

## MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on Monday, 8 January 2018 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Shepton Mallet commencing at 6.30 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, Tim Rice and Mike Pullin

### OTHER COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Councillors Adam Boyden, Peter Bradshaw, John Carter, Edward Drewe, Des Harris, Claire Hudson, Roy Mackenzie, Terry Napper, Graham Noel, Dick Skidmore, Alan Townsend, Danny Unwin and Ros Wyke

### OFFICERS PRESENT:

Stuart Brown	Chief Executive
Paul Deal	Section 151 Officer
Claire Dicken	Committee Officer
Sara Skirton	Group Manager Corporate Services

### ALSO PRESENT:

Rob Taylor                      Divisional Manager of Fusion Leisure

Agenda Item	Subject	Actioned by
1	<b>Chair's Announcements</b>  The Chair explained the procedures in the case of an emergency and asked that all mobile devices be switched to silent.	
2	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>  Councillors Joanna Beale and Linda Oliver	

3	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>None</p>	
4	<p><b>Public Participation</b></p> <p>a. <b>Items on the agenda:</b> – none</p> <p>b. <b>Items not on the agenda:</b> – none</p>	
5	<p><b>Previous Minutes</b></p> <p>The minutes for the Cabinet meeting held on 13 December 2017 were agreed.</p> <p>Also, Members had been given a copy of item 8 of the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 13 November 2017. These minutes showed tracked changes since they had been presented to the last meeting. Item 8 of the minutes of Cabinet held on 13 November 2017 were agreed.</p>	<p><b>Claire Dicken</b></p>
6	<p><b>Economic Development</b></p> <p>The Deputy Leader of the Council updated Cabinet with regard to recent economic development in the district.</p> <p>He said that the Annual Business Awards would be held again later in the year at the Bath and West Showground.</p> <p>Enterprise Mendip had been looking at how to support small businesses to comply with the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) so that they could avoid fines.</p> <p>There were plans for a business support day to be held in Glastonbury Town Hall during February 2018.</p> <p>The Invest in Mendip project was progressing. Consent had been given to the Wild Beer Company to develop at the Bath and West Showground and the Local Development Order at the Showground would be updated in due course.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader was pleased to say that a Food and Drink Network had been set up. This would be particularly relevant because Mendip was very active in the food and drink industry.</p> <p>With regard to recent job creation. Charlie Bigham's near Wells would eventually be employing 200 people. Also, Clarks, in Street, were hoping to take on an additional 80 people.</p>	<p><b>Jenny Pitcher</b></p>

	<p>Meanwhile, the Council was working in conjunction with the Tourist Information Centres on an Action Plan for Tourism.</p> <p>Members were encouraged to raise any ideas they may have for Councillor visits to businesses in the district. The purpose of the visits was to give an understanding of the needs of businesses in the area and how the Council could help.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council said it was important for the Council to create the right environment for businesses to prosper in Mendip.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>That the update be noted.</p>	
7	<p><b>Leisure Transformation Programme – Fusion Lifestyle</b></p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Corporate Services presented a report which stated that the district's leisure facilities were extremely popular with people of all ages and played a key role in the Council's commitment to promoting health and wellbeing in Mendip.</p> <p>He was pleased to say that Rob Taylor, Divisional Manager of Fusion Lifestyle (who were the Leaseholders) had agreed to attend the meeting of Cabinet to give a presentation about company's service.</p> <p>The Report explained that in 2013 the Council's outsourced leisure provision was costing the Council £850,000 per annum. With the leisure contract coming to an end on 31 May 2015 the Council recognised that only a truly innovative solution could realise the ambition to safeguard the future of publicly accessible leisure facilities in the district. A radical and ambitious programme was launched to develop and deliver a completely new and sustainable operating model.</p> <p>The programme culminated with the granting of a 50 year full repairing lease for each of the five leisure facilities owned by the Council to Fusion Lifestyle, an experienced sport and leisure management organisation and a registered charity.</p> <p>Two and a half years into the lease, financial benefits to the Council were being realised, participation levels were continuing to increase and the long term sustainability of the facilities was now secure. The partnership between Fusion Lifestyle and the Council was continuing to successfully deliver the wider objectives of the programme.</p>	Sara Skirton

Mr Taylor's presentation included the following topics:

- Key Headlines
- Year 3 Priorities
- Capital Investment
- Annual Performance

Total participation for the year was up by 87% year on year. The participation in Frome was up by 384%.

Priorities included ensuring continued growth and customer uptake.

The Leader of the Council thanked Mr Taylor for his presentation. He said it would have been good to see more statistics relating to the company's performance. However, he said the lease arrangement with Fusion Lifestyle had made a big difference to the Council in terms of finance.

In response to queries Mr Taylor said it was necessary to raise funds to future proof the service. The way to raise funds was by increased participation.

During the discussion that followed members were pleased to note the success of the Fusion Lifestyle leisure services.

In response to further queries Mr Taylor said there were particular challenges at the Frome site. He said on occasions there was higher demand for services than they could handle. Also there had been some resistance from customers who were now required to pay more for the services than when the facilities were subsidised by the Council. He said that he would be working closely with the Council on marketing. Members agreed that the promotion of the centres was important and relevant to the priority for health and wellbeing.

With regard to investment projects he hoped it should not be necessary to close Strode Swimming Pool whilst the changing rooms were updated.

He further explained the plans to divide the Tor Leisure Centre between its various services and expand the fitness centre.

Councillor Peter Bradshaw wanted it recorded that Fusion Leisure had been very supportive of the Council in its mental health priority.

	<p>The Group Manager Corporate Support explained the purpose of the South West Audit Partnership audit of the service.</p> <p>With regard to prices, Mr Taylor said that the policy at Fusion Lifestyle was to keep prices reasonable.</p> <p>He confirmed that employees of Fusion Lifestyle were offered career progression. They worked closely with the local colleges in this regard.</p> <p>He said Fusion Lifestyle was confident that it could work with its business model to provide leisure facilities for the long term. He agreed that the health and wellbeing of the people of Mendip was vital and was an important reason that people moved to Somerset.</p> <p>He further said that Councillors would be welcome to attend the meetings of the Customer Forums held by Fusion Lifestyle. He said it was a competitive market and it was in their interest to provide facilities that people wanted to use.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To endorse the success of the programme and outcomes achieved</li> <li>2. To endorse the work Fusion Lifestyle has undertaken to improve leisure facilities in Mendip.</li> </ol> <p><b>REASON FOR THE RESOLUTION</b></p> <p>Endorsing the success of the programme and the achievements to date would help strengthen the ongoing partnership with Fusion Lifestyle and underpin the future development and investment plans.</p>	
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Performance Management Report Quarter 2 Plus 2017/18</b></p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Corporate Services presented a report which showed a summary of the Council's Corporate Performance for Quarter Q2 2017/18, providing status updates for the Corporate Strategy actions and projects that were currently live.</p> <p>Additionally, the report provided performance information in relation to corporate complaints and praise, Freedom of Information (FOI) and Data Protection Act (DPA) requests,</p>	<p><b>Sara Skirton</b></p>

	<p>Finance and Human Resources (HR) statistics for Q2 2017/18.</p> <p>The report had been considered and endorsed by the Scrutiny Board on 4 December 2017. Due to the scheduling of meetings, the report has already been circulated to Cabinet members, with comments invited. It therefore now came to Cabinet for noting.</p> <p>He explained that each of the projects that were marked as “amber”, were so because each of these projects was either in its early stages or long term pieces of work.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the work across partners to provide co-ordinated support, advice and guidance to help people stay in their own homes.</p> <p>There was a further discussion about the number of complaints per month. There did not appear to be any pattern to the complaints.</p> <p>Members were interested to know the length of time it was taking to research FOI applications and the nature of the enquiries. There was a concern about the resource this was taking.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>To note the report. Where performance exceptions were identified, the proposed actions were considered adequate to improve performance to the desired level.</p>	
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Portfolio Holder Decisions</b></p> <p>There had been no recent Portfolio Holder decisions to report.</p>	
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Forward Plan</b></p> <p>The Council’s Forward Plan was noted.</p>	
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>Minutes for Information</b></p> <p>There were no minutes for information on this occasion.</p>	

<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>Urgent Business</b></p> <p>Cllr Nigel Taylor wished to express the Council's gratitude to Naomi Wilson and Elizabeth Dawson to make a success of the Wells Christmas Market.</p> <p>Councillors Roy Mackenzie requested, if possible, information on the problem of fly-tipping when it was reported.</p>	<p><b>Naomi Wilson and Elizabeth Dawon</b></p>
<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>Exclusion of The Press and Public</b></p> <p>Cabinet passed a resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting during item 14 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"> <li>• Category 1 – Information relating to any individual</li> <li>• Category 2 – Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li> </ul>	
<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>Irrecoverable Arrears – Council Tax</b></p> <p>Cabinet were asked to consider the arrears which were irrecoverable, and to write off the sums as detailed in the report.</p> <p>Members queried that the Council had continued to allow residents to fall into large amounts of debt. It was suggested that debt should be written off more regularly.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>Cabinet agreed to write off the irrecoverable arrears as listed in the report.</p>	<p><b>Paul Deal</b></p>

The meeting closed at approximately 8.10 pm.