

Agenda Item Number	Subject	Actioned by
1	<p>Chair's Announcements</p> <p>The Leader of the Council explained the procedures in the case of an emergency and asked that all mobile devices be switched to silent. Hearing aid users were asked to switch their devices to position 'T'.</p> <p>He further explained that this meeting was part of a special joint meeting between the Cabinet and the Scrutiny Board. Both groups would hear the presentations for items 5 to 7. The recommendations of the Scrutiny Board would be fed directly to the meeting of the Cabinet for their consideration ahead of any decisions.</p>	
2	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Councillor Nigel Taylor, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood and Community Health Services. Councillor Tom Killen, Vice Chair of Cabinet and Deputy Leader of the Council. Also, Councillor Linda Oliver, Assistant Portfolio Holder</p>	
3	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>None</p>	
4	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>a. Items on the agenda - None</p> <p>b. Items not on the agenda - None</p>	
5	<p>Somerset Waste Partnership Draft Business Case 2018 – 2023</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth Services introduced a report which sought a decision from the Council on the Somerset Waste Partnership's (SWP) Draft Business Plan 2018-2023. The plan provided a framework within which the Somerset Waste Board could make decisions and steer the delivery of waste partnership services.</p> <p>The actions in the draft business plan set out the most significant set of changes to Somerset's waste services since SWPs inception in 2007. Co-ordinated for maximum</p>	Liz Dawson

impact and value the changes spanned all three major contracts for waste collection, treatment, disposal and infrastructure (including vehicles). It also developed SWPs capability, in some instances working in partnership with others, to support Somerset residents in wasting less and recycling more, with residual waste becoming a fuel stock to generate energy.

Following all partners' approval to implement Recycle More, the original delivery plan was to negotiate this with our current collection contractor (Kier). As it was not possible to reach agreement with Kier in a way which delivered the benefits that partners required, SWB have, by mutual consent with Kier, agreed to bring forward the expiry date of our current collection contract from September 2021 to 27 March 2020. SWB has undertaken a major review of the commissioning options and proposes to undertake a competitive dialogue procurement to secure a new collection contractor following the expiry of the contract with Kier.

Mickey Green, Managing Director of the Somerset Waste Partnership gave a presentation about the Business Plan.

Following consideration of the report and the presentation from Mickey Green the Scrutiny Board endorsed the recommendations that had been set out within the report.

In response to queries, raised by Members of the Cabinet, the relevant Portfolio Holder confirmed that the current contractor would be obligated to provide suitable vehicles, perhaps by hiring other vehicles from elsewhere to provide the service to the end of the current contract.

Also, there was no intention to change the kerbside recycling sorting method because this had proven to be the cleanest way of producing recycled material.

There was a concern about the amount of cardboard being used by consumers' internet shopping. Members hoped that the waste industry together with Councils may be able to influence the government to introduce restrictions on such use.

Members agreed that fly-tipping on private land was a real nuisance, particularly for land owners and that more should be done to combat the problem.

Members further hoped that the Somerset Waste Partnership could reconsider whether recycling centres across the district could be open longer hours particularly on Sundays.

	<p>RESOLVED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the Somerset Waste Partnership's Draft Business Plan 2018-23, in particular the proposed approach to the procurement of a new collection contract as set out in the report. 2. Note that, in line with their delegated authority and in order to implement Recycle More as requested by partners, Somerset Waste Board have agreed with Kier to bring forward the expiry date of the current collection contract from September 2021 to 27 March 2020. 3. To approve the projected budget for 2018/19 subject to the comments in Section 8 of the report relating to the finalisation of the budget. 4. To review the feasibility of monitoring fly-tipping on private land and report back to Cabinet in due course. 5. To lobby government to address the issue of wasteful packaging. <p>REASON FOR THE RESOLUTION</p> <p>To set the future strategic direction for Somerset waste services.</p>	
	The Chair altered the order of the items as follows	
11	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes for the Cabinet meeting held on 13 November 2017 were agreed as a correct record of proceedings, except for item 8 which appeared on pages 5 – 8. This minute was deferred to the next meeting of the Cabinet.</p>	Claire Dicken
6	<p>ID Verde Contract Update</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Corporate Services introduced a report which stated that the Core Services Contract had commenced on 1 November 2012 and the first three years saw the incorporation of various services that were historically contracted out to different suppliers, mobilised into one contract with ID Verde.</p>	Elizabeth Dawson

The contract was half way through its contract life cycle, which provided an opportunity to undertake a fundamental review. This report summarised the outcome of this review and the next steps to ensure the continued delivery of value for money and quality services.

A number of modifications and additions to the contract had recently been proposed by the Core Services Strategic Board and tested operationally to prove that they were fit for purpose and contributed to the delivery of services that were value for money.

The Core Services Strategic Board requested that Cabinet endorse these contract variations. The Board also requested the authority to approve future contract variations through delegation to the Core Services Strategic Board.

Following consideration of the report the Scrutiny Board endorsed the recommendations that had been set out within it.

During the discussion that followed by Members of the Cabinet the relevant Portfolio Holder explained in more detail the reasons for changing the terms of the contract, including the introduction of more precise performance measurement and control as well as the contractual implications of National Living Wage legislation.

Members welcomed the introduction of working more closely with the Town and Parish Councils, including inviting them to attend some meetings of the Core Services Contract Strategic Board where appropriate.

The Leader of the Council further suggested that a member of the Scrutiny Board also be invited to join the Core Services Contract Strategic Board.

RESOLVED

The following Contract Variations:

1. The adoption of the Change Mechanism as a means of managing the costs of the contract and enabling the modelling of innovations to service delivery.
2. The inclusion of re-measured work quantities relating to grounds maintenance and street cleansing into the Change Mechanism to reflect accurately the quantity of work being contracted out, agreeing the net increase in cost of £13,089 per annum.

3. The adoption of a new Performance Quality Management System in its revised and developed form as one means to control the quality of contract performance.
4. The revised Facilities Management cost of £279,000 per annum to reflect the cost of managing the Shape Mendip site post Phoenix.
5. The retrospective application of inflationary index GM87 and efficiency saving of 1.5% per annum since the beginning of the contract; in accordance with the contract terms.

The following delegations:

6. To the Core Services Strategic Board to approve future variations to the contract, providing that any variation that is a key decision will be referred to Cabinet.
7. To Members of the Core Services Strategic Board to resolve the financial implications associated with the National Living Wage through implementation of service improvement plan and delivery of savings/efficiencies that do not impact on front line service delivery.
8. To the Deputy Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer to enter into appropriate contract documentation to reflect the matters set out in this report.

General

9. That a Member of the Scrutiny Board be invited to join the Core Services Strategic Board.
10. That an invitation to attend the Operational Board should be extended, from time to time, to all Town Councils.

REASON FOR THE RESOLUTION

To apply innovative tools to the process of contract management in order to deliver services that deliver value for money and are flexible to the changing needs of the Council.. To apply new National Living Wage legislation to the contract.

	<p>The delegation of authority to the Core Services Strategic Board for approval of future variations to the contract enables a more appropriate and efficient governance process.</p>	
	<p>Exclusion of The Press and Public</p> <p>Cabinet passed a resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting during item 7 on the grounds that except information (as defined in Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972) of the following description is likely to be disclosed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 3 – Information relating to the finances or business affairs of any particular person (including those of the Council) 	
7	<p>Five Councils Corporate Service Contract</p> <p>The Leader presented an exempt report, inviting Cabinet to consider and make recommendations to Full Council regarding the Five Councils Corporate Services Contracts.</p> <p>RESOLVED as set out in the restricted minute.</p>	Donna Nolan
	<p>The meeting returned to open session</p>	
8	<p>Heart of the South West Joint Committee Proposal</p> <p>The Leader of the Council introduced a report which sought approval that the Council, together with other authorities in Devon and Somerset, the Local Enterprise Partnership, Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks and three Clinical Commissioning Groups, form a Joint Committee for the Heart of the South West. The arrangements were set out in Appendices A and B of the report.</p> <p>The report and its appendices would be considered for approval by all constituent authorities.</p> <p>OPTIONS CONSIDERED</p> <p>There were two options and alternatives that Members might consider:</p> <p>Option 1 - Do nothing and continue with informal arrangements within the Partnership. However, feedback from Government was they preferred to work 'at scale' and</p>	Stuart Brown

are looking more favourably at areas that have a unity of vision and purpose.

Option 2 - Move to a Combined Authority. The Partnership now need to review the option of establishing a Combined Authority at some point following the indication from the Minister that there will be no requirement to have an elected mayor in order to pursue our ambitions. Establishing a Combined Authority requires a substantial lead in time to allow for the Parliamentary approval process and would inevitably require the creation of a shadow Combined Authority to test and confirm the concept. The potential benefits of moving to a Combined Authority model will have to be judged against the implications of doing so, including the cost implications. The Joint Committee has the benefit of allowing the Partnership to move relatively quickly to establish a Combined Authority if that is the wish of the partners.

During the discussion that followed Members agreed to join a Joint Committee for the Heart of the South West as recommended.

It was further suggested that pressure be put on government that more investment be made in the South West.

With regard to the Heart of the South West Joint Committee – Draft Arrangements, it was suggested that the arrangements for the appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee be re-examined so that it would not be possible for there to be a new Chair and Vice Chair at each meeting.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet recommends the Council to:

1. Approve the recommendation of the Heart of the South West Leaders (meeting as a shadow Joint Committee) to form a Joint Committee for the Heart of the South West;
2. (a) Approve the Arrangements and the principles of the draft Inter-Authority Agreement set out in appendices A and B for the establishment of the Joint Committee with the commencement date of Monday 22 January 2018;

(b) Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Leader,

to finalise the form and enter into the Inter Authority Agreement.

(c) Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Leader, to make variations to the Inter-Authority Agreement as recommended by the Joint Committee.

3. Appoint Councillor Harvey Siggs, Leader of the Council and Councillor Tom Killen, Deputy Leader of the Council as the Council's named representatives and substitute named representative on the Joint Committee;
4. Appoint Somerset County Council as the Administering Authority for the Joint Committee for a two year period commencing 22nd January 2018;
5. Approve the transfer of the remaining joint devolution budget to meet the support costs of the Joint Committee for the remainder of 2017/18 financial year subject to approval of any expenditure by the Administering Authority;
6. Approve an initial contribution of £1400 for 2018/19 to fund the administration and the work programme of the Joint Committee, noting that any expenditure will be subject to the approval of the Administering Authority;
7. Agree that the key function of the Joint Committee is to approve the Productivity Strategy, noting that the intention that the Joint Committee will approve the Strategy in February 2018;
8. Authorise the initial work programme of the Joint Committee aimed at the successful delivery of the Productivity Strategy;
9. Agree the proposed meeting arrangements for the Joint Committee including the timetable of meetings for the Joint Committee.

REASON FOR THE RESOLUTION

Without a Joint Committee in place, the HotSW area would continue to struggle to position itself to be able to take advantage of Government policy initiatives and new funding opportunities compared to those areas that had and were establishing formal strategic partnerships.

	<p>Council Tax Support Policy – Review and Plans for 2018-19</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Corporate Services introduced a report which stated that each year Central Government (DCLG) required local authorities to approve a Policy for helping those in need to claim a reduction in council tax. Whilst central government determined the level for pension age claimants, the Policy for working age claimants was discretionary. Since the current Council Tax Support Policy started in April 2013 Mendip had retained the same Policy, currently helping 6,456 households and reducing council tax in 2017/18 by over £5.4m. Following a review by the Council Tax Reduction Members Panel in June 2017, it was recommended that the Policy remain unchanged for 2018/19.</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder further suggested that a review be carried out as to whether it may be possible to include young people leaving care in the Council Tax Support Scheme..</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the recommendation of “no change” in our Council Tax Support Policy for 2018/19. 2. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Governance, Finance and Corporate Services in consultation to review whether it was possible to provide Council Tax Support for young people leaving care. <p>REASON FOR THE RESOLUTION</p> <p>The Policy had been in place since April 2013 and was meeting the needs of those who genuinely need help paying their council tax.</p> <p>The cost of the scheme had generally fallen over time as numbers of claimants had fallen. The Hardship element had not been exceeded in any of the years but remained an effective part of the scheme to deal with hardship and exceptional individual circumstances.</p>	<p>Steve Shrimplin</p>
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<p>10</p>	<p>Discretionary Business Rate Relief Policy 2018-19</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Governance, Finance and Corporate Services introduced a report which stated that business ratepayers could receive quite a wide range of discretionary rate relief.</p> <p>Mendip had a long standing Policy and budget of providing discretionary relief to local businesses and organisations that was in line with corporate priorities.</p> <p>Feedback strongly supported the view that these reliefs continued to be very successful in assisting local businesses and organisations to reduce their business rates. They supplemented the mandatory reliefs and discounts provided by Central Government, such as small business rate relief, which meant we could lower business rates whilst maximising central government contributions.</p> <p>It was proposed that the established discretionary policy continue for 2018/19.</p> <p>This policy was part of a wider package of business support to deliver Mendip’s corporate priority of economic development.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To set a level of discretionary rate relief expenditure for 2018/19 at an estimated cost to Mendip of £40,000. 2. To continue the level of awards to the specified categories of businesses and organisation as from 1 April 2018, subject to the over-riding criteria listed. 3. To reserve the right to review the decision should a change in legislation involve the Council in additional cost. <p>REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>A discretionary rate relief policy, as set within the national legislation, was an effective means for local businesses and organisations that met Mendip’s priorities to receive reduced business rates bills.</p>	<p>Steve Shrimplin</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Treasury Management Strategy Statement - Mid-Year Review 2017/2018</p>	<p>Paul Deal</p>

	<p>The Portfolio Holder for Governance, Finance and Corporate Services introduced a report which reviewed the treasury performance for the first 6 months of 2017/18, and building on the success of the commercial investment strategy, sought to further increase the borrowing approval limit.</p> <p>Investing funding to generate an appropriate return that helped deliver a sustainable Medium Term Resource Strategy was fundamental to the Council's ability to demonstrate and achieve value for money in its operations.</p> <p>Under the Prudential Code, the Council is free to set its own borrowing limitations as long as they are prudent and affordable.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council noted that the Council's borrowing strategy had started to deliver new revenue streams..</p> <p>There was a discussion as to the possible level of increasing the borrowing limit in order to undertake further commercial investment to generate additional income. Members agreed the level should be increased, but that it would be for full Council to determine the amount.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the half-yearly performance against 2017/18 investment strategy. 2. Note the current treasury activity and the mid-year report; 3. To increase the borrowing approval limit in order to undertake further commercial investment to generate additional income subject to full Council's recommendations. 	
<p>13</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder Decisions</p> <p>There were no recent Portfolio Holder decisions to note.</p>	
<p>14</p>	<p>Forward Plan</p> <p>The Forward Plan was noted.</p>	
<p>15</p>	<p>Minutes for Information</p> <p>There were no minutes for information to note.</p>	

16	Urgent Business There were no items of urgent business.	

The meeting closed at approximately 9.55 pm.