



Minutes

of the Meeting of

The Executive

Wednesday, 28 April 2021

held as a Virtual Meeting

Meeting Commenced: 2.30 pm

Meeting Concluded: 4.20 pm

Councillors:

Donald Davies (Chairman)

Mike Bell (Vice-Chairman)

Steve Bridger

Mark Canniford

Ashley Cartman

Catherine Gibbons

BrIDGET Petty

Mike Solomon

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 and James Tonkin.

Officers in attendance: Jo Walker (Chief Executive), Lucy Shomali (Director of Place), Sheila Smith (Director of Children's Services), Hayley Verrico (Interim Director, Adults' Support and Safeguarding), Nicholas Brain (Assistant Director Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer), Michele Chesterman (Democratic and Electoral Services Officer), Sue Efford (Committee and Support Services Manager), Richard Kent (Head of Planning, Place Directorate), Michael Reep (Planning Policy Manager), Mike Riggall (Information and ICT Security Manager), Sally Varley (Service Leader - Strategic Planning and Governance) and Melanie Watts (Head of Finance).

EXE Chairman's Welcome

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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.

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 14 Budget Monitor - Month 11 2020/21 (Agenda Item 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