

**CABINET**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 19 MARCH 2018**

**AT 8.40 PM**

**OAKE MANOR GOLF CLUB, OAKE, TAUNTON**

**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 I Aldridge  
Councillor B Heywood  
Councillor P Murphy

Councillor B Allen  
Councillor K Mills  
Councillor N Thwaites

**Officers in Attendance:**

Chief Executive (P James)  
Assistant Chief Executive (B Lang)  
Section 151 Officer (P Fitzgerald)  
Senior Transformation Lead - New Council (E McGuinness)  
Media and Communications Officer (D Rundle)  
Principle Lawyer – SHAPE (L Dolan)  
Democratic Services Officer (M Prouse)  
Meeting Administrator (K Kowalewska)

**CAB67 Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

**CAB68 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>
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 I Aldridge	All	Williton	Spoke
Cllr P Murphy	All	Watchet	Present
Cllr N Thwaites	All	Dulverton	Present

**CAB69 Public Participation**

No members of the public had requested to speak at the meeting.

**CAB70 Transitioning to a New Council**

(Report of the Joint Chief Executive and the Director of Operations and Transformation, circulated prior to the Meeting.)

Following the decision made by Taunton Deane and West Somerset Councils in July and September 2016 respectively to submit a business case to the Secretary of State to become a single council, it was now necessary to consider a number of matters for inclusion in draft Orders that the Secretary of State would lay before both Houses of Parliament to bring about the change and to provide for appropriate delegations.

The Full Councils of both authorities had now given “consent” to the Secretary of State to lay the legislation in Parliament.

The Leader presented the report and advised of an addition to the wording printed in recommendation 2.1 (d) of the report to include “and provision be requested for 1 substitute from each Council”.

The Leader went on to propose the recommendations, as amended, which were duly seconded by Councillor S Pugsley.

The number of councillor seats on the new Council was very well received. It was recognised to be very important in order to maximise the representation for West Somerset. It was also very important that as many Members should be involved in the Cabinet Model of Governance and it was believed that democracy functioned better due to increased involvement. Therefore the provision for an Executive to comprise of a membership of up to 10 Members was welcomed.

The Assistant Chief Executive provided further clarification on the name of the new Council. He explained that it would be the name used in the draft Structural Order, and reiterated that the new Council could change the name at some stage in the future.

During the discussion on the review by the Local Government Boundary Commission, it was highlighted that a boundary review would have been undertaken for both Taunton Deane and West Somerset at some point in the future almost certainly resulting in a reduction in numbers of Councillors, irrespective of the process in forming a new Council.

Members were pleased to hear that comments from the public would be listened to and that there would be open discussions concerning the name of the new Council as it formed part of a bigger picture. It was essential for local businesses and for tourism, on which Somerset relied upon heavily, to get the name right.

Cabinet was requested to consider appointing an Opposition Councillor onto the proposed Shadow Executive in the interests of having political inclusion in the process.

Following a question raised regarding the composition of the Executive of the new Council, it was clarified that it would consist of no more than 10 Members; and the actual size and which Councillors were appointed onto it would be at the discretion of the new Council's elected Leader.

**RESOLVED (1)** that, subject to the Secretary of State agreeing to create a new council, the name of the new Council be designated as "Somerset West and Taunton".

**RESOLVED (2)** that, subject to the Secretary of State agreeing to create a new council, the preferred number of councillors for the new Council be 58 subject to a review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).

**RESOLVED (3)** that, subject to the Secretary of State agreeing to create a new council, the Cabinet Model of Governance be adopted for the new Council with an Executive comprised of up to 10 Members.

**RESOLVED (4)** that, subject to the Secretary of State agreeing to create a new council, a Shadow Authority be created to comprise of all existing councillors of Taunton Deane and West Somerset Councils, together with a Shadow Executive to comprise of the respective Leaders and 3 further councillors from each Authority, and provision be requested for 1 substitute from each Council.

**RESOLVED (5)** that, subject to the Secretary of State agreeing to create a new council, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) be requested to undertake, at the earliest opportunity, a full electoral review of the areas of the new Council including the determination of an appropriate ward structure.

**RESOLVED (6)** that, subject to the Secretary of State agreeing to create a new council, the Chief Executive or the Director - Operations, in consultation with the Leaders of Taunton Deane and West Somerset Councils, be delegated the authority to:

- i) Submit the above decisions to the Secretary of State for inclusion into any Orders drafted to implement the creation of a new Council;
- ii) Consent to the laying before Parliament of the required final Statutory Orders.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.