

# Minehead Town Council



**Date: 27 November 2023**

Dear Councillor Revans,

Thank you for your letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in which you outline the potential for asset and service devolution. Minehead Town Councillors have now had time to meet to discuss the content of the letter and consider an initial response.

We acknowledge the financial challenge that Somerset Council is facing. Minehead Town Council has for many years advocated for the responsible devolution of assets and services to Town and Parish Councils. Our view is that local delivery of services and care of assets can be provided in an agile and responsive system that in turn provides better outcomes for the community. However, Minehead Town Council is well aware of the financial implications and liabilities to its residents of unfunded asset transfers.

Minehead Town Council is willing and available to have a broad discussion with Somerset Council to consider the transfer of assets and services and identify associated funding opportunities. We wish to explore the role we can play in providing short and long term solutions. As a responsible Town Council, we are eager to creatively work with you to identify practical options to offset Somerset and Minehead costs, whilst protecting our residents from avoidable precept increases. Whilst Minehead Town Council does have a small amount of other income, it is primarily reliant on the precept to fund all services.

As you know, we are preparing to set our budgets for 2024/25 and, as the prospect of devolution may have a knock-on effect to the budget setting process, it is essential that structured discussions be programmed at the earliest opportunity.

Attached is a list of assets and associated services that we believe are significant candidates for the negotiation processes.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Craig Palmer, Mayor of Minehead  
On behalf of Minehead Town Council

Town Clerk: – Mrs H. Nathanson Council Offices, 3 Summerland Road, Minehead, TA24 5BP  
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**Minehead - A Fairtrade Status Town**



Attachment 1 to MTC letter dated 27 November 2023

Service/Asset	MTC Offer
Warren Road Toilet Block and Kiosk	Asset transfer of the building NB MTC already funds the toilets. Asset transfer of the kiosk to offset the costs of providing the toilets
Blenheim Gardens, including the Café.	Asset and service transfer NB MTC already owns and provides the toilets
The Parks (Parks walk, Woodcombe Walk, Bratton Park)	Asset and service transfer
The Esplanade	Asset and service transfer
Culvercliffe Open Space	Asset and service transfer
Ellicombe Open Space	Asset and service transfer
Stone flower planters, centre Island, The Parade	Asset transfer NB MTC already provides all floral displays throughout the town, including the planting of these stone planters
Play areas (Warren Road, Culvercliffe, Whitworth Road, Trinity way, Sycamore Road)	Asset and service transfer NB MTC already owns and maintains all other play parks in the town
Bus Shelters	Asset and service transfer
Car Parks (Warren Road, Station, Quay West, North Road, Clanville, Alexandra Road, Summerland Road)	Asset and service transfer to help MTC offset the costs of delivering the above services. Furthermore, given the current condition of the car parks this transfer will enable SC to avoid the cost of essential maintenance work.

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