

Minutes

of the Meeting of

The Executive

Wednesday, 27 April 2022

New Council Chamber, Town Hall

Meeting Commenced: 2.31 pm

Meeting Concluded: 3.36 pm

Councillors:

Donald Davies (Chairman)

Mark Canniford
Ashley Cartman
Bridget Petty
Mike Solomon

Apologies: Councillor Mike Bell (Vice-Chairman) .

Also in attendance: Councillors: Robert Payne (Assistant Executive Member), Geoffrey Richardson

Officers in attendance: Jo Walker (Chief Executive), Amy Webb (Director of Corporate Services), Sheila Smith (Director of Children's Services), Matt Lenny (Director of Public Health), Nicholas Brain (Assistant Director Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer), Sally Varley (Service Leader - Strategic Planning and Governance) and Simone Woolley (Customer and Digital Services Manager).

Partaking via Microsoft Teams:

Councillors: Steve Bridger (Executive Member), Catherine Gibbons (Executive Member) Nicola Holland (Assistant Executive Member), John Cato, Ruth Jacobs, Karin Haverson, Nigel Ashton, Mike Bird, Caritas Charles

Officers: Lucy Shomali (Director of Place), Hayley Verrico (Director of Adult Social Services), Naomi Addicott (Senior Project Manager), Sue Efford (Committee and Support Services Manager), Hazel Brinton (Democratic Services Officer) and Melanie Watts (Head of Finance).

EXE 98 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Standing Order 37)

None declared.

EXE 99 Minutes

1) Executive – 2 February 2022

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

(2) Extraordinary Executive – 14 March 2022

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

The Assistant Director Legal and Governance updated members on the outcome of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive on 14 March 2022 and noted that after negotiations the contract would continue with any changes being signed off under Director delegated authority. No further report would therefore come back to the Executive.

EXE 100 Non-Executive Councillors' Addresses

None received.

EXE 101 West of England Sub-Region: items not dealt with elsewhere on this agenda

The Chairman noted a call-in of a joint committee decision to take place on 3 May 2022 with the agenda and papers being available on the West of England Combined Authority website.

EXE 102 Forward Plan dated 1 April 2022

Resolved: that the forward plan be noted.

EXE 103 Customer Service Strategy

Councillor Cartman presented the report noting that the key theme was an ongoing transition to a digital offering to customers as it was how the majority of residents wished to engage with the council and that it was more cost-effective. He added that members' concerns with the digital approach had been considered and changes to the strategy as a result were noted in the appendix. Face to face appointments would be extended particularly in the north of the district through the use of the library facilities.

In discussing the report, members thanked officers for their work in preparing the strategy. They noted concerns with the council's current offering via its website and expressed a need for this to be improved to encourage customers to interact digitally with the council. It was highlighted that a detail action plan would be coming forward and members were invited to have input into this.

Members acknowledged that it was vital to communicate how those who did not use technology could interact with the council in the future and how they could access face to face appointments. It was noted that this would be via publicising face to face appointment times; a better concierge facility at the Town Hall to signpost customers and offer appointment booking there and then and an improved telephony offer. Members welcomed the use of libraries as community hubs and noted their use as such meant customers would be able to access face to face appointments closer to where they lived.

Members suggested the use of a "Report It" application to free up officer time and

the raising of awareness of the pilot scheme via North Somerset Life and via the engagement of parish and town councils. Members queried whether targets and key performance indicators would be used to plot progress through the five-year period of the strategy. It was confirmed that these would be in the forthcoming Action Plan.

Resolved: that the Executive endorsed the principles, aims and activities of the council's Customer Service Strategy for the period 2022 – 2027 and approved the adoption of the strategy.

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 104 Consultation Outcomes and Revised Budget for the Expansion and Creation of a Second Site for Baytree School - 2023/24 School Year

Councillor Gibbons outlined the report noting that the council had a statutory duty to provide education for pupils with Severe and Profound Learning Difficulties. She added that the current site was no longer capable of providing the physical facilities required by some pupils.

In presenting her report, she highlighted that an additional capital budget of £3.2m was required as a result of project delays, historical levels of inflation in the construction industry and the need for robust project management. She added that the delays had enabled further consultation to take place. The responses from the additional consultation were detailed in the report.

In discussing the report, members noted their disappointment with the delays to the project and the impact on pupils but welcomed the positive responses during the additional consultation period from residents of North Somerset who would not directly benefit from the construction of the school.

Resolved:

(1) that the Executive approved the expansion and creation of a second site for Baytree School, The Campus, Highlands Lane, Weston super Mare from a 72-place provision to a 120-place school located on the existing site and a new site off Brookfield Walk, Clevedon with effect from, at the earliest, 1 September 2023 and

(2) that the Executive approved the additional capital budget of £3,202,020 as noted within the financial section of this report to enable a revised project budget of £18,297,020.

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
105 North Somerset Housing Strategy**

Councillor Canniford presented the report. He noted that the strategy was an important and ambitious action plan to deliver affordable homes in sustainable neighbourhoods; improve and make the best use of existing homes and provide solutions, support and choice to those in housing need.

He added that the strategy cut across a number of teams and services including planning policy and the Local Plan and the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy. He commented that the council was looking for 40% affordable housing within housing developments and for the standard of build to be much higher.

Members made comments, asked questions and received responses on the level of rental costs in Weston-s-Mare versus elsewhere in North Somerset; the relation of the strategy to the development of council-owned land; a request to update the rental values diagram and re-circulate to members; who decides what constitutes a “minor” decision; how the council will deliver better, more sustainable and affordable housing; how the council will ensure the quality of new build housing; how the council will bring back empty properties into use and the incentives that can be employed; the quality of some private rental properties and the support given to those who are homeless or sleeping rough.

Resolved:

(1) that the Executive approved the Housing Strategy 2022-2027 as set out in Annexe A of the report for publication and implementation and

(2) that the Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Adult Services, Health and Housing, be given delegated authority to make any required minor changes to the strategy prior to publication and to agree regular updates.

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
106 Public Space Protection Orders**

In presenting the report, Councillor Solomon explained the background and reasons for Public Space Protection Orders. He noted that there was a change to the recommendation as laid out in the report to exclude several proposals. He highlighted to members that the council now had the legal power to enforce the request for a name from a member of public.

In discussing the report, members made comments, asked questions and received responses on the lack of “no dogs” signage for dog walkers; more signage in respect of the dangers of swimming in Portishead Marina; the littering of hedgerows with bags of dog waste; the use of disposable BBQs and littering on Weston Beach and the need to be creative in the use of signage to engage members of the public with their message.

It was noted that several proposals had been removed at this time as it was not clear from responses that they were widely supported however, members of the public were encouraged to continue to make representations to their ward members on the items removed as it may be appropriate to include them at a later point if support for them was evidenced.

Resolved:

That the Executive approved the changes to Public Space Protection Orders as set out in section 3 of the report with the exception of 3.4.2 (fires on Weston seafront), 3.4.4 (feeding birds on Weston seafront), 3.4.5 (antisocial use of watercraft on Weston seafront), 3.5.1 (swimming in Portishead Marina), which would not be implemented at this time.

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 107 Commissioning Plan - Care and Support Provider for Diamond Court and Lakeside Court Extra Care Housing Development In Worle

Councillor Canniford presented the report noting that it was important to approve the Commissioning Plan for the Care and Support Provider as the contract expired later in the year and continuity of service was important. He added that Extra Care Housing was an important part of the housing mix in North Somerset and placements provided savings to the council as they helped delay or prevent more extensive residential placements.

Resolved:

That the Executive approved the commissioning plan to proceed to tender for a care and support service at a Diamond Court and Lakeside Court Extra Care Housing schemes.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report.

EXE 108 Month 10 Budget Monitor and Financial Update

Councillor Cartman presented the report drawing members' attention to an additional £4m from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) including £1.2m for social care projects and £2.4m for the Healthier Together Matched Funding S256 agreement including support for the voluntary sector with a focus on debt and financial advice.

He highlighted the request for delegated authority to officers to submit an Investment Plan to the Government in respect of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund as the turnaround time was tight to submit the plan to secure a potential £3m of funding. He added that the report indicated a small positive balance at year end.

The Director of Corporate Services reported on an improved revenue budget position and a simplification of the reports to highlight key messages as well as noting that the receipt from the CCG would push up the council's year end earmarked reserves.

The Chairman noted his thanks to all officers for continuing to deliver services within a challenging financial environment.

Resolved:

(1) that the Executive noted the projected revenue and capital budget forecasts as detailed within the report

(2) that the Executive approved the amendments to the capital budgets as detailed within Appendix 4

(3) that the Executive agreed receipt of two additional contributions from the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to the Integrated Care S256 agreement of £1.223m and £360k respectively and approve that the relevant budgets are increased in line with the proposed spend as required, and as outlined in paragraph 3.5.1

(4) that the Executive agreed receipt of £2.472m from the CCG in relation to the Healthier Together Matched Funding S256 agreement, and approve that the relevant budgets are increased in accordance with the details in paragraph 3.5.2 as required and

(5) that the Executive delegated approval to the Directors of Place and Corporate Services to submit an Investment Plan to the Government in respect of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

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 109 Report of Contracts Awarded Over £250,000 (and Under £5m)

The Chairman indicated the report was for information only.

Resolved:

That the Executive noted the report.

EXE 110 Oral reports of Executive Councillors

Local Plan

Councillor Canniford urged residents to submit their comments on the Local Plan consultation with the imminent deadline for comments to be submitted. He added they could be submitted on the council's website or via their ward member if they could not submit them online.

Retirement of long service officers

The Chairman noted the retirement of both Geoff Wall (Procurement) and Sue Efford (Committee and Support Services Manager) from the council.

He thanked them both for their years of service and support to members.

EXE 111 Urgent business permitted by the Local Government Act 1972 (if any)

None.

Chairman
