

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL
HELD AT FOLLATON HOUSE, TOTNES ON THURSDAY 24 JANUARY 2008**

MEMBERS

∅ Cllr R J Carter – Chairman

* Cllr B F Cane – Vice-Chairman

* Cllr K J Baldry	* Cllr M J Howarth
* Cllr N A Barnes	∅ Cllr C W Jones
∅ Cllr H D Bastone	* Cllr L P Jones
∅ Cllr J H Baverstock	* Cllr R M Lawrence
* Cllr J I G Blackler	* Cllr I Longrigg
* Cllr J Brazil	∅ Cllr D W May
* Cllr B E Carson	* Cllr D M O'Callaghan
∅ Cllr P H Cook	* Cllr C M Pannell
* Cllr S E Cooper	* Cllr J T Pennington
* Cllr P Coulson	∅ Cllr S L Rankin
* Cllr R F Croad	* Cllr R Rowe
* Cllr G Date	* Cllr M F Saltern
∅ Cllr G J Fielden	* Cllr J W Squire
∅ Cllr R D Gilbert	* Cllr R C Steer
* Cllr F J Hawke	* Cllr M Stone
∅ Cllr J D Hawkins	* Cllr R J Tucker
* Cllr T J Hewitt	* Cllr R J Vint
* Cllr M J Hicks	∅ Cllr A Ward
* Cllr P W Hitchins	∅ Cllr J A Westacott

* Denotes attendance

∅ Denotes apology for absence

Officers in attendance:

For all items: Chief Executive (part), Deputy Monitoring Officer and Member Support Services Manager.

71/07 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED

That Cllr B E Carson be appointed Vice-Chairman for the duration of this meeting.

72/07 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20 December 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

73/07

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

74/07

POST OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A report was considered which advised Council of the recommendation of the Member Working Group (Councillors Pannell, Saltern and Tucker) and also included a recommendation as to the preferred arrangements for a continuation of a shared Chief Executive with West Devon Borough Council, by way of a fixed term contract for a period of two years with effect from 1 February 2008.

It was suggested by the Chairman that the Chief Executive would remain in the meeting to respond to any specific questions, before leaving the room to allow Members to fully debate the matter. For clarity, the Deputy Monitoring Officer advised that there was no reason for the press and public to be excluded during the debate on this matter, unless any discussions arose relating to specific financial issues.

In discussion upon any specific questions, reference was made to:-

- (a) potential conflicts of interest when representing both authorities. The Chief Executive advised that to date, he had experienced no conflict of interest at political or Member level. However, there was contractual provision to advise the Leader's of both authorities, should any such situation arise. It was also confirmed that the apportioning of any shared posts was left to the agreement of the respective Section 151 officers, which had to date always been done to the satisfaction of both authorities;
- (b) the Chief Executive confirming that should an offer to continue in post be forthcoming, he would accept it with great pleasure;

(At this point, the Chief Executive proceeded to leave the meeting.)

- (c) a number of Members expressed the view that the interim arrangement had been a definite success and feedback obtained from staff and residents had also concurred with this view. It was noted that this success could be largely attributed to the current Chief Executive, who had performed exceptionally well in what was not an easy situation;
- (d) the findings of the Member Working Group. Members were informed that the Group had regularly monitored the arrangement and joint appraisals with West Devon had been undertaken after 3 and 6 months. It was the unanimous decision of the Group to continue with the arrangement as outlined for 2 years, as it provided both stability and a clear way forward for the Council. It was also understood that West Devon Borough Council had unanimously supported continuation of this proposed approach at its recent Council meeting;

- (e) support from the Strategic Directors. A Member highlighted the importance of obtaining good support from the Strategic Directors to ensure the arrangement was a success. It was also noted that it was easier for both respective Strategic Management Team's to work more closely together under the same Chief Executive;
- (f) the realisation of both cost and efficiency savings through this arrangement. In addition to the view being expressed that savings were likely to increase further through this arrangement, Members also made reference to additional benefits, including skills sharing and improving capacity.

It was then:

RESOLVED

That:-

- (i) the recommendation of the Member Group for the Council to continue a shared Chief Executive arrangement be supported and that David Incoll be confirmed as Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service for this Council for a period of two years with effect from 1 February 2008;
- (ii) the terms of the arrangement take the form of a secondment of David Incoll to this Council on the terms currently operating;
- (iii) a joint monitoring and Review Group be established with West Devon Borough Council to oversee the arrangement, with the Group's membership and terms of reference being in accordance with paragraph 11 of the presented report;
- (iv) the Strategic Director (Resources) be appointed as Electoral Registration and Electoral Returning Officer for the duration of this arrangement.

(Meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 2.20 pm).

Chairman