

SWT Executive - 18 August 2021

- Present: Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts (Chair)
Councillors Chris Booth, Dixie Darch, Ross Henley, Francesca Smith and Andrew Sully
- Officers: Dawn Adey, James Barra, Emily Collacott, Marcus Prouse, Chris Brown, Chris Hall and Joe Wharton. (Virtually via Zoom: James Hassett, Alison North, Amy Tregellas).
- Also Present: Councillors Janet Lloyd and Loretta Whetlor (Councillors Coles, Lisgo, Wren and Weston joined virtually via Zoom).

(The meeting commenced at 6.21 pm)

28. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Ellis, Kravis, Perry and Rigby.

29. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Executive

(Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 21st July 2021 were circulated with the agenda)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Executive held on 21st July 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

30. 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 C Booth	All Items	Wellington and Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr J Lloyd	All Items	Wellington & Sampford Arundel	Personal	Spoke
Cllr F Smith	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr F Smith-Roberts	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr L Whetlor	All Items	Watchet	Personal	Spoke
Cllr G Wren	All Items	Clerk to Milverton PC	Personal	Spoke

31. **Public Participation**

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

32. **Executive Forward Plan**

(Copy of the Executive 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.

- Councillor Lloyd questioned the Longforth Masterplan item and whether it would be deferred to the New Year?
- *The Leader requested this to be clarified*

Resolved that the Executive Forward Plan be noted.

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

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, that the public be excluded from the next items of business (Item 7, Appendix 2 only and then Item 8 in totality) on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely information relation to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

34. **Single Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Accommodation Strategy & Delivery Plan**

During the discussion, the following points were raised: -

- A query was raised as to how confident officers were of obtaining investment from partners?
- *Partners had reassured the Council they were happy with the investment but there are risks to SWT. The model had worked for many years previously and new partners were seeking to join. The Government had encouraged SWT to bid for more funding and officers were confident, but there were challenges around the market and timing.*
- Concern was raised around the confirmation of Right to Buy receipts in supporting the Delivery Plan.
- *It was confirmed that this was why the delegation to the s151 Officer had been built into the recommendations.*
- Further detail was requested as to the Community Scrutiny's concerns regarding the Equality Impact Assessment.
- *Officers clarified that the concern ranged largely on the issue of female accommodation and the additional responsibilities on Local Authorities under the Domestic Abuse Act, for example, you now cannot place domestic abuse victims in a bed and breakfast.*

- *It was confirmed that Gender Re-assignment was not presenting across SWT at the current moment but that in place was an Assessment and Referral panel to discuss complex cases on a weekly basis.*
- The Leader stated that this was an ambitious strategy in line with the Government's aspirations, and SWT could be proud of this work due to its impact in turning people's lives around.

RESOLVED that the Executive recommended to Full Council to;

- a) Adopt the Single Homelessness & Rough Sleeper Accommodation Strategy (SHRSAS) (Appendix 1) and associated Delivery Plan (Confidential Appendix 2).
- b) To approve the virement of £1.17m and a supplementary General Fund capital budget of £0.38m to support the capital investment of £1.55m as set out in section 6 and Confidential appendix 2.
- c) To delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer to make the final funding decision for any capital budgets used in the GF or HRA, including any reallocation of part of the capital budget (b) from the General Fund to the HRA.
- d) For members to note the predicted increase in revenue costs 2022-2025, and to delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer to agree the revenue funding allocations 2022-2025 through a combination of homelessness earmarked reserves, future successful bids for government grant, and Better Care Fund grant (subject to Health and Wellbeing Board approval on 22nd November 2021).

35. **Levelling up Bid**

RESOLVED that the Executive approved the recommendations within the confidential report.

(The Meeting ended at 7.04 pm)