

Executive – 9 October 2008

- Present:** Councillor Henley (Chairman)
Councillors Brooks, Coles, Horsley, Mullins, Mrs Smith and
A Wedderkopp
- Officers:** Joy Wishlade (Strategic Director), Shirlene Adam (Strategic Director),
Tonya Meers (Legal and Democratic Services Manager), Ian Franklin
(Project Taunton), Mark Green (Project Taunton) and Richard Bryant
(Democratic Services Manager)
- Also present:** Councillors Bishop, Cavill, Edwards, Farbahi, Morrell, Mrs Waymouth,
D Wedderkopp, Mrs Whitmarsh and Williams.
Messrs C Haworth and J Risdale of Alder King; Mr A Rothwell of
Ashfords

(The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm.)

198. Apologies

Councillors R Lees and Prior-Sankey.

199. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 20 August 2008, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and were signed.

200. Public Question Time

Councillor Morrell, as a member of the public, asked whether the current economic climate had exposed either Taunton Deane or Somerset County Council to any significant risks? What mitigation measures had been taken to limit such risks?

The Strategic Director, Shirlene Adam, reported that Taunton Deane's investments had always been made using a prudent, cautious approach. The risk was spread by investing amounts of no more than £2m on a short term basis with institutions which had the highest credit ratings. A total of £24m was currently invested.

Ms Adam went on to say that as investment periods came to an end, the money was being re-invested in Government Accounts which were fully protected from any risk. She added that Taunton Deane had not used any of the Icelandic Banks although she was aware that other Councils had done so.

201. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman (Councillor Henley) and Councillor Brooks declared personal interests as Members of Somerset County Council. Councillor Coles declared a personal interest as a Director of Southwest One.

202. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item because of the likelihood that exempt information would otherwise be disclosed relating to Clause 7 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.

203. Selection of a Development Partner for Firepool, Taunton

Considered report previously circulated, concerning the proposed appointment of a development partner to develop the Firepool Site in Taunton.

The Council had agreed to procure a development partner for the Firepool site in August 2006. The European Procurement Rules applied to this process.

Following legal advice, Taunton Deane had elected to use the Competitive Dialogue procedure. This route enabled the Council to identify potential solutions which met its requirements before inviting a final shortlist of candidates to submit tenders.

Tenders had now been submitted and, following a thorough evaluation (details of which were submitted), the position had been reached whereby it was now possible to recommend a preferred development partner.

Resolved that:-

- (1) the selection of the company named in the report as the preferred development partner to develop the Firepool Site on the terms set out in the Development Agreement and using the non-project account, be approved;
- (2) the monies identified in the report be ring fenced to the costs of the Council in administering and managing the project;
- (3) the Executive Councillor for Economic Development (Councillor Horsley), in consultation with the Chairman of the Project Taunton Steering Group (Councillor Williams) and the Strategic Director (Joy Wishlade) be authorised to approve the final contract; and
- (4) it be recommended that the other company named in the report be kept as reserve bidder.

(The meeting ended at 7.43 p.m.)