Somerset County Council

County Council

- 22 January 2020

Report of the Leader and Cabinet – Items for Decision

Cabinet Member: Cllr D Fothergill – Leader of the Council

Division and Local Member: All

Lead Officer: Scott Wooldridge, Strategic Manager-Governance & Democratic Services

and the Monitoring Officer

Author: Scott Wooldridge, Strategic Manager-Governance & Democratic Services

Contact Details: 01823 357628

1. Summary

1.1 This report sets out the Leader's and Cabinet's recommendations to Council arising from their consideration of reports at the Cabinet meetings from August to December 2019.

Note: The references in this report to Papers A, B and C relate to the relevant reports considered by the Cabinet containing specific recommendations for the County Council to consider and are appended to this report for reference.

- 1.2 Paper A (Climate Emergency Framework) was considered by the Scrutiny Committee for Policies and Place in October 2019 ahead of consideration at the Cabinet meeting in December 2019. The Cabinet agreed the proposals in Paper A and this matter is being reported to the County Council for information in response to the motion that the Council agreed in February 2019.
- **1.3 Paper B (Investment Strategy)** was considered and endorsed by the Cabinet at its meeting in December 2019. The Cabinet agreed for the proposals in Paper B to be recommended to County Council for approval.
- **1.4** Paper C (Treasury Management mid-year report 2019/20) was considered at the Cabinet meeting in November 2019. The Cabinet endorsed Paper C and agreed for this to be reported to the County Council to consider and endorse.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Climate Emergency Framework – see Paper A that Cabinet considered and agreed at its meeting in December 2019.

The Council is recommended to consider and note the Climate Emergency Framework, which sets out the development of the full Climate Emergency Strategy which is scheduled to be considered at the County Council meeting in July 2020.

Investment Strategy - see Paper B and its appendices that Cabinet considered and endorsed at its meeting in December 2019.

The Council is recommended to agree to:

- 1. Build on its current Treasury Management investment activities to generate higher returns, protect against inflationary risks, sustaining a prudent balance of risk and reward.
- 2. Pro-actively consider options for further investing in existing Council owned property to optimise the value from these assets.
- 3. Consider other investment opportunities that may arise from time to time subject to appropriate due diligence and governance arrangements being in place.
- **Treasury Management mid-year outturn report 2019-20 –** see Paper C and its appendices that Cabinet considered and endorsed at its meeting in November 2019.

The Council is recommended to endorse the Treasury Management mid-year outturn report for 2019-20.

3. Options considered and consultation undertaken

3.1 Options considered and details of consultation undertaken in respect of the recommendations set out above are set out in the reports and appendices within Paper A, B and C.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial, legal, Human Resources, equalities, human rights and risk implications in respect of the recommendations set out in this report are detailed within Papers A, B and C.

It is essential that consideration is given to the legal obligations and in particular to the need to exercise the equality duty under the Equality Act

2010 to have due regard to the impacts based on sufficient evidence appropriately analysed.

The duties placed on public bodies do not prevent difficult decisions being made such as, reorganisations and service reductions, nor does it stop decisions which may affect one group more than another. What the duties do is require consideration of all of the information, including the potential impacts and mitigations, to ensure a fully informed decision is made.

5. Background Papers

5.1 These are set out within Papers A, B and C and their appendices.