

Minutes

of the Meeting of

The Executive

Wednesday, 28th April 2021

held as a Virtual Meeting.

Meeting Commenced: 14:30 Meeting Concluded: 16:20

Councillors:

P Donald Davies (Chairman)
P Mike Bell (Vice Chairman)

P Steve Bridger
P Ashley Cartman
P Mark Canniford
P Catherine Gibbons
P Bridget Petty
P Mike Solomon

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

Also in attendance: Councillors Nicola Holland (Assistant Executive Member), Robert Payne (Assistant Executive Member), Mike Bird, John Cato, John Crockford-Hawley, Wendy Griggs, Karin Haverson, Ruth Jacobs, Huw James, Patrick Keating, Terry Porter, James Tonkin

Officers in attendance: Jo Walker (Chief Executive), Lucy Shomali (Director of Place), Sheila Smith (Director of Children's Services), Hayley Verrico (Director of Adult Social Care), Nicholas Brain (Assistant Director Governance and Monitoring Officer), Michele Chesterman (Corporate Services Directorate), Sue Efford (Corporate Services Directorate), Richard Kent (Place Directorate), Michael Reep (Place Directorate), Mike Riggall (Corporate Services Directorate), Sally Varley (Children's Services Directorate), Melanie Watts (Corporate Services Directorate)

EXE Chairman's Welcome

1

The Chairman welcomed everyone to this virtual Executive meeting.

He explained the procedures to be followed at the meeting and confirmed that decisions taken would have the same standing as those taken at a physical meeting of the Executive in the Town Hall.

The Chairman reminded everyone that the meeting was being livestreamed on the internet and that a recorded version would be available to view within 48

hours on the North Somerset Council website.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Executive Members and Assistant Executive Members introduced themselves for the benefit of those in attendance and for members of the public watching the meeting online. The Chairman welcomed Councillor Bridger and Councillor Payne to the Executive and referred to the Executive changes announced at last week's Council meeting. The agenda for this meeting had been published before changes had been announced therefore some reports on the agenda would now be presented by a different Executive Member to the one listed. This would be clarified at the start of each item.

EXE Addresses by members of the public (ESO 6) (Agenda Item 1)

2

None

EXE Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interest (Standing Order 37) (Agenda Item 3)

3

None

EXE Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2021 (Agenda Item 4)

4

Resolved: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

EXE Non-Executive Councillors' Addresses (Agenda Item 5)

5

At the invitation of the Chairman Councillor James asked the following question of the Executive:

“The murder of Sarah Everard on the week of International Women's Day realised a lot of Women's fears about gendered violence, harassment, and feeling unsafe in their communities. How in North Somerset, will we challenge gendered violence, street harassment, and the perception on unsafe streets within all areas of the Council, rather than within Community Safety?”

The Chairman thanked Councillor James for his question and responded that given the wide-ranging implications, Executive Members would each consider this in the context of their own portfolios. He suggested Councillor James may also wish to raise this with the various policy and scrutiny panels. Councillor Bell confirmed this matter was being taken seriously and was already being looked at by stakeholder groups. It was hoped to bring forward an action plan with tangible measures over the coming months. Reference was made to the importance of education in addressing the issues, and the need to look at how to work with perpetrators to change behaviours rather than expecting victims to do so.

EXE Matters referred to the Executive – SPR 19 North Somerset Local Plan (Agenda Item 6)

6

The Executive received the reference from the Panel.

Resolved: that the Panel's comments be noted and considered later in the meeting under agenda item 9.

EXE West of England Sub-Region (Agenda Item 7)

7

None

EXE Forward Plan dated 1 April 2021 (Agenda Item 8)

8

Councillor Davies presented the forward plan.

Resolved: that the forward plan be noted.

EXE North Somerset Local Plan (Agenda Item 9)

9

Councillor Canniford presented the report as this matter now came within his portfolio.

Councillor Canniford thanked Councillor Tonkin for the work he had undertaken on this to date, particularly around engagement with parish and town councils. Other Executive Members also added their thanks to Councillor Tonkin during the debate.

In presenting the report Councillor Canniford outlined the various stages of the plan making process and the timetable as set out in the report. He noted the reference from the Strategic Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration Panel in support of the work that had been done to date and thanked the Panel for the work on this. He stressed the spatial strategy was still subject to further testing and assessment and there would be opportunities for further input later in the year.

In discussing the report members expressed disappointment that the government's housing requirement was forcing the council to build over 20,000 homes over a 15 year period, the majority of which would not be for local people. Given the scale of this housing challenge there was unlikely to be sufficient sustainable and deliverable locations to meet this demand without considering development in the Green Belt, on low lying land or in areas of natural beauty. Reference was made to the table in paragraph 3.20 of the report and questions were raised as to how and where the residual numbers could be delivered. There was strong support for retaining the Green Belt and avoiding areas at risk of flooding and further work was needed to ensure climate emergency considerations were fully addressed and new development demonstrated high quality design standards and energy efficiency. Reference was made to the affordability crisis and the need for safe, quality housing to be available to all rather than additional housing numbers on the scale proposed. Further concerns were expressed around the impact of further development on the road network, the lack of good public transport services and the need for additional investment in infrastructure and employment opportunities. Reference was made to the importance of seeking the support of local MPs in addressing these concerns and in lobbying government for a reduction in

housing numbers to a level that was deliverable. Executive Members urged all councillors to be proactive and to encourage local residents to get involved in shaping future plans and lobbying government and local MPs.

Resolved:

(1) that the Local Plan vision and strategic priorities for plan making as set out in paragraphs 3.5 and 3.7 of the report be approved and adopted;

(2) that the proposed North Somerset Local Plan spatial strategy be endorsed for further testing and assessment and to act as the framework for the preparation of the Consultation Draft Plan:

Priority will be given to locating new residential and mixed use development in or close to urban areas where there is an existing or proposed wide range of facilities, services and jobs, and there are opportunities to encourage active travel, particularly at locations which are currently, or have the potential to be, well served by public transport. Employment opportunities will be encouraged at accessible locations well-related to the urban areas and where sustainable transport opportunities can be maximised. Residential development in areas at risk of flooding will be minimised outside the towns. The amount of development at villages and in the countryside will relate to local community needs.

(3) that the following sequential approach to the assessment and identification of the broad locations for growth (housing and employment) be agreed for inclusion in the North Somerset Local Plan:

(a) Existing planning permissions expected to be implemented during the plan period, then

(b) Maximise urban capacity within the towns of Weston-super-Mare, Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead, then

(c) Consider opportunities for town expansion outside the Green Belt, then

(d) Consider opportunities at other sustainable settlements outside the Green Belt for an appropriate scale of growth, then

(e) Consider small scale opportunities at villages, then

(f) Other opportunities outside the Green Belt, and finally

(g) Opportunities within the Green Belt well related to urban areas and where harm to the Green Belt is minimised (subject to exceptional circumstances being demonstrated to justify changes to Green Belt boundaries); and

(4) that the following broad locations and indicative capacities be agreed for further testing and assessment:

(a) Weston-super-Mare (about 3,000 dwellings)

(b) Nailsea (about 1,500 dwellings)

(c) Yatton/Backwell (total of about 1,000 dwellings)

(d) Other villages (total of about 500 dwellings – locations to be identified)

(e) Green Belt (exceptional circumstances, potential locations and capacity to be identified)

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

EXE 10 Draft Recycling and Waste Strategy (Agenda Item 10)

Councillor Solomon introduced the item as this matter now came within his portfolio. At Councillor Solomon's invitation, Councillor Petty presented the report. She welcomed the draft strategy, referring to the Council's vision in terms of recycling and waste and outlining the proposals for engagement with residents and businesses before producing a final strategy for Executive approval.

Members welcomed the strategy and referred to the need to engage with supermarkets and retailers to encourage them to become plastic free. Reference was made to the importance of progress with the Environment Bill in enabling local authorities to address some of these issues.

It was noted that the council was already one of the top performing authorities in the region for recycling and that the strategy set challenging targets with the aspiration of becoming the top performing authority in England. Members thanked local residents and businesses for their efforts in achieving high levels of recycling and referred to the benefits both for the climate emergency and the budget of continuing to make further progress and improvement. Members also thanked officers for their work on the new strategy.

Resolved:

(1) that the draft recycling and waste strategy document be approved for public consultation; and

(2) that the Executive Member for Waste be authorised to agree the final consultation content, in consultation with officers, before launching.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

EXE 11 Approval to Expand Ravenswood Special School, Nailsea (Agenda Item 11)

Councillor Gibbons presented the report. She referred to the increasing demand for places for pupils with learning difficulties and the benefits of providing enough local provision to satisfy this demand. She referred to the consultation process that had been undertaken and the positive support for the proposals. The Children and Young People's Services Panel was supportive of the proposals as was the school's governing body. She confirmed local provision would avoid many pupils having to travel long distances or out of area to access a suitable school, and that any required capital improvements would have regard to energy efficiency and sustainability standards.

Resolved: that the expansion of Ravenswood Special School, Nailsea from a range of 112 -119 places to a range of 134 – 140 places to help to meet the increasing demand for pupil places for those with moderate learning difficulties be approved.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

EXE 12 Approval of North Somerset Parking Standards SPD for Public Consultation (Agenda Item 12)

Councillor Canniford presented the report as this matter now came within his portfolio. He outlined the key objectives of the SPD and the range of updates proposed, including the provision for electric vehicle charging infrastructure for all new homes and the introduction of a 'Parking Needs Assessment' to assist officers in determining a suitable level of parking for the area.

In discussing the report members urged local residents and businesses to respond to the consultation to ensure the final SPD reflected the realities of parking need in local communities.

Resolved: that the revised Parking Standards SPD be approved for public consultation, following internal officer consultation.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

EXE 13 HIF Banwell Bypass: Update and Statutory Consents (Agenda Item 13)

Councillor Bridger presented the report as this matter now came within his portfolio. He outlined the core objectives as set out in paragraph 3.4 of the report and the importance at this stage of gathering as much information as possible regarding the land required to construct the bypass scheme to ensure the council could satisfy the conditions of the Grant Development Agreement (GDA). He referred to the tight timescales for delivery of the scheme which required compulsory purchase powers to be progressed alongside negotiations with landowners in the event the land could not be acquired by voluntary agreement. He thanked the officers involved for their work on this.

In discussing the report reference was made to the impact of the bypass on neighbouring villages and the importance of ensuring opportunities for improved links to the local road network, improvements to sustainable and active travel routes and improvement to public transport links were all addressed. With reference to the inclusion within the core objectives of the reduction and offsetting of carbon emissions and an increase in biodiversity net gain of at least 10% it was noted there was a commitment to achieving

these objectives and that discussions were ongoing to reach a consensus on how best to deliver these.

Resolved: that the terms of the Housing Infrastructure Fund Grant Development Agreement (“GDA”) entered into between Homes England and North Somerset Council on 24 August 2020 be noted, and thereafter the Executive authorise:-

(a) the carrying out of formal land referencing (including issuing requisitions for information under the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 and/or under the Highways Act 1980) across the area of development being considered for the Banwell Bypass (“the Bypass”) in order to identify landowners, their interests and to gather as much information as possible about the land within the potential route alignments;

(b) the entry into of negotiations with landowners and others with an interest in the relevant land for the acquisition of land or rights in land that may be required for or in connection with the proposed Bypass;

(c) the acquisition by voluntary agreement of land or rights in land required for the Bypass (subject to the relevant financial limits, whereby the decision to proceed with any purchase in excess of the relevant financial limits would be referred to Full Council for authorisation); and

(d) the taking of all steps (including the drafting of a compulsory purchase order and related documentation) necessary to prepare for a subsequent report to Full Council to determine use of compulsory purchase powers to acquire the land and rights in land required for the Bypass.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

EXE Budget Monitor – Month 11 2020/21 (Agenda Item 14)

14

Councillor Cartman presented the report. He thanked the finance team for their work on the budget and confirmed that end of year figures reflected those within this report. However he referred to the ongoing uncertainties and risks around the Covid emergency and funding from central government and warned against complacency. He welcomed the additional financial support the council had received from central government during the year and hoped this support would continue over the coming months.

The Head of Finance reported this was a holding position but confirmed forecasts were largely on target and on budget. She stated that any remaining Covid grant funding would be used to support a range of impacts across the council’s budget for the coming year and with reference to budget variances confirmed additional money had been allocated to some legacy budget shortfalls.

The Chairman thanked all staff and contractors for their hard work in getting to this position.

Resolved:

(1) that the projected revenue and capital budget forecasts as detailed within the report be noted, including the likely impacts that the Covid-19 emergency response and associated funding may have on the Council's overall financial position in the short and medium-term;

(2) that the amendments to the revenue budget in respect of additional Covid-19 grant funding be approved; and

(3) that the amendments to the capital budgets as detailed within Appendix 4 of the report be approved.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

EXE 15 Executive Appointments on Outside Bodies (Agenda Item 15)

Councillor Bell proposed the following changes to the nominations for the coming year:

1. Bristol Water Challenge Panel - Councillor Haverson had stepped down leaving a vacancy. He proposed that he and the Leader be authorised to agree a nomination to fill the vacancy in due course
2. Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group - Councillor Richardson to replace Councillor McQuillan
3. North Somerset Levels Internal Drainage Board - Green Group: Councillor Haverson to replace Councillor Petty; Labour Group: Councillor Gibbons to replace Councillor Cronnelly.

All other appointments as listed to remain unchanged, subject to those appointments by designation to be updated to reflect the new Executive Member portfolios.

Resolved:

(1) that the appointments contained in the updated schedule attached as an appendix to these minutes be approved and adopted for the 2021/22 municipal year; and

(2) that the Leader and Deputy Leader be authorised to fill the vacancy on the Bristol Water Challenge Panel in due course.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

EXE 16 Contracts Awarded over £250,000 – Information Report (Agenda Item 16)

The Head of Finance presented the report.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

EXE Oral reports of Executive Councillors (Agenda Item 17)

17

Councillor Petty updated members on the Hinkley Marine Licence Application and on the Waste & Recycling NSEC and shared presentation slides as previously circulated to members, a copy of which is filed on the minute book. She explained the reasons why the Council did not support EDF's licence application and reported that a public inquiry had been requested to provide independent examination of the issues. Members welcomed the update and supported the request for a public inquiry to provide robust evidence and reassure local residents. Councillor Petty also referred to the forthcoming elections on 6 May and expressed the hope that all those involved would show respect to each other during this time. She thanked election staff for all their work in supporting the elections and for the assistance provided to neighbouring authorities.

Councillor Gibbons welcomed Councillor Holland to the Children's Services team in her new Assistant Executive Member role. She referred to a meeting she had recently attended with BME members of the community and expressed sympathies for all those with family and friends in India and elsewhere where Covid remained a significant problem and questioned how best the council could provide support during this difficult time. Other Executive Members echoed these thoughts and it was noted that North Somerset Together and the Equalities Team within the council were currently looking at what support could be offered.

Councillor Bell reported that the outcome of the application to the High Court in relation to virtual meeting provision had been announced and meant virtual meetings would not be permitted beyond May. He suggested this would present significant challenges until such time as social distancing measures had been lifted and may result in some meetings being deferred or cancelled. He hoped the government would not delay in bringing forward appropriate legislation to allow for the continuation of virtual meetings.

Chairman

Organisation	No. of Appts. & Category	Authority Granted by	Representative(s)	Term of Office Expires	Name & Address of Correspondent
Archive and Heritage Advisory Panel	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Cllr John Crockford-Hawley	May 2022	Tom Mayberry, South West Heritage tom.mayberry@swheritage.org.uk
Avon Pension Fund Committee	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Cllr John Cato	May 2022	Mark Durnford, Democratic Services B&NES Council Democratic_services@bathnes.gov.uk
Bristol Airport Environmental Improvement Fund Committee	4 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Cllr Steve Bridger Cllr Hugh Gregor Cllr Steve Hogg Cllr Bridget Petty	May 2022	Jacqui Mills, Public Relations and Community Manager, Bristol Airport Jacqui.Mills@bristolairport.com
Bristol Water Challenge Panel	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	VACANCY	May 2022	Tony Denham, Bristol Water plc BWchallengepanel@bristolwater.co.uk
Campus Management Committee	3 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Cllr Sarah Codling Cllr Peter Crew Cllr David Hitchins	May 2022	Tracey Dover, Clerk to the Campus Management Committee Tracey.Dover@clf.uk
Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Cllr Geoff Richardson	May 2022	Jill Callander, SSG Secretariat Co-ordinator, Magnox Ltd hinkley.ssg@magnoxsites.com
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Services (by designation)	May 2022	Olga Pepper, Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority O.Pepper@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk

Organisation	No. of Appts. & Category	Authority Granted by	Representative(s)	Term of Office Expires	Name & Address of Correspondent
Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership Committee	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Services (by designation) [Councillor Karin Haverson as substitute]	May 2022	Jim Hardcastle, Manager, Mendip Hills, AONB Unit jim@mendiphillsaonb.org.uk (Copy to John Flannigan, Community and Environment Service Manager, NSC John.Flannigan@n-somerset.gov.uk)
North Somerset Levels Internal Drainage Board	15 (5:4:3:2:1) [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Cllr Steve Bridger (I) Cllr John Cato (I) Cllr Mark Crosby (I) Cllr Catherine Gibbons (L) Cllr Ann Harley (C) Cllr Karin Haverson (G) Cllr Steve Hogg (I) Cllr James Tonkin (I) Cllr Richard Westwood (LD)* Peter Burden (C) Dave Dash (L) Bob Garner (C) Peter Harris (LD) Clive Webb (C) Deborah Yamanaka (LD) <i>[(LD)* denotes Labour Group member nominated by Lib Dem Group]</i>	May 2022	Roger Burge Clerk to the North Somerset Levels Internal Drainage Board RBurge@somersetdbs.co.uk

Organisation	No. of Appts. & Category	Authority Granted by	Representative(s)	Term of Office Expires	Name & Address of Correspondent
North Somerset Partnership	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Cllr Don Davies	May 2022	Lorraine Bush, Policy & Partnerships Development Officer lorraine.bush@n-somerset.gov.uk
South West Councils	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Leader by designation (or his representative)	May 2022	South West Councils info@swcouncils.gov.uk
South West Employers Panel	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Leader by designation (or his representative)	May 2022	South West Councils info@swcouncils.gov.uk
Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 14/2019-20	Cllr Bridget Petty	May 2023 (4-year term)	Stacie Bristow Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Secretariat The Environment Agency WessexRFCC@environment-agency.gov.uk
West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Overview & Scrutiny Committee	3 (1:1:1) [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Cllr Mike Bird (I) Cllr Peter Crew (C) Cllr Huw James (LD) (Group Leader Nominations)	May 2022	Ian Hird Ian.Hird@westofengland-ca.gov.uk democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk

Organisation	No. of Appts. & Category	Authority Granted by	Representative(s)	Term of Office Expires	Name & Address of Correspondent
West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Transport Board	2 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Executive Member for Public Transport (by designation) Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Services (by designation)	May 2022	<u>Ian Hird</u> democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Western Gateway Sub-national Transport Board	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Executive Member for Strategic Transport (by designation)	May 2022	WesternGatewaySTB@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
Contact Officer: Roz Hime, Democratic Services, Roz.Hime@n-somerset.gov.uk					
Guide to Expenses Categories: N - Expenses not paid by the Council and any claim should be submitted to the Outside Body concerned. Y - Only travel expenses to the main meeting place to be submitted to the Council. Any other travel expenses will require prior authorisation before travel to establish if payment will be made.					