

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL SUMMARY OF MTFP 2018/19 IMPACTS

1.1 Summary of Impacts for MTFP 2018/19

The County Plan 2016-2020 (approved by the County Council in February 2016) is the key high-level document; which along with the Revenue Strategy 2016/17 to 2020/21 (approved by the County Council in February 2015) and the Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19, sets the Council's strategic policy direction. The County Plan includes the following aim 'We will continue to work within our income – no council is allowed to run up a budget deficit –unlike Government or other parts of the public sector.'

The proposed net revenue budget for 2018/19 is £ 316 million and aims to continue to support key priorities in the County Plan and which support people with protected characteristics such as:

- Majority of the revenue budget allocated towards funding adult social care services (older people and people with a disability), including funding the impact of the national living wage and duties under the Care Act
- Continuing to invest in Children and Families social workers and meeting the demand for children in care places. This will help support the objectives in the Children and Young Peoples' Plan.
- Maintaining essential roads to enable people with a protected characteristic to access essential services.

In addition to the proposed revenue funding, the proposed Capital Investment Programme for 2018/19 aims to invest over £91m into meeting priorities and supporting outcomes for people with protected characteristics (further details can be found within the Capital Investment Programme 2018/19).

All budgetary proposals carry associated impacts – whether it is an impact on service delivery, equalities, sustainability, privacy, crime and disorder, health and wellbeing, staff, or a combination of any or all of these. The level of savings required for 2018/19 and the next two years of the MTFP is significant and requires robust consideration regarding their impact. The savings required are in addition to the cumulative impacts of years of delivering significant budget savings and service changes.

Somerset County Council continues to find it challenging to balance its budget within available resources whilst still meeting its core statutory duties such as protecting children and supporting elderly and vulnerable people. The outlook for the next few years remains highly challenging with managing continued service pressures being experienced in Children and Families and as the demand for Adult Social Care continues to rise due to our ageing population and following the introduction of additional responsibilities for the County Council brought in under the Care Act. People are living longer but with more complex conditions such as dementia and chronic illnesses.

Creating a picture of how people are being affected by the Council's budget reductions and proposed future changes to services is incredibly difficult and complex. People are

different in terms of their needs and expectations; people's interaction with public services and dependence upon public services vary. Life changing events such as the birth of a child, death of a partner or deterioration in health can alter, sometimes very quickly, a person's dependence on services. Living in rural communities may be a dream for some but for some it can also present challenges.

Consideration of the continuing need to reduce inequalities as far as possible must be integral to the budget reduction process. There must be an appropriate balance struck between, on the one hand being aware of the impact and risks, seeking to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts and, on the other, the benefit and necessity to making the saving to achieve a balanced budget. It is therefore inevitable that it may not be possible to mitigate all impacts.

In order for the Council to fulfil its legal requirements under the Public Sector Equality Duty, Members are asked to have due regards to the high level impact assessments that have been completed for the relevant themes and specific savings targets that form the Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19. An Impact Assessment is a way of examining and analysing our services, policies and strategies and identifies potential impacts on certain groups of people allowing us to make informed decisions that can be evidenced and published.

This summary of key impacts and the high level impact assessments supporting the theme proposals and specific savings targets have been developed to help councillors:

- debate the issues,
- consider proposed decisions,
- consider the viability of alternatives
- agree potential mitigating measures and note impacts which may not be able to be mitigated
- make informed and fair decisions

The impact assessment process that the Council follows and its duties under the Equality Act 2010 are set out in Annex 1.

Annex 2 sets out equalities information at a county level for the protected characteristics and local characteristics that decision makers need to be aware of.

1.2 Key Impacts from the MTFP 2018/19 proposals

The 2018/19 budget proposals continue to seek to protect families, communities and front line services where possible, as well as continue to support the delivery of the key priorities within the County Plan. Furthermore they are shaped by consideration of the impacts on equality groups and the vulnerable in our society.

Members are recommended to have due regards to the high level impact assessments for each of the themes and the specific savings targets. The proposed changes to funding services within the budget proposals can be seen elsewhere in the MTFP report. Adults and Health Operations services, Children's Services and Corporate and Support Services (back-office support to frontline service) are set to deliver the largest savings targets. It should be highlighted that Adults & Health and Children's Services have the largest budget allocations for all services and therefore any reductions they can make are likely to have a high financial effect. The largest new savings targets within the MTFP 2018/19 relate to proposed reductions in budgets for:

- Adult Social Care demand management
- Children's Services – reviewing management levels, reviewing costs of placements, transport services and levels of support services
- Traffic Management and Road Safety
- Reductions in Economic and Community Infrastructure commissioning
- Corporate and Support Services (such as IT, Facilities Management and HR) and back-office support staff

It should be highlighted that the County Council approved a number of savings targets in February 2017 which also have an impact in 2018/19. The details of these savings have been provided previously to members.

Every effort has been focused on driving efficiencies and savings whilst minimising impacts on service users and in particular vulnerable people.

This summary and any high level impact assessments will assist and inform Cabinet and County Council at their meetings on 12 February 2018 and 21 February 2018 respectively as part of setting the 2018/19 budget.

Review of the themed proposals identifies the following:

Community Safety

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006, requires responsible authorities to consider crime and disorder, including anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment; and the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the exercise of all their duties, activities and decision-making. This means consideration must be given to the likely impact on crime and disorder in the development of any policies, strategies and service delivery. This responsibility affects all employees of the council.

It is well researched that young people are most at risk of becoming victims of crime and disorder. Reductions in services for young people could increase this risk further. Whilst minimal again this year (in comparison to other savings proposals) adding these reductions to previous years will increase the chance of young people becoming a victim of crime, or taking part in (or be perceived as taking part in), anti-social behaviour or criminal activity.

Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 requires Somerset County Council as well as a range of other public agencies to give "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism" by embedding the Prevent Duty. This means that the Council should place an appropriate amount of weight on the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. Whilst none of the theme proposals are considered to have any direct negative implications on this relatively new duty, consideration should be given in necessary (re)commissioning processes to ensure that our providers are also giving due regard on our behalf.

Equality and Diversity

The Transport and Service Redesign themed proposals identify a disproportionate impact on Age, Disability, Women and Carers.

- The greatest impact from the majority of the theme proposals would be an impact on the **workforce** of the County Council. Decision makers are asked to have regards to the County Council's Workforce Equalities Report 2017 that is published at <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/information-and-statistics/financial-information/impact-assessments/>
- The proposed increase in Council Tax could increase the impact on people with protected characteristics. However it should be remembered that SCC's council tax is still amongst the lowest of any county in the country and that all efforts to protect the tax payer have been made.
- It is clear that vulnerable groups in rural locations could continue to experience greater impacts than those where there is easier access to services and better transport links.

The proposed Council Tax increase will impact across all property bandings. Through the District Councils' Council Tax Reduction Schemes, protection is in place to support certain groups.

- Low income pensioners are entitled to full Council Tax support protection from district councils and funded by the County Council.
- Single person household pensioners are also eligible for the 25% single person discount.

Nevertheless, lower income households are more likely to be affected by a rise in council tax because they have less disposable income to reduce the impact of the proposed increases.

Health and Safety

Under the area of Health and Safety the following themes are potential business risks:

- The negative impact of reduced staffing levels and use of temporary staff where it is not aligned to a commitment to a reduction in service delivery, resilience building or more streamlined ways of working, will continue to rise.
- The reduced headcount of the organisation will continue to lead to difficulties in fulfilling essential duties (in terms of Health and Safety governance) but which are outside of job descriptions and in having people with the appropriate levels of competence to manage the Health and Safety risks effectively
- The increase in the number of externally commissioned services and external contracts results in a higher risk of poor compliance with Health and Safety legislation if they are not set up and managed correctly.

Health and Wellbeing

While virtually impossible to quantify, the scale of change and cuts across public services could mean that if people are unable to access assistance, there may be consequences for mental health, domestic abuse etc. with knock-on impacts to health services and criminal justice.

Privacy

Review of the theme proposals has identified the following main risks based on how the organisation is changing and how these run through most of the impact assessments. The risks are based around the statutory requirements of the Data Protection Act and the potential impact on client confidentiality and the risk of fines from the Information Commissioner's office. There are increased pressures on this aspect of service delivery due to the imminent adoption of the General Data Protection Regulation in May 2018 and the additional requirements this places on all organisations processing personal information, especially those with responsibilities for Health and Social Care.

The assessments include further outsourcing of service or working with partners to deliver services together as follows:

- There is recognition that reduced staffing levels could lead to an increase of errors and data being dealt with incorrectly.
- There is also a recognition that reduced budgets may impact upon the capacity of organisations to provide adequate information security training.
- A number of the savings proposals involve working with partners or moving to services provided in conjunction with a third party. This approach creates the potential for increased risk in protecting sensitive data. Where these approaches are used then services will need to use Information Sharing Agreements for working together with third parties and Contract Clauses when procuring service provision.
- There are also a number of projects that include provision for shared buildings and accommodation; care must be taken to ensure appropriate separation of personal information and systems to ensure the privacy of individual service users. This is particularly relevant for the CASA programme and proposals for closer integration between health and social care.

Similar to health and safety, there is a concern that a reduction in staffing levels will lead to a reduction in knowledge in how to deal with information security within the organisation.

Sustainability

Officers have reviewed the savings proposals in respect of their impact on the Council's Minerals and Waste policies and not identified any specific issues.

Working with partner authorities through the Somerset Waste Partnership, recycling campaigns have been delivered focussed on nudging behaviour towards more sustainable and more cost effective practice to 'reduce, reuse and recycling' of waste. The aim is to encourage more sustainable practice, where this brings cost benefits in managing waste. There are a number of proposals within the Capital Programme that will have positive impacts in terms of reducing the Council's carbon emissions.

Annex 1

Impact Assessment Process

The Equality Act 2010 aims to further discrimination protection and proactive action to more equality groups. Under the legislation equality groups are now referred to as Protected Characteristics, they are:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

Whilst assessing the Protected Characteristics for Somerset it was established that there were additional characteristics that for Somerset had a real impact on the ability of people to access services and take part in the wider community. These additional local characteristics are rurality, low income, carers and military status.

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Example: Using one of the protected characteristics as an illustration, it means considering: whether disabled people will be unlawfully discriminated against (i.e. will they be denied access to a service to which they are entitled?); the extent to which disabled people's needs are met and the extent to which inequalities can be reduced and participation encouraged; whether the approach will increase or decrease disability related prejudice and harassment, including consideration of whether it would give rise to community tensions.

Baroness Thornton in March 2010 stated "I shall try to explain what "due regard" means and how the courts interpret it. The courts have made it clear that having due regard is **more than having a cursory glance** at a document before arriving at a preconceived conclusion. Due regard requires public authorities, in formulating a policy, to give equality considerations the weight which is **proportionate in the circumstances**, given the potential impact of the policy on equality. It is not a question of box-ticking; it requires the equality impact to be **considered rigorously and with an open mind.**"

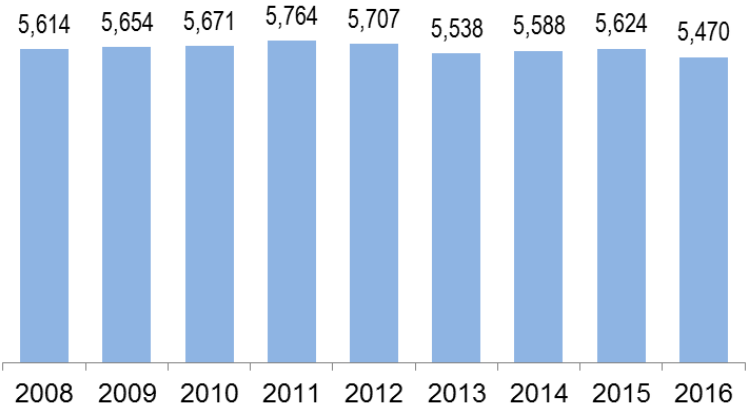
The Equality Act 2010 and other relevant legislation does not prevent the Council from taking difficult decisions which result in service reductions or closures for example, it does however require the Council to ensure that such decisions are:

- Informed and properly considered with a rigorous, conscious approach and an open mind.
- Taken following due regard having been given to the effects on the protected characteristics with the need to ensure nothing results in unlawful discrimination in terms of access to, or standards of, services or employment as well as considering any opportunities to advance equality and foster good relations.
- Proportionate (that negative impacts, including those that cannot be mitigated, are proportionate to the aims of the policy decision).
- Fair
- Necessary
- Reasonable, and
- Only taken following appropriate consultation with those affected.

Annex 2 – key supporting information for Somerset Equalities Impact Assessment

MTFP 2018/19 – Annex 2																																																														
Protected Characteristics identified through the Equality Act 2010																																																														
Age	<p>The 2016 mid-year estimates were published in June 2017 and indicate that the population of Somerset has risen by 4,057 to 549,447. The total is broken down by age group and district in the table below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age</th> <th>Mendip</th> <th>Sedge-moor</th> <th>South Somerset</th> <th>Taunton Deane</th> <th>West Somerset</th> <th>Somerset</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Under 16</td> <td>20,212</td> <td>21,843</td> <td>29,002</td> <td>20,828</td> <td>4,670</td> <td>96,555</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16-34</td> <td>21,940</td> <td>24,386</td> <td>32,291</td> <td>24,119</td> <td>5,509</td> <td>108,245</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35-49</td> <td>20,994</td> <td>21,765</td> <td>29,276</td> <td>21,329</td> <td>4,653</td> <td>98,017</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50-64</td> <td>24,113</td> <td>25,760</td> <td>34,317</td> <td>23,255</td> <td>8,044</td> <td>115,489</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65-74</td> <td>14,066</td> <td>15,418</td> <td>22,397</td> <td>13,743</td> <td>6,166</td> <td>71,790</td> </tr> <tr> <td>75+</td> <td>11,220</td> <td>12,264</td> <td>18,362</td> <td>12,241</td> <td>5,264</td> <td>59,351</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>112,545</td> <td>121,436</td> <td>165,645</td> <td>115,515</td> <td>34,306</td> <td>549,447</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Amongst the 65-74 age group, the annual rate of growth was an estimated 3.5%, five times the average rate. This partly reflects the attraction of Somerset as a retirement destination, and also the post-war baby-boom generation reaching retirement age. Whilst much smaller in population than the other districts, West Somerset's population is particularly aged, with a median age (half the population older, half the population younger) of 51, compared to 39 for England.</p>						Age	Mendip	Sedge-moor	South Somerset	Taunton Deane	West Somerset	Somerset	Under 16	20,212	21,843	29,002	20,828	4,670	96,555	16-34	21,940	24,386	32,291	24,119	5,509	108,245	35-49	20,994	21,765	29,276	21,329	4,653	98,017	50-64	24,113	25,760	34,317	23,255	8,044	115,489	65-74	14,066	15,418	22,397	13,743	6,166	71,790	75+	11,220	12,264	18,362	12,241	5,264	59,351	Total	112,545	121,436	165,645	115,515	34,306	549,447
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Disability	<p>'Disability' is affected by how people view any physical or mental restrictions and their choice of self-classification. For most purposes, the Census question that asks respondents to categorise themselves as having 'long-term conditions or disability that limit limits day-to-day activities a lot or a little' is used as a proxy. Using data from the current (2011) Census:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just under 100,000 people in Somerset (18.8% of the population) said they had a long-term condition or disability which limited their day-to-day activities a lot or a little. • Almost 41,000 of them were aged 16-64 (12.7% of that age group in Somerset). The proportion is on a par with both regional and national averages. • 13,317 working-age residents (3.5% of those aged 16-74) described themselves as economically inactive because of long-term sickness or disability. Proportions were much higher in parts of Highbridge, Taunton and central Glastonbury. • In terms of the characteristics of Somerset's disabled population: 25% live in social housing; 11% have no qualifications; 35% have mental health problems; and 41% don't have a partner. 																																																													

<p>Disability (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities – SEND)</p>	<p>Evidence for Special Education Needs and Disabilities in children is provided by schools identifying those needs and making the appropriate plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In January 2016, Somerset had just over 12,000 children and young people with identified (SEND). • In total, 1,403 Somerset pupils had a Statement of SEND or an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan, representing 1.6% of all pupils (England 2.8%). • Male learners are almost twice as likely as females to have special educational needs. • Pupils with SEND are almost three times as likely as those without SEND to be eligible for free school meals. • In 2015/16, 1 in 5 young people aged 16-17 in Somerset with SEND did not remain in education or training, but this proportion is falling.
<p>Gender Reassignment</p>	<p>There are no official estimates of the numbers of transgender people at a national. However, in a Home Office funded study, the Gender Identity Research and Education Society estimated between 0.6% and 1% of the UK adult population experience some degree of gender variance. Such figures, insofar as they could be applied to Somerset, would suggest somewhere between 2,700 and 4,500 adults in the county in this category.</p> <p>Research by the Diversity Trust in Somerset has found that Trans (along with Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual) young people were more likely to suffer from anxiety, depression, self-harm, suicidal ideation and have higher levels of smoking, alcohol use and substance misuse, likely to be linked to stress from isolation, bullying and harassment. Homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying were common in schools across the area and could be aimed at anyone who did not conform to a gender or sexual identity norm (whether they are 'out' or not). Trans young people are more likely to experience adverse mental health and emotional wellbeing outcomes than their peers in the general population.</p>
<p>Marriage and Civil Partnership</p>	<p>According to data published in April 2017, the number of marriages taking place in Somerset increased by 4% in 2014 compared to the previous year in figures released by the Office for National Statistics. Part of the increase is attributed to same sex marriages (which were introduced in March 2014).</p> <p>A total of 3,194 marriages occurred in Somerset in 2014 of which 3,155 were marriages of opposite sex couples and 39 were marriages of same sex couples (17 male and 22 female couples).</p> <p>There were increases in numbers of both civil ceremonies and religious ceremonies in Somerset in 2014. Civil ceremonies continue to account for more than two-thirds of all ceremonies.</p> <p>According to the current 2011 Census:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than half of Somerset adults aged 16 or older are married or in a same-sex civil partnership, but the proportion of co-habiting families has risen from 8% to 10% in the past decade. • There were 215 households containing couples in a same-sex civil partnership, 85% of them without children in the household.

<p>Pregnancy and Maternity</p>	<p>There were 5,470 live births in Somerset in 2016 according to latest annual figures published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This represented the lowest annual total for at least nine years, following a recent peak in 2011.</p> <p>Trends in Live Births, Somerset, 2008 to 2016</p>  <table border="1" data-bbox="359 324 1109 728"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Live Births</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2008</td> <td>5,614</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>5,654</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>5,671</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>5,764</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>5,707</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>5,538</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>5,588</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>5,624</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>5,470</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Nationally and in the South West as a whole the birth rate is highest in the 30 to 34 age group, while, based on 2015 data, in Somerset the profile is younger, with the highest birth rate in the 25 to 29 age group. In 2015, contrary to the national average, most births (53%) in Somerset were outside marriage (or civil partnership).</p>	Year	Live Births	2008	5,614	2009	5,654	2010	5,671	2011	5,764	2012	5,707	2013	5,538	2014	5,588	2015	5,624	2016	5,470
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<p>Race</p>	<p>Comprehensive information on ethnicity and national identity is only available in the ten-yearly census. According to the current 2011 Census:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 94.6% of Somerset's population are 'White British'. This proportion is typical of that seen in Somerset's neighbouring local authorities but much higher than the England and Wales average (80.5%). • Somerset's non-'White British' residents tend to be concentrated in and around the county's principal towns. • The BME (Black and Ethnic Minority) population of Somerset was estimated at 10,717 in 2011, an increase of around 5,000 people since the 2001 Census. The BME population now comprises 2.0% of Somerset's overall population, which is well below the national average of 14.0%. • The remaining 2.4% of the Somerset population is made up of Census categories of White Other, Irish and Gypsy or Irish Traveller. • Somerset has seen a large increase in Polish-born residents since the accession of the A8 East European countries to the EU in 2004. Of the 8,171 East European-born residents recorded in the 2011 Census, around two-thirds were from Poland. • Polish is the most common 'non-UK' ethnicity in all Somerset's districts, and Polish-born residents now account for 1% of Somerset's overall population. There are significant pockets of residents in parts of Shepton Mallet, Yeovil, Minehead, Taunton and Bridgwater. • There are now notable groupings of Portuguese residents in areas of Chard and Shepton Mallet. • There are an estimated 733 Gypsy or Irish Traveller residents in Somerset, the second highest number of any local authority in the South West. Just over a third are resident in Mendip. 																				

Religion or Belief	<p>Comprehensive information on religion and belief is only available in the ten-yearly census. According to the current 2011 Census:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In line with the national trend, the proportion of Somerset people saying they were Christian dropped sharply since 2001, from 76.7% to 64.0%. This is still one of the highest figures in the South West region. • Christian prevalence is relatively high in rural or suburban areas such as Exmoor, Bridgwater Wyndham ward and the south eastern corner of Somerset. • The proportion claiming no religious affiliation rose from 14.9% to 26.6%. Figures were particularly high in parts of Frome, Taunton and Bridgwater. • Although overall numbers were relatively small, there were substantial increases in the number of Buddhist, Muslim and Hindu people in Somerset in the last decade. • Based on 'write-in' responses, there are 1,147 followers of Paganism, more than the combined total of those of Hindu, Sikh and Jewish faith. • The four wards in Somerset with the highest proportions of people following non-Christian religions were all in Glastonbury. In St. Edmunds ward, the figure was 8.3% (four times the county average), most of whom were Mixed Religion or Pagan. • Yeovil Central was the ward with the highest number of both Muslim and Hindu followers in Somerset. 																														
Sex	<p>The population of Somerset broken down by sex is shown in the table below. These figure are taken from the 2011 census.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="347 981 1442 1352"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Somerset Total</th> <th>Somerset %</th> <th>South West %</th> <th>England & Wales %</th> <th>2001 Somerset %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Population Resident population</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>529,972</td> <td>100.0%</td> <td>100.0%</td> <td>100.0%</td> <td>100.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total males</td> <td>258,396</td> <td>48.8%</td> <td>48.8%</td> <td>49.2%</td> <td>48.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total females</td> <td>271,576</td> <td>51.2%</td> <td>51.2%</td> <td>50.8%</td> <td>51.4%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The higher proportion of females in the population figures is the result of women living longer than men, more than offsetting the slightly higher proportion of male births.</p>		Somerset Total	Somerset %	South West %	England & Wales %	2001 Somerset %	Population Resident population							529,972	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Total males	258,396	48.8%	48.8%	49.2%	48.6%	Total females	271,576	51.2%	51.2%	50.8%	51.4%
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Total females	271,576	51.2%	51.2%	50.8%	51.4%																										

<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<p>In April 2017, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published experimental estimates of sexual identity at a local authority (county) level for the first time, based on survey data covering 2013 to 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The estimates suggest that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95.2% of Somerset’s adult (aged 16 or over) population identify themselves as heterosexual or straight; • 0.9% (4,000 residents) identify as gay or lesbian; • 1.1% (5,000 residents) identify as bisexual; and • 0.4% (2,000 residents) as ‘Other’ (‘other’ indicates that respondents did not consider themselves to fit into the heterosexual or straight, bisexual, gay or lesbian categories). • 2.4% of respondents didn’t know or refused to answer. • UK wide, the proportion of adults identifying as heterosexual or straight ranged from 72% in Camden to 99% in Monmouthshire. <p>In the 2014 GP Patient Survey conducted by NHS England:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.6% of respondents (138 of 8,682 respondents) in Somerset in 2014 gave their sexual orientation as gay, lesbian or bisexual. <p>It is widely accepted that these overall figures are likely to be an underestimation of the size of the LGB population, due to respondents not being ready or able to openly identify themselves as LGB. Several historical reports and surveys, in the UK and overseas, have variously put the size of the LGB population at between 5% and 7%. For the purposes of assessing the impact of the Civil Partnership Act 2004, the Department for Trade and Industry made an assumption that 5% of the adult GB population was lesbian, gay, or bisexual. If applied to the Somerset population, this would equate to around 22,000 adults in Somerset</p>
<p>Carers through association with disability and age</p>	<p>Comprehensive information on carers is only available in the ten-yearly census. According to the current 2011 Census:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One in nine people, or just over 58,000, said they provided unpaid care to a friend or relative • This is approximately 8,000 more than the number identified in the 2001 Census. • About 43,000 were under the age of 65, many more than the 3,640 people of working age claiming Carer’s Allowance (<i>DWP, November 2012</i>). Even this is considered to under-estimate the true number of those providing unpaid care. • Around 3,300 of the unpaid carers identified in the Census were younger than 25. More than a thousand are estimated to be children under the age of 16. • More than one in five people aged 55-64 provide unpaid care. • 58% of unpaid carers are women, in line with the national average. • Almost one in four 50-64 year-old women (13,500) are unpaid carers • About 12,300 people provide at least 50 hours of unpaid care a week. • Of these, more than 5,300 are aged 65 or older and an estimated 1,600 are 85 or older. • Around 3,500 of unpaid carers are themselves in bad or very bad health, and almost half of them (1,500) provide at least 50 hours of care a week.

Protected Characteristics adopted locally

Rurality

Comprehensive information for small areas – and so amenable for detailed breakdown into urban are rural - is only available in the ten-yearly census. According to the current 2011 Census:

- Around 48% of Somerset’s population is classified as ‘rural’ and 52% ‘urban’ according to the Defra/ONS classification of small areas.
- Rural Somerset has an older population demographic, particularly in respect of people aged 45 and over. Linked to this, a higher proportion of rural residents provide unpaid care to friends or relatives.
- Residents in rural areas are, on average, more highly qualified, and more likely to work in ‘high-tech’ industries (ICT; professional, scientific and technical activities)
- Car ownership is high, although around 1 in 9 rural households do not have access to a car (or van).
- Rural households are more likely to have no central heating. They are also much more unlikely to have access to mains gas, with a greater dependency on oil.

Low income

- The 2017 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings found the average gross income for full time workers in Somerset to be £513/week, lower than the £556/week figure for England.
- More than one in eight households are estimated to be living in fuel poverty, and at least one in five in West Somerset.
- An estimated 57,000 adults in Somerset have been at least 3 months behind with bills or say that debts are a heavy burden. One in four problems handled by Citizens Advice in Somerset are related to debt.
- The proportion of Somerset households living in poverty (after housing costs) ranges from 10.6% in the Comeytrowe/Trull area of Taunton, to 32.8% in the Hamp area of Bridgwater, according to estimates published by the Office for National Statistics in March 2017

The latest Children in Low-Income Families Measure statistics were published in September 2016 and represent a snapshot as at 31st August 2014 (the two-year time lag is due to the reconciling of tax credit figures).

Key facts for Somerset:

- In Somerset, 14,200 children (aged under 16) were considered to be living in poverty in 2014, equating to 15.3% of all children.
- This proportion was the highest since 2009, at the time of the economic recession.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
England	22.4	21.6	21.9	21.1	20.6	19.2	18.6	20.1
South West	16.9	16.5	17.2	16.6	16.2	15.1	14.8	16.1
Somerset	15.5	14.8	15.6	14.9	14.9	14.1	14.1	15.3

Source: *Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure, HMRC*

Military status	There is no single, definitive source of information on the numbers in the armed services community. Using estimates based on data from the Royal British Legion, we have an overall estimate of almost 50,000 veterans and dependants in addition to about 3,000 current serving personnel. However, if we apply the veterans prevalence estimates by each age group, the relatively elderly population of Somerset means that the estimated total is somewhat higher at about 53,500, although the 'sample error' means that the true figure could be much higher, or indeed lower.
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All data from Somerset Intelligence/Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
(www.somersetintelligence.org.uk) .