County Council - 20 February 2019

## **Report of the Leader and Cabinet – Items for Information**

Cabinet Member: Cllr David Fothergill – Leader of the Council Division and Local Member: All Lead Officer: Scott Wooldridge - Strategic Manager - Governance and Risk and Monitoring officer Author: Mike Bryant – Team Leader Democratic Services Contact Details: 01823 357628

## 1. Summary

1.1. This report covers key decisions taken by the Leader, Cabinet Members and officers between 20 November 2018 and 9 February 2019, together with the items of business discussed at the Cabinet meetings on 19 December 2018, 23 January 2019 and 11 February 2019. The Leader and Cabinet Members may also wish to raise other issues at the County Council meeting.

## 2. Details of decisions

2.1. Agenda and papers for the Cabinet meetings on 19 December 2018, 23 January 2019 and 11 February 2019 are published within the Cabinet webpages on the Council's website. Individual Leader, Cabinet Member and Officer key decision records and related reports are also published within the Cabinet webpages on the Council's website.

## Appendix A

LEADER OF COUNCIL (Customers and Communities) – Cllr David Fothergill		
ltem	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
No individual		
decisions		

ltem	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
County Hall A Block final business case approval	19 December 2018 by Cabinet	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision authorised the final part of an ambitious scheme to save the Authority upwards of £700,000 per year by closing down buildings across Taunton and moving staff into a single, modern and fit for purpose working environment in A block County Hall. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.

ECONOMIC DEVELC	PMENT PLANNING AN	ND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE – Cllr David Hall
ltem	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Community Leisure Services Post 2019	10 December 2018 by Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure	<ul> <li>SUMMARY OF DECISION: In August 2009, the County Council entered into an agreement with Somerset Leisure Limited (now known as '1610 Limited') to provide community leisure services at dual-use centres on a number of secondary school sites across the county.</li> <li>The contract was due to expire at the end of the 2018/19 financial year and this decision set out the recommended course of action for decommissioning community leisure provision.</li> <li>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</li> <li>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</li> </ul>
A303 Improvement Scheme	23 January 2019 by Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure and Interim Director of Finance	SUMMARY OF DECISION: Highways England have made a Development Consent Order Application to develop a dual carriageway on the existing single carriageway section of the A303 between Sparkford and Ilchester in Somerset. This report sought approval of the draft Statement of Common Ground and Local Impact Report and for their submission to the Planning Inspectorate. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.

ADULT SOCIAL CAR	E – Cllr David Huxtable	9
Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Award of Contract of the Provision of Support Services for People with Complex, Multiple Needs	19 December 2018	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision approved the award of a contract for the provision of support services for people with complex multiple needs from 1 April 2019 for a period of 5 years. This service will enable people to maintain and improve their independence and wellbeing and prevent them from needing access to more acute and crisis based, costly social care and health solutions and will reduce repeat homelessness presentations.
		ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.
		REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.
AIS Renewal and Replacement Contract Award	7 January 2019 by Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	SUMMARY OF DECISION: Adults social care (ASC) teams have changed the way they work and require an updated software system to enable these new working practices. These will enable more effective ways of working, better opportunities to improve service delivery and better outcomes for our residents.
		The service has looked closely at a number of options and opportunities detailed within the report and has proposed that an extension is granted to the current case management application for a year prior to the implementation of a new software application.
		ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.
		REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING – Cllr Christine Lawrence		
ltem	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
No individual		
decisions		

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – Cllr Frances Nicholson		
Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Approval of Somerset Youth Justice Plan 2018/19	28 November 2018 by Cabinet Member for Children and Families	SUMMARY OF DECISION: It is a statutory requirement under s.40 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 that each year Somerset Youth Justice Partnership Board agree a Youth Justice Plan in a format set by the national Youth Justice Board. This decision approved the Youth Justice Plan 2018/19 and continued County Council resourcing at 2017/18 level, enabling continuation of services across the whole county at the pre- existing level. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.
Provision of accommodation and support for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children – Framework Contract Award	19 December 2018 by Director of Children's Services	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision authorised the award of a framework and subsequent call-off contracts under the framework (Individual Placement Agreements) in order to provide accommodation and support for UASC aged 16 and 17 for 2 years from 7th January 2019, up to an estimated value of 1.8M over 4 years (2 years initial term, 2 options years both up to 12 months in duration) ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.
South West Peninsula Framework Contract for Residential Children's Homes	19 December 2018 by Cabinet	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report detailed the recommendation to award a framework contract for Independent residential children's homes. Independent children's homes offer individual residential placements to the council for children looked after. Fostering placements are made through a different framework and are not included in this contract. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.

EDUCATION AND CO	DUNCIL TRANSFORM	ATION – Cllr Faye Purbrick
Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Proposed Expansion of Bishop Fox's Secondary School to 1200 places	19 December 2018 by Cabinet	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This paper sought approval for the Authority to appoint Futures for Somerset to deliver the expansion of Bishop Fox's to 1200 places for September 2020. This paper also gave approval to cover the purchase of furniture and IT as required for the additional classrooms. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.
Microsoft Software Supplier	23 January 2019 by Cabinet Member for Education and Council Transformation	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report recommended the award of a new contract to provide Microsoft reseller services via direct award under the Kent Software products and associated services framework, Lot 1. For the period of 3 years from 1st Feb 19 – 31st Jan 22. Microsoft products are a key building block for the ongoing ICT strategy, it is not possible to deal directly with them, so the Council needs to use the services of a partner (reseller). ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.
National Funding Formula for Schools and High Needs 2019/20	23 January 2019 by Cabinet	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report provided confirmation of overall Dedicated Schools Grant funding for Somerset following final publication by the DfE, including the delegated schools budget and the High Needs provision for 2019/20 and summarised the approach being recommended to Cabinet in relation to the National Funding Formula (NFF) for Schools and High Needs for 2019/20 following consultation with Somerset Schools Forum (SSF). ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.

EDUCATION AND COUNCIL TRANSFORMATION – Cllr Faye Purbrick		
ltem	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Admission Arrangements for Voluntary Controlled and Community Schools for 2020/21	23 January 2019 by Cabinet	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report sought authority for Cabinet to determine the Local Authority admission arrangements for all Voluntary Controlled and Community schools for 2020/21 as required by the School Admissions Code and associated legislation. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.

ltem	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Adoption of the Somerset Bus Strategy	30 November 2018 by Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	SUMMARY OF DECISION: The report sets out the decision to adopt the Bus Strategy 2018-2026 document as Council policy in support of the Somerset Future Transport Plan 2011-2026 which was adopted as the Council's statutory Local Transport Plan on 16th February 2011. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.
Decision to conclude the award of a contract for the provision of highway improvements at M Junction 25	19 December by Cabinet	SUMMARY OF DECISION: The M5 Junction 25 scheme has been in development for about 5 years. This scheme provides additional capacity to accommodate growth and provides access for the adopted Nexus25 site. The procurement process had been completed and this Key Decision was sought to award the contract. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.
Parking Policy Review and Implementation Plan	14 January 2019 by Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	SUMMARY OF DECISION: Traffic, congestion and parking have become an increasing issue in Somerset over recent years. Parking restriction requests have been dealt with on a piecemeal basis for many years and there is no consistency within individual towns, Districts or across the County as a whole. This report sought authority to commence a County wide on street parking review, the process for the review and the reprioritisation of officer resources to support the implementation of the review. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.

HIGHWAYS AND TR	HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT – Cllr John Woodman		
ltem	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision	
Allocation of the	6 February 2019 by	SUMMARY OF DECISION: Following an announcement in the Budget 2018, The	
Budget 2018	Lead Director for	Council was awarded an additional capital grant of £9,980,000 for local highway	
Maintenance Grant	Economic and	maintenance. This decision is to allocate the additional grant to specific areas/	
	Community	programmes of highways activity.	
	Infrastructure and		
	Director or	ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.	
	Commissioning and		
	Interim Finance	REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.	
	Director		
Decision to make a	8 February 2019 by	SUMMARY OF DECISION: Taunton Deane Borough Council has committed a £1.5m	
funding agreement	Director for	contribution towards the construction of the M5 Junction 25 scheme. In order to	
with Taunton Deane	Economic and	formalise this contribution a funding agreement between SCC and Taunton Deane	
Borough Council for	Community	Borough Council needs to be completed – this decision was taken to accept the	
a contribution to the M5 Junction 25	Infrastructure	monies.	
Improvement	Commissioning	ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.	
Scheme			
Unionio		REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.	

CROSS CUTTING - A	\//	
ltem	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Extension of the Somerset Local Education Partnership (LEP) for five years	29 November 2018 by Lead Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure and Director or Commissioning and the Director of Corporate Affairs	<ul> <li>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The Somerset Local Education Partnership (The LEP) was set up to support the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme and a Strategic Partnering Agreement (SPA) was signed between SCC and Somerset LEP Limited to support the obligations of The LEP to deliver services to Education and the Community as outlined in the BSF Programme.</li> <li>The current SPA is for a ten-year period with an initial expiry date of 22nd September 2020. This agreement includes an option to extend the term for an additional five years, after the expiry date, to September 2025.</li> <li>This decision extended the SPA (and the associated agreements) with all existing</li> </ul>
		terms and conditions to remaining unchanged. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.
Revenue Budget Monitoring – Month 7	19 December 2018 by Cabinet	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report presents the projected revenue outturn for 2018/19 based upon actual spending to the end of October 2018 (month 7). The projected outturn was £2.368m over the available budget of £317.882m compared to a projected overspend of £3.158m in the previous month. The contingency of £3.382m remained uncommitted at this stage.
		ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.

CROSS CUTTING - A	4//	
Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Revenue Budget 2019/20 and MTFP Strategy Report	19 December 2018 by Cabinet	<ul> <li>SUMMARY OF DECISION: Over the Autumn months Somerset County Council has been developing budget proposals for the financial years 2019/20 to 2021/22, known as the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP). While the Council is only obliged to set a balanced budget for the forthcoming financial year, it is key to the successful delivery of its objectives that plans are developed for a further two years.</li> <li>The report requested the Cabinet reviewed the latest position set out in this report and commented upon the preparation of the MTFP in advance of the presentation of specific proposals for change, requested that the Senior Leadership Team bring forward specific proposals for change, to address the £15m funding gap in 2019/20 and agreed to withdraw the proposal to consult on the potential reduction of financial support to the public transport and college bus network.</li> <li>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</li> </ul>
Proposed Capital Investment Programme 2019/20	23 January 2019 by Cabinet	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision sought the approval of the capital programme for the period 2019/20 to 2022/23 of £224.121m. Additionally the decision delegated authority to the Section 151 Officer to accept any additional grants or funding that is made available to the County Council together with authority to consequently expand the approved capital programme, providing there are no negative revenue budget implications as a result of that action. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.

Revenue Budget Monitoring Update	23 January 2019 by Cabinet	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report outlined a projected revenue outturn underspend for 2018/19; of £0.921m. This projection is based upon actual spending to the end of November 2018 (month 8) and compares to the available budget of £317.882m.
		In the Government's November Budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced an additional £420m of funding for Local Highways Maintenance for the current financial year. The allocation to Somerset County Council is £9.98m and plans are being finalised to spend this sum. As this is a change to the Capital Programme then formal approval of the change was required.
		Alterations to the approved Capital Programme are for Full Council to agree but there is provision in the Constitution for decisions to be taken urgently where it is not practical to convene or wait for a Full Council meeting. The Chair of Scrutiny Committee for Policies and Place agreed the use of urgency for the alteration to the approved Capital Programme to incorporate this additional funding. The Cabinet agreed the expansion of the Capital Investment Programme to incorporate the additional funds from the Department for Transport for Local Highways Maintenance.
		Somerset County Council has an existing Private Finance Initiative under Building Schools for the Future. This commenced in 2011 and was established over 25 years. Formal contracts and management are in place. The outstanding liability on the existing agreement will be £43.3m at March 2019. Recently a number of authorities have achieved financial savings through refinancing such arrangements to take advantage of the current low interest rates. The existing contract provides for such activity and SCC wishes to take the benefit of such an opportunity if one arises.
		It is expected that options for a new deal could be available to the Council in the coming weeks but due to the nature of these financing arrangements, which alter according to daily changes in the finance markets, the Council would need to act quickly. As a result, the Cabinet delegated authority to the Chief Finance (S151) Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources to sign a new PFI contract subject to a conclusion that it will be in the long-term benefit to the council. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.

CROSS CUTTING - A	CROSS CUTTING – All		
Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision	
Appointment of the successful bidder for the South West 'Step Up to Social Work' Higher Education Institute	4 February 2019 by Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development	SUMMARY OF DECISION: The decision sought approval to extent the current contract to accommodate a further cohort. Agreeing to the extension of the current contract will avoid the costs of another competition exercise and will remove the potential for additional set up costs if a different supplier is selected. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.	
I Aero (Yeovil) Centre – Acceptance of European Regional Development Funding (ERDF)	5 February 2019 by the Interim Director of Finance and the Strategic Commissioning Manager – Economy and Planning	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision sought approval for the Council to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to accept £3,049,240 of ERDF funding for the development of iAero (Yeovil) Centre. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.	
Somerset County Council Land Drainage Enforcement Policy	7 February 2019 by Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure and Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	SUMMARY OF DECISION: A policy has been prepared by the Flood and Water Management Team to provide guidance on the County Council's approach to land drainage enforcement under the Land Drainage Act. This decision sought approval to implements the Policy. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.	

CROSS CUTTING – A	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Corporate Performance Report – End if December (Q3 2018/19)	11 February 2019 by Cabinet	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report provided members with the high-level information they need to lead and manage the performance of the outcomes set out in the Council's Vision and reflects the Council's ongoing progress towards the outcomes laid out in the Council's Business Plan. This report provided the latest information available in the period up until 31st December 2018. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.
2018/19 Revenue Budget Monitoring – Quarter 3	11 February by Cabinet	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report recommended that Cabinet: Note the projected revenue budget outturn position for 2018/19 (being an underspend of £1.067m), the current Aged Debt Analysis, the position regarding reserves and the projected delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan savings; Approve one-off use of £1.382m from the corporate contingency as set out above in the summary section and in paragraphs 3.20 and 3.44; Approve one-off use of £1.382m from the corporate contingency as set out above in paragraphs 3.20 and 3.44; Approve one-off use of £1.382m from the corporate contingency as set out above in the summary section and in paragraphs 3.20 and 3.44; Approve one-off use of £1.382m from the corporate contingency as set out above in the summary section and in paragraphs 3.20 and 3.44; and Note the plans to improve the Councils financial resilience by increasing the General Fund balance from £7.796m to £11.637m. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.

CROSS CUTTING - A	CROSS CUTTING – All		
Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision	
Report of the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee on Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20	11 February by Cabinet	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report summarised some of the key areas of debate and the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny for Policies, Adults & Health Committee meeting on 30 January 2019 having considered the Medium-Term Financial Plan for Adult Services, and put forward two recommendations which the Cabinet endorsed:	
		<ol> <li>that the Cabinet, in partnership with other stakeholders including Group Leaders and Somerset MP's, takes a leading role in proactively lobbying central government about the urgent need for sustainable long-term funding for adult social care in Somerset.</li> <li>That the Cabinet is aware of the future risk to adult social care funding, particularly the future capacity to deliver further savings and the impact this will have on preventative services.</li> </ol>	
		ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.	
Medium Term Financial Plan 2019- 22 and Annual Budget 2019/20	11 February by Cabinet	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report set out proposals to deliver a balanced budget for 2019/20 and set out proposals for 2020/21 and 2021/22 which will help develop the Council's financial resilience.         ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.         REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.	

CROSS CUTTING - A		
ltem	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Capital Strategy 2019-22 (Investment Strategy)	11 February by Cabinet	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report requested that the Cabinet recommends the Capital Strategy 2019/20-2021/22, and the prudential indicators contained within, to the Council for consideration and approval at their meeting on 20 February 2019, and that the Cabinet and Council agree to delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader, Opposition Spokesperson for Resources, Monitoring Officer and County Solicitor, to design the governance arrangements and remit of the non-treasury investments for recommendation to, and approval by, the Cabinet and the Council before the end of July 2019.
		ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.
		REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.
Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20	11 February by Cabinet	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report requested that the Cabinet endorse and recommend for approval by full Council the Treasury Borrowing Strategy, the Treasury Investment Strategy and adopt the Prudential Treasury indicators. In addition the Cabinet noted the Prudential Treasury Indicators contained within the report. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.
CAF 14b Proposal for the alteration and / or reduction of early help services provided to the children and their families - getset	11 February by Cabinet	<ul> <li>SUMMARY OF DECISION: Following the proposals agreed at the Cabinet meeting on the 12 September 2018, this decision proposed that for 2019/20 the getset service will focus on prevention in the community, and that activity will move towards investment in direct service provision to strengthen prevention opportunities within targeted communities while working alongside key partners such as schools.</li> <li>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</li> <li>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</li> </ul>