

## SWT Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 3rd June, 2020,  
6.15 pm



Somerset West  
and Taunton

[SWT VIRTUAL MEETING WEBCAST LINK](#)

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**Members:** Gwil Wren (Chair), Libby Lisgo, Ian Aldridge, Sue Buller, Norman Cavill, Dixie Darch, Habib Farbahi, Ed Firmin, John Hunt, Dave Mansell, Derek Perry, Phil Stone, Nick Thwaites, Danny Wedderkopp and Keith Wheatley

### Agenda

**1. Appointment of Vice-Chair**

**2. Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence.

**3. Minutes of the previous meetings of the Scrutiny Committee held on 5 February and 13 May**

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee.

(Pages 7 - 24)

**4. Declarations of Interest**

To receive and note any declarations of disclosable pecuniary or prejudicial or personal interests in respect of any matters included on the agenda for consideration at this meeting.

(The personal interests of Councillors and Clerks of Somerset County Council, Town or Parish Councils and other Local Authorities will automatically be recorded in the minutes.)

**5. Public Participation**

The Chair to advise the Committee of any items on which members of the public have requested to speak and advise those members of the public present of the details of the Council's public participation scheme.

For those members of the public who have submitted any questions or statements, please note, a three minute time

limit applies to each speaker and you will be asked to speak before Councillors debate the issue.

### **Temporary measures during the Coronavirus Pandemic**

Due to the Government guidance on measures to reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), we will holding meetings in a virtual manner which will be live webcast on our website. Members of the public will still be able to register to speak and ask questions, which will then be read out by the Governance and Democracy Case Manager during Public Question Time and will either be answered by the Chair of the Committee, or the relevant Portfolio Holder, or be followed up with a written response.

#### **6. Taunton Bus Station and Bus Services in Somerset West and Taunton.**

Cllrs M Kravis (PFH - Asset Management and Economic Development) and Cllr M Rigby (PFH - Planning and Transportation) invited to attend

#### **7. Call-in, by Councillors Norman Cavill, Anthony Trollope-Bellew, Vivienne Stock-Williams and Libby Lisgo of the decision made by Executive Councillor Mike Rigby to approve an allocation of £91,518.06 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds to provide enhanced materials for the repaving of the forecourt at Taunton Railway Station**

(Pages 25 - 34)

This has been added to the agenda under Access to Information Procedure Rule 5.2, which states 'Where there are special circumstances requiring an item to be added to the agenda after publication, the revised agenda will be open to inspection from the time the item was added to the agenda.'

Once the Scrutiny Committee has heard the full debate on this matter, it will have two options open to it:-

**(1) To support the challenge and refer the decision for further consideration** (stating the grounds for justifying that request) – where the matter will be considered again by Executive Councillor Rigby.

**(2) To decide to take no further action** – in which case the decision of the Executive Councillor Rigby of 21 May 2020 will stand.

**8. SWT Performance Update - For Information Report (to defer)**

It is recommended to defer this item to the July meeting due to a delay in reporting due to Covid-19.

**9. Scrutiny Committee Action Plan**

To update the Scrutiny Committee on the progress of resolutions and recommendations from previous meetings of the Committee.

**10. Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan**

To receive items and review the Forward Plan.

(Pages 35 - 36)

**11. Full Council Forward Plan**

(Pages 37 - 38)

**12. Executive Forward Plan**

(Pages 39 - 40)

**13. Access to Information - Exclusion of the Press and Public**

During discussion of the following item(s) it may be necessary to pass the following resolution to exclude the press and public having reflected on Article 13 13.02(e) (a presumption in favour of openness) of the Constitution. This decision may be required because consideration of this matter in public may disclose information falling within one of the descriptions of exempt information in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The Committee will need to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption, outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Recommend that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the next item of business on the ground that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 respectively of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

**14. Commercial Investment Update**

This has been added to the agenda under Access to Information Procedure Rule 5.2, which states 'Where there are special circumstances requiring an item to be added to the agenda after publication, the revised agenda will be open to inspection from the time the item was added to the agenda.' This will be a verbal update from the Chief Executive or other appropriate Officer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Hasset". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "H".

**JAMES HASSETT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Please note that this meeting will be recorded. You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. Data collected during the recording will be retained in accordance with the Council's policy. Therefore unless you are advised otherwise, by taking part in the Council Meeting during Public Participation you are consenting to being recorded and to the possible use of the sound recording for access via the website or for training purposes. If you have any queries regarding this please contact the officer as detailed above.

Following Government guidance on measures to reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), we will be live webcasting our committee meetings and you are welcome to view and listen to the discussion. The link to each webcast will be available on the meeting webpage, but you can also access them on the [Somerset West and Taunton webcasting](#) website.

If you would like to ask a question or speak at a meeting, you will need to submit your request to a member of the Governance Team in advance of the meeting. You can request to speak at a Council meeting by emailing your full name, the agenda item and your question to the Governance Team using [governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](mailto:governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk)

Any requests need to be received by 4pm on the day that provides 2 clear working days before the meeting (excluding the day of the meeting itself). For example, if the meeting is due to take place on a Tuesday, requests need to be received by 4pm on the Thursday prior to the meeting.

The Governance and Democracy Case Manager will take the details of your question or speech and will distribute them to the Committee prior to the meeting. The Chair will then invite you to speak at the beginning of the meeting under the agenda item Public Question Time, but speaking is limited to three minutes per person in an overall period of 15 minutes and you can only speak to the Committee once. If there are a group of people attending to speak about a particular item then a representative should be chosen to speak on behalf of the group.

Please see below for Temporary Measures during Coronavirus Pandemic and the changes we are making to public participation:-

Due to the Government guidance on measures to reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), we will holding meetings in a virtual manner which will be live webcast on our website. Members of the public will still be able to register to speak and ask questions, which will then be read out by the Governance and Democracy Case Manager during Public Question Time and will be answered by the Portfolio Holder or followed up with a written response.

Full Council, Executive, and Committee agendas, reports and minutes are available on our website: [www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk)

For further information about the meeting, please contact the Governance and Democracy Team via email: [governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](mailto:governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk)

If you would like an agenda, a report or the minutes of a meeting translated into another language or into Braille, large print, audio tape or CD, please email: [governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](mailto:governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk)



**SWT Scrutiny Committee - 5 February 2020**

Present: Councillor Gwil Wren (Chair)

Councillors Libby Lisgo, Ian Aldridge, Sue Buller, Norman Cavill, Ed Firmin, John Hunt, Dave Mansell, Phil Stone, Danny Wedderkopp, Keith Wheatley, Simon Coles, Caroline Ellis and Habib Farbahi

Officers: Emily Collacott, Kerry Prisco, Simon Lewis, Scott Weetch and James Barrah

Also Present: Councillors Booth, Kravis, Lloyd, Milne, Pilkington, Rigby, Smith, Smith-Roberts, Stock-Williams, Trollope-Bellew, A Wedderkopp and Whetlor.

(The meeting commenced at 18:15)

63. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Darch, Prior-Sankey and Thwaites.

Councillor Coles substituted for Prior-Sankey

Councillor Ellis substituted for Parry

Councillor Milne substituted for Thwaites

64. **Minutes of the previous meeting of the Scrutiny Committees held on 8 January and 20 January (attached)**

(Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January circulated with the agenda)

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January be confirmed as a correct record.

65. **Declarations of Interest**

Members present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Councillor or Clerk of a County, Town or Parish Council or any other Local Authority:-

| Name          | Minute No. | Description of Interest       | Reason   | Action Taken    |
|---------------|------------|-------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Cllr N Cavill | All Items  | West Monkton                  | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr S Coles  | All Items  | SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr C Ellis  | All Items  | Taunton Charter Trustee       | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr J Hunt   | All Items  | SCC & Bishop's Hull           | Personal | Spoke and Voted |

|                   |           |                         |          |                 |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Cllr L Lisgo      | All Items | Taunton Charter Trustee | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr D Mansell    | All Items | Wiveliscombe            | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr A Milne      | All Items | Porlock                 | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr D Wedderkopp | All Items | Taunton Charter Trustee | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr G Wren       | All Items | Clerk to Milverton PC   | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
|                   |           |                         |          |                 |
|                   |           |                         |          |                 |

Councillor Coles declared a further interest in respect of his wife being employed as a Special Educational Needs Coordinator at a nursery.

66. **Public Participation**

No members of the public had requested to speak on any item on the agenda.

67. **Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group Fit For My Future Presentation.**

This item was deferred from the agenda, and would be held as an All Councillor briefing at a later date.

68. **Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Estimates 2020/21. (Including Rent Setting and Fees and Charges). Report of the Finance Specialist**

The report presented the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Annual Budget and Capital Programme for 2020/21, as well as the Rent Setting and the Fees and Charges proposals for 2020/21.

The HRA is a ring fenced account was used to manage the Council's housing stock of some 5,700 properties, with the Council acting as the Landlord.

In April 2012, under the Localism Act 2011, the HRA (under the administration of Taunton Deane Borough Council (TDBC)) moved away from a national subsidy system (which required an annual payment from the HRA to Central Government) to become 'self-financing'. This enabled the Council to retain all rental income to meet the costs of managing and maintaining the housing stock, as well as meeting the interest payments and repayment of debt. As part of the self-financing agreement, a one-off payment of £85.198m was made to Government.

In order to manage the freedoms gained by the HRA through self-financing, a new 30-Year Business Plan (2012-2042) was introduced. This set out the Council's overall aims and objectives for Housing Services, as well as laying out plans to manage the increased risks and opportunities.

The HRA Business Plan had been reviewed and updated annually since 2012, with a full review undertaken in 2016. In response to recent changes in national policies and local aspiration, another full and comprehensive 30-year Business Plan from 2020/21 onwards had recently been undertaken, with the support of consultants Savills, and can be found as a separate report called "HRA Business Plan Review". The key changes in revenue



budget from 2019/20 to 2020/21 were summarised as part of the report.

The HRA continued to face a number of risks and uncertainties, many of which could be significant but the actual financial impact was not known.

As part of the self-financing agreement, an individual housing revenue borrowing cap of £116m was implemented for TDBC. This meant the HRA was unable to exceed a capital borrowing requirement of £116m within the HRA Business Plan. In October 2018 this borrowing cap was officially removed.

The 2020 Business Plan review was undertaken as a direct result of a number changes in both national policies and local aspiration; since the debt cap removal in October 2018, the introduction of the Regulator of Social Housing's new Rent Standard from April 2020 and a new Somerset Housing Strategy published in March 2019. There had been a declaration of a climate emergency and a new leadership aspiration to build 1000 new homes in 30 years.

The HRA 2020 Business Plan review was undertaken to assess the affordability and viability of these aspirational schemes and the financial impact of regulatory changes, to determine what schemes could actually be delivered and when.

The assumptions within the Business Plan indicated that the new build aspirations were affordable and viable but required the maximisation of future rental income through the application of options available within the boundaries of national policy, this would require significant capital investment and borrowing over the next 10 years.

The HRA 2020 Business Plan aimed to deliver 1,000 new homes over the next 30 years with a net gain of 400 homes as a result of tenants purchasing their homes through estimated RTB sales.

In response to the HRA 2020 Business Plan, the table below provided a summary of the main proposed changes to the annual revenue budget estimates from 2019/20 to 2020/21.

A summary of the overall HRA Revenue Budget for 2020/21 and 5-year Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), as a result of planned changes within the HRA 2020 Business Plan and other changes, was set out in Appendix A.

|  | Reference Paragraph | £'000 |
|--|---------------------|-------|
| <b>Original Budget 2019/20 – balanced budget</b> |                     |       |
| <u>Income</u>                                    | 5.8                 | (555) |
|  |                     |       |
| <u>Service Expenditure</u>                       |                     |       |
| Repairs & Maintenance                            | 5.11                | (10)  |
| Grounds Maintenance                              | 5.12                | 78    |
| Insurance  | 5.13                | (145) |
| Management Costs – salaries                      | 5.14                | 1,533 |
| Management Costs – other                         | 5.18                | (97)  |
| Efficiency Savings                               | 5.19                | (100) |
|  |                     |       |
| <u>Central Costs / Movement in Reserves</u>      |                     |       |
| Provision for Bad Debt                           | 5.20                | 120   |

|   |      |          |
|---|------|----------|
| Interest Payable  | 5.22 | 126      |
| Interest Receivable   | 5.24 | 70       |
| Provision for Depreciation  | 5.25 | 229      |
| Provision for Repayment of Borrowing  | 5.27 | 0        |
| Revenue Contribution to Capital (SHDF)  | 5.28 | (1,170)  |
| Movement in Reserves  | 5.29 | (79)     |
|   |      |          |
| <b>Proposed Original Budget for 2020/21<br/>i.e. net transfer to reserves</b> |      | <b>0</b> |

### Debate

- HRA income was ring fenced to manage housing stock. Clarification was provided that a portion of this funded transformation, this was in proportion with a cost split.
- Concerns were expressed over the emphasis of carbon neutrality as part of the business plan. The HRA net zero target should refer to the Councils at 2030.
- Information relating to the discretionary housing payment policy would be circulated to Councillors.
- The committee expressed further concerns over increases in rents for new tenants.
- 4500 residents were actively looking for housing on home finder.
- Savings achieved on insurance remained in the HRA budget.

### The Scrutiny Committee:-

1. Supported the following proposed recommendations to the Executive and Full Council:
2. In accordance with the Regulator of Social Housing's new Rent Standard from April 2020, the Dwelling Rent for 2020/21 for existing tenants will be an increase of CPI+1% to the average weekly rent, from £80.87 per week to £83.05 per week.
3. In accordance with the Regulator of Social Housing's new Rent Standard from April 2020, the Dwelling Rent for 2020/21 for new tenants only will be an increase of CPI+1% plus an additional 5% for general needs to the average weekly rent, from £80.87 per week to £87.21 per week.
4. In accordance with the Regulator of Social Housing's new Rent Standard from April 2020, the Dwelling Rent for 2020/21 for new tenants only will be an increase of CPI+1% plus an additional 10% for sheltered/supported and extra care dwelling rents to the average weekly rent, from £80.87 per week to £91.36 per week.
5. To increase non-dwelling rent and service charges in line with national policy by CPI+1% for 2020/21, with the exception of garages for private and shared ownerships tenants which would increase from £10.32 (including VAT) to £12.00 (including VAT).
6. To approve the HRA Annual Revenue Budget for 2020/21.

7. To approve the HRA Capital Programme for 2020/21.

69. **Somerset Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019 - 2023. Report of the Strategy Specialist**

The report outlined the District Councils statutory duty to adopt a Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy. This strategy set out the strategic goals for the four Somerset Housing Authorities including a detailed action plan to show how the strategy would be delivered. The existing Somerset Homeless Strategy was adopted in May 2018; this was an interim strategy which ran until December 2019 so the Council was updating the strategy taking into consideration the priorities identified in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Needs Assessment 2019, together with the new requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2019.

The purpose of the report was to enable Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the content of the proposed Somerset Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy (and Action Plan) 2019-2023 (SH&RSS)

The 2002 Homelessness Act places a duty on Local Authorities to develop a homelessness and rough sleeper strategy and an obligation to renew it every five years. The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, introduced new measures for dealing with homelessness including:

- Increasing the length of time a housing authority treated someone as threatened with Homelessness from 28 to 56 days
- The introduction of Personalised Housing Plans for clients to outline the circumstances of homelessness, the housing needs of the client, any support required to secure and sustain accommodation, steps that the client was required to take along with the steps the Local Authority was required to take to assist the client
- A new duty to prevent homelessness for all eligible households threatened with homelessness
- a new duty to relieve homelessness for all eligible homeless applicants
- a new duty on public services to notify a local authority if they came into contact with someone they think could be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless

The current interim strategy was developed by the four District Councils in Somerset and was adopted in 2018. Since the adoption of the Interim Strategy the Councils had collectively conducted a Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Needs Assessment which had been used as the evidence base for the 'Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019 – 2023' as well as considering the new requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

A Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Needs Assessment 2019 set out in Appendix 1 was carried out to assess the need within the county. This had been used to inform the new Somerset Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-23 detailed in Appendix 2. The strategy included 6 priorities for 2019-23:

- Provision of adequate, affordable accommodation
- The provision and effective use of temporary accommodation
- Support the Government's commitment to combat rough sleeping
- Support prevention and early intervention
- Enable specific client groups to access suitable accommodation

- Maintain strong working relationships across partnerships

The SH&RSS would be implemented by each district through the Homelessness Managers Group (HMG) who would be responsible for the day to day delivery of this strategy and actions contained within the action plan; including monitoring progress against actions and targets at the monthly HMG meetings. There would also be a link with the Somerset Strategic Housing officers Group (SSHG) who were responsible for the delivery plan for the Somerset Housing Strategy 2019-2023, close links would be maintained between both groups to ensure The Council kept track of progress on actions overall.

### Debate

- The homelessness team were engaging with the Local Plan Review, along with the evidence to deliver different types of accommodation to address the need for housing for those with disabilities.
- Insisting on increasing levels of affordable housing on developments was a key priority.
- Consideration was given to more of the funding being received through the garden town initiative should be set aside to tackle homelessness.
- More responsibility and obligation should be enforced with central government to tackle homelessness with members the ex-military community as part of the armed forces covenant. It was established that 56 former armed forces personnel had received help from housing services.
- Young people had been impacted on the most with housing shortages alongside suffering an employment and skills shortage.
- In a January survey it had been established that there had been 25 rough sleepers across the district.
- Consultations with Ark and the voluntary sector had taken place to attain more information around the homeless community to generate policy to reduce numbers in the district and county,
- Specifics around members of the homeless who could be experiencing trauma, addictions, and disabilities or living in the rural community along with addressing employment skills were a common theme across the community.

### The Scrutiny Committee

1. In principle supported the adoption of the SH&RSS, subject to
2. Provided comments for consideration by the Executive (10<sup>th</sup> February 2020) who would be asked to formally recommend the adoption of the Strategy to Full Council.

## 70. **General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Estimates 2020/21. Report of the Finance Business Partner and Deputy S151 Officer**

The report set out the draft budget estimates for 2020/21, Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) forecasts, and 2020/21 Capital Programme and the proposed sources of funding.

The Provisional Finance Settlement was issued by Government on 20 December, and included details regarding general revenue grant funding, New Homes Bonus, and business rates retention baseline and tariff. The information arising is broadly in line with our previous expectations. The final Finance Settlement is expected to be published before Full Council meets on 19 February.

Executive is minded to implement a council tax increase of 3.17% (£5 on a Band D) in 2020/21, making the annual Band D charge £164.63. The increase in the tax rate provides an additional £282,249 income, however a reduction in the tax base equating to £27,299, results in a net additional council tax income of £254,950 compared to 2019/20.

Executive is also minded to precept £29,240 in special expenses for the Unparished Area of Taunton. This results in an annual council tax rate at £1.91 for a Band D for the Unparished Area of Taunton.

The 2020/21 draft budget also included a prior year net Collection Fund surplus of £250,191 (£63,877 council tax deficit and £314,068 business rates surplus).

On the advice of the S151 Officer, the Executive is minded to reallocate £3.5m from the Business Rates Retention Smoothing Reserve to a new Investment Risk Reserve to reflect a change in risk profiles across the two different funding streams.

The Provisional Settlement, provided the level of funding set by Government through business rates retention and general grants, was announced on 20 December 2019. The information arising is broadly in line with our previous expectations, with the main headlines being:

- (a) Council Tax – Government has confirmed district councils may increase council tax by up to the greater of £5 or 1.99% a year.
- (b) Revenue Support Grant – Confirmed as £6,444, slightly higher than our previous estimate of £6,340 due to an inflation factor being applied. Government has again mitigated the potential “negative RSG” which would have reduced our funding by £128,000.
- (c) Rural Services Delivery Grant – Confirmed as £241,506, no change to our previous estimates.
- (d) New Homes Bonus – provisional grant for 2020/21 confirmed as £3,253,289, which is £38,529 higher than previous estimates. Information included with the Settlement confirms the 2020/21 ‘increment’ within the NHB calculation will be for one year only – not four years as per previous years. It also indicates (but subject to future Finance Settlements) that the legacy payment from the 2018/19 and 2019/20 allocations will apply for four years, therefore the S151 Officer is minded to add the projected income back into the MTFP forecasts for 2021/22 and 2022/23, totalling £2.5m over the two years.
- (e) Business Rates Retention – Baseline and Tariff allocations in line with our previous estimates. Local estimates for total business rates income are due to be completed by the end of January 2020 which will determine the net income retained by SWT including growth above the baseline and potential Pooling gains.

### Debate

- Levels of funding in relation to Climate Change were criticised. As one of the Councils key objectives a request was made for increasing the funding.
- It was considered if more funding could be considered for the unparished area. Through the Charter Trustees in the next financial year the unparished area would be able to precept.
- Changes to Earmarked Reserves were considered.
- Ideas had been put forward with the environment strategy development and community engagement around this.
- Funding for tree planting and public conveniences were considered.
- Income through the sale of assets had not been forecasted.

- Further information was requested around CIL allocations and community development.

The Scrutiny Committee:-

1. Supported a recommendation to the Executive and Full Council to approve the Draft Revenue Budget expenditure, savings and income targets, subject to any final adjustments as may be required for new information prior to Full Council (such as the NNDR1 final estimates and the Final Finance Settlement).
2. Scrutiny supported a recommendation to the Executive and Full Council to approve the new capital schemes of the General Fund Capital Programme Budget of £12.015m for 2020/21, as set out in Appendix A and Table 10.
3. Scrutiny supports a recommendation to the Executive to approve a virement from the Capital Project for Transformation and Office 365 to the project for the Change Programme in the 2019/20 budget of £774k.
4. Scrutiny support the reallocation of £3.5m from the BRR Smoothing Reserve to the Investment Risk Reserve.

#### 71. **Off Street Car Parking Charges Report. Report of the Specialists Manager**

The Council desires to change driver behaviour as part of its Corporate aim for a low-carbon, clean, green and prosperous district that attracts high quality employment opportunities and encourages healthy lifestyle.

The council's aim to promote and enhance the use of Taunton Park and Ride facilities provided by Somerset County Council to support its own aims in reducing town centre congestion for Taunton and pollution and supporting overall Air Quality Management across the Council area as set out in the Air Quality Action Plan. The latest Air Quality Action Reports (2018) are available on the SWTC web site at:

Charges were last increased across the former Taunton Deane Borough Council area in 2016. Notwithstanding that there was a realignment of fees in Taunton to move to a more readily understood Short and Long Stay parking as part of the Pay on Foot parking project. However, these changes were cost neutral, as outlined and approved by Taunton Deane Full Council in February 2018.

Charges were last increased in the former West Somerset Council area in 2017.

The report outlines the intention to raise car parking fees by 10% in all areas, the legal basis for doing so and the intentions of monies raised through this.

The powers for local authorities to provide and charge for car parking are set out in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTRA). Different provisions are set out in relation to on-street and off-street parking. This report relates to off street parking arrangements.

Section 122 places a duty on every local authority to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway. In particular that means securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises; the effect on the amenities of any locality affected and (without prejudice to the generality of this paragraph) the importance of regulating and restricting the use of roads by heavy commercial vehicles, so as to preserve or improve the amenities of the areas through

which the roads run; the strategy prepared under section 80 of the Environment Act 1995 (national air quality strategy); the importance of facilitating the passage of public service vehicles and of securing the safety and convenience of persons using or desiring to use such vehicles; and any other matters appearing to the local authority to be relevant.

Decisions on setting fees must be reasonable and proportionate and have a view to the reasons for the parking powers in the first place (i.e. the minimising of congestion in town centres). The Council is awarded powers to create off-street parking places – and then to charge for them – where it appears necessary to them for the purposes of relieving or preventing traffic congestion.

A schedule of proposed fees was included at Appendix A.

#### Debate

- Concerns were expressed over the alignment of car parking charges across the district since the creation of the new authority.
- Impacts of an increase on the businesses across the district were considered. There were fears that increases of car parking charges combined with business rates would impact on the economy, especially with local businesses.
- Encouraging reduction in carbon emissions alongside increasing additional revenue were the primary aims of the increase.
- It was considered if businesses could be consulted in future with car parking increase proposals
- Further concerns were expressed in relation to this impacting on the amount of revenue generated through parking charges.

The Scrutiny Committee supported:-

The recommendation to raise car parking charges by 10% across the Somerset West and Taunton Council area.

## 72. **Executive and Council Forward Plans**

The Scrutiny Committee noted the Executive and Full Council Forward Plans.

## 73. **Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan**

(Copy of the Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan, circulated with the agenda).

Councillors were reminded that if they had an item they wanted to add to the agenda, that they should send their requests to the Governance Team.

**Resolved** that the Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan be noted.

(The Meeting ended at 21:30)





## SWT Scrutiny Committee - 13 May 2020

Present: Councillor Gwil Wren (Chair)  
Councillors Libby Lisgo, Ian Aldridge, Sue Buller, Norman Cavill, Dixie Darch, Ed Firmin, Dave Mansell, Derek Perry, Hazel Prior-Sankey, Phil Stone, Nick Thwaites, Keith Wheatley and John Hassall

Officers: Dawn Adey, Alison North, Marcus Prouse and Andrew Randell

Also Present: Councillors Booth, Henley, Kravis, Lloyd Smith, Tully, Whetlor,

(The meeting commenced at Time Not Specified)

### 7. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor D Wedderkopp.

Councillor J Hassall attended as a substitute.

### 8. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Scrutiny Committee 5 February 2020.

(Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 5 February circulated with the agenda)

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee held on 5 February be amended and considered for approval at a future meeting.

### 9. Declarations of Interest

Members present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Councillor or Clerk of a County, Town or Parish Council or any other Local Authority:-

| Name                | Minute No. | Description of Interest       | Reason   | Action Taken    |
|---------------------|------------|-------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Cllr N Cavill       | All Items  | West Monkton                  | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr J Hunt         | All Items  | SCC & Bishop's Hull           | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr L Lisgo        | All Items  | Taunton Charter Trustee       | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr D Mansell      | All Items  | Wiveliscombe                  | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr H Prior-Sankey | All Items  | SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee | Personal | Spoke and Voted |

|             |           |                       |          |                 |
|-------------|-----------|-----------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Cllr G Wren | All Items | Clerk to Milverton PC | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
|             |           |                       |          |                 |

10. **Public Participation**

The following members of the public had requested to speak on item 5 on the agenda.

- 1) Mr David Redgewell - South West Transport Network and Railfuture Severnside.

“Dear Councillors,

Our main concern is the provision of high quality waiting facilities in Taunton town centre. The bus station provided a regional function for the south west both for short services to the town but more importantly for bus services to Minehead, Wellington, Tiverton, Bridgewater Burnham on Sea, Street, Glastonbury, Wells, Axminster and Chard. National Express Coaches operate services to Plymouth, Paignton and Cornwall. Services also operate to Bristol, Heathrow Airport, London Victoria coach station, Barnstaple and North Devon, Scotland, Manchester and North.

With the closure of the coach station there are no waiting shelters for coach passengers. The closed bus and coach station had a waiting room, cafe bar, travel centre facilities and toilets across the road in Castle Way as well as facilities for Coaches to use the wheelchair lifts. At present National Express Coaches stop in Tower Street without any passengers facilities being available.  
Town centre waiting facilities

Following the closure of the bus station buses operate from stands in the town centre with very poor quality shelters in Castle Way, The Parade, and East Reach. At present services 21, 22, 28 operate from Castle Way along with Hatch Green. Dartline service 20 to Seaton, Devon and South West Coaches service causing passenger congestion on the bus stops and poor access for disabled people.

From the Parade which has very poor shelters, service 25 to Dulverton and other services around the town centre again have very congested stops with no proper waiting facilities.

Also departing the Parade outside the card shop, service 29 to Wells 30 to Axminster for Weymouth via Chard and Service 99 to Chard the same problem exists.

With the Bus station closed and social distancing regulations in place for Covid19, there is a need to mark out social distancing at bus stops meaning that the existing shelters will not shelter passengers from the rain and will be totally inadequate for their needs.

The buses under these regulations for Covid-19 will mean a double decker carrying 20 passengers and a single decker 10 passengers. This means that buses will not be able to be doubled up at bus stops in the town centre causing congestion unless plans are made to remove the private car from the central area similar to Exeter high street.

Question 1. As part owner of the bus station Somerset West and Taunton council could look at use of part of the old bus station to allow safe social distancing to and from country buses with marked out emergency bays. The use of Taunton Railway station as an interchange is to be welcomed but unlike Penzance and St Austell where there are proper bus station bays and passengers facilities and staff accommodation, in Taunton the interchange does not have enough bays for buses other than to West Somerset and no staff accommodation. One idea is to build a bus interchange on Kilkenny car park. In other councils in the south west a new bus station has been built in Gloucester with one under construction at Exeter bus station with another one being built in Weston super mare. Bus rail interchanges are planned at Dorchester South and Weymouth railway station. These are all being funded by the Department for Transport. All bus and coach stations have been regenerated in Cornwall at St Ives, Penzance, Truro, and Newquay with Government and EU grants. In conclusion we believe that Somerset County Council (the transport authority) and First Group and Somerset West and Taunton council should draw up a plan to invest in public facilities in the Town centre and a new transport interchange. If the bus and coach station is redeveloped then a small bus interchange could be incorporated in the site with shops and flats above the bus station. Similar to the bus and coach stations in Bristol and Oxford.

We need a solution with Somerset County Council, the transport authority and First Group and National Express Coaches to improve passenger facilities in Taunton town centre.

This is the biggest town in the West Country without a bus and coach station or interchange. Bridgwater bus station is owned by Sedgemoor District Council, Wells bus station is owned by Mendip District Council along with Shepton Mallet interchange and Frome coach station. This gives an example of a bus station in council ownership and this is required. The bus industry is being funded to the tune of 17 million pounds a week by Covid-19 bus operators grant Somerset county council is paying the grant to the bus operators in Somerset.

In Taunton any new bus and coach facilities need to be built and run by the local authority and leased to the operators i.e. First Group, National Express Coaches and Hatch Green to include full passenger's facilities, toilets, travel centre, cafe, waiting room, real-time information displays, staff accommodation and traffic office. Please read our statement to the committee. We also support TravelWatch South West stakeholder's consultation on Taunton town centre bus and coach interchange facilities.

1. The need for first group and the other bus operators to develop a plan with Somerset County Council The transport authority measures to protect passengers at bus stops in the town centre along the line of other Transport authorities with clear markings at Bus stops and the work on a plan to replace the town centre bus shelters in the parade, castle way and east reach with dry water proof sheets, of the designs in Weymouth kings statue or Plymouth Royal parade.
2. The bus stop need designing for more than one bus as a Double Decker to Wellington or Tiverton will carry only 20 passengers a and a single decker to Minehead just 10 passengers.
3. The bus stops within the town need real-time information system provided.
4. Proper facilities need designing for National Express Coaches service to the south west and the rest of the south west. In castle way or a car park location with water proof shelter close to Toilets and a cafe with wheelchair lifts facilities.
5. All bus stops should have castle kerbs for disabled access.
6. In line with Government policy more space should be used In the town centre for walking and cycling.
7. Close the Town centre to the private car and use the space for walking cycling taxis and public transport.
8. Provide a park and ride service that links Gateway Park and ride with silk mills Taunton Musgrove park hospital and the Railway station. This allows traffic to be removed from the town centre and improve air quality.
9. Provide evenings service to Wellington .first bus 22 To Bridgwater High bridge and Burnham on sea. First bus 21 to Minehead First bus 28 .and Sunday and evening service on route 1 around the town on Sunday a loop service around the town.
10. Look at leasing back the bus station as a temporary facility to provide social distancing and safe departure bay's for buses to provide extra buses and facilities for Coaches.
11. To look at improvements to passengers facilities at Riverside for megabus and falcon coach services, for Bristol Exeter and Plymouth and megabus Coaches to Plymouth Cornwall London Heathrow and Victoria. And the Midlands wales the North and Scotland. These services need through tickets with the park and ride service.
12. The council needs to bid with Somerset county council the local transport authority, along with the south west transport board. for. Money for public transport interchange facilities in the town centre. There is an option to bid for Regeneration money from Covid 19 recovery plan for the economy.

The county council will continue to receive a covid 19 bus operators grant to run the county bus service and most carry out public consultation on all bus services issue under Department for transport regulations.

Please bring our further comment to the scrutiny committee on bus station and town centre passengers facilities.

2) Ms Bryony Chetwode

**Comment and Question from TravelWatch SouthWest**

The challenges and opportunities presented to the Community by COVID-19 make previous comments submitted by TWSW urgent.

I hope you all can recall or have access to our earlier statements. For example, based upon the existing designs we still question whether the shelters are fit for purpose.

COVID has brought further safety concerns to light which will ultimately have a negative influence on community confidence in public transport, unless we design to enable comfort, space, information, and certainty.

These are all points made previously. But must be now also be addressed to enable Taunton's COVID-19 economic recovery.

We know the character of future journey flows are uncertain but, we can anticipate more working from home, and design requirements which influence passenger proximity.

Councillors are asked to ensure they work with the community represented to address issues around:

1. Practicality
2. Fear
3. Safety
4. Expectation
5. Environmental health

On this basis and representing the interests of the communities we request a series of collaborative and constructive workshops with local stakeholders. We can help you arrange this, and SWAT will benefit from collaboratively developed recommendations from the community, Local Government and business stakeholders.

This enables SWAT to develop well scrutinised options. TravelWatch SouthWest asks the Chair to seek agreement to handle the matter in this way and would welcome an approach to take this forward.

11. **Taunton Bus Station and Bus Transport in Somerset West and Taunton**

Alex Cater, Managing Director of First Bus presented an update in relation to Taunton Bus Station and Bus Transport in Somerset West and Taunton.

The changes and developments in service provision in Taunton and the South West was set out along with the situation around the Taunton bus station closure. Following the impact of Covid-19 on passenger numbers and update was given around the existing service provision and current capacity of services.

## Debate

- Concerns were expressed over the closure of the Bus Station. Further information was requested on the details around the closure and the cost of maintenance.
- It had been determined that there would be a significant sum required for the Bus Station and its cost of repair to continue to maintain the station. It was acknowledged that the consultation of closing the station was minimal due to timescales. Both parties wanted to go through with the transaction.
- To provide the maximum level of quality service it had been determined that spending on essential costs would enable improvement and development and future services.
- Avoiding using public transport in the current context had been difficult in addressing long term service improvements. Future investment on routes and improving the fleets would be on the cards alongside extending services into the evening.
- Increased passenger numbers were usually determined on existing successful services.
- Securing funding from Somerset County Council was required to improve services in many instances.
- Central Government were covering the costs of the provision of the bus service to ensure the service broke even. The current level of service was 60% of the normal service across the district, the government guidance was 40%.
- Discussions were taking place on longer term funding of the service. The current Covid19 funding was for a period of 12 weeks.
- Bus operators would be able to restore services when reactivation on a normal basis when required from the government. Investing in additional fleet was not possible until the service was back to normal and generating a profit post any Covid-19 restrictions.
- It was recognised that some routes were running at a reduced service due to a lack of support funding. The future of services would be considered once out of the Covid-19 restrictions.
- Concerns were expressed over a spiral of decline of some services, it was recognised that this was a demand led service. Changing of habits and lifestyles post Covid-19. First Group were the only provider of a commercial service in the area.
- A realistic view of the climate still remained even with the emphasis of the Climate Emergency agenda. There was nothing to support the investment in the short term due to the lack of profit generation and growth in the service.
- It was determined that funding for Cornwall Council bus services was at a higher level than in Somerset historically due to securing additional funding and European funding.
- It had been acknowledged that the improvements in the economy of diesel busses had a greater contribution to carbon neutrality ambitions.
- It was determined at the current range, electric buses would not suit the operating environment of Somerset.
- The approach to gauging demand was based on history and previous traditional demand. Low fares pilots were being introduced in different parts of the countries.
- Route improvements to the 29 service was considered. This service had been retendered with the new provider being First Group following this exercise and the current timetable would be maintained with no plans to change this.

- The current services were indefinite, some services were contracted with differing lengths. Delivery could not happen without the local authority to help invest in the fleet. Willingness through policy and investment was needed.
- Supporting the park and ride was a good example, advanced signage was needed but this was achieved successfully elsewhere.
- Consideration of reopening the Taunton Bus Station would be considered if this was a possibility. Facilitation of this was requested by the committee.
- The committee thanked Alex Carter for his input and attendance.

The Scrutiny Committee Recommend that:-

1. Executive open up discussions with First Group were requested as a matter as urgency for the temporary emergency opening of the bus station with consideration of the Covid-19 situation.
2. A Task and Finish Group be set up with a shared objective to review public transport across the district.

## 12. **Annual Scrutiny Report. Report of the Scrutiny Chairman**

The Chairman of The Scrutiny Committee presented the Annual Scrutiny Report.

The year started with the publication of new Government Guidance seeking to clarify and broaden the role and influence of Scrutiny Committees. The Chairman and The Vice Chair were keen to ensure that Scrutiny Councillors gained a greater oversight of their work programme than was done previously. This was to give us a stronger voice over the Executive reports the committee wished to look at in detail and enable maximum influence to be exerted. The committee also aimed to be more proactive and investigate external matters which had a bearing on residents.

In the last year, the Committee discussed many issues of community interest and concern such as The Local Plan, Firepool, Watchet Library, Climate Change Strategy, Shared Legal Services, 5G, Financial Monitoring Reports and Budget Setting Reports, Performance Reports, Somerset Climate Emergency Framework and SWT Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan, Voluntary and Community East Quay Wall and others.

However, while I believe we were able to add value to many of these topics, it was also clear that that being adequately sighted on emerging issues was not always straightforward. There were issues around the process for differentiating between topics for Briefing and items going to Scrutiny. As a result we have made some adjustments to the process of flagging topics and reports for Scrutiny. We have also refreshed the agenda setting process and the involvement of Committee members in that.

In order to reflect on our first year and help us focus our role and efforts we had planned a Committee 'Away Day' with an external Facilitator on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020. This unfortunately fell foul of the current restrictions. However it is intended to re-schedule this as soon as possible as it will a key opportunity for the Committee to review, and build in a bigger and better suite of work to take up in the future such as Spotlight Reviews and Task and Finish Investigations.

Resolved that:- The Scrutiny Committee thanked the Chairman for his report were in agreement that the report be considered at Full Council without any amendments.

13. **Scrutiny Committee Action Plan**

(Copy of the Scrutiny Committee Action Plan, circulated with the agenda).

**Resolved** that the Scrutiny Committee Action Plan be noted.

14. **Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan**

(Copy of the Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan, circulated with the agenda).

An update of the Climate Change Strategy was requested at a future meeting

A Scrutiny Committee agenda setting would be arranged in advance of 27<sup>th</sup> May.

Councillors were reminded that if they had an item they wanted to add to the agenda, that they should send their requests to the Governance Team.

**Resolved** that the Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan be noted.

15. **Executive Forward Plan**

The Commercial Investment Strategy was requested to be considered at a future Scrutiny meeting.

The Committee noted the Executive Forward Plan.

16. **Full Council Forward Plan**

The Committee noted the Full Council Forward Plan.

(The Meeting ended at 21:00)



# Somerset West and Taunton Council

## Scrutiny Committee – 3rd June 2020

**Call-in, by Councillors Norman Cavill, Anthony Trollope-Bellew, Vivienne Stock-Williams and Libby Lisgo of the decision made by Executive Councillor Mike Rigby to approve an allocation of £91,518.06 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds to provide enhanced materials for the repaving of the forecourt at Taunton Railway Station which would align with the Council’s draft Public Realm- Design Guide for Taunton Garden Town guidance. The cost is the difference between using the standard materials for the paving in the original tender and the higher standard York Stone advised in the guidance.**

Executive Councillor Mike Rigby’s decision announced via a Decision Notice published on the Council’s website and circulated to all Councillors via email on 21 May 2020 was as follows:-

“In January 2015 a working group comprising TDBC, SCC, GWR and Network Rail submitted a strategic case to the Local Transport Board of the LEP and successfully secured funding towards the overall cost of the redevelopment of Taunton Station comprising the following elements:

- Ticket Office moved to south side of the station for improved access and orientation towards the town centre
- Transport interchange created - Improved capacity, efficiency and amenity for users facilitating more journeys
- Provision of a multi-storey car park - Additional parking spaces to facilitate modal switch and forecast increase in rail demand
- An environment for redevelopment of land around the station – efficient use of space, enhanced facilities and economic growth

The project includes the repaving of the entire station forecourt and adjoining areas. Since the time of going to tender for the work, Somerset West and Taunton’s Garden Town Design Guidance has been developed which identifies the forecourt area as a Core area where the Council should aim to achieve high standards in public realm. However, there is a difference of £91,518.06 in the cost of using the standard materials for the paving which were costed out in the original tender and the higher standard York Stone advised in the guidance.

The project is therefore requesting that £91,518.06 of CIL funds are made available to ensure that the highest standards of public realm can be achieved.

The proposed decision to provide enhanced materials for the station forecourt aligns with the Council’s draft Public Realm - Design Guide for Taunton Garden Town. This funding will ensure higher design standards are met in the identified ‘Core Area’ in the draft design guide, where the station is a key gateway to Taunton.

The proposed CIL allocation falls within the £500k CIL budget for Taunton town centre regeneration, approved by Full Council as part of the Capital Programme on 21/02/20. <https://democracy.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/documents/s7980/General%20Fund%20Revenue%20Budget%20and%20Capital%20Estimates%202020-21%20Report.pdf>”

Once the Scrutiny Committee has heard the full debate on this matter, it will have two options open to it:-

- (1) To support the challenge and refer the decision for further consideration**  
(stating the grounds for justifying that request) – where the matter will be considered again by Executive Councillor Rigby.
- (2) To decide to take no further action** – in which case the decision of the Executive Councillor Rigby of 21 May 2020 will stand.

Contact Officer: Amy Tregellas

Telephone: 01823 785034 or e-mail [a.tregellas@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](mailto:a.tregellas@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk)

Appendix A – Decision Form signed and published 21/5/2020

Appendix B – Call-In Request Form submitted 29/5/2020





## Record of Decision taken by Executive Councillor

**Decision title: Community Infrastructure Levy Allocation – Taunton Station Forecourt Upgrade**

**Executive Councillor making the decision: Cllr Mike Rigby Planning Portfolio Holder**

**Author Contact Details: Kate Murdoch**

**Date of Decision: 18/05/20**

### **Details of decision:**

**In January 2015 a working group comprising TDBC, SCC, GWR and Network Rail submitted a strategic case to the Local Transport Board of the LEP and successfully secured funding towards the overall cost of the redevelopment of Taunton Station comprising the following elements:**

- Ticket Office moved to south side of the station for improved access and orientation towards the town centre**
- Transport interchange created - Improved capacity, efficiency and amenity for users facilitating more journeys**
- Provision of a multi-storey car park - Additional parking spaces to facilitate modal switch and forecast increase in rail demand**
- An environment for redevelopment of land around the station – efficient use of space, enhanced facilities and economic growth**

**The project includes the repaving of the entire station forecourt and adjoining areas. Since the time of going to tender for the work, Somerset West and Taunton's Garden Town Design Guidance has been developed which identifies the forecourt area as a Core area where the Council should aim to achieve high standards in public realm. However, there is a difference of £91,518.06 in the cost of using the standard materials for the paving which were costed out in the original tender and the higher standard York Stone advised in the guidance.**

**The project is therefore requesting that £91,518.06 of CIL funds are made available to ensure that the highest standards of public realm can be achieved.**

### **Reasons for proposed decision:**

**The proposed decision to provide enhanced materials for the station forecourt aligns with the Council's draft Public Realm - Design Guide for Taunton Garden Town. This funding will ensure higher design standards are met in the identified 'Core Area' in the draft design guide, where the station is a key gateway to Taunton.**

**The proposed CIL allocation falls within the £500k CIL budget for Taunton town centre regeneration, approved by Full Council as part of the Capital Programme on 21/02/20.**

**<https://democracy.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/documents/s7980/General%20Fund%20Revenue%20Budget%20and%20Capital%20Estimates%202020-21%20Report.pdf>**


**Alternative funding options sourced: None – the approved CIL allocation for 'Taunton Town Regeneration' is the only available source of funding for this request.**

| The below has been completed:   | Name(s)   | Date     |
|---|---|----------|
| Relevant ward councillor(s) consulted   | Cllr Richard Lees<br>Cllr Simon Coles                               | 13/05/20 |
| <b>The following are if appropriate / applicable: Yes/No. If yes the implications should be attached to this decision notice.</b> |   |          |
| Finance implications  | No – CIL funding approved in capital budget and s151 approval given |          |
| Legal implications  | None  |          |
| Links to corporate aims   | Aligns with Council's emerging Design Guide                         |          |
| Climate and Sustainability implications   | None  |          |
| Community Safety Implications   | None  |          |
| Equalities Impact   | None  |          |
| Safeguarding Implications   |   |          |
| Risk management   | None  |          |
| Partnership implications  | None  |          |

**Any conflicts of interest declared by Leader or Executive Members consulted on the proposed decision. If Yes provide confirmation from Chief Executive to grant dispensation for the Leader's / Executive Member's views to be considered.**

**Decision Maker**

**I am aware of the details of this decision(s), considered the reasons, options, representations and consultation responses and give my approval / agreement to its implementation.**

**Signed:** 

**Name: Cllr Mike Rigby**

**Date: 18/05/20**

Note – This decision record is for decisions taken by Executive Councillors. The decision(s) can be implemented following publication and the period for any call-in has expired.

**Note:** A copy should also be sent to the Governance Team – [governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](mailto:governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk)







## Call-In Request

To: **Amy Tregellas**  
**SWT Monitoring Officer**

### **Decision being challenged :-**

**By:** Councillors Norman Cavill, Anthony Trollope-Bellew, Vivienne Stock-Williams and Libby Lisgo.

### **Detailed reasons for challenge:**

We would like to call in the above decision on the grounds that all the relevant facts have not been taken into account and properly assessed.

The original plans included the total area outside the new entrance to the Station. The investment outlined in the PFH Decision shows that this is no longer the case, leaving a section unimproved will detract and be to the detriment of the whole scheme. As far as I am aware there has been no debate of the subject prior to the decision. It would be beneficial for Scrutiny to have the opportunity to review the plans. Furthermore failure to complete the whole scheme will adversely affect the Historic setting of the Great Western Hotel and area.

**Signed (electronically):**

|            |                         |
|------------|-------------------------|
| Councillor | Norman Cavill           |
| Councillor | Anthony Trollope-Bellew |
| Councillor | Vivienne Stock-Williams |
| Councillor | Libby Lisgo             |

**Dated: 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee or any 4 non-executive Councillors may request in writing to the Monitoring Officer (or their nominee) that a decision is called-in for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee.

The reasons for calling-in a decision shall accompany any such request and must relate to the merits of the decision only AND meet at least one of the following criteria:

- a) that there was insufficient, misleading or inaccurate information available to the decision-maker;
- b) that all the relevant facts had not been taken into account and/or properly assessed;
- c) that the decision is contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework and is not covered by urgency provisions; or
- d) That the decision is not in accordance with the decision-making principles set out in the Constitution.

When a completed call-in form is received;

- The decision the subject of the call-in will be “frozen” for at least such time as the call-in has been considered;
- The call-in, if accepted, will be referred to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration;
- Those Councillors who have signed the call-in form will be invited to attend the Scrutiny Committee meeting to further explain why the above decision has been called-in;
- The decision will remain “frozen” until:-
  - The Scrutiny Committee decides not to support the call-in and endorses the original decision, in which case it will come into force immediately; or
  - The Scrutiny Committee’s proposed alternative has been decided and referred back to the Executive or individual decision taker asking them to alter or revoke the decision, taking into account the other factors brought to their attention by the Scrutiny Committee; or
  - Where a decision has been called-in on the basis that it is contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework, the Scrutiny Committee may refer the matter to Full Council to determine.

**The right of call-in will expire on the fifth working day after the decision has been made.**

**SCRUTINY**

| <b>Meeting</b>       | <b>Draft Agenda Items</b>   | <b>Lead Officer</b>              | <b>Executive Report?</b> |
|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>3rd June 2020</b> | Performance Update (For Information)                                    | Malcolm Riches                   | Yes                      |
|                      | Appointment of Vice-Chair   |                                  |                          |
|                      | Taunton Bus Station and Bus Services in Somerset West and Taunton       | Relevant PFH and SWT Officers    |                          |
| <b>1st July 2020</b> |   |                                  |                          |
| DH                   | Covid-19 Impact Update  | P Fitzgerald & others            | ?                        |
|                      | Social Value Strategy (linked to LLA)                                   | Paul Harding                     | Yes                      |
|                      | Client based approach to local Labour Agreements (LLA)                  | Colleen Blake/ B. Brown/ G Dwyer | Yes                      |
|                      | Firepool (SPV)  | Tim Bacon                        | Yes                      |
|                      | Hinkley Phase 3 Housing Funding Strategy                                | Mark Leeman                      | Yes                      |
| <b>5th Aug 2020</b>  | Infrastructure Planning, Governance Arrangements and CIL Funding Update |                                  |                          |
| WSH                  |   |                                  |                          |
|                      |   |                                  |                          |
| <b>2nd Sept 2020</b> | Otterford B   | Gerry Mills                      | Yes                      |
| DH                   | Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy                                     | G. Thompson                      | Yes                      |
|                      | Housing Strategy - Action Plan for SWT                                  | M. Leeman                        | Yes                      |
| <b>7th Oct 2020</b>  | Firepool  | Tim Bacon                        | Yes                      |
|                      | Everyone Active Performance Update                                      | Natalie Green                    | Yes                      |
| DH                   |   |                                  |                          |
|                      |   |                                  |                          |
| <b>4th Nov 2020</b>  |   |                                  |                          |
| WSH                  |   |                                  |                          |
|                      |   |                                  |                          |
| <b>2nd Dec 2020</b>  |   |                                  |                          |
| DH                   |   |                                  |                          |
|                      |   |                                  |                          |
| <b>TBC</b>           | Parking Strategy for SWT  |                                  | Yes                      |
|                      | Travellers Policy Update  | Ann Rhodes                       | ?                        |
|                      | Empty Homes Update  | Steve Perry                      | No                       |
|                      | Future High St Fund - if approved                                       | Kate Murdoch                     |                          |
|                      | Tangier   |                                  |                          |
|                      | Multi-Purpose Venue   |                                  |                          |
|                      | Watchet Marina  |                                  |                          |
|                      | Cycling Infrastructure and Priorities                                   |                                  |                          |



**FULL COUNCIL**

| <b>Meeting</b>           | <b>Draft Agenda Items</b>   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>26 May 2020</b>       | <b>ANNUAL COUNCIL</b>   |
| <b>07 July 2020</b>      | Transformation - Lessons Learned - Audit                              |
|                          | Coastal Improvement Works SCC Report                                  |
|                          | Statement of Licensing and Gambling Policy                            |
|                          | Financial Assistance for Low Income Owner Occupiers in Priority Areas |
|                          | Zero Carbon Affordable Homes  |
|                          | Charter for Compassion  |
|                          | Scrutiny Annual Report  |
|                          | Audit Annual Report   |
| <b>29 September 2020</b> | Somerset Wide Climate Change Strategy                                 |
|                          | Small Scale Industrial Space LDO                                      |
|                          | Otterford   |
|                          | Housing Strategy - Action Plan for SWT?                               |
|                          | Social Value Strategy (linked with LLA)                               |
|                          | Client Based Approach (CBA) to Local Labour Agreements (LLA)          |
|                          | Firepool (SPV)  |
|                          |   |
|                          |   |
| <b>03 November 2020</b>  | Firepool (Infrastructure Approval)                                    |
| <b>SPECIAL</b>           | Firepool (Commencement of Detailed Planning)                          |



**EXECUTIVE**

| <b>Executive Meeting</b> | <b>Draft Agenda Items</b>   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>17 June 2020</b>      | Commercial Investment Strategy Review   |
| VIRTUAL                  | Financial Assistance for Low Income Owner Occupiers in Priority Areas                               |
| RD = 5 June              | Zero Carbon Affordable Homes  |
|                          |   |
| <b>15 July 2020</b>      | Firepool (SPV)  |
|                          | Social Value Strategy (linked with LLA)   |
| ERD = 3 July             | Client Based Approach to Local Labour Agreements (LLA)  |
| IERD = 9 June            | Hinkley Phase 3 - Housing Funding Strategy  |
| SMTRD = 27 May           | Obridge?  |
|                          | Tangier?  |
|                          | Performance Report  |
| <b>19 August 2020</b>    | Monkton Heathfield Phase 2 Masterplan   |
| VIRTUAL                  | Public Realm Design Guide for Taunton Garden Town - Feedback  |
| ERD = 7 August           | Somerset West and Taunton Districtwide Design Guide & Urban Design Masterplan Frameworks - Feedback |
| IERD = 14 July           |   |
| SMTRD = 1 July           |   |
|                          |   |
| <b>16 September 2020</b> | Somerset Wide Climate Change Strategy   |
|                          | Small Scale Industrial Space LDO  |
| ERD = 4 September        | Otterford   |
| IERD = 11 August         | Housing Strategy - Action Plan for SWT  |
| SMTRD = 29 July          |   |
|                          |   |
| <b>21 October 2020</b>   | Firepool (Infrastructure Approval)  |
|                          | Firepool (Commencement of Detailed Planning)  |
| ERD = 9 October          | Everyone Active Update  |
| IERD = 15 September      |   |
| SMTRD = 2 September      |   |

|                         |                                       |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                         |                                       |
| <b>18 November 2020</b> |                                       |
|                         |                                       |
| ERD = 6 November        |                                       |
| IERD = 13 October       |                                       |
| SMTRD = 30 September    |                                       |
|                         |                                       |
| <b>16 December 2020</b> | Commercial Investment Strategy Review |