



Draft Minutes

of the Annual Meeting of

The Council

Tuesday, 8th May 2018

held at the Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.

Meeting Commenced: 6.00 pm Meeting Concluded: 8.48 pm

Councillors:

P Chris Blades (Chairman)

P David Jolley (Vice-Chairman)

P Elfan Ap Rees

P Felicity Baker

A Karen Barclay

P Ericka Blades

P Peter Bryant

P Mark Canniford

P James Clayton

P Sarah Codling

P Peter Crew

P Donald Davies

A Judith Hadley

P Ann Harley

P Denise Hunt

P Ruth Jacobs

P Tom Leimdorfer

A Richard Nightingale

P David Oyns

P David Pasley

P Marcia Pepperall

A Terry Porter

P Kate Stowey

P Richard Tucker

Martin Williams

Nick Wilton

P Nigel Ashton

P Jan Barber

P Michael Bell

P Mary Blatchford

P Peter Burden

P Charles Cave

P Robert Cleland

A Andy Cole

P John Crockford-Hawley

P Bob Garner

A Colin Hall

P David Hitchins

P Jill Iles

P Reyna Knight

P John Ley-Morgan

P Jerry O'Brien

P Ian Parker

P Dawn Payne

P Lisa Pilgrim

P David Shopland

P James Tonkin

P Liz Wells

P Roz Willis

P Deborah Yamanaka

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

Officers in attendance: Mike Jackson (Chief Executive), David Carter (Director of Development and Environment), Sheila Smith (Director of People and Communities), Nicholas Brain (Head of Legal and Democratic Services), Malcolm Coe (Head of Finance and Property), Sue Efford (Corporate Services Directorate), Jenny Ford

(Development and Environment Directorate), Paul Morris (Corporate Services Directorate), Richard Turner (Corporate Services Directorate), Sally Varley (People and Communities Directorate)

COU Chairman's Welcome

1

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Council meeting. He reported apologies from Honorary Alderman Howard Roberts and sent him best wishes on behalf of the Council.

COU Election of the Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2018/19
2 (Agenda Item 2)

Motion: Moved by Councillor Pasley, seconded by Councillor Bryant and

Resolved: that Councillor Jolley be elected Chairman of the Council for the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

Councillor Chris Blades, the Immediate Past Chairman, invested Councillor Jolley as the new Chairman of the Council and presented him with the Chairman's Chain of Office. On behalf of the Council, he presented Mrs Jolley with the Chairman's Escort Badge.

Councillor Jolley in the Chair

Councillor Jolley made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and addressed the Council. He thanked councillors for electing him as Chairman and looked forward to representing North Somerset over the coming year.

COU Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Chairman

3

Motion: Moved by Councillor Garner, seconded by Councillor Tonkin and

Resolved: that the Council place on record its sincere appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the Council, and to North Somerset, by Councillor Chris Blades during his term of office as Chairman of the Council, and that similar sentiments be expressed to his escort.

Councillor Chris Blades addressed the Council and expressed his thanks and appreciation to all those who had helped and supported him during his term of office. It had been an honour to serve as Chairman of the Council and he had very much enjoyed his year in office.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman presented Councillor Chris Blades with a Past Chairman's Badge and Councillor Ericka Blades with a Past Chairman's Escort Badge.

COU Appointment of the Vice-Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year
4 2018/19 (Agenda Item 3)

Motion: Moved by Councillor Harley, seconded by Councillor Jacobs and

Resolved: that Councillor Knight be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

The Chairman of the Council invested Councillor Knight as Vice-Chairman of the Council and presented her with the Vice-Chairman's Badge of Office. Councillor Knight made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman presented Mr Michael Wigmore with the Vice-Chairman's Escort Badge.

Councillor Knight addressed the Council.

COU 5 Declarations of Interest by Members (Agenda Item 6)

None.

COU 6 Minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2018 (Agenda Item 7)

Resolved: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

COU 7 Matters Referred from Previous Meeting – COU 117 Motions by Members (Standing Order No. 14) Use of Glyphosphate for Weed Control (Councillor Donald Davies) (Agenda Item 9)

The Chairman referred members to the update from the Director of Development and Environment as set out on the agenda.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

COU 8 Political Balance for the Municipal Year 2018/19 (Agenda Item 10)

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that Political Balance for the 2018/19 Municipal Year remained unchanged, that is -

Conservative 36; Independent 5; Liberal Democrats 4; Labour 4; Green 1

Resolved: that the political balance, as reported, be noted and approved as required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

COU 9 Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the Political Groups for the Municipal Year 2018/19 (Agenda item 10)

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported no change to Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the Political Groups for 2018/19. They are as follows:

Conservative Group: Councillor Ashton, Councillor Ap Rees;
Independent Group: Councillor Davies, Councillor Tonkin;
Labour Group: Councillor Tucker, Councillor Hunt; and
Liberal Democrat Group: Councillor Bell, Councillor Canniford.

COU 10 Chairman's announcements (Agenda Item 11)

The Chairman announced that in his year as Chairman he wished to focus on the Council's role as corporate parent and to do something for those young people in the Council's care. He referred to the Tall Ships Youth Trust and announced that he had secured ten berths on a five-day adventure sailing the channel during the summer. He referred to the positive benefits of this experience and stated he would be seeking help from councillors and local businesses in order to provide the necessary kit for those taking part.

COU 11 The Council's Constitution (Agenda Item 14)

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services drew attention to the Constitution, the latest edition of which was published on the Council's website. He referred to the forthcoming departure of the Chief Executive and the Director of Development and Environment and stated that currently there was no specific provision for powers delegated to Directors to be exercisable by Assistant Directors or Heads of Service in their absence. He asked Council to agree that in the event of any Director post becoming vacant, the appropriate Assistant Director or Head of Service may exercise those powers normally delegated to the Director.

Motion: Moved by Councillor Ashton, seconded by Councillor Ap Rees and

Resolved:

(1) that the Constitution be approved and adopted for the 2018/19 municipal year; and

(2) that under officer delegations and authorisations, provision be made that in the event of any Director post becoming vacant, the appropriate Assistant Director or Head of Service may exercise those powers normally delegated to the Director.

COU 12 Constitutional appointments etc. (Agenda Item 15)

The Leader reported no change to the Executive Members and Assistant Executive Members, as follows:

Executive Members:

Councillor Nigel Ashton - Leader of the Council, Budgets, Local Enterprise Partnership and North Somerset Partnership, Joint Executive Committee (WECA & NSC), Forward Programme/Business Management, Weston Urban Extension

Councillor Elfan Ap Rees - Deputy Leader of the Council; Planning; Highways; Transport; Housing; Economic Development

Councillor Felicity Baker - Community; Tourism and Leisure; Licensing; Corporate Communications; Electoral Services; Libraries

Councillor Peter Bryant - Waste; Streets and Open Spaces

Councillor Jan Barber - Children and Young People's Services

Councillor David Pasley - Human Resources; Asset Management; Capital Programme; Transformation

Councillor Dawn Payne - Adult Social Services

Assistant Executive Members:

Councillor Jill Iles – Public Health

Councillor Lisa Pilgrim – Looked After Children

With reference to Panel Chairmanships/Vice-Chairmanships for 2018/19 Councillor Ap Rees proposed that Councillor Knight to replace Councillor Jolley as Vice-Chairman of the Audit Committee.

Motion: Moved by Councillor Ap Rees, seconded by Councillor Ashton and

Resolved: that the existing arrangements for the Policy/Overview and Scrutiny Panels and the Committees be approved, and that the following Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen be appointed for the 2018/19 municipal year, the remaining bodies to appoint their own Chairman and Vice-Chairman -

Adult Services and Housing Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Chairman: Councillor Reyna Knight

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Mary Blatchford

Children and Young People's Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Chairman: Councillor Ann Harley

Vice-Chairman: Councillor David Oyns

Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Chairman: Councillor Terry Porter

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Sarah Codling

Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Chairman: Councillor Roz Willis

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Ruth Jacobs

Strategic Planning and Economic Development Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Chairman: Councillor Charles Cave

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Marcia Pepperall

Audit Committee

Chairman: Councillor Mary Blatchford

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Reyna Knight

Planning and Regulatory Committee

Chairman: Councillor Peter Crew
Vice-Chairman: Councillor Jill Iles

Employment Committee

Chairman: Councillor David Pasley

Licensing Committee

Chairman: Councillor Felicity Baker

Public Rights of Way Sub-Committee

Chairman: Councillor Ann Harley

COU 13 Municipal Calendar 2018/19 (Agenda Item 16)

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services presented the report.

Motion: Moved by Councillor Ap Rees, seconded by Councillor Ashton and

Resolved:

(1) that the draft Municipal Calendar for 2018/19 as attached to the report be approved; and

(2) that the Leader of the Council be authorised to approve any amendments not dealt with elsewhere.

COU 14 Council Appointments to Outside Bodies 2018/19 (Agenda Item 17)

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services presented the report.

Councillor Ap Rees proposed that Councillor Chris Blades replace Councillor Hall on the Clevedon Pier Trust for the coming year. With reference to the Avon Fire Authority (AFA) he reported that at an Extraordinary Meeting on 3 May the AFA had agreed to reduce the number of Members from 25 to 20 thereby reducing the number of North Somerset Council representative from five to four. He stated that Councillor Barber had agreed to stand down from the AFA.

Motion: Moved by Councillor Ap Rees, seconded by Councillor Ashton and

Resolved: that the appointments contained in the updated schedule attached as an appendix to these minutes be approved and adopted.

COU 15 Forward Plan dated 3 May 2018 (Agenda Item 18)

Councillor Ashton presented the Forward Plan.

In response to a question raised regarding the report to the June Executive meeting on the Local Government Ombudsman's decision on the enablement policy, Councillor Payne undertook to ensure the report addressed the implications for others not directly affected by the decision and covered all services to ensure compliance with the Care Act.

Resolved: that the Forward Plan be noted.

**COU
16 Question Time (Agenda Item 20)**

Oral questions were directed to the Members concerned and the summary notes and the topics involved are contained in Appendix 2.

**COU
17 Reports on joint arrangements and external organisations and questions relating thereto: Avon Fire Authority (Agenda Item 24 (1))**

Councillor Davies gave an oral report on the issues discussed at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Avon Fire Authority (AFA) on 3 May 2018 and explained the membership proposal that had been agreed. He confirmed that following consultation and consideration of all the responses received, the AFA had resolved to reduce the number of members from 25 to 20 for an initial pilot period of 2 years, with effect from the Annual Meeting on 8 June 2018. This number allowed for political balance across the Avon area to be maintained, and resulted in a reduction in the number of North Somerset Council representatives on the AFA to four. He referred to the new job descriptions which clarified the role of members, and to the new rule whereby members' non-attendance for a three-month period would result in them being asked to leave. He reminded members that all AFA meetings were broadcast online.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

**COU
18 Housing Infrastructure Fund (Forward Fund) Business Case Development and Submission Approval (Agenda Item 25)**

Councillor Ap Rees presented the report. He referred to the excellent opportunity offered by the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) to secure much needed infrastructure funding from government towards the requirements of additional residential development in North Somerset. He confirmed the Council had been shortlisted to proceed to stage 2 which would involve putting together a business case. He proposed that the Strategic Planning and Economic Development Policy and Scrutiny Panel be involved in stage 2 of the process. Given the tight timescales it was proposed that the necessary authority be delegated to the Director and the Executive Member to ensure the deadlines were met. He drew members' attention to the following corrections to the report: paragraph 3.7 should refer to 4,575 at Banwell and Mendip Spring (not Churchill) to more accurately describe the area concerned; paragraph 3.10 (ii) should refer to online improvements to the A371 and A368 between Banwell and the A38 (not Churchill).

In discussing the report reference was made to the proposed route of the Banwell bypass, the proposals for 'other transport' improvements including cycle infrastructure and public transport services, and the benefits of bidding for as much HIF funding as possible to provide for better infrastructure over and above the financial contributions towards infrastructure costs required from developers.

Motion: Moved by Councillor Ap Rees, seconded by Councillor Pasley and

Resolved:

(1) that the outline requirements for Stage 2 (business case development) of the Housing Infrastructure Fund be noted;

(2) that the forecast cost of stage 2 (business case development) of the Housing Infrastructure Fund be noted;

(3) the Director of Development and Environment (or nominated representative), the Head of Finance and the Executive Member for Strategic Planning, Highways, Transport, Housing and Economic Development be authorised to confirm and agree entry into Stage 2 (business case development) of the Housing Infrastructure Fund when the final format requirements of Stage 2 are received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG);

(4) the Director of Development and Environment (or nominated representative), the Head of Finance and the Executive Member for Strategic Planning, Highways, Transport, Housing and Economic Development be authorised to confirm and agree final costs and funds associated and required to develop the business case of the Housing Infrastructure Fund when the final format requirements of Stage 2 are received from the MHCLG; and

(5) the Director of Development and Environment (or nominated representative), the Head of Finance and Property and the Executive Member for Strategic Planning, Highways, Transport, Housing and Economic Development be authorised to submit the final business case to the MHCLG.

COU 19 Commissioning Plan - Street Lighting Procurement (Agenda Item 26)

Councillor Ap Rees presented the report. He outlined the benefits of the proposal with particular reference to the advantages of upgrading to LED lanterns.

In discussing the report reference was made to opportunities for town and parish councils to take advantage of the council's bulk purchasing powers when looking to replace their own street lighting, and it was agreed that information would be provided to local councils at the appropriate time. In response to a question regarding whether consideration had been given to not providing public lighting, given there was no statutory duty to do so, Councillor Ap Rees referred to the benefits of public lighting in terms of road

safety and crime and disorder implications. He added that where appropriate lighting columns would be re-positioned or removed.

Motion: Moved by Councillor Ap Rees, seconded by Councillor Bryant and

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

COU 20 Development of Enterprise House – Weston Gateway Business Park (Agenda Item 27)

Councillor Ap Rees presented the report. He outlined the proposal and the benefits to the Council in maximising employment-led growth in the J21 Enterprise Area. He referred to the opportunities the premises provided for Costain to expand their business, with guarantees for existing employees and an anticipated increase in recruitment to around 350 staff in the next 3 to 4 years.

In discussing the report reference was made to the key risk factors and how these would be mitigated, and the opportunities and benefits to the council of this land acquisition.

Motion: Moved by Councillor Ap Rees, seconded by Councillor Pasley and

Resolved:

(1) that the acquisition of land for immediate development on the terms and conditions as set out in report be approved, subject to finalising any outstanding due diligence and completing a pre-let lease to Costain Ltd (“Costain”) on the terms reported;

(2) that the award of a Design and Build contract to Dowlas UK Ltd for the construction of the new Enterprise House office be approved, subject to:

- (a) Receipt of a final detailed cost plan for the whole project within the business plan budget;
- (b) The grant of an Agreement for Lease over the whole property to Costain on suitable terms and conditions to support the business plan;
- (c) The final decision to sign the Design and Build contract and the Agreement for Lease to be delegated to the Executive Member for Strategic Planning, Highways, Transport, Housing and Economic Development and the S151 Officer;

(3) that the addition to the capital programme for spend of up to £6million to acquire the land and fully develop Enterprise House be approved: and

(4) that the required changes to the council’s revenue budget in respect of gross income and expenditure be approved.

COU 21 Chairman’s notification of the appointment of a Chaplain and a Deputy Chaplain (Agenda Item 28)

The Chairman announced he had appointed the Reverend Canon Julie Fleming, Rector of the Parish of Worle, as his chaplain. Reverend Chris Elms and Reverend Emma Aymes would act as deputy chaplain as required.

COU 22 Exclusion of Press and Public - Parklands Educate Together Primary School – Change in Capital Funding Approval Request (Agenda Item 29)

Motion: Moved by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Pasley and

Resolved: that the press, public and officers not required by the members or officers advising to remain during the exempt session be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that its consideration will involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972.

Item	Reason for Exemption
Minute no. COU 23	Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972

COU 23 Parklands Educate Together Primary School – Change in Capital Funding Approval Request (exempt item) (Agenda Item 29)

Councillor Pasley presented the report. He updated members on the latest funding position and outlined the proposal as detailed in the report.

In discussing the report reference was made to the risks associated with the proposal. Members received assurances that this proposal would not impact on funding for the new school in North End, Yatton.

Motion: Moved by Councillor Pasley, seconded by Councillor Bryant and

Resolved: that the recommendations as set out in the exempt report be approved.

Councillor Shopland voted against the motion and asked for this to be recorded in the minutes.

Chairman

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS: APPOINTMENTS MADE BY THE COUNCIL

Section A - Appointments subject to political balance (appointments of three or more)

Organisation	Apts	Auth. Granted by	Representative(s)	Political Group Nominating	Term of Office Expires	Name & Address of Correspondent
Avon Fire Authority	4 (3:1:0:0) [Exp Cat: N]	COU 14/2018	Cllr Donald Davies Cllr Bob Garner Cllr Martin Williams Cllr Nick Wilton	IG C C C	May 2019 4-year term (subject to 8 year limit in total)	Lynette White, Executive Assistant to the Chair of the Fire Authority www.avonfire.gov.uk
Bristol Port Company Liaison Committee	3 2:1:0:0 [Exp Cat: Y]	COU 14/2018	Cllr Donald Davies Cllr David Oyns Cllr David Pasley	IG C C	Municipal Year End	Julie Lock, PA to the Chief Operating Officer, Bristol Port Company julie.lcd@bristolport.co.uk
Local Access Forum	3 2:1:0:0 [Exp Cat: Y]	COU 21/2015	Cllr Ann Harley Cllr Peter Burden Cllr James Tonkin	C C IG	May 2019 4-year term	Julia Parkes, Democratic Services
LGA General Assembly	4 3:1:0:0 [Exp Cat: Y]	COU 14/2018	Leader; Deputy Leader; Executive Member HR; Leader of the opposition group (All by designation)	N/A	Municipal Year End	Member Services, Local Government Association Fatima.deabreu@local.gov.uk
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education	3 2:1:0:0 [Exp Cat: Y]	COU 21/2015	Cllr Robert Cleland Cllr Sarah Codling Cllr Deborah Yamanaka	C C IG	May 2019 4-year term	Julia Parkes, Democratic Services
University of Bristol Court	3 2:1:0:0 [Exp Cat: Y]	COU 14/2018	Cllr Bob Garner Cllr Lisa Pilgrim Cllr Donald Davies	C C IG	Municipal Year End	Planning, Policy and Project Support secretariat@bristol.ac.uk

Section B - appointments not subject to political balance (less than three appointments)

Organisation	Appts	Auth. Granted by	Representative	Political Group Nominating	Term of Office Expires	Name & Address of Correspondent
Alliance Homes Board (formerly NS Housing Board)	1 [Exp Cat: N]	COU14/2018	Mr David Poole	N/A	Municipal Year End	Company Secretary Alliance Homes Philippa.armstrong-owen@alliancehomes.org.uk
Bimbeck Regeneration Trust	2 [Exp Cat: Y]	COU 14/2018	Cllr Robert Cleland Cllr Richard Nightingale	N/A	Municipal Year End	Charles McCann chaless@talk21.com
Bristol Airport Consultative Committee	1 [Exp Cat: Y]	COU 14/2018	Cllr Peter Bryant	N/A	Municipal Year End	James Gore, Bristol International Airport jgore@bristolairport.com
Campaign to Protect Rural England	1 [Exp Cat: Y]	COU 14/2018	Cllr Ruth Jacobs	N/A	Municipal Year End	Gill Sammons, CPRE gillsayzeland@googlemail.com
Clevedon Community Association	1 [Exp Cat: Y]	COU 14/2018	Cllr Bob Garner	N/A	Municipal Year End	Anne Scholes, Clevedon Community Centre admin@ccassoc.org.uk
Clevedon Pier Trust	1 [Exp Cat: Y]	COU 14/2018	Cllr Chris Blades	N/A	Municipal Year End	Linda Strong, Clevedon Pier Trust linda@clevedonpier.com
Clifton Suspension Bridge Trust	1 [Exp Cat: Y]	COU 14/2018	Cllr Charles Cave	N/A	Municipal Year End	Tim Baines, Clerk to the Trustees tim.baines@croecw.co.uk
Durnford Quarry Local Liaison Group	1 [Exp Cat: Y]	COU 14/2018	Cllr Kate Stowey	N/A	Municipal Year End	Tarmac Southern Ltd. Andy.cadell@tarmac.com

Organisation	Appts	Auth. Granted by	Representative	Political Group Nominating	Term of Office Expires	Name & Address of Correspondent
Mead Vale Community Association	1 [Exp Cat: Y]	COU 14/2018	Cllr David Hitchins	N/A	Municipal Year End	Rev Emma Aymes emma.amyes@virgin.net
North Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau	1 [Exp Cat: Y]	COU 14/2018	Cllr Bob Garner	N/A	Municipal Year End	Director North Somerset Citizen's Advice Bureau bureau@nsomersetcab.cabnet.org.uk
Police and Crime Panel	2 [Exp Cat: N]	COU 21/2015	Cllr Nigel Ashton Cllr Roz Willis	N/A	June 2019 4-year term	Patricia Jones, Clerk to the Police & Crime Panel PLJones@somerset.gov.uk
Portishead Youth Centre Management Committee	1 [Exp Cat: Y]	COU 14/2018	Cllr David Pasley	N/A	Municipal Year End	Portishead Youth Centre Ltd, mail@portisheadyouthcentre.co.uk
Richard Durban Trust	2 [Exp Cat: Y]	COU 21/2015	Cllr Jill Iles Cllr Judith Hadley	N/A	May 2019 May 2019 4-year term	Jenny Stevenson LLB John Hodge Solicitors 01934 410910
Severnside Sirens Trust	1 [Exp Cat: N]	COU 14/2018	Cllr Reyna Knight	N/A	Municipal Year End	Cooksley & Co, Trust Administrators info@severnsideirens.co.uk
Standing Conference of Severnside Local Authorities	2 [Exp Cat: Y]	COU 14/2018	Cllr Peter Bryant Cllr Peter Burden	N/A	Municipal Year End	Severn Estuary Partnership, c/o School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, Main Building, Park Place, Cardiff CF10 3AT severn@cardiff.ac.uk

Organisation	Appts	Auth. Granted by	Representative	Political Group Nominating	Term of Office Expires	Name & Address of Correspondent
Strawberry Line Society (formerly the Cheddar Valley Railway Walk Committee)	1 [Exp Cat: Y]	COU 14/2018	Cllr Ann Harley	N/A	Municipal Year End	Irene Thresher, Treasurer & Membership Secretary the Strawberry Line Society Irene.thresher@btinternet.com
University of Bath Court	1 [Exp Cat: Y]	COU 14/2018	Executive Member Children & Young People's Services (by designation)	N/A	Municipal Year End	Mark Pender, Secretary to Court, Office of the University Secretary, University of Bath m.p.pender@bath.ac.uk
Uphill Victory Hall	1 [Exp Cat: Y]	COU 14/2018	Cllr Peter Bryant	N/A	Municipal Year End	Honorary Secretary, Uphill Victory Hall c/o John wood
Wessex Reserve Forces & Cadets Association	2 [Exp Cat: N]	COU 14/2018	Cllr Judith Hadley Cllr David Shopland	N/A	Municipal Year End	Alan Owens, Staff Officer Wessex RFCA wx-offman@rfca.mod.uk
Weston Town Centre Co Ltd	2 [Exp Cat: Y]	COU 14/2018	Cllr Richard Nightingale Cllr Martin Williams	N/A	Municipal Year End	steve.townsend@wsmtcp.co.uk

Contact Officer: Heather Sanders 01934 634907

Guide to Expenses Categories:

N - Expenses not paid by the Council and any claim should be submitted to the Outside Body concerned.

Y - Only travel expenses to the main meeting place to be submitted to the Council. Any other travel expenses will require prior authorisation before travel to establish if payment will be made.

Appendix 2

**North Somerset Council
Council Meeting, 8 May 2018
Question Time (Agenda Item 20)**

Question 1

From Councillor Leimdorfer

To Councillor Pasley, Executive Member for Human Resources, Asset Management, Capital Programme, Transformation

IT System at Congresbury Library

Councillor Leimdorfer referred to the hard work of Congresbury Parish Council and local volunteers to deliver a high-quality service at Congresbury Library on behalf of North Somerset Council. The Library Service staff had supported the Council well throughout the process of the Community Access Review and over the past year. However, he suggested the quality of provision had been undermined by the failure of Agilisys to provide and support a reliable IT system. He asked the Executive Member if he would ensure that this situation was rectified as a matter of priority. He had supplied the Executive Member with some detailed information illustrating the problem and its impact on service users.

Councillor Pasley thanked Councillor Leimdorfer for the advance notice of the question. He referred to the unique IT set up at the library, with an old system that was difficult to support. He referred to the time taken by Agilisys in trying to resolve the issues but stressed the system kept failing. He added it was recognised that a 'fit for purpose' IT system was required for libraries and that this was being addressed with an anticipated delivery in 2019/20. In the meantime, efforts would be made to ensure the existing system was as stable as possible.

In a supplementary comment Councillor Leimdorfer thanked Councillor Pasley for his reassuring response. However he added that while a range of excuses had been given as to why the system was failing he was aware of similar systems installed in Somerset and Dorset libraries where their IT support was infinitely better and they were not experiencing the same difficulties.

Question 2

From Councillor Burden

To Councillor Ap Rees, Executive Member for Planning, Highways, Transport, Housing, Economic Development

Equality Impact Assessments for Planning Applications

Councillor Burden referred to the requirements under the Environmental Assessment regulations whereby prospective applicants can seek the Council's opinion (called "a screening opinion") as to whether a formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required. Requests for screening opinions were currently included on the weekly lists of applications and interested parties were given the opportunity to comment. However, the policy did not allow for any comments to influence the decision and he referred to a particular application in Portishead where 124 responses had been

received which would have no impact on the decision. He therefore asked the Executive Member to consider either removing the requests from the lists or looking at the possibility of amending the policy to allow for comments to be taken into consideration.

Councillor Ap Rees responded that the regulations governing screening opinions were quite technical but proposed asking the Strategic Planning and Economic Development Policy and Scrutiny Panel to look in to this matter and to ask officers to explain the current arrangements and whether there was any scope for taking comments received at this stage in to account.

Question 3

From Councillor Bell

To Councillor Ashton, Leader of the Council

Public Engagement at Meetings

Councillor Bell referred to the recent increase in the level of public participation at meetings and asked the Leader if he would agree to look again at how we could take best practice from elsewhere particularly in relation to broadcasting meetings online.

Councillor Ashton responded that this had been looked at some years ago but had not been progressed due to the huge costs involved. He was not convinced this would be cost effective but suggested the Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel may wish to look at this and how best to engage with the public.

In a supplementary comment Councillor Bell referred to the increasing number of councils and other authorities now broadcasting online, suggesting the costs of doing so had reduced in recent years and that local residents increasingly wanted to know how decisions were being taken.

Question 4

From Councillor Davies

To Councillor Pasley, Executive Member for Human Resources, Asset Management, Capital Programme, Transformation

Impact of Proposed Merger between Sainsbury and Asda on North Worle Shopping Centre

Councillor Davies referred to the proposed merger between Asda and Sainsbury and asked the Executive Member how this affected the Council's risk assessment for the viability of the North Worle Shopping Centre, especially after 2024.

Councillor Pasley responded that he saw the merger as a positive thing. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Head of Finance and Property confirmed that the view of the Council's consultants, Montagu Evans, was that this would have no impact on the decision as the site was not under threat from any proposed merger.

Question 5

From Councillor Tucker

To Councillor Baker, Executive Member for Community, Tourism and Leisure, Licensing, Corporate Communications, Electoral Services, Libraries

Update on Proposed New Pool at Hutton Moor

Councillor Tucker asked the Executive Member for an update on the proposed new pool for Hutton Moor.

Councillor Baker responded that ground investigations were still ongoing at the site but she undertook to provide a more detailed written answer to Councillor Tucker.

Question 6

From Councillor Harley

To Councillor Ashton, Leader of the Council

Co-ordinator for Tall Ships Youth Trust Funds

Councillor Harley welcomed the Chairman's earlier announcement that he had secured ten places for looked after children to sail the channel as part of the Tall Ships Youth Trust, and asked the Leader if he was planning to nominate someone to help the Chairman in co-ordinating fundraising efforts for this.

The Leader responded that he would be happy to nominate Councillor Harley.

Question 7

From Councillor Pepperall

To Councillor Pasley, Executive Member for Human Resources, Asset Management, Capital Programme, Transformation

Electronic Recording of Unsatisfactory Council Services

Councillor Pepperall asked the Executive Member on behalf of residents in North Worle whether a facility could be provided on the Council website to allow residents to report work not carried out, or not carried out satisfactorily, by contractors employed by North Somerset Council.

Councillor Pasley responded there was currently a facility on the website for reporting problems with waste collections and he would ask Agilisys to look in to the possibility of doing so.