

## Minutes

of the Meeting of

## The Executive

**Wednesday, 16 October 2024**

New Council Chamber

Meeting Commenced: 2.30 pm

Meeting Concluded: 4.41 pm

### Councillors:

Mike Bell (Chairperson)  
Catherine Gibbons (Vice-Chairperson)

James Clayton  
Jenna Ho Marris  
Mike Solomon  
Annemieke Waite  
Roger Whitfield  
Hannah Young

**Also in attendance: Councillors:** Mike Bird, Steve Bridger, Peter Burden, Andy Cole, Lisa Pilgrim, Michael Pryke, Luke Smith, Martin Williams.

**Officers in attendance:** Jo Walker (Chief Executive), Amy Webb (Director of Corporate Services), Nicholas Brain (Assistant Director Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer), Matt Lenny (Director of Public Health), Hayley Verrico (Director of Adult Social Services), Hazel Brinton (Committee Services Manager) and Gemma Dando (Assistant Director - Neighbourhood Management).

### Partaking via Microsoft Teams:

**Councillors:** Chris Blades, Mark Canniford, Thomas Daw, Clare Hunt, Bridget Petty, Terry Porter

### **EXE 152 Addresses by Members of the Public (ESO 6) - Suspension of Standing Orders**

**Resolved:** that Standing Order ESO6 be suspended under Standing Order 40 to allow for 7 speakers to address the Executive

1. **Carolyn Job – resident, impact of parking charges on Lake Grounds Amenities, Portishead**

Carolyn Job addressed the meeting and thanked members for the opportunity to address them. She informed members that the Lake Grounds were not a seafront with business activities but an area for recreational facilities and asked that the decision be delayed as there were questions regarding the financial modelling and lack of relevant information

to take an informed decision. She added that the Lake Grounds Amenities Club would consider leasing the relevant parking areas from North Somerset Council.

**2. Andrea Goude, resident, impact of parking charges on Portishead Lido**

Andrea Goude addressed members and asked them to consider the impact of parking charges on users of the lido including the volunteers and Charity Trustees. The Charity was seeking grants and aimed to be inclusive for all including the disabled and felt that parking charges would work against these aims. She added that there was no public transport to the lido.

**3. Justine Flower, resident, impact of parking charges on residents near to Lake Grounds**

Justine Flower spoke on the impact of implementing parking charges on the residents of Lake Grounds where she believed there was no current parking issue. She added that parking charges would bring parking issues particularly to the residential roads forming part of Lake Grounds which would experience displacement parking. She asked members to consider the impact on the wider residents including dog walkers, the elderly, volunteer groups and amenity users and suggested that residents would work with the council to find alternative solutions.

**4. David Gunnell, resident and Portishead Town Councillor, impact of parking charges in Portishead**

David Gunnell thanked members for the opportunity to speak and as a member of Portishead Town Council noted the support of the town council for the residents with the concerns raised of introducing parking charges. He asked for the impact on the High Street shops and charity shops to be considered as there were already empty units and felt that parking charges would accelerate the loss. He added that there was limited on-street parking in Roath Road and only 50% of residents had off-street parking and believed the income modelling did not justify parking charges at the Lake Grounds. He asked members to reconsider the decision.

**5. David Sims, business ratepayer Books on the Hill, impact of parking charges on Hill Road, Clevedon**

David Sims addressed members and noted that Hill Road in Clevedon was not a holiday destination but one used by local people particularly families and the elderly. He believed the introduction of parking charges in Hill Road would negatively impact the sustainability, viability and vibrancy of the area leading to fewer independent shops and changing the area's character forever. He suggested that the traffic management evidence to support the introduction of charges was non-existent in the report and asked members to reconsider the decision and called for processes to be changed to permit the decision to be taken by Full Council rather than the Executive.

**6. Chris Clarke, resident, impact of parking charges on Portishead**

Chris Clarke thanked members for the opportunity to address them and asked whether the report was fair and consistent in its consideration of the impact of the introduction of parking charges on the elderly, infirm and vulnerable local people who use the Lake Grounds. He noted that 10%

used the facilities every day and 49% once a week. He asked members to consider the impact of imposing holiday destination charges on local people and highlighted his belief that there was a lack of commentary on the equality and fairness implications of the decision in the report.

**7. Jo Gower-Crane, resident, impact on food production and in relation to the Local Plan, Energy Strategy and North Somerset Council plans to join WECA, and how this is represented across the council's policies**

Jo Gower-Crane addressed members on the issue of rural communities, food and farming in relation to energy and housing. She asked how the council was protecting the land to support food and farming for residents and noted that whilst she had met with councillors, this issue was not specifically reflected in the revised draft Local Plan. She asked for an update on food and food security and asked for consideration of the impact of the council's plans to join the West of England Combined Authority.

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

At the conclusion of public speaking the Executive meeting proceedings under the provisions of Executive Standing Orders then resumed.

**EXE 153 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Standing Order 37)**

None declared.

**EXE 154 Minutes**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of 17 September 2024 be approved as a correct record

**EXE 155 Non-Executive Councillors' Addresses**

Councillor Bridger asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport for an update on the upgrade of bus shelters funded by the Bus Service Improvement Programme capital grant.

Councillor Young replied that the upgrade programme had been split into batches with the first upgraded shelters due now in January 2025. A contractor had been appointed but there had been a delay due to required electrical connections for real time information. Ward members and town and parish councils would be briefed once designs had been completed for their local area with letters to residents 6 weeks in advance of any works.

Councillor Bell reminded members that Non-Executive Councillor addresses should be around raising a new issue for future consideration.

**EXE 156 Matters referred to the Executive and not dealt with elsewhere on this agenda**

None.

**EXE 157 West of England Sub-Region: items not dealt with elsewhere on this agenda**

None.

**EXE 158 Parking Management Strategy, action plan and introduction of charges**

Councillor Bell introduced the report on behalf of Councillor Canniford and explained that it set out plans for the council's new parking management strategy including introducing charges in several new car parks and on-street car parking areas. He noted that the strategy aimed to improve parking management, increase revenue and support the local economy whilst reducing pressure on the council's budget. It has been developed after consultation with residents, businesses and other stakeholders and considered issues such as affordability, accessibility and the potential impact on the local economy.

It was intended to implement the changes in phases commencing with several car parks in Portishead and Clevedon followed by Nailsea and then on-street parking areas. The impact of the changes would be monitored, and the strategy would be adjusted as required. There would be a further opportunity for residents, councillors and stakeholders to comment on the detail of the proposals during the consultation on the Traffic Regulation Orders.

He acknowledged and understood the view of residents, businesses and councillors who did not wish to see charges introduced but the council's budget was under pressure and there were limited options to contain costs and generate income from parking management. Any net income raised from the charges would be invested in maintaining car parking, managing parking enforcement and improvements to the highways and public transport infrastructure.

The council had listened to feedback and made changes where possible and had committed to being open to other arrangements with town councils and other interested parties if they wished to take over off street car parks. Additionally, it was committed to looking carefully at how it could support volunteers and leisure groups to continue to access public spaces including the Lake Grounds in Portishead. The council acknowledged the risks and would make further changes if necessary. Displacement would be monitored, and residents' permits considered where needed.

Councillor Bell added however that the council could not afford to ignore the financial imperative to cut its costs, generate income and balance its books even if this meant making difficult decisions. The council could not justify free parking when it was having to consider cuts to care services nor use budgets from other highways' areas to support the budget required for free parking

Councillor Bell opened the debate to non-Executive and Executive members who discussed the matter at length noting the following: concern regarding the disincentive to active travel; the lack of public transport options; the impact on local businesses; financial modelling in the report; displacement parking; the financial modelling regarding the required capital investment; increased

congestion and pollution; the risk of an overall negative contribution to the council's budget; the impact on the taking of exercise by residents; the impact on the sustainability of the Lake Grounds; the blanket charging structure; the availability of competing free parking options; revenue generation by allocating land to solar power; the risk and implications of the council issuing a Section 114 notice if the council has not considered all revenue raising options; the extensive scrutiny process regarding the proposals; concerns that the proposal won't address the budget crisis; the impact on volunteers providing a public service; how the proposal constitutes a parking management strategy; the lack of investment strategy and concern over the viability of the Roath Road car park.

Councillors Bell and Young responded to a number of the points made by members and public speakers and reiterated that the approach being taken was one of trial, test and review and that it was important to explore all options to fund statutory services. The council welcomed ideas from residents, members and other stakeholders in generating income and making savings.

**Resolved:** that the Executive

- i. Adopted the North Somerset Parking Management Strategy and 5-year action plan as set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of the report.
- ii. Delegated updates on the strategy and action plan to the Executive Member for Spatial Planning, Placemaking and Economy.
- iii. Agreed to commence the process to implement the necessary Traffic Regulation Order(s) and Parking Orders including the formal consultation process in line with proposed parking charges as set out in Table 2 of the report, with final details to be signed off by the Executive Member for Spatial Planning, Placemaking and Economy.
- iv. Gave authority for officers to carry out negotiations with a view to entering into commercial leases for relevant car park sites subject to final terms being approved in accordance with financial regulations.
- v. Subject to consideration of the outcome of the formal TRO/ Parking Order consultations and decisions following those processes approved an increase to the capital programme of up to £527,000 to implement the proposed parking charges as set out in Table 2 of the report.
- vi. Noted the financial implications highlighted in section 5 of the report and approved the amendments to the revenue budget.

**Reasons for the decision:**

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

As set out in the report and discussed above

**EXE 159 Finance Outturn 2023-24**

Councillor Bell introduced the report which summarised the council's financial report for 2024-25. He drew members attention to specific recommendations in relation to the North Somerset Environment Company fleet procurement,

delegations to the Executive Member for Spatial Planning, Placemaking and Economy around Weston Business Quarter, land disposal and capital programme amendments in relation to Weston Recycling Centre. He thanked officers for their work during the year and noted a small underspend after the release of reserves. He highlighted continuing financial pressures in adult's and children's social care and waste and transport.

**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 of the report,
3. Approved the amendments to the revenue and capital budgets that have been reflected within the report as detailed in Appendices 1 and 6 of the report,
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 of the report,
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 of the report,
6. Agreed to 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 of the report.

**Reasons for the decision:**

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

As set out in the report and discussed above

**EXE 160 Budget Monitoring and Medium Term Financial Plan Update October 2024**

Councillor Bell introduced the report noting that it was the latest update on the council's in-year financial position which suggested that costs would exceed income by £8.5m for the current financial year which were down from £12m reported in September as a result of further work. He noted that progress was

being made on reducing the deficit, but this was as a result of releasing some reserves, changes on the global financial markets and spending control and mitigations the council was putting in place.

He added that the report laid out the longer-term gap of £30m over 3 years which needed to be closed to balance the budget and set out the proposed consultation and engagement process with residents, members, town and parish councillors and other stakeholders to give an opportunity for comment on budget proposals.

**Resolved:** that the Executive

1. Noted the updated revenue and capital budget forecasts for the current financial year including progress against the plans and actions that are being taken to allow the council to balance the budget by the end of the financial year,
3. Approved the changes to the capital budgets as detailed within Appendix 3 of the report,
4. Noted the progress being made by the council in terms of preparing its medium-term financial plan forecast for the three-year period 2025 to 2028 including activity relating to consultation, engagement and equality impact assessments.

**Reasons for the decision:**

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

As set out in the report and discussed above

**EXE 161 Commissioning Plan for Property Management and Asset Management Services of The Sovereign, Weston-super-Mare**

Councillor Bell presented the report which set out proposals and an anticipated timeline for securing a replacement contractor for the property management and asset management services at The Sovereign.

**Resolved:** that the Executive approved the Commissioning Plan for the procurement of Property Management and Asset Management services in respect of The Sovereign Centre for a 3-year period with an option to extend for a further 2 years.

**Reasons for the decision:**

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

As set out in the report and discussed above

**EXE 162 Commissioning Plan for the construction contract for Lower Yard remediation works**

Councillor Waite introduced the report to members and highlighted the remedial works required to the Lower Yard at Weston recycling centre which were necessary to resolve key operational and health and safety issues at the site. The report requested permission to approve the Commissioning Plan to start the works. Councillor Waite highlighted the environmental impact of the works which would be designed to reduce the use of carbon intensive products.

**Resolved:** that the Executive approved the commissioning plan to proceed with the remediation works at Lower Yard, Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) in Weston-super-Mare.

**Reasons for the decision:**

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

As set out in the report and discussed above

**EXE 163 Energy Strategy**

Councillor Waite presented the report to members which requested adoption of an Energy Strategy for the council and wider North Somerset area. She noted that the Energy Strategy considered the actions the council could take in relation to energy efficiency, sourcing and generation with the primary focus on energy use by the council itself but also considered interventions which would benefit the wider area. The Energy Strategy did not commit the council financially.

**Resolved:** that the Executive adopted the Energy Strategy.

**Reasons for the decision:**

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

As set out in the report and discussed above

**EXE 164 Recommissioning of the Council's Insurance Contract**

Councillor Bell noted that the report covered the renewal of the council's insurance contracts which would expire in March 2025 and set out how the council would achieve good value for money and which also met the council's attitude to risk.

**Resolved:** that the Executive approved the commissioning plan in respect of the council's insurance contracts, which will enable the re-commissioning arrangements to commence and be delivered within the required timescales.

**EXE Forward Plan dated 3 October 2024**

**165**

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

**EXE Oral reports of Executive Councillors**

**166**

None.

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

**167**

None.

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Chairperson

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Note added to the minutes on December 6 2024

**North Somerset Council  
Executive Meeting 16 October 2024  
Public Participation (Agenda Item 1)**

**Public Participation One**

**Carolyn Job – resident, impact of parking charges on Lake Grounds Amenities, Portishead**

Carolyn Job addressed the meeting and thanked members for the opportunity to address them. She informed members that the Lake Grounds were not a seafront with business activities but an area for recreational facilities and asked that the decision be delayed as there were questions regarding the financial modelling and lack of relevant information to take an informed decision. She added that the Lake Grounds Amenities Club would consider leasing the relevant parking areas from North Somerset Council.

**Public Participation Two**

**Andrea Goude, resident, impact of parking charges on Portishead Lido**

Andrea Goude addressed members and asked them to consider the impact of parking charges on users of the lido including the volunteers and Charity Trustees. The Charity was seeking grants and aimed to be inclusive for all including the disabled and felt that parking charges would work against these aims. She added that there was no public transport to the lido.

**Public Participation Three**

**Justine Flower, resident, impact of parking charges on residents near to Lake Grounds**

Justine Flower spoke on the impact of implementing parking charges on the residents of Lake Grounds where she believed there was no current parking issue. She added that parking charges would bring parking issues particularly to the residential roads forming part of Lake Grounds which would experience displacement parking. She asked members to consider the impact on the wider residents including dog walkers, the elderly, volunteer groups and amenity users and suggested that residents would work with the council to find alternative solutions.

**Public Participation Four**

**David Gunnell, resident and Portishead Town Councillor, impact of parking charges in Portishead**

David Gunnell thanked members for the opportunity to speak and as a member of Portishead Town Council noted the support of the town council for the residents with the concerns raised of introducing parking charges. He asked for the impact on the High Street shops and charity shops to be considered as there were already empty units and felt that parking charges would accelerate the loss. He added that there was limited on-street parking in Roath Road and only 50% of residents had off-street parking and believed the income modelling did not justify parking charges at the Lake Grounds. He asked members to reconsider the decision.

### **Public Participation Five**

#### **David Sims, business ratepayer Books on the Hill, impact of parking charges on Hill Road, Clevedon**

David Sims addressed members and noted that Hill Road in Clevedon was not a holiday destination but one used by local people particularly families and the elderly. He believed the introduction of parking charges in Hill Road would negatively impact the sustainability, viability and vibrancy of the area leading to fewer independent shops and changing the area's character forever. He suggested that the traffic management evidence to support the introduction of charges was non-existent in the report and asked members to reconsider the decision and called for processes to be changed to permit the decision to be taken by Full Council rather than the Executive.

### **Public Participation Six**

#### **Chris Clarke, resident, impact of parking charges on Portishead**

Chris Clarke thanked members for the opportunity to address them and asked whether the report was fair and consistent in its consideration of the impact of the introduction of parking charges on the elderly, infirm and vulnerable local people who use the Lake Grounds. He noted that 10% used the facilities every day and 49% once a week. He asked members to consider the impact of imposing holiday destination charges on local people and highlighted his belief that there was a lack of commentary on the equality and fairness implications of the decision in the report.

### **Public Participation Seven**

#### **Jo Gower-Crane – resident – impact on food production and in relation to the Local Plan, Energy Strategy and North Somerset Council plans to join WECA, and how this is represented across the council's policies**

Jo Gower-Crane addressed members on the issue of rural communities, food and farming in relation to energy and housing. She asked how the council was protecting the land to support food and farming for residents and noted that whilst she had met with councillors, this issue was not specifically reflected in the revised draft Local Plan. She asked for an update on food and food security and asked for consideration of the impact of the council's plans to join the West of England Combined Authority.

### **Response from Lucy Shomali, Director of Place**

Apologies for the delay. In response to the question you raised at Executive on 16 October where you asked for an update on food and food security and consideration of the impact of the council's plan to join the West of England Combined Authority I can respond as follows.

North Somerset Council recognises that food security is a national issue that is being considered as part of the wider work of the UK government and devolved administrations.

The [UK Food Security Index 2024](#), provides an assessment of the state of UK food security using the latest available evidence. The index is designed to complement the three-yearly [UK Food Security Report \(UKFSR\)](#) which is a comprehensive analysis of statistical data relating to UK food security. As of July 2024, the indicators in the UK Food Security Index have been summarised as follows:

*'Taking a holistic view across the indicators in the index shows a **broadly stable picture** as the UK comes out of a challenging period of global supply chain shocks. However, this should be seen in the context of **longer-term risk from climate change**: an exceptionally wet winter and spring in 2024 poses significant challenges to some domestic production.'*

Indicator	Assessment
Indicator 1: Global food supply for human consumption	Broadly stable
Indicator 2: Share of global cereals and soyabeans internationally traded	Broadly stable
Indicator 3: Production-supply ratio	Broadly stable
Indicator 4: Agricultural total factor productivity	Some reduction in risks
Indicator 5: Agricultural land use	Broadly stable
Indicator 6: Energy and fertiliser prices	Some reduction in risks
Indicator 7: Business investment	Broadly stable
Indicator 8: Biosecurity risk	Broadly stable
Indicator 9: Consumer confidence in food supply chain actors	Broadly stable

North Somerset Council is committed to engaging with the relevant central government departments as needed on the issue of Food Security. In addition, the council continues to work across a number of areas relating to food security including:

- Land use allocations and protections. As far as possible within national planning regulations and targets, our emerging local plan recognises the importance of protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land (grades 1, 2 and 3a) from inappropriate development by using areas of poorer quality land in preference to those of a higher quality. [Policy DP53 Best and most versatile land](#) (North Somerset Local Plan Reg 19 version July 2024) sets out the proposed approach.
- Support for activities linked to food production, processing, procurement and distribution, for example the council's support in building and setting up [FoodWorks SW](#), a centre of excellence for nurturing local food and drink business and their products.
- Addressing food poverty and inequalities that exist within our communities, with a commitment in our refreshed [Corporate Plan](#) to develop a local Food Strategy.
- Consideration of the impact of food as part of a balanced diet and the impact on health and wellbeing of our community and citizens via the actions in our [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) and our ongoing partnership work with the Integrated Care System.

Should the council join the West of England there is potential to lobby government from a wider, regional perspective on the issue of food security and to work across a wider area to support activities related to food production processing, procurement and distribution in particular.

I hope this response is helpful.