



## Somerset Association of Local Councils

### Minutes of the All Areas Meeting

Held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018 @ The Edgar Hall, Somerton

**Present:** Jean Allgrove; President, Dave Mitton; Chairman and 35 individuals representing 31 Member Councils

In attendance: Justin Robinson (County Executive Officer), Simon Pritchard (Assistant County Executive Officer)

**1. 9:55 am Welcome by Cllr. Dave Mitton, Chairman of SALC**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and went over the agenda stating that he would be keeping the meeting to the given time slots.

**2. 10:00 am Guest Speaker - Pat Flaherty (CEO, Somerset County Council)**

Mr Flaherty gave an overview of the financial restraints the County Council is now facing and how the services it offers will need to change in the coming years. £12m cuts last year, £13m this year and looking like £19m next year. This will mean a smaller workforce, more signposting and the community helping itself.

Among many questions that were asked was where things were in the unitary conversations with the District Councils, Mr Flaherty replied that the principal councils needed to ask themselves 'what is the best things for Somerset'? It's a difficult conversation to have as people are rightly proud of their own councils. We won't see any movement on this until after the May 2019 elections.

**3. 10:30 am Update on changes to the status of the association**

The meeting received a PowerPoint presentation (Appendix 1) from Mr Justin Robinson the CEO of SALC setting out the reason for change and the process of the change. If approved at the AGM the new company will start trading in April 2019 and all Member Councils will be switched over to membership of it when they renew their membership in 2019. The new company will have to charge VAT, but this is reclaimable by the member council. It was reported that many other county associations had already made this change and it didn't change the relationship with NALC in any way.

**4. 11:00 am Guest Speaker – Micky Green (MD, Somerset Waste Partnership)**

Mr Green, using a PowerPoint (Appendix 2), talked to members about the latest recycling rates in Somerset, new initiatives the SWP were undertaking and what the future could hold with the SWP investing in the latest technology to continue to improve services.

**5. 12:00 pm Guest Speaker – Dr Jonathan Owen (CEO, NALC)**

Dr Owen, using a PowerPoint (Appendix 3), talked to members about the work of NALC nationally and how it spends its £1m budget. Also, what the future for Local government

could be and how NALC is ready to support that. One comment from the floor was that the legal topic notes that NALC provide are invaluable.

**6. 12:30 pm Area Business: the search for new committee/board members**

Justin Robinson introduced this item, saying that the County Committee needed more members to be appointed to it by the four Somerset areas. He split the delegates into their area groups and asked each area group to consider appointing three persons from each group to represent their area on the County Committee.

East Area (Mendip) appointed:

- Cllr Deborah Losey, Shepton Mallet Town Council
- Cllr David Aldridge, Chilcompton Parish Council
- Cllr Henry Banks, Coleford Parish Council

West Area (Taunton Deane and West Somerset) appointed:

- Cllr Dave Mitton, West Buckland Parish Council
- Cllr Jean Allgrove, Comeytrove Parish Council
- Cllr Loretta Whetlor, Watchet Town Council

South Area (South Somerset) appointed:

- Cllr Peter Seib, Brympton Parish Council
- Cllr Deryl Rennie, Odcombe Parish Council
- Cllr David Nichols, Henstridge Parish Council

North Area (Sedgemoor) appointed:

- Cllr Jenny Lawrence, Ashcott Parish Council
- Cllr Lucinda Spelman-Ives, North Petherton Town Council
- Two reps indicated they may be willing to join after the elections

## **Lunch**

**7. 2:00 pm Where next for SALC and NALC? Discussion session**

Justin Robinson gave an overview of the areas that he felt SALC could be more involved with over the coming years (see Appendix 1)

He posed several questions to the meeting regarding what SALC and NALC should do differently in the future.

Feedback from the floor included:

- Can SALC help with procurement?
- Can SALC have an insurance scheme?
- How can SALC make members more aware of what they offer?
- Can SALC support the promotion of the elections in 2019 and the search for new people to stand?
- Can SALC encourage youth councils?
- Can SALC develop training on devolved services to help local councils deliver them?
- Increase the information given to new councillors about the SALC / NALC services.
- Offer Councillor refresher courses to encourage long standing members to attend training.

- Code of Conduct training should be mandatory.
- The biggest challenge councils face is replacing members that have left and the possibility of capping.

**3:00 pm**      **Close**