

CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2017

AT 4.30 PM

IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WILLITON

Present:

Councillor A Trollope-Bellew Leader

Councillor M Chilcott
Councillor A Hadley
Councillor S Pugsley
Councillor D J Westcott

Councillor M Dewdney
Councillor C Morgan
Councillor K Turner

Members in Attendance:

Councillor S Dowding
Councillor P Pilkington

Councillor B Maitland-Walker

Officers in Attendance:

Director and Deputy Chief Executive (S Adam)
Assistant Chief Executive (B Lang)
Democratic Services Manager (R Bryant)
Assistant Director – Corporate Services (P Carter)
Corporate Strategy and Performance Officer (R Doyle)
Assistant Director - Business Development (I Timms)
Assistant Director – Resources and Section 151 Officer (P Fitzgerald)
Principal Revenues and Debt Recovery Officer (D Emery)
Senior Development Officer (G Dwyer)

CAB1 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

CAB2 Minutes

(Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held on 1 March 2017 and the Meeting of Special Cabinet held on 5 April 2017 - circulated with the Agenda.)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meetings of Cabinet held on 1 March 2017 and Special Cabinet on 5 April 2017 be confirmed as correct records.

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
Cllr M Chilcott	All	SCC	Spoke and voted
Cllr C Morgan	All	Stogursey	Spoke and voted
Cllr A Trollope-Bellew	All	Crowcombe	Spoke and voted
Cllr K Turner	All	Brompton Ralph	Spoke and voted
Cllr D Westcott	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted

Cllr A Trollope-Bellew declared a personal interest in agenda item No. 9 as the owner of a public house.

Cllr A Hadley declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item No. 9 as the owner of a licensed restaurant and as a trustee of a charity. He left the meeting during consideration of the item.

CAB4 Public Participation

No members of the public spoke at the meeting on any items on the agenda.

CAB5 Forward Plan

(Copy of the Forward Plan for the month of July 2017 – circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of this item was to approve the Forward Plan.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan for the month of July 2017 be approved.

CAB6 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 2018.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Members appointed to serve on Outside Bodies for the Municipal Year 2017-2018 be as follows:-

ORGANISATION	REPS 2017/2018
CLOWNS	Lead Member for Community and Customer – Councillor D Westcott
South West Councils Employers Panel	Leader – Councillor A Trollope-Bellew Deputy Leader – Councillor M Chilcott
LGA General Assembly	Leader – Councillor A Trollope-Bellew Deputy Leader – Councillor M Chilcott
South West Councils	Leader – Councillor A Trollope-Bellew Deputy Leader – Councillor M Chilcott

SPARSE	Councillor S Pugsley
Dunster Working Group	Lead Member for Regeneration and Economic Growth – Councillor A Hadley Ward Member Councillor P Pilkington
Watchet Harbour Advisory Committee	Councillor D Westcott and Councillor R Woods
Somerset Waste Board	Lead Member for Environment – Councillor M Dewdney Councillor B Maitland-Walker
Safer Somerset Partnership	Lead Member for Community and Customer – Councillor D Westcott Councillor S Dowding
Western Somerset LEADER	Councillor A Hadley
Visit Exmoor	Councillor A Hadley
Connecting Exmoor and Dartmoor Board (established 3 Dec 2015)	Councillor K Mills
Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Phase II	Lead Member for Regeneration and Economic Growth – Cllr A Hadley
Somerset Energy Infrastructure Group	Councillor A Trollope-Bellew – Leader Councillor C Morgan – Lead Member for Energy Infrastructure Councillor S Goss
West Somerset Health Forum	Councillor K Turner
Somerset Rivers Authority	Leader – Councillor A Trollope-Bellew Deputy: Councillor M Dewdney
Somerset Growth Board	Lead Member for Regeneration and Economic Growth - Cllr A Hadley
Somerset Strategic Housing Partnership	Lead Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing – Councillor K Turner
West Somerset Housing Forum	Lead Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing – Councillor K Turner
Health and Wellbeing Board	Lead Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing – Councillor K Turner
Director of iESE (Improvement and Efficiency Social Enterprise)	Lead Member for Resources and Central Support – Cllr M Chilcott
Somerset West Private Sector Housing Partnership	Lead Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing – Councillor K Turner

Cabinet Appointments on Internal Bodies

Asset Management Group	Lead Member for Resources and Central Support – Councillor M Chilcott
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	Lead Member for Environment – Councillor M Dewdney Lead Member for Regeneration and Economic Growth – Cllr A Hadley Lead Member for Energy Infrastructure – Councillor C Morgan
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CAB7 Corporate Plan 2017/18 Update

(Report No. WSC 53/17 – circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to introduce and finalise the draft Corporate Plan 2017/18 as it continues through the democratic process.

The Leader presented the item.

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

During the discussion of this item, a number of further amendments to the draft document were suggested and agreed including the update to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Growth; the deletion of the bullet point relating to Minehead Customer Services (page 30); the deletion of the Customer Access information on page 31; the deletion of the reference to the refurbishment of The Deane House (page 32); and the addition of wording to the 'What we will do in 2017/18' section to reflect the aspiration of providing easy access to Council services for customers as part of the ICT Strategy.

Members requested that a further draft of the Corporate Plan should be circulated once these agreed amendments had been included.

RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council to adopt the Corporate Plan for 2017/18 as amended above.

CAB8 Endorsement of Somerset Growth Plan

(Report No. WSC 49/17 – circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to advise Members of the refresh of the Somerset Growth Plan; to seek endorsement of this plan and seek any additional comments Members wished to make as an element of the adoption of the plan by the Somerset Growth Board.

The Lead Member for Regeneration and Economic Development presented the report and provided background information.

It was noted that paragraph 2.3.3. of the Somerset Growth Plan should be amended to include information on the proposed modifications to the A39 to improve existing traffic 'bottlenecks' particularly around Washford, Carhampton and Williton. Such action would improve access to the area and increase economic development in accordance with the three safety policies of 2006.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendations of the report which were seconded by Councillor C Morgan.

Members were supportive of the document and various questions and issues were raised. The main points of discussion focussed on:-

- A University in Somerset was vital, and the intention was for it to be a technical university.
- Problems with recruitment in the area's health industry was raised as a going concern. Assurance was provided that there would be a focus on the health sector aspect and on reinstating the course to train new nurses.
- More emphasis was needed on West Somerset's highway infrastructure and any improvements to the road systems would be welcomed.
- It was hoped that the provision of training and workforce development to those living in rural communities would be improved due to the fact that vocational and practical skills courses were not currently available in West Somerset.
- The Plan was a living document and would ensure future proofing.

RESOLVED (1) that the content of the Somerset Growth Plan be noted.

RESOLVED (2) that any additional comments made on the document be sent back by the Assistant Director Ian Timms to Somerset County Council in advance of its final adoption.

RESOLVED (3) that, subject to any comments raised, the adoption of the Somerset Growth Plan by the Somerset Growth Board be supported.

CAB9 Proposed Changes to Business Rates Relief Policy

(Report No. WSC 54/17 – circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to provide information on the background and context for updating the Business Rates Relief Policy for 2017/18.

The Lead Member for Resources and Central Support presented the report.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor S Pugsley.

RESOLVED (1) that the use of the Council's local discount powers from 1 April 2017 be supported to:-

- a) grant 100% Rural Rate Relief to eligible ratepayers;
- b) grant a local discount of £1,500 a year for Local Newspapers;
- c) introduce the Supporting Small Businesses Relief Scheme from 1 April 2017;
- d) introduce the Business Rate Relief Scheme for Pubs from 1 April 2017.

RESOLVED (2) that the proposed updates to the Council's Business Rates Relief Policy for 2017/18 shown in Appendix 1 to the report be supported.

RESOLVED (3) that it be noted the Government had announced funding over four years from 2017-18 for English billing authorities to provide discretionary transitional support for businesses facing significant increases in their Business Rates bills following the revaluation. Introduction of discretionary transitional support would require Member approval and a report would follow after the Government had provided more information and consultation between West Somerset Council and the major preceptors had taken place.

(Councillor S Pugsley left the meeting at 5.35 p.m. at the conclusion of the above item.)

CAB10 **Hinkley Point C Section 106 Development Consent Obligation – Skills and Training Contribution**

(Report No. WSC 55/17 – circulated with the Agenda.)

The purpose of the report was to outline proposals relating to the Skills and Training Contribution for West Somerset that formed part of the Hinkley Point C (HPC) Section 106 Development Consent Obligations (DCO) Agreement.

The Lead Member for Regeneration and Economic Development presented the report.

The Lead Member proposed the recommendations of the report which were duly seconded by Councillor M Dewdney.

RESOLVED (1) that the proposals detailed in paragraph 4.4 of the report be agreed.

RESOLVED (2) that it be recommended to Council to approve the drawdown of £30,000 from the HPC DCO Skills and Training contribution to support a variety of skills related activity with the intention to support and grow economic development in West Somerset and to maximise opportunities associated with the HPC project.

The meeting closed at 5.48 pm.