

South Hams Council



Title:	Agenda																												
Date:	Thursday, 25th March, 2021																												
Time:	2.00 pm																												
Venue:	Via Teams																												
Full Members:	<p style="text-align: center;">Chairman Cllr Rowe Vice Chairman Cllr Foss</p> <p><i>Members:</i></p> <table><tbody><tr><td>Cllr Abbott</td><td>Cllr Long</td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Austen</td><td>Cllr McKay</td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Baldry</td><td>Cllr O'Callaghan</td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Bastone</td><td>Cllr Pannell</td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Birch</td><td>Cllr Pearce</td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Brazil</td><td>Cllr Pennington</td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Brown</td><td>Cllr Pringle</td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Chown</td><td>Cllr Reeve</td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Hawkins</td><td>Cllr Rose</td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Hodgson</td><td>Cllr Smerdon</td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Holway</td><td>Cllr Spencer</td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Hopwood</td><td>Cllr Sweett</td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Jackson</td><td>Cllr Taylor</td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Kemp</td><td>Cllr Thomas</td></tr></tbody></table>	Cllr Abbott	Cllr Long	Cllr Austen	Cllr McKay	Cllr Baldry	Cllr O'Callaghan	Cllr Bastone	Cllr Pannell	Cllr Birch	Cllr Pearce	Cllr Brazil	Cllr Pennington	Cllr Brown	Cllr Pringle	Cllr Chown	Cllr Reeve	Cllr Hawkins	Cllr Rose	Cllr Hodgson	Cllr Smerdon	Cllr Holway	Cllr Spencer	Cllr Hopwood	Cllr Sweett	Cllr Jackson	Cllr Taylor	Cllr Kemp	Cllr Thomas
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Interests – Declaration and Restriction on Participation:	Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest not entered in the Authority's register or local non pecuniary interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda (subject to the exception for sensitive information) and to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on an item in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest.																												
Committee administrator:	Democratic.Services@swdevon.gov.uk																												

- 1. Minutes** **1 - 14**
to approve as a correct record and authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11 February 2021;
- 2. Urgent Business**
the Chairman to announce if any item not on the agenda should be considered on the basis that he considers it as a matter of urgency (any such item to be dealt with under 'Business Brought forward by the Chairman');
- 3. Exempt Information**
to consider whether the consideration of any item of business would be likely to disclose exempt information and if so the category of such exempt information;
- 4. Declarations of Interest**
Members are invited to declare any personal; or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting;
- 5. Business Brought Forward by the Chairman**
to consider business (if any) brought forward by the Chairman;
- 6. Investing in South Hams Economic Recovery** **15 - 22**
- 7. Enhancing the Democratic Decision-Making Process** **23 - 36**
- 8. 2021/22 Capital Strategy; 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy; and 2021/22 Investment Strategy** **37 - 96**
- 9. Pay Policy Statement and Pay and Reward Strategy 2021/22** **97 - 122**
- 10. Questions**
to consider the following question received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8.

(a) From Cllr Birch to Cllr Pearce (Leader of Council)

“Following the Leader of the Council’s answer to my

question at the Executive meeting held on 11 March on the matter of Climate Change & Biodiversity (CC&B) projects, will she please list all the current projects contained in the CC&B Action Plan that are being implemented?

Will she also please confirm that Members will receive regular updates on progress in respect of the CC&B projects in the Members' bulletin?"

(b) From Cllr Hodgson to Cllr Bastone (Deputy Leader of Council)

"What progress has been made with Traveller sites in the South Hams and how and when will formal sites be established for both transit and permanent use by the Traveller Community?"

11. Notice of Motion

to consider the following motions received (if any) in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.1

(a) By Cllrs Hopwood and Austen

'All types of businesses from the cake maker to the carpenter play a major role in our communities. They help to support economic growth from the ground up. Following the pandemic, these often innovative and dynamic small businesses are going to be key to our recovery. The principle of shopping locally and supporting local trades is something that we can all do as we support each other to grow and thrive in the coming years and that can begin as local as your own street, community or village. As a Council (and elected Members) we can support and encourage support local and be 'Support Local' advocates within our communities.'

(b) By Cllrs Hodgson and Rose

"In line with our formal declaration of a climate and biodiversity emergency, and our commitment to actions to change behaviour to address the causes of this situation, and mitigate the impacts, this Council supports the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill proposed by a coalition of scientists, academics and lawyers with the aim of bringing the UK's climate policy into one with evolving scientific evidence. Currently this also supported by 96 cross-party members of parliament. Nationally we need a strong legislative

framework that embeds the Government's targets in law, enabling us as supportive players, to plan and develop our future trajectories, to fit in with those targets.

Council therefore resolves to:

- i. Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill; and*
- ii. Inform the local media of this decision;*

(c) By Cllrs Birch and Holway

'Following the decision of Full Council at its meeting on 11 February 2021 to allocate the sum of £200,000 to Climate Change and Biodiversity projects, it is resolved that part of this sum be allocated to Members as a CC&B Locality Fund for CC&B projects, in a similar manner to that adopted in respect of the Sustainable Community Locality Fund.

Each Member will be allocated the sum of £3,000 for distribution for CC&B projects and it is a condition that any funds distributed be in respect of projects that fall within the ambit of the Council's Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan adopted on 17 December 2020 (and any subsequent amendments).

The Member allocating his/her budget or any part thereof to any project will submit six monthly reports from the recipient organisation. The reports shall comply with the reporting arrangements to be determined by the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

The allocation will be initially for the financial year 2021-22, and to be reviewed during the budget setting process for 2022-23, when the spend, quality of projects and reports submitted by Members, along with any other competing budget pressures, will be taken into consideration.'

(d) By Cllrs Brazil and O'Callaghan

'South Hams District Council continues to lobby government to close the loophole that allows domestic properties to switch to business rates and then pay nothing by claiming the small business exemption. Additionally, local authorities need to be permitted to charge up to 200% on second/holiday homes in their area.'

(e) By Cllrs Baldry and Thomas

- 1. Many South Hams councillors live quite a distance from*

Totnes. For some it is an hour a round trip to attend meetings. It isn't always easy, particularly during winter time to attend all the meetings because of inclement weather and work commitments

- 2. SHDC has declared a climate emergency and by attending meetings via Teams or Zoom we are not driving and using non-renewal resources but are cutting down on our carbon footprint – a priority of this council.*
- 3. Virtual meetings have saved the council a considerable amount of money.*
- 4. Councillors wish to attend SHDC meetings but are also keen to attend meetings of the Parish and Town Councils within their wards. Some are also County Councillors and there is often a clash of dates. This means that councillors have to choose which to attend. The result is less engagement with the District Council, or the County Council or the Parish Councils. Having remote meetings means that councillors can more easily attend most of the meetings, to the advantage of all the councils.*
- 5. The engagement of the public and press has also generally increased. The level of reporting about council business has increased as physical meetings no longer attracted the local press due to cutbacks in their staff.*
- 6. For some councillors who have work commitments, mobility issues or are carers remote meetings have been easier for them to attend. This may well help to attract a wider age range of potential councillors in future elections.*

This Council would like to have the flexibility to hold remote and physical meetings. We recognise that some meetings are better dealt with physically and we also recognise that perhaps a hybrid model could also work successfully.

This Council resolves to

- 1. Write to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) urging that the temporary change to the meeting rules set out in the Local Government Act 1972 be made permanent so that after May we have the flexibility to hold meetings remotely or physically or by using a combination of the two.*
- 2. Write to our MPs, the County Council and Town and Parish Councils asking for support for this flexible approach to council meetings.*
- 3. Once our request is successful to explore the use of technology to develop remote meetings even more in order to attract a wider audience."*

(f) By Cllrs Hodgson and Rose

"This Council supports the government's Active Travel Initiative and agrees to work with Devon County Council to ensure this important pedestrian and cycling infrastructure linking towns and rural villages is fully developed in a timely manner and maintained, to recognise the significance of these non-vehicular routes to the health and well-being of South Hams residents and visitors and to enable behaviour change in line with responding to the Council's declaration of a climate and biodiversity Emergency and Devon County Council's Carbon Plan".

(g) By Cllrs Hodgson and Rose

"In line with this Council's climate and biodiversity emergency, this council commits to work with Devon County Council to implement Air Quality Management Action plans in SHDC to:

- Improve recording of air pollutants (including Nitrous Oxides and particulates) to ensure accurate and comprehensive real time data collection*
- Assess and report the cumulative impacts on human health and wildlife within 10 meters of monitored public highways and footpaths*
- Address and significantly reduce the air quality issues in those zones as a matter of priority*
- Implement urgent measures to protect residents from the impacts of these pollutants."*

12. Reports of Bodies

to receive and as may be necessary approve the minutes and recommendations of the under-mentioned Bodies

(* Indicates minutes containing recommendations to Council).

(a) Audit Committee - 15 October 2020	123 - 128
(b) Overview & Scrutiny Panel - 19 November 2020	129 - 134
(c) Development Management Committee - 2 December 2020	135 - 144
(d) Executive* - 17 December 2020	145 - 150

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(e) Development Management Committee - 6 January 2021	151 - 158
(f) Joint O&S Panel and Development Management Committee - 14 January 2021	159 - 164
(g) Overview & Scrutiny Panel - 14 January 2021	165 - 170
(h) Salcombe Harbour Board - 18 January 2021	171 - 174
(i) Executive* - 28 January 2021	175 - 186
(j) Development Management Committee - 3 February 2021	187 - 192
(k) Audit Committee - 4 February 2021	193 - 198
(l) Council Tax Setting Panel - 23 February 2021	199 - 202
(m) Overview & Scrutiny Panel - 25 February 2021	203 - 210
(n) Development Management Committee - 3 March 2021	211 - 218
(o) Executive* - 11 March 2021	219 - 226