

MINUTES OF THE SDBC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT BRADBURY HOUSE, 33-34 MARKET STREET, HIGHBRIDGE ON TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2025 13.00

Attendance:			
Elected Members: Tim Bush Wendy Welland Tony Bradford Andrew Gilling	Appointed Members Mike Stanton Peter Burden	Officers: Mrs M Hammond Mr I Sturdy Mrs K Carleton	Public:
Apologies:			
Mr Roger Coombes			
Non-Attendance:			

Agenda Item:	Detail:	Action:
1. Attendance and Apologies	As per above. The meeting was not quorate	
2. Declarations of Interest	None	
3. AOB	<p>Tony Bradford (TBr) led a discussion on his suggestion of routes to amalgamation. He suggested combined Full Board meetings for all 3 boards to cover areas that are common such as governance, policies etc. Finance & Works could be kept separate and board specific to look at local matters. He has spoken to Innes Thompson at ADA who thought the idea had merit.</p> <p>Maggie Hammond (MH) asked about items at F&W such as Budget setting and Accounts which need to be recommended to Full Board for approval. This would need to be considered.</p> <p>Committee members discussed the proposal with there being a general consensus that with regards amalgamation there was more appetite amongst appointed members, and a reluctance amongst elected members.</p> <p>Some members felt the proposal could be done relatively quickly and easily within the current system of governance and might help iron out any issues if amalgamation were still the end goal. Others thought it was a fudge and it would be better to push for a full amalgamation and do it properly to achieve the real time and cost benefits.</p> <p>Other factors discussed were: potentially large numbers in some meetings; loss of local knowledge; more representation from Somerset than North Somerset in terms of appointed members; and where and when meetings would take place.</p>	

	<p>Iain Sturdy (IDS) felt the idea had merit in that it could help with some of the burden of meetings. There could be one report for all boards. Any resolutions could then be cross- boards or board-specific. It might delay the path to amalgamation, or could work better than amalgamation. It would not reduce membership as with amalgamation and attendance would be more worthwhile. Downsides are that for some matters, many in the room would not be engaged if matters were not specific to them.</p> <p>Peter Burden (PB) noted that we have asked the Clerk to prepare a paper on amalgamation (the same paper for all 3 boards), and felt this suggestion could form part of that paper. IDS to prepare this.</p> <p>IDS noted that amalgamation would take some time to achieve and trialling this may reduce some of the administrative burden in the meantime.</p> <p>Members asked that the suggestion be given 5 minutes for discussion in each Full Board meeting next week before too much work is done. The 3 chairs to raise this.</p> <p>The meeting was not quorate, however Tim Bush proposed this suggestion and Wendy Welland seconded it. All those present were in favour.</p>	<p>ACTION SDBC/20241210-03</p>
<p>4. Approval of Accounts 2024-2025</p>	<p>The meeting is intended to inspect the accounts for recommendation prior to Full Board meetings.</p> <p>MH went through her report along with her figures. Surplus at year end of £173,086 which has been apportioned to the three boards as per the Consortium agreement.</p> <p>Income exceeds the budget by £51.2k. This comes from recharging of staff time and admin, consent fees and staff purchasing additional leave days. There were no questions.</p> <p>Expenditure is £121.9k less than budget due to salaries (reflecting vacancies in the year), staff expenses, training and recruitment. Some of this is offset by the appointment of Calm Engineering. Vehicle expenses, costs and depreciation are under budget. The Chair asked how the Consortium access fuel. MH advised we have fuel cards for company vehicles, these are Shell cards which are less than pump prices. We keep an eye on prices. General expenses, Board expenses, insurances and contractor costs are under budget.</p> <p>IDS noted that some of Dan Alsop's costs are taken up by the Crossmans Hatch Scheme grant.</p> <p>Stuart Kingham (SK) asked whether land enquiries are LA or private. MH advised these are us trying to chase someone following queries on drainage rates. MH will update SK.</p> <p>The meeting was not quorate so the committee could not make a formal recommendation</p>	

	<p>Mike Stanton (MS) commended MH on clear and well-presented accounts. The Chair agreed and the committee are happy look to recommend approval of the accounts at the next SDBC Management meeting in July.</p> <p>In the meantime, the committee members present are confident to suggest to their respective boards to recommend approval of their individual Board's accounts accepting that the SDBC accounts are correct.</p> <p>WW gave apologies for the July Management Meeting and would like a deputy.</p> <p>The Chair explained that Kendra Kingston is retiring at the end of the month. Kendra and officers entered the meeting. The Chair noted that this is a happy occasion for Kendra, but a sad one for the boards. He summed up her dedication and hard work over the last 17 years. She has been an outstanding member of staff, whatever is asked of her is done efficiently and well. The Boards have been privileged to have her and she will be missed. The Boards wish Kendra a healthy and happy retirement. The Chair presented Kendra with gift from all 3 boards. Kendra thanked the Boards and said she had enjoyed her time working for them very much.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 14.03</p>	
5. Date of Next Meetings	<p>Dates of next meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Axe Brue Full Board Meeting Mon 16 June 2025, 10.30-12.30 • Parrett Full Board Meeting Tues 17 June 2025, 14.00-16.30 • NSILDB Full Board Meeting Weds 18 June 2025, 14.30-16.30 • SDBC Management Committee Tues 22 July 2025, 14.30-16.30 	

CHAIRMAN.....DATE

SDBC – TABLE OF OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Action Number:	Action:	Actionee:
SDBC/20241210-03	Clerk to prepare a paper on options for amalgamation	Clerk - Ongoing