

Somerset County Council

Cabinet

15th November 2017

New Vision for Somerset

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr David Fothergill, Leader of the Council

Division and Local Member(s): All Council Members

Lead Officer: Simon Clifford - Director, Corporate Affairs

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	Seen by:	Name	Date
	County Solicitor	Honor Clarke	06/11/17
	Monitoring Officer	Julian Gale	06/11/17
	Corporate Finance	Kevin Nacey	06/11/17
	Human Resources	Chris Squire	06/11/17
	Property / Procurement / ICT	Richard Williams	06/11/17
	Senior Manager	Simon Clifford	Report author
	Local Member(s)	All Council Members	06/11/17
	Cabinet Member	Cllr David Fothergill	31/10/17
	Opposition Spokesperson	Cllr Jane Lock; Cllr Mike Rigby; Cllr Leigh Redman;	06/11/17
	Relevant Scrutiny Chairman	Cllr Tony Lock for Scrutiny Place	31/10/17
Forward Plan Reference:	FP/17/08/12		
Summary:	<p>Somerset County Council is setting out a new collaborative and high level Vision to provide strategic direction to deliver the best quality of life we can to our residents.</p> <p>The Vision summaries three key approaches for our residents; to have ambition; to have confidence; to improve outcomes. This can only be achieved by close working with our partners, from Police, Fire and Health, through the Voluntary and Community sectors, and finally with our residents, businesses and communities.</p> <p>Our aim is to deliver the best outcomes we can – and to be a County our residents are proud of.</p>		

<p>Recommendations:</p>	<p>Cabinet endorses the new Vision for Somerset and notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Vision and its aims will be delivered by partners across Somerset and in some cases beyond our own boundaries. 2. The Vision and its aims are a long-term ambition on a timescale beyond the life of any single Administration. 3. All key decisions and impact assessments within SCC will reference the Vision and its aims to ensure alignment.
<p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p>	<p>The Vision sets ambitions for the Council and our partners. It sets priorities and principles that will underpin our own decisions and influence those of our partners. It is flexible and will be able to adapt to significant national changes in policy or practice. It will remain a “live” document and be refreshed when appropriate.</p> <p>County Plans from 2013 onwards have taken steps to be more inclusive and based on partnerships. This Vision takes this commitment further as the intention is to develop it with, and not for, our partners. To date it has been shared with key partners such as Police, Fire and Health and shaped following presentations to local authorities, including town and parish councils. It has also been developed in conjunction with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector [VCSE]. The plan is that this Vision will continue to exist in draft form while further consultations and engagement takes place.</p>
<p>Links to Priorities and Impact on Service Plans:</p>	<p>This Vision for Somerset is a strategic approach that demonstrates our commitment to working with partners.</p> <p>It will form the foundations for our approach to the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), Commissioning and Service Plans and will set the priorities and principles that will underpin key decisions.</p>

<p>Consultations and co-production undertaken:</p>	<p>The Vision for Somerset has been shared and developed with staff, members and key partners such as Police, Fire and Health. It has been shaped following presentations to local authorities, including town and parish councils. It has been developed in conjunction with the VCSE Sector. It will continue to exist in draft form while further consultations and engagement takes place.</p> <p>It should be noted that a key stakeholder event will take place early next year to encourage further co-production of the Vision, priorities and principles ahead of formal adoption at Full Council. It is hoped that partners will be able to formally validate this Vision through their own governance arrangements.</p>					
<p>Financial Implications:</p>	<p>This is a strategic Vision, therefore it does not have direct financial impacts.</p> <p>It does however set the ambitions, priorities and principles that will underpin all key decisions as well as being a reference point in the MTFP and in Commissioning and Service plans.</p>					
<p>Legal Implications:</p>	<p>This is a strategic Vision, therefore it does not have direct legal impacts.</p> <p>It does however set the ambitions, priorities and principles that will underpin all key decisions as well as being a reference point in the MTFP and in Commissioning and Service plans</p>					
<p>HR Implications:</p>	<p>This is a strategic Vision, therefore it does not have direct HR impacts.</p> <p>It does however set the ambitions, priorities and principles that will underpin all key decisions as well as being a reference point in the MTFP and in Commissioning and Service plans</p>					
<p>Risk Implications:</p>	<p>A full risk review will be undertaken by the Strategic Risk Management Group and implications will be assessed. It is likely these will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity of organisations – and where relevant to partners their own organisations – to have the available resources to deliver the Vision. • Potential for partner organisations to reject the Vision as it stands. 					
<p>Other Implications (including due regard implications):</p>	<p>Likelihood</p>		<p>Impact</p>		<p>Risk Score</p>	
<p>Other Implications (including due regard implications):</p>	<p><u>Equalities Implications</u></p> <p>This is a strategic Vision, therefore it does not have direct equalities impacts.</p>					

It does however set the ambitions, priorities and principles that will underpin all key decisions as well as being a reference point in the MTFP and in Commissioning and Service plans. Because of this we will make sure that the work from this vision considers the impact it will have on characteristics protected under the Equality Act 2010.

The Vision is however built on a principle of reducing inequalities and there are numerous mentions of this, the need to build strong and resilient communities, and to target resources where they are most needed.

Community Safety Implications

This is a strategic Vision, therefore it does not have direct community safety impacts. Indeed community safety is referenced as a specific aim within the Vision.

It also sets the ambitions, priorities and principles that will underpin all key decisions as well as being a reference point in the MTFP and in Commissioning and Service plans

Sustainability Implications

This is a strategic Vision, therefore it does not have direct sustainability impacts.

It does however set the ambitions, priorities and principles that will underpin all key decisions as well as being a reference point in the MTFP and in Commissioning and Service plans

Health and Safety Implications

This is a strategic Vision, therefore it does not have direct health and safety impacts.

It does however set the ambitions, priorities and principles that will underpin all key decisions as well as being a reference point in the MTFP and in Commissioning and Service plans

Privacy Implications

This is a strategic Vision, therefore it does not have direct privacy impacts.

It does however set the ambitions, priorities and principles that will underpin all key decisions as well as being a reference point in the MTFP and in Commissioning and Service plans

Health and Wellbeing Implications

This is a strategic Vision, therefore it does not have direct health and wellbeing impacts. It should be noted that the Vision itself continually references the positive impacts that can be delivered and highlights the partnership working that is needed to achieve this. The Vision itself has in part been driven by the County

	<p>Health and Wellbeing Strategy.</p> <p>It does also set the ambitions, priorities and principles that will underpin all key decisions as well as being a reference point in the MTFP and in Commissioning and Service plans</p>
Scrutiny comments / recommendation (if any):	The Vision has recently been considered by Scrutiny Place Committee on 31 st October. Feedback from this meeting will be shared at Cabinet.

1. Background

- 1.1. Over the past five years, Somerset County Council has agreed a series of County Plans either new or refreshed. The direction of travel taken across that timescale is clear – a move to a Vision for Somerset across the whole of the county and sectors, rather than a plan for the Council itself.
- 1.2. This Vision for Somerset remains in draft form and subject to revision and change. That is the purpose of a “live” document which has in-built flexibility and provides the opportunity for it to be considered by a large number of varied organisations.
- 1.3. The Vision has already undergone extensive consultation and engagement with our Senior Managers, Members and a variety of organisations. It has been shared with key strategic partners such as Avon and Somerset Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner. It has been shared with the Somerset Association of Local Councils. It has also been shared with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Forum – an organisation that represents the sector including charities and also key players such as the Chambers of Commerce.

There are a number of other events and opportunities for our staff and partners to influence the Vision including a round of Leader and Chief Executive Road shows for staff and a strategic partners event to be held in January 2018..

It is hoped that key partners will validate this Vision through their own governance arrangements.

- 1.4. Scrutiny Place Committee discussed the draft Vision at its meeting on Oct 31st and amendments or comments will be relayed to this committee

2. Options considered and reasons for rejecting them

- 2.1. No options were considered.

3. Background Papers

- 3.1. The current County Plan can be found here:
<http://www.somersetcountyplan.org.uk/>