

Cabinet

Monday 11 March 2019

10.00 am Council Chamber, Shire Hall



To: The Members of the Cabinet

Cllr M Chilcott (Vice-Chair), Cllr D Fothergill (Chairman), Cllr D Hall, Cllr D Huxtable, Cllr C Lawrence, Cllr F Nicholson, Cllr F Purbrick and Cllr J Woodman

All Somerset County Council Members are invited to attend meetings of the Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees.

Issued By Scott Wooldridge, Strategic Manager - Governance and Risk and Monitoring Officer
- 1 March 2019

For further information about the meeting, please contact Michael Bryant or Scott Wooldridge or 01823 357628 democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk

Guidance about procedures at the meeting follows the printed agenda.

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

This agenda and the attached reports and background papers are available on request prior to the meeting in large print, Braille, audio tape & disc and can be translated into different languages. They can also be accessed via the council's website on www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers



RNID typetalk

AGENDA

Item Cabinet - 10.00 am Monday 11 March 2019

1 **Public Question Time** (Pages 3 - 4)

The Chair will allow members of the public to present a petition on any matter within the Cabinet's remit. Questions or statements about any matter on the agenda for this meeting may be taken at the time when each matter is considered.

Public/Member Questions – Cabinet 11.3.19

PQ/MQ	From	Topic	Question/statement	Response
PQ1	Nigel Behan	Agenda Item 10 – Revenue Budget Monitoring	<p>http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=733</p> <p>i) Whilst it is noted that the forecast underspend for 2018/19 has increased it is also noted (see paragraph 1.7) that:</p> <p>“As part of preparations for the Statement of Accounts we have identified that £1m of Collection Fund surplus was incorrectly accounted for in the setting of the net revenue budget for 2018/19. This surplus forms part of the overall financing of the authority and should not be included within the Net Budget Requirement which as a result should have been reported as £317,881,900. The proposed change to the net revenue budget aligns to the budget monitoring reports which have been reported to Cabinet and various committees throughout 2018/19 and it is therefore considered to be a technical amendment. This error does not impact any other part of the budget setting process or any other financial reporting.”</p> <p>What impact would this movement have had on the under/overspend if it was part of the Net Budget Requirement?</p> <p>ii) In Section “2.2 Adults Services (Net budget £133.623m, £0.000m projected on budget, no change from month 9).</p> <p>Adult Services: on budget £0.000m; movement £nil</p> <p>There have been two notable, favourable movements in the anticipated outturn figures, although there are plans for applying these further underspends hence the projection is for no change from month 9.</p> <p>The first change is that further efficiencies have been achieved through the latest contract change in Discovery, which do not impact on access to services or the delivery of services to clients. It is proposed that the resultant underspend will be attributed to the outstanding balance (£0.910m) on the equalisation reserve, reducing it to £nil. (£4.000m was reported in month 9).”</p>	Response from Cllr Mandy Chilcott

Public/Member Questions – Cabinet 11.3.19

			Can you explain what are these “further efficiencies” (by Discovery-Dimension (UK) Limited) are and is the net result that the Equalisation Reserve which started off (as minus £4.9 million?) in deficit (and always has been) – will, in effect, become redundant (and/or deleted/removed/closed down/terminated)?	
--	--	--	--	--

Response from Cllr Mandy Chilcott:

Thanks for the questions Nigel. In relation to your first point, this would have made no difference at all. This is a technical adjustment and staff were working to the corrected figure throughout the financial year.

In relation to the second point, there has been a reduction in expenditure within the contract. This is linked to the changes in the crisis service, the respite service and some minor day service changes.

Finally I can confirm that this means that the equalisation reserve has now been paid in full.