

**E.18/14 MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE EXECUTIVE
HELD AT FOLLATON HOUSE ON THURSDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2014**

Members in attendance:			
* Denotes attendance			
*	Cllr H D Bastone	*	Cllr R J Tucker (Chairman)
*	Cllr R D Gilbert	*	Cllr L A H Ward
*	Cllr M J Hicks (Vice Chairman)	*	Cllr S A E Wright
*	Cllr M F Saltern		

Also in attendance and participating		
Item 7	E.21/14	Cllrs Baldry, Barber, Coulson, Foss, Hodgson and Holway
Item 10	E.24/14	Cllrs Baverstock and Hodgson
Item 12	E.26/14	Cllrs Baldry, Barber, Brazil and Hodgson,
Item 14	E.28/14	Cllrs Baldry and Barber
Also in attendance and not participating		
Cllrs Blackler, Bramble, Carson, B Cooper, Gorman, Hitchins, Pearce, Rowe, Smerdon, Squire, Steer, Stone and Westacott		

Officers in attendance		
All items	Minute Ref	Head of Corporate Services and Member Services Manager
Item 7	E.21/14	Economic Development Officer
Item 8	E.22/14	Community Projects and Policy Officer
Item 9, 10, 11	E.23/14, E.24/14, E.25/14	Street Scene Manager
Item 12, 13	E.26/14, E.27/14	Head of Finance and Audit

E.18/14 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 24 July 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

E.19/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

E.20/14 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

It was noted that no public questions had been received.

E.21/14 **RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR ENGLAND (RDPE)
LOCAL ACTION 2015 TO 2020**

Members were asked to consider a report that sought to put in place arrangements to enable effective delivery of approximately £3.8million of external funds, covering South Hams, West Devon and Teignbridge for the period 2015-2020 under the Community Led Rural Development Programme for England.

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economy and Community introduced the report.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- One Member raised concerns that the programmes had not been accountable. For instance, the answers to such questions as how had the Board Members been chosen and how had projects been identified were not known;
- Members agreed that Town and Parish Councils did not seem aware of projects selected until they had commenced and there had not been a great deal of communication about them;
- The Economic Development Officer (EDO) advised Members that a number of projects had been supported and examples were given. Both the South Devon Coastal Local Action Group (LAG) and the Greater Dartmoor Local Enterprise Action Fund (LEAF) had an elected Member on the Board to ensure transparency. She also advised that the next round of project funding would require the RDPE Programme to concentrate on projects with an economic focus;
- One Member suggested that a further recommendation be added that required the RDPE Programme to be considered by a Scrutiny Panel on an annual basis. This would aid transparency of the Programme and would also help Members understand how the effectiveness of the projects had been assessed. This proposal was further amended so that the Programme be included as a report to the next round of Scrutiny Panel meetings in November and then on an annual basis. This was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and on being put to the vote declared **CARRIED**. It was also agreed that the Programming Panel on 2 October would decide on the appropriate Scrutiny Panel to consider this matter;
- One Member asked if the next round of funding would support a village hall refurbishment. In response, the EDO stated that a project such as this would only be supported if there was an element of economic gain;

- One Member stated that this RDPE Programme was opening the door to European Union funding and as such should be supported.

It was then:

RESOLVED

- a) That approval be given to the Council performing the function of Accountable Body for both the Greater Dartmoor Local Enterprise Action Fund (LEAF) and the South Devon Coast Local Action Group (LAG) for the Rural Development Programme 2015-2020;
- b) That an annual contribution of £16,400 per year for six years, totalling £98,400 towards the costs of programme management and administration and project development from the Economic Initiatives Reserve be agreed; and
- c) That the Programme be the subject of a report to the next round of Scrutiny Panel meetings and then reviewed on an annual basis.

E.22/14 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY LOCALITY FUND UPDATE 2013/14

Members were presented with a report that provided an update on projects supported through the Sustainable Community Locality Fund (SCLF) in 2013/14.

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economy and Community introduced the report. Members were reminded that any unspent funds would not be rolled over at the end of this year.

It was then:

RESOLVED

That the projects that had benefited from SCLF funding in 2013/14 had been reviewed and noted.

E.23/14 CAR PARKING TARIFF REVIEW IN TOTNES

Members were presented with a report that made a recommendation in respect of Pay and Display tariffs in Totnes car parks.

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Environment Services introduced the report and advised that the scheme had been put forward by the community and town council in Totnes.

It was then:

RESOLVED

That Council be **RECOMMENDED** that:

1. Tariffs as detailed in Appendix 1 of the presented report be implemented in car parks in Totnes; and
2. The South Hams District Council's Off Street Parking Places Order be updated to reflect the changes.

E.24/14 **REVIEW OF OFF STREET PARKING PLACES ORDER IN BEESANDS**

Members were presented with a report that made a recommendation in respect of reviewing the parking restrictions in Beesands.

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Environment Services introduced the report and the local Ward Member advised Members of the background. During discussion, one Member did raise concerns in relation to parking on designated village green areas.

It was then:

RESOLVED

That Council be **RECOMMENDED** that:

1. Due to issues of vehicles parking inappropriately in Beesands, parking on the Village Green be restricted to those vehicles parking with the express permission of South Hams District Council only; and
2. The South Hams District Council's Off Street Parking Places Order be updated to reflect this change.

E.25/14 **CAR PARKING TARIFF REVIEW IN HOPE COVE**

Members were presented with a report that made a recommendation in respect of Pay and Display tariffs in the Hope Cove car park.

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Environment Services introduced the report and advised that the scheme had been put forward as the car park in Hope Cove was historically underused and it was hoped that this scheme would make the car park more competitive. The scheme had the support of the community and the Parish Council.

It was then:

RESOLVED

That Council be **RECOMMENDED** that:

1. Tariffs as detailed in paragraph 2.4 of the presented report be implemented in the car park in Hope Cove; and
2. The South Hams District Council's Off Street Parking Places Order be updated to reflect the changes.

E.26/14

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Members were presented with a report that updated them in respect of the medium term forecast and to propose some early thoughts about how the funding gap might be bridged, with a view to setting a direction of travel for the next four years.

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Support Services introduced the report and outlined the recommendations. The Head of Finance and Audit drew Member's attention to the table in the presented report that outlined the predicted annual budget gap or surplus over the next four years and how the savings from T18 would affect the figures.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- One Member asked about business rates pooling. In response, the Head of Finance and Audit advised that a future report to Council in October would recommend that South Hams District Council withdraw from the pool for 2015/16 due to the high risk of business rates appeals;
- One Member felt that New Homes Bonus funds should be used to support affordable housing needs;
- In response to concerns that Central Government did not provide the figures necessary to enable budgeting for five years ahead, the Head of Finance and Audit stated that it had been made clear by the Government that the Revenue Support Grant would significantly reduce over the next few years;
- In discussion relating to passing on the reduction in Council Tax Support Grant to town and parish councils, Members asked that the fact that South Hams was passing on a reduction in Government funding (rather than it being a district council initiative) be made clear to both town and parish councils and members of the public;
- The Head of Finance and Audit responded to a number of specific questions relating to figures presented within the report.

It was then:

RESOLVED that Council be **RECOMMENDED** to consider the following 'minded to' views in order to guide the 2015/16 budget process:

1. In light of the projected T18 savings, Members are 'minded to' not increase Council Tax for 2015-16 at this stage
2. New Homes Bonus should be used to support the Revenue Budget for 2015-16 unless other ways to support the budget arise in the meantime;
3. A 10% reduction in Council Tax Support Grant be passed on to town and parish councils as shown in Appendix D of the presented report; and
4. Other budget savings were to be looked for and considered.

E.27/14 **ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2013/14**

Members were presented with a report that informed Members of the results and performance of the Treasury Management activity undertaken in 2013/14.

The Executive Portfolio Holder for Support Services introduced the report.

It was then:

RESOLVED:

1. That the actual 2013/14 prudential and treasury indicators in this report be approved; and
2. That the Annual Treasury Management report for 2013/14 be noted.

E.28/14 **REPORTS OF OTHER BODIES**

RESOLVED

That the following be received and that any recommendations contained therein be approved:

- a) **Economy and Environment Scrutiny Panel – 4 September 2014**
- i) **EE.17/14 REVIEW OF PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF SHDC FLEET**

RECOMMENDED

1. That Council be **RECOMMENDED** that Option 2 as set out in paragraph 3.1 of the presented report be implemented; and
2. The 'Waste Review' Task and Finish Group be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the recommended option.

(NOTE: THESE DECISIONS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MINUTE E.23/14, E.24/14, E.25/14, E.26/14 AND E.28/14 (a) (Part 1) WHICH ARE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON 2 OCTOBER 2014, WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE FROM 5.00PM ON MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2014 UNLESS CALLED IN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULE 18).

(Meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 11.35 am)

Chairman