

SWT Executive - 15 July 2020

Present: Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts (Chair)

Councillors Chris Booth, Ross Henley, Marcus Kravis, Richard Lees, Peter Pilkington, Mike Rigby, Francesca Smith and Sarah Wakefield

Officers: James Hasset, Dawn Adey, James Barra, Andrew Pritchard, Paul Fitzgerald, Marcus Prouse, Clare Rendell, Mark Leeman and Malcolm Riches

Also Present: Councillors Simon Coles, Brenda Weston and Loretta Whetlor

(The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm)

11. Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor B Allen.

12. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Executive

(Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 17 June 2020 circulated with the agenda)

Resolved that the minutes of the Executive held on 17 June 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

13. 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 R Lees	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr P Pilkington	All Items	Timberscombe	Personal	Spoke and Voted
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

14. **Public Participation**

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

15. **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.

16. **Corporate Performance Report 2019-20**

During the discussion, the following points were raised:-

- Councillors requested an update on the red items within the report.
The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources advised that the items had been flagged with the Senior Management Team and were being moved forward. The Business Intelligence and Performance Manager advised that the performance at the start of the year had been low but then improved during the year, so the figures reflected the average for the year. The figures for the last quarter had shown improvement. The items included Freedom of Information requests which had to be dealt with, even if they were historic and officers were in the process of trying to resolve those, but that it would take time.
- The Leader highlighted that the Council had been through a period of stabilisation after Transformation, which had impacted on the work produced and the performance figures. She further explained that the Council was now dealing with the Covid Pandemic in the best way it could and that officers were striving to improve and give the best service to the residents in the district. She reminded Councillors that we needed to remember all the positive results and all that had been achieved in what had been a challenging year.
- Councillors queried whether the target dates for information requests were achievable.
The Chief Executive advised that the target dates needed to be challenging as we were a business focused around customer service and 10 working days was a reasonable target for officers to achieve.

Resolved that the Executive considered the performance report.

17. **Hinkley Point C Housing Strategy (Phase 3)**

During the discussion, the following points were raised:-

- The Leader thanked the Scrutiny Committee for their comments and advised that they had been taken into consideration.

- Councillors queried how reliable the surveys carried out on housing need were and whether the data was robust.
The Strategy Specialist advised that the survey data collated from the Stogursey/Quantock area had a 30% response rate from an elderly demographic. The Delivery Officer would need to work with that community to get more detailed information on housing need.
- Councillors queried when the Council would receive the funds mentioned in the Strategy.
The Portfolio Holder for Housing advised that the funds were available from autumn 2020. EDF Energy were keen for the money to be spent as soon as possible to help mitigate any impact in the local areas.
- Councillors queried whether the housing need for larger properties had been included.
The Portfolio Holder for Housing advised that larger properties would need to be considered. In one of the current housing projects within Taunton, there were 6 bedroom properties being built which could be changed into two 3 bedroom properties if required. The Strategy Specialist agreed with the Portfolio Holder and advised that they would need to take information gathered from other schemes to identify the housing needs in the area.
- Councillors were pleased to see the report moving forward and requested a member briefing for further information.
- Councillors requested clarification on some of the figures within the report on housing need, as they differed from another report.
The Strategy Specialist advised that the figures were pulled from the Homefinder database, which was a live system, so was subject to constant change. The figures quoted in the report were the most up to date figures.

Resolved that the Executive:-

- 1) Recommended to Full Council the adoption of the Hinkley Point C Housing Fund Strategy and supporting project activity; and
- 2) Provided any comment in relation to the supporting project activity for consideration by HPC Housing Delivery Officer (appointment to commence this Summer).

(The Meeting ended at 6.50 pm)