**Notes from the meeting of the MAC Working Group Meeting on 16th August 2023**

In Attendance: Councillors Bill Hodson (Chair), Craig Palmer and Mimi Palmer; Peter Wellstood, Alex Lawrie, Ben Parker (Operations Manager), Helen Nathanson (Minutes)

Councillor Hodson introduced the meeting and discussed the expectations of the project.

Discussion was had about the following:

It was suggested that the business case could be expanded to include the areas within the new Local Community Network (LCN) for the Minehead area, not forgetting to include adjacent settlements to the west, such as Porlock, which are in a different network area. Whilst some separate work has previously been done to scope which adjacent areas would form a catchment, no work has been undertaken by this Pool Group to establish whether or not residents from the outlying areas would come in to Minehead.

It was agreed that the ultimate aim is for Somerset Council to take over the process rather than it just be a Minehead Town Council project and that this Group is forming a business case with this in mind.

The relative merits of forming either a Community Benefit Society (CBS) or a Community Interest Company (CIC) were discussed. It was agreed that a CBS may offer better benefits in this case and that it was the aim to recruit trustees and set something up soon. MTC would be happy to give the business case to this organisation once established.

The APS contract work was discussed and it was agreed that elements of what had been done so far were useful but that it was not necessary to start looking at planning permission or architectural plans yet. The Town Clerk will establish at what stage the work has stopped and request that no more is carried out.

Discussion was had about what elements of a Multi-Activity Centre should be included. Group members were asked to feed back any more thoughts about this to Bill for inclusion in the business case. Activities might include the pool, a café and health and fitness related activities which may involve the NHS.

Proxy data from other areas has been gathered to inform the business case and a more specific needs analysis from the Minehead area is required.

Timeframe

Additional comments for the business case were to be sent to Bill by 16th September so that they can be consolidated and presented at the next meeting on Friday 22nd September 10.30am in the Town Council office.

As a final note, it was agreed that a project such as this is a long term endeavour involving many different organisations and that this is just the start of the process – a marathon, not a sprint.