

SOUTH HAMS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL



Minutes of a meeting of the **South Hams Overview and Scrutiny Panel** held on **Thursday, 7th April, 2016 at 9.00 am** at the **Cary Room - Follaton House**

Present: **Councillors:**

Chairman Saltern
Vice Chairman Wingate

Baldry	Blackler
Brown	Green
Hawkins	Hopwood
Horsburgh	May
Pennington	Smerdon

In attendance:

Councillors:

Bramble	Brazil
Cuthbert	Foss
Gilbert	Hicks
Hitchins	Hodgson
Holway	Pearce
Rowe	Steer
Tucker	Wright

Officers:

Lisa Buckle	Section 151 Officer
Steve Jorden	Executive Director Head of Paid Service

96. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 17 March 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

As a point of clarity arising from the Performance report (Minute O&S.91/15 refers), the Head of Paid Service confirmed that he would ensure that the measures used to illustrate performance in the Customer Contact Centre would be revisited.

97. **Declarations of Interest**

Members and officers were invited to declare any interests in the items of business to be considered during the course of the meeting, but there were none made.

98. **Exclusion of Public and Press**

The following resolution was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and on being put to the vote declared **CARRIED**:

RESOLVED

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Act is involved.

99. **Bid to Purchase Land to Assist with Income Generation**

An exempt report was considered that sought to gain approval to lodge an unconditional bid for the purchase of a site in the South Hams.

In discussion, the following points were raised:-

- (a) A number of Members expressed their support for the proposals, which were felt to be the first steps towards the Council becoming a more commercially minded authority;
- (b) Some Members emphasised the importance of any development sites maximising their percentage of affordable housing contributions.

It was then:

RECOMMENDED

That Special Council be **RECOMMENDED** that:-

1. Officers lodge an unconditional bid for a site on the terms as outlined in Section 3 of the presented agenda report; and
2. the associated acquisition costs (including stamp duty) be funded from the Innovation Fund.

100.

Income Generation Proposals

An exempt report was considered that provided an update on income generation proposals.

During discussion, reference was made to:-

(a) the annual budget setting process. Disappointment was expressed that approval to add a new member of staff to the establishment was being sought so soon after the budget for 2016/17 had been approved by the Council;

(b) proposed recommendation 3. in light of some concerns over the wording of proposed recommendation 3 and the wish to recognise the importance of both local consultation and the role of Members, the following amended recommendations were **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and when put to the vote declared **CARRIED**:-

'3. That the income generation and efficiency proposals (as set out in paragraph 3.2 of the presented agenda report) be progressed to the stage of business case sign-off; and

4. That individual business cases will be subject to a consultation exercise with relevant stakeholders and these will ultimately be presented back to Members for a decision.'

It was then:

RECOMMENDED

That Special Council be **RECOMMENDED** that:-

1. approval be given to the recruitment of a permanent level four grade specialist post, shared between South Hams and West Devon, on a 60% South Hams / 40% West Devon split at an initial cost to the Council of £26,400 per annum;

2. this resource be charged with preparing detailed business cases for the schemes identified in Figure 1 (as outlined in the presented agenda report)
3. the income generation and efficiency proposals (as set out in paragraph 3.2 of the presented agenda report) be progressed to the stage of business case sign-off; and
4. individual business cases will be subject to a consultation exercise with relevant stakeholders and these will ultimately be presented back to Members for a decision.

The Meeting concluded at 9.55 am

Signed by:

Chairman
