

## Minutes

of the Meeting of

## The Executive

Wednesday, 17 July 2024

New Council Chamber

Meeting Commenced: 6.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 7.16 pm

### Councillors:

Mike Bell (Chairperson)

Mark Canniford  
Jenna Ho Marris  
Mike Solomon  
Annemieke Waite  
Hannah Young

**Apologies:** Councillors: Catherine Gibbons (Vice-Chairperson) James Clayton and Roger Whitfield.

**Officers in attendance:** Amy Webb (Director of Corporate Services), Nicholas Brain (Assistant Director Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer), Lucy Shomali (Director of Place), Philippa Penney (Head of Democratic and Electoral Services), Vanessa Andrews (Marketing and Communications Manager) and Michael Reep (Planning Policy Manager).

### Parktaking via Microsoft Teams:

Councillors: Steve Bridger, Michael Pryke

### EXE Addresses by Members of the Public (ESO 6) 122

#### 1. Martin Slade – resident – Food Security Emergency

Martin Slade addressed the meeting and thanked the Executive for the opportunity to speak on concerns regarding food security. Farmers were encouraged to diversify their activities and supplement their income from enterprises other than normal food production. It was recognised that the council was seeking to address Food Related Issues and asked the following:

Farming, and hence our food security, depended on farmers, nature and climate. North Somerset Council has declared both a Climate and a Nature emergency. To protect our essential food sources at the highest level, it was asked that the council also called a Food Security Emergency to ensure that all food production was prioritised and protected at the highest level, e.g. in line with the government's 13 Critical Infrastructure Sectors. This was urgently requested, especially in light of the imminent Local Plan consultation and

submission.

The Leader thanked Mr Slade for his very relevant address and asked the relevant Executive Member to consider these matters and respond.

**2. Richard Westwood – resident and member of Clevedon and District Community Land Trust Ltd.**

Richard Westwood (resident) addressed the meeting referring to the King’s speech and the stated need for housing. He was grateful for the opportunity to explain in person the need for expansion of provision of affordable housing in Clevedon and surrounding area as this was dreadfully lacking. As members of the network, they had been advising both the previous and current MP and were here as a positive support to the council in meeting its affordable housing targets.

**3. Richard Harper – resident and member of Clevedon and District Community Land Trust Ltd.**

Following on from Richard Westwood’s address, Richard Harper highlighted an example of land offered by a donor which presented a huge opportunity for increasing the provision of affordable homes. He also referred to other potential sites and additional charitable support. Mr Harper emphasised the seriousness of the rental housing situation and asked for proactive support from North Somerset Council.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Westwood and Mr Harper for their comments and asked the relevant Executive Member to consider these matters and respond.

**4. Paul Borthwick – resident – member of the Disabled Access Group**

Paul Borthwick addressed the meeting who was speaking about housing as a member of the disabled access group. There was concern about the low numbers of accessible houses are currently managed or included in the Local Plan and that North Somerset should be looking after its disabled population better. Whilst it was claimed that all houses were built to be adaptable, Mr Borthwick detailed some of the costs that such conversions would entail. If the council did not know how many accessible homes were currently built, then how could an informed decision be made on the number needed in the Local Plan.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Borthwick for his comments and points raised which would be included in the Local Plan discussion later on the agenda.

Responses to the questions in public participation can be found in Appendix 1 if received by draft minute publication date.

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

**123**

None declared

**EXE Minutes**

**124**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of 24 April 2024 be approved as a correct record

**EXE 125 Non-Executive Councillors' Addresses**

125

None

**EXE 126 Matters referred to the Executive and not dealt with elsewhere on this agenda**

126

None

**EXE 127 West of England Sub-Region: items not dealt with elsewhere on this agenda**

127

None

**EXE 128 Forward Plan dated 3 July 2024**

128

Councillor Bell presented the Forward Plan

**Resolved:** that the Forward Plan be noted

**EXE 129 Street Lighting Contract Commissioning Plan**

129

Councillor Young presented the report which asked the Executive to approve the commissioning plan for street lighting procurement. The paper set out the policy priorities in supporting our communities to thrive. This had been through a scrutiny process which had highlighted the need for our parish and town councils to also be able to access our contract, and this would be included in the process.

Members appreciated the inclusion of parish councils which was seen as a positive step. North Somerset had a detailed social value policy which was currently being reviewed, so this presented a good opportunity to come up with a specific set of themes, outcomes and measures to make more relevant outcomes such as environmental benefit. Councillor Young recognised the importance of social value and was pleased to see how this was already reflected in a number of highways contracts.

**Resolved:** that the commissioning plan be approved to proceed to tender.

**EXE 130 3-weekly residual waste collections consultation outcome report**

130

Councillor Waite presented the report. Members were aware of the proposals and consultation which had achieved a response from about a 10% of households. The report outlined the responses in detail, demonstrating how they had been taken into account in the proposals. 27% of black bin was food waste so this change to collection frequency would encourage greater food waste recycling and reduce the waste in black bins. It was also recognised that some households had alternative collection needs, so work was underway in establishing a process for identifying those with these needs and responding to them. Fewer collections would also reduce the number of vehicles on the road, positively contributing to carbon reduction.

Councillor Daw shared appreciation from himself, local residents and his parish council for a clear and well-presented consultation, which was a design to

replicate for future consultations.

A noticeable sample of responses indicated that households would struggle, underlying the importance of making sure the transition was as smooth as possible. Staff were committed to high class communication to enable this.

**Resolved:**

- a) To change the collection frequency of residual waste bins from fortnightly to every three weeks at kerbside properties which currently have a fortnightly collection
- b) To put in place solutions which help households adjust to 3-weekly collections
- c) To extend and increase promotion of the food waste collection service
- d) To introduce soft plastics recycling at kerbside properties
- e) Subject to a successful trial, to provide a recycling sack to households for the containment of plastic and cans.

**EXE 131 Q4 Performance Management Update**

Councillor Bell presented the report looking back to the final quarter of the previous financial year. It was pleasing to note that 79% of Annual Directorate Statement commitments were completed or trending towards completion, which was excellent given the challenges we all face.

**Resolved:** that the Executive noted the contents of the report.

**EXE 132 Public Decarbonisation Scheme at Hutton Moor**

Councillor Bell presented the report and thanked the Executive Members for their involvement in this commissioning plan. The Council was successful in securing £2.3m of funding from government and was delighted that this would enable replacement of gas-powered boilers with air source heat pumps and other insulation measures which together would cut operating costs and reduce carbon emissions by 340 tonnes per year.

Members stressed how important Hutton Moor was, being one of the most successful leisure centres in the country.

**Resolved:** that the Executive approved the commissioning plan

**EXE 133 Local Plan Regulation 19**

Councillor Canniford presented the report and gave notice of a slight amendment to the end of recommendation 1, to include 'subject to any revised guidance received from the government'. This had been an unpredictable process, but the position had now been reached where we needed to move forwards whilst remaining mindful to the possibility of changing housing numbers. There had been great representation from residents, communities and developers, with amendments made as a result of that feedback. The Housing Needs Assessment was being used to inform housing numbers.

Councillor Canniford referred to a number of principle changes, highlighted in

paragraph 1.4 of the report. In terms of wheelchair accessibility, it would now be required that all market housing, as well as affordable housing, would have to be 5%. It was accepted that there was not full awareness of the numbers of accessible houses given work undertaken across all private households.

Members discussion included review of the green belt, clarification thereof regarding the airport, adoption and management of open spaces, and the inclusion of public art in the consultation.

Further input and discussion would be undertaken as part of the consultation.

**Resolved:** that

- 1) The new pre-submission (Reg 19) version of the plan is approved for publication and public consultation, subject to any revised guidance received from the government
- 2) Any necessary further amendments to the plan and policies map prior to publication and public consultation are agreed by the Director of Place in consultation with the Executive Member for Spatial Planning, Placemaking and Economy
- 3) Following consultation, the plan is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination with any further proposed amendments agreed by the Director of Place in consultation with the Executive Member for Spatial Planning, Placemaking and Economy

## **EXE 134 Adoption of the updated Bus Service Improvement Plan**

Councillor Young presented the report, further to the report considered by the Executive in April which explained the refresh process. The Executive was now being asked to approve the Bus Service Improvement Plan as the submission date had been extended due to the pre-election period. This was not a bid for funding and did not commit the council at this stage. The refreshed plan was more user friendly so easier to read and understand.

The level of bus usage recovery in North Somerset exceeded that of the national position, but there was still much to do. Councillor Young emphasised some of the key points including extension of the £2 fare and more local simple fare offers demonstrating a modal shift. Focus was for a more integrated transport network with separate round town services, multi-transport ticketing, and real time information improvements. Preliminary work was underway with the West of England Combined Authority in considering delivery models.

The Leader encouraged members to read the report and understand the direction of travel for bus service improvement as it was both readable and aspirational. Members thanked the officers involved in supporting this work as it was an unbelievably complex area.

**Resolved:** that the Executive

- 1) Adopt the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) refresh 2024 strategic document to approve submission to the DfT, noting that we have agreed an extension to the submission timetable with the Department for Transport to enable this
- 2) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Highways and Transport

to make any necessary changes to the BSIP refresh arising from the respective NSC and Combined Authority Committee governance processes, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader as required, and authority to approve the submission and publication of the documents

**EXE 135 Adoption of Draft School Place Planning Strategy 2024-2027**

Councillor Bell presented the report setting out how school places were to be delivered in the coming years. It took a complex network of relationships to manage the support required for this, and thanks was extended to all the schools, parents and families involved in the conversation enabling this point to be reached.

**Resolved:** that the Executive approved the draft School Place Planning Strategy 2024-2027 for implementation from 1 September 2024, with the exception of Appendix 2, Annex 1 (the Joint Commissioning Plans for SEND) that will be submitted for separate approval following an extended period of consultation

**EXE 136 Climate Adaptation Strategy**

Councillor Waite presented the report which set out climate projections for the North Somerset area and the potential impact. The strategy outlined the various actions across a broad number of areas. It had received support from council in April. There had been subsequent discussion of commitment to the 2030 adaption target with recognition that it would be difficult to achieve. Further detail of government policy for this was currently awaited.

**Resolved:** that the Executive formally adopted the Climate Adaptation Strategy

**EXE 137 Peer Review**

Councillor Bell presented the report and action plan from the recent peer review, which had presented an important opportunity for the council to receive independent challenge from officers and members from other councils. Thanks were given to the peer team that undertook this and the time that they gave to working with us.

An action plan had been developed to address the ten areas of focus, and progress against delivery would be reported to members on a regular basis.

**Resolved:** that the Executive

- 1) Formally recorded its thanks to the team that undertook the Corporate Peer Challenge in January 2024
- 2) Noted the findings and recommendations arising from the Local Government Association's Corporate Peer Review of North Somerset Council
- 3) Approved the action plan in response to the peer review recommendations

**EXE 138 Finance Outturn 2023-24**

Councillor Bell presented the report that looked back on the final outturn from the previous financial year. The report itself highlighted matters covered in the

monthly updates. A balanced budget had been achieved despite severe budget pressures through strict spending controls and use of reserves.

**Resolved:** that the Executive

- 1) Noted the revenue and capital budget out-turn position for 2023/24 as detailed within the report and the associated budget transfer of **£0.309m** into the council's general revenue reserve as at 31 March 2024
- 2) Noted the transfers to / from earmarked revenue and capital reserves included within the out-turn position and the reserve balances as set out in **Appendix 4**
- 3) Approved the amendments to the revenue and capital budgets that have been reflected within the report as detailed in **Appendices 1 and 6**
- 4) Noted the proposed procurement strategy for the replacement of the waste fleet via North Somerset Environment Company (NSEC) as outlined in section **3.13**
- 5) Delegated authority for the Executive Member for Placemaking and Growth (in their role as Executive Member for the council's Commercial and Development Programme), in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, to finalise and approve the disposal of some or all of the council-owned land at the Weston Business Quarter, subject that the financial receipt shall as a minimum cover costs incurred by the council to date and shall represent best consideration as required by LGA 1972 for land disposals by local authorities as outlined in section **3.14**
- 6) Increase the capital programme by £1.886m to enable the council to undertake remedial works at the Lower Yard Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) as outlined in section **3.15**

**EXE 139 Report on Outside Bodies Appointments (Executive)**

The Leader clarified that all appointments were as presented with the exception of the new airport environmental improvement fund. A nomination was expected from the Green Group which would be accepted once submitted.

**Resolved:** that the Executive determined the appointment of Members on Outside Bodies.

**EXE 140 Oral reports of Executive Councillors**

Councillor Young had been asked to clarify the position regarding the paused BSIP review. A huge amount of work had been undertaken to review the areas identified at the point of pause including priority schemes, lessons learned from Brockley and timed bus lanes. A report was being considered on this at the Transport, Climate and Communities Policy & Scrutiny Panel meeting next Thursday. It was anticipated that the bulk of work would be completed by early August at which point next steps could be considered.

Councillor Young was pleased that Big Lemon had stepped in to continue delivery of the X10 bus service following the difficulties experienced, and much work was taking place to secure its future.

The Leader congratulated all staff nominated in the recent staff awards which presented an important opportunity to recognise all the hard work and dedication

of our staff across every directorate.

**EXE 141** **Urgent business permitted by the Local Government Act 1972 (if any)**

None

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Chairperson

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**North Somerset Council  
Executive Meeting 17 July 2024  
Public Participation (Agenda Item 1)**

**Public Participation One  
Martin Slade – resident – Food Security Emergency**

Martin Slade addressed the meeting and thanked the Executive for the opportunity to speak on concerns regarding food security. Farmers were encouraged to diversify their activities and supplement their income from enterprises other than normal food production. It was recognised that the council was seeking to address Food Related Issues and asked the following:

Farming, and hence our food security, depended on farmers, nature and climate. North Somerset Council has declared both a Climate and a Nature emergency. To protect our essential food sources at the highest level, it was asked that the council also called a Food Security Emergency to ensure that all food production was prioritised and protected at the highest level, e.g. in line with the government's 13 Critical Infrastructure Sectors. This was urgently requested, especially in light of the imminent Local Plan consultation and submission.

The Leader thanked Mr Slade for his very relevant address and asked the relevant Executive Member to consider these matters and respond.

**Public Participation Two  
Richard Westwood – resident and member of Clevedon and District Community Land Trust Ltd.**

Richard Westwood (resident) addressed the meeting referring to the King's speech and the stated need for housing. He was grateful for the opportunity to explain in person the need for expansion of provision of affordable housing in Clevedon and surrounding area as this was dreadfully lacking. As members of the network, they had been advising both the previous and current MP and were here as a positive support to the council in meeting its affordable housing targets.

**Response from Councillor Jenna Ho Marris, Executive Member for Homes and health and Lucy Shomali, Director of Place**

Thank you for your comments at the Executive.

I completely agree with your comments about needing an increase in affordable housing across North Somerset, including Clevedon.

You have the data in the Local Housing Needs Survey. As another measure, there are around 2,600 households on the social housing waiting list in North Somerset, around 1,000 of whom would like to live in Clevedon. There are around 120 households eligible for social housing in Clevedon, who also want to stay in Clevedon, of which around half are seeking one-bed homes. Taking Clevedon Yeo as

an example, in 2023-2024 there was only one home available (a 2-bed), which 144 households bid for.

Therefore we want to continue supporting community-led housing.

To try to support you and the delivery of affordable homes, we will:

- Keep chasing Alliance Homes on Millcross and ask them to provide regular updates to the community. (Jenna)
- Keep you updated on the Castlewood development – including whether any of the units can be transferred to CDCLT. (Mark)
- Respond as soon as we can on the draft Heads of Terms for the Hangstone Quarry site. This is in progress on our side but taking some time due to lack of team capacity. (Jenny)
- Lobby government and Homes England to resume funding community-led housing. (Jenna)

I am also aware of your request for NSC to fund the pre-application costs for Tickenham. We cannot support this for the following reasons:

- Previous costs have been met from reserve funds but we cannot continue to do this. Despite the change in government, local authorities are not expecting any additional funding. The council budget is facing immense financial pressure.
- We have made significant contributions to the CDCLT by funding two Housing Needs Surveys and previous pre-applications, amounting to £15-25K, as well as significant officer time.

Once the draft Heads of Terms are available, I would be happy to join a meeting to discuss next steps. I attended the Community Land Trust conference last month and learned about some exciting and inspiring projects, I hope Clevedon will be the first in NS, leading the way for Pill.

### **Public Participation Three**

**Richard Harper – resident and member of Clevedon and District Community Land Trust Ltd.**

Following on from Richard Westwood's address, Richard Harper highlighted an example of land offered by a donor which presented a huge opportunity for increasing the provision of affordable homes. He also referred to other potential sites and additional charitable support. Mr Harper emphasised the seriousness of the rental housing situation and asked for proactive support from North Somerset Council.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Westwood and Mr Harper for their comments and asked the relevant Executive Member to consider these matters and respond.

### **Response from Councillor Jenna Ho Marris, Executive Member for Homes and health and Lucy Shomali, Director of Place**

As for participant two above.

### **Public Participation Four**

**Paul Borthwick – resident – member of the Disabled Access Group**

Paul Borthwick addressed the meeting who was speaking about housing as a member of the disabled access group. There was concern about the low numbers of accessible houses are currently managed or included in the Local Plan and that North Somerset should be looking after its disabled population better. Whilst it was claimed that all houses were built to be adaptable, Mr Borthwick detailed some of the costs that such conversions would entail. If the council did not know how many accessible homes were currently built, then how could an informed decision be made on the number needed in the Local Plan.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Borthwick for his comments and points raised which would be included in the Local Plan discussion later on the agenda.

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