

# **Full Council – 26 February 2020**

## **Motion on Local Independent Schools**

### **Motion proposed by Councillor Libby Lisgo, seconded by Councillor Brenda Weston**

This motion is a means to facilitate a voluntary agreement in which local Independent Schools and Somerset West and Taunton Council innovate to jointly deliver and demonstrate the local public benefit of the schools.

This Council therefore proposes,

1. From February 2020, and annually in February thereafter, it will be the policy of this Council to invite the Independent Schools in the District, who receive Business Rate Relief, to each make a donation equivalent to 10% of their mandatory relief to a fund to be held by the Somerset Community Foundation.
2. The Fund will be established for community initiatives promoting health and wellbeing with 50% of that fund targeted at projects within the areas of greatest need in our area. A Public Benefits Panel will be established to determine criteria and oversee the process. Their decisions will be subject to Scrutiny and final Executive approval.
3. A joint consultative body will also be established between the relevant parties to consider and implement ways in which the Independent Schools can provide volunteering or other non financial support to our neediest communities.
4. It will be the policy of this Council to support and endorse the formal Public Benefit statements of schools participating in this initiative, to ensure that they are able to clearly evidence the public benefit our area derives from their participation.