

MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on Monday, 22 May 2017 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Shepton Mallet commencing at 6.45 pm.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Philip Ham	Portfolio Holder for Transformation
Tom Killen	Vice Chair of Cabinet and Deputy Leader of the Council
John Parham	Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Corporate Services
Harvey Siggs	Chair of Cabinet and Leader of the Council
Nigel Taylor	Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood and Community Health Services
Nigel Woollcombe-Adams	Portfolio Holder for Planning, Growth and Housing Services

ASSISTANT PORTFOLIO HOLDERS PRESENT:

Councillors Simon Davies, Mike Pullin and Alan Townsend

OTHER COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Councillors Bryan Beha, Peter Bradshaw, John Carter, Jeannette Marsh

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Stuart Brown	Chief Executive
Tracy Aarons	Deputy Chief Executive
Donna Nolan	Deputy Chief Executive
Sara Skirton	Group Manager, Corporate Services
Nicola Fensham	Built Environment Technical Team Principal Officer
Ben Sugg	Committee Officer

Agenda Item	Subject	Actioned by
1	Chair's Announcements The Chair explained the procedures in the case of an emergency and asked that all mobile devices be switched to silent.	
2	Apologies for Absence Councillor Danny Unwin	
3	Declarations of Interest None	

<p>4</p>	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>a. Items on the agenda: – none</p> <p>b. Items not on the agenda: – none</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes for the Cabinet meeting held on 10 April 2017 were agreed subject to the following changes.</p> <p>Councillor Philip Ham noted an error on page three of the minutes. Item Seven stated that the Equality Objectives 2016-18 Update was introduced by Councillor John Parham, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Corporate Services. This was incorrect, as the report was introduced by Councillor Philip Ham, Portfolio Holder for Transformation.</p> <p>Councillor Harvey Siggs noted that Item 6 on page two described the Boxworks project, and that this was clearly minuted,</p>	<p>Ben Sugg</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Annual Safeguarding Report</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood and Community Health Services outlined a report which provided an update on the safeguarding arrangements in place at Mendip District Council, post re-structure, and identified the action plan and activities to take place over the next year to ensure continuity of our safeguarding arrangements.</p> <p>During the discussion that followed, Members asked which area of the Council had the most referrals, and whether adequate numbers of Champions were in place. The Officer replied that Housing had the highest number of referrals, followed by Environmental Health. Champions were in place in both teams.</p> <p>Members noted that the report referred to child sexual exploitation, which was a growing problem in rural areas and nationwide. Members asked whether areas other than taxi driver licensing fed into this issue. The Officer explained that several sections of the night-time economy were affected, for example taxi services, bed and breakfasts and hotels. Businesses and individuals working in this sector were encouraged to report anything suspicious, and steps had been taken to ensure that they were aware of the appropriate channels to do so.</p> <p>Members remarked that the whole Council had a duty to address this issue, and asked whether there was scope for the Council to get involved in other efforts to combat child sexual exploitation. Members noted that the Council was in a unique</p>	<p>Nicola Fensham</p>

	<p>position, with Police and Somerset County Council also located at the Shape Mendip Hub, and asked whether MDC could do more. The Officer replied that a multi-agency meeting known as the Shape Mendip One Team was held on a monthly basis, which centred around information sharing between a number of related organisations.</p> <p>Members noted that licensed premises should be looked at within the context of CSE, and that there was a need for 'joined up thinking' with Somerset County Council and Police.</p> <p>In response to questions from Members, the Officer explained that the decision had been taken not to involve Members in the Shape Mendip One Team directly, as highly confidential information relating to specific cases was regularly shared at the meeting.</p> <p>Members commented that feedback would be welcomed from the One Team highlighting general areas of concern but excluding any specific details.</p> <p>Members noted that a referral process was in place, but asked what sort of follow-up could be expected. The Officer explained that once cases were referred to Somerset County Council, the matter was out of the hands of MDC Officers. She further noted that a threshold document was in place, and a proportion of cases were dealt with by organisations at a lower level than SCC.</p> <p>The Deputy Chief Executive noted that a mechanism was in place by which MDC could insist upon re-assessment of a referred case, should SCC determine not to progress it. As such, MDC was able to ensure cases were followed up if Officers had particular concerns.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>To note the update.</p>	
7	<p>Shape the District 2017-2020 – Corporate Strategy</p> <p>The Leader of the Council along with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Corporate Services presented a report which asked the Cabinet to consider a new draft three year Corporate Strategy; <i>Shape the District</i>.</p> <p>Building on the Council's significant achievement to date in securing the future of public services in Mendip through innovation and new ways of working, the Strategy set out a new vision for the council and the two new corporate priorities of Transformation and Inclusive Growth. It included a number of</p>	Sara Skirton

	<p>high level commitments that articulated what the council intended to achieve in order to deliver its priorities.</p> <p>OPTIONS CONSIDERED</p> <p><i>Shape the District</i>, once adopted, would supersede the current Corporate Plan, which focussed on the priorities of Economic Development and Growth and Health and Wellbeing. This Corporate Plan had a duration until 2019 and therefore the Council could continue to use this as the driver for its strategic planning and service delivery. However, most of the objectives within that Plan had been successfully achieved and the Council had undergone such significant transformation in recent years that it was considered appropriate to review the priorities. The thread had not been broken as the priorities in the current corporate plan were reflected in the new Inclusive Growth priority, and the new Transformation priority clearly demonstrated the scale of ongoing change, investment and innovation that would be needed to support the Inclusive Growth priority.</p> <p>During the discussion that followed, Members remarked that the report had presented a good, clear strategy. Noting that the Council was still in purdah, Members agreed to note the strategy as a document in progress.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>To recommend the Shape the District 2017-2020 Corporate Strategy to full Council for adoption.</p> <p>REASONS FOR RESOLUTION</p> <p>To set out the Council's ambitions for the next three years and provide a sound framework for strategic planning and performance management.</p>	
8	<p>Review of Member Representation on Outside Bodies</p> <p>The Assistant Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Corporate Services introduced a report which stated that at its meeting on 11 July 2016, the Cabinet resolved to set up a small cross party working group, Chaired by Councillor Alan Townsend, Assistant Portfolio Holder, to review the Outside Body arrangement and report back to Cabinet in due course.</p> <p>This report had been produced to give the Cabinet an opportunity to consider the findings of the review and decide on Member representation on Outside Bodies in 2017/18.</p>	Claire Dicken

The new Corporate Strategy and the priorities within it would mean that the Outside Body arrangement would need another “light touch” review in due course.

During the discussion that followed, the Chair thanked Councillor Alan Townsend for a valuable piece of work. He noted that the presentation of this report was timely, as there was a need to define the role of District Councillors as opposed to Parish and Town Councillors.

Members noted that while the report stated that there were four or five meetings of the Drainage Board per year, the number was in reality closer to four or five per month if all the various committees were included. Members felt that MDC should increase its representation on these committees so as to make a better contribution.

Cllr Townsend replied that this had been considered, however discussion at the Drainage Committees was often on an extremely detailed level requiring specialist knowledge. Members remarked that the Drainage Committee finances were similarly complex.

The Chair commented that it was important to ensure that MDC was adequately represented, and steps should be taken to look at potential improvement in this area.

Members praised Cllr Townsend for presenting a document that would ordinarily have been produced by a number of Officers, noting that he had put a significant part of the report together himself. Cllr Townsend in turn thanked Claire Dicken for her diligence and support in undertaking a large part of the work.

RESOLVED

1. Note the findings of the Outside Body review
2. Agree the recommendations as set out in Appendix 1 of the report for continuing and ceasing with the Outside Bodies as listed.

REASON FOR RESOLUTION

In order to maintain the smooth running of the outside body arrangement.

<p>9</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder Decisions</p> <p>2017 272 – Acquisition of Parcel WS40482 2017 273 – Elim Direct Access Community Project March 2017 2017 274 – MYMCA and Elim 2017 to 2018 2017 275 – Web Procurement Options 2017 276 – Off Street Parking Order for North Parade car park Frome</p> <p>The portfolio holder decisions were noted.</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>Forward Plan</p> <p>The Council's Forward Plan was noted.</p>	
<p>11</p>	<p>Minutes for Information</p> <p>None</p>	
<p>12</p>	<p>Urgent Business</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Corporate Services noted that confidential papers regarding write-offs had previously been discussed at this stage of the meeting, and while the procedure had been changed this scrutiny function was still available if Members wished to make use of it. It was noted that this had not been requested to date.</p>	<p>Paul Deal</p>

The meeting closed at approximately 7.20 pm.