group Managers)).

The Scrutiny and Performance Officer reported on the Performance Indicators and advised that the majority of the key service areas were performing on or above target. There were areas of concern regarding the lack of customer satisfaction data and cost of service indicators and therefore value for money could not be determined for the following services – planning, building control, housing options and tourism. However, work was being undertaken to look at the process of obtaining feedback from customers using these services and this would need to be monitored, but a lack of resources was causing a barrier. It was noted that there was data missing in some service areas due to a lack of officer resource.

Following comments received from the Scrutiny Committee, it was advised that some of the annual indicators would be reported quarterly.

Members noted that flytipping had doubled this quarter compared to last year and it was agreed that this should be looked at again in the next quarter. A request was made to receive more information about the size of flytipping that occurs and the reasons for general capacity.

Points raised during the discussion of the financial information contained in the report were as follows:

- Members would be presented with up-to-date budget information at the Members Seminar on 19 September 2011.
- Cabinet would receive a financial report on a monthly basis.
- Clarification was sought on the discounted rental of the units at the Roughmoor Enterprise Centre.

- Confidence was sought that any service delivery that is either delegated or devolved to a parish or town council would be provided to a satisfactory standard.

Councillor K V Kravis proposed the recommendation in the report and they were seconded by Councillor D J Westcott.

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 the budget monitoring indicators, be noted.

CAB48 **Budget Strategy 2012/13**

(Report No. WSC 106/11, circulated with the Agenda).

The purpose of the report was to seek Cabinet approval of the draft Budget Strategy aimed at assisting the Council to close the medium term budget gap and set a balanced budget for 2012/13.

The report was presented by the Resources and Central Support Lead Member who advised that the Council was taking a Zero-Based Budgeting approach and spoke in detail on what needed to be achieved in order to deliver the strategy. She informed that the new strategy was aimed at finding out the minimum level of financial and staff capacity needed to provide statutory services in order for the Council to remain viable and to prioritise any discretionary services that can be afforded.

In response to questions the Chief Executive advised that Members would have to take a personal judgement to decide whether West Somerset Council was viable at this present time.

Councillor K V Kravis proposed the recommendations in the report and they were seconded by Councillor K H Turner.

RESOLVED that the revised draft Budget Strategy, included at Appendix A to the report, be approved.

CAB49 **West Somerset Economic Strategy Refresh – Responding to Change**

(Report No. WSC 110/11, circulated with the Agenda).

The purpose of the report was to give Cabinet the opportunity of considering the draft refresh of the Economic Strategy for West Somerset.

The report was presented by the Regeneration and Economic Growth Lead Member who advised that the aim of the Strategy was to understand the major challenges to the West Somerset economy and identify its top priorities for tackling these. In summary, the top five priorities are:

- To ensure that high speed broadband is delivered throughout the district.
- To upskill and retain skilled workers.
- To maximise the economic impacts of the Hinkley Point C project.
- To protect and develop key assets.
- To ensure economic stability in terms of affordable housing, and managing the transition to a low carbon economy.

He informed that the Employment and Skills Charter was a useful tool to encourage the private sector to work with local authorities to maximise local opportunities for local people and businesses.

The Economic Regeneration and Tourism Manager stated that she valued additional comments from Members on areas that they thought needed strengthening, these could then be reflected in the final strategy document. The areas discussed included:

- The need to mention all business opportunities, e.g. workspace units, throughout the district.
- Tourism.
- Rewording the factual information relating to Watchet and Williton.
- Misleading information about the average full-time annual wages.
- Further explanation/clarification of wards/sub-wards mentioned in the tables relating to Lower Super Output Areas.

Councillor D J Sanders proposed the recommendations and they were seconded by Councillor K V Kravis.

RESOLVED (1) that the Strategy be considered and recommends its adoption by Council on 21 September 2011.

RESOLVED (2) that the adoption of an Employment and Skills Charter for West Somerset be agreed.

RESOLVED (3) that Cabinet acknowledges that the Action Plan is currently a set of indicative actions that will need to be aligned to the emerging corporate priorities and the refreshed Community Strategy, resulting in smart actions and clear outcomes.

RESOLVED (4) that Cabinet would further consider the action plan once this exercise had been undertaken.

The meeting closed at 7.04 pm.