

SWT Executive - 16 September 2020

- Present: Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts (Chair)
Councillors Benet Allen, Chris Booth, Ross Henley, Marcus Kravis, Richard Lees, Mike Rigby, Francesca Smith and Sarah Wakefield
- Officers: Dawn Adey, Nick Bryant, Gordon Dwyer, Paul Fitzgerald, Alison North, Sarah Povall, Andrew Pritchard, Lisa Redston, Clare Rendell, Amy Tregellas and Mark Wathen
- Also Present: Councillors Simon Coles, Habib Farbahi, John Hunt, Janet Lloyd, Andrew Sully, Anthony Trollope-Bellew, Ray Tully, Alan Wedderkopp, Brenda Weston, Loretta Whetlor and Gwil Wren

(The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm)

18. Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor P Pilkington.

19. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Executive

(Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 15 July 2020 circulated with the agenda)

Resolved that the minutes of the Executive held on 15 July 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

20. 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 S Coles	All Items	SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke
Cllr J Hunt	All Items	SCC & Bishop's Hull	Personal	Spoke
Cllr R Lees	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr L Lisgo	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke
Cllr J Lloyd	All Items	Wellington &	Personal	Spoke

		Sampford Arundel		
Cllr M Rigby	All Items	SCC & Bishops Lydeard	Personal	Spoke and Voted
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 R Tully	All Items	West Monkton	Personal	Spoke
Cllr A Wedderkopp	All Items	SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke
Cllr B Weston	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke
Cllr L Whetlor	All Items	Watchet	Personal	Spoke
Cllr G Wren	All Items	Clerk to Milverton PC	Personal	Spoke

21. **Public Participation**

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

22. **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.

Resolved that the Executive Forward Plan be noted.

23. **Emergency Town Centre Recovery and back-fill of Economic Growth and Prosperity Fund Report**

During the discussion, the following points were raised:-

- The Chair of Scrutiny gave an update on the discussions raised on the report at the previous Scrutiny Committee meeting. He advised the Executive of the reasons why they had proposed an additional recommendation.
The Portfolio Holder for Asset Management and Economic Development advised he had spoken to members of the Taunton Chamber of Commerce and they were happy to include members of the Taunton Charter Trustees in the decision making process.
- The Vice Chair of Scrutiny thanked the Executive for acknowledging the comments made by the Scrutiny Committee. She wanted to ensure that the Charter Trustees were included as Taunton did not have a Town Council to include in the consultation.
- The Executive agreed that the Taunton Charter Trustees should be included in the Working Group for the Taunton area.

The Economic Development Operational Manager gave reassurance on the governance arrangements within the terms of reference for the distribution of funds. She also gave information on the composition of each working group and that she was keen to ensure each group were represented.

- Councillors queried the wording used for the additional recommendation from the Scrutiny Committee.

The Director for Development and Place advised that the Governance Specialist had listened back to the recording of the meeting and confirmed that the wording had been read out at the meeting and voted on by the Scrutiny Committee. She also confirmed that the report had been brought forward because the original funds had already been approved and allocated to the project but that they had been used to assist with the work carried out during the Covid Pandemic and that Councillors were being asked to approve for the budget to be backfilled to allow the Town Centre Recovery Project to carry on.

Resolved that the Executive:-

- 1) Noted that £535,000 had been repurposed for Emergency Town Centre Recovery following Covid-19 Lockdown utilising the Council's Economic Growth and Prosperity Fund held in earmarked reserves;
- 2) Recommended that Full Council approved a budget allocation of £500,000, funded from General Reserves, to back-fill the Economic Growth and Prosperity fund;
- 3) Delegated authority to approve expenditure of the budget allocation of £500,000 as referred to in 2.2 to the Director of Development and Place in consultation with the Economic Development Portfolio Holder; and
- 4) The Director of Development and Place and the Economic Development Portfolio Holder consulted with councillors from the Taunton Charter Trustees alongside the Taunton Chamber of Commerce as part of the Working Group for Taunton.

24. **Small Scale Industrial Space Local Development Order Report**

During the discussion, the following points were raised:-

- Councillors thanked the Councillors for their hard work and they were pleased to see cross party involvement.
- Councillors requested some changes to the wording in the Design Guide. *The Assistant Director for Strategic Place Planning advised that it was the Local Development Order that the permissions were binded to and that the Design Guide advised how the work should be done, hence the wording used, which would allow for flexibility. The Strategy Specialist advised that they could make changes to the document prior to the report going to Full Council.*
- Councillors thanked the officers for their hard work on the documents.

Recommended that Executive:-

- 1) Delegated authority to the Assistant Director for Strategic Place Planning and the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation to make any minor amendments in accordance with the discussion had at the Executive

- meeting held on 16 September 2020 and any changes in legislation, prior to the report being taken to Full Council for approval; and
- 2) Approved the progress of Small Scale Industrial Space Local Development Order in the Somerset West and Taunton Area to Full Council for adoption.

25. **Delivering Regeneration - Setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle**

Resolved that the item be deferred until the meeting of the Executive being held on 21 October 2020.

(The Meeting ended at 7.40 pm)

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