

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 & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

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1. Summary

- 1.1. This report covers key decisions taken by the Leader, Cabinet Members and officers between 9 July 2019 and 10 January 2019, together with the items of business discussed at the Cabinet meetings on 14 August 2019, 25 September 2019, 13 November 2019 and 18 December 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 held on 14 August 2019, 25 September 2019, 13 November 2019 and 18 December 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.

LEADER OF COUNCIL (Customers and Communities) – Cllr David Fothergill

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Review of the Council's Scrutiny Functions	18 December 2019	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The Peer Challenge in 2018 identified, as one of the key recommendations, that 'Somerset County Council should review its scrutiny arrangements as part of making it more effective'. In support of the Council's organisational transformation, the Council commissioned the nationally renowned Centre for Public Scrutiny to carry out an independent review of the scrutiny function at SCC between March and May 2019.</p> <p>This decision saw the Cabinet recommend to full Council to implement a programme of cultural transformation and improvements to its scrutiny arrangements by March 2021, along with the approval of a number of further recommendations regarding the Centre for Public Scrutiny report.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Climate Emergency Framework	18 December 2019	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision endorsed the draft Climate Emergency Framework document for consultation and the approach to its delivery through the workstreams. The framework document sets out high-level detail explaining the expected directions of travel required to address the various issues that have been identified. The decision further endorsed: the timeline for development of the full Climate Emergency Strategy; the proposed consultation activities; and noted the risks detailed in the report and framework document.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Corporate Performance Report	13 November 2019 by Cabinet	<p>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</p>

LEADER OF COUNCIL (Customers and Communities) – Cllr David Fothergill

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
– Quarter 2 2019/20		<p>in the Council's Vision and reflects the Council's ongoing progress towards the outcomes laid out in the Council's Business Plan.</p> <p>The Cabinet considered the proposed management actions already in place are adequate to improve performance to the desired level.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Heart of the South West Joint Committee – Governance Arrangements and Budgetary Position	13 November 2019	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This paper provided an update on the Heart of the South West Joint Committee and the Council's role in supporting this key partnership committee.</p> <p>The report included: approving amendments to the Heart of the South West Joint Committee's list of functions; noting the updated budget position for 2019/20; and the provision of £21,000 as a contribution to the administration of the Committee in the 2020/21 financial year.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Corporate Performance Report – End of July (Q1+1 2019/20)	25 September 2019 by the Cabinet	<p>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.</p> <p>The Cabinet considered the proposed management actions already in place are adequate to improve performance to the desired level.</p>

LEADER OF COUNCIL (Customers and Communities) – Cllr David Fothergill

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
		<p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

RESOURCES – Cllr Mandy Chilcott

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Month 7 Revenue Budget Monitoring	18 December 2019 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report set out the month 7 forecast outturn position for 2019/20 for the net Revenue Budget of £327.967m. It highlighted variances to service budgets, as well as emerging issues, risks, areas of concern and proposed actions to resolve them.</p> <p>The report highlighted an overall projected balanced position for the Council, with the main adverse movements from month 6 being within Children’s and Adults Services partly offset by the favourable movements within Economic and Community Infrastructure Services, Corporate and Support Services.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Management of Risk Pathway documents: Strategy, Policy and Process	18 December 2019 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The Management of Risk Pathway documents consist of a suite of documents i.e. Strategy, Policy and Process. The Council’s current Management of Risk documents have been updated reflecting changes to the working practices of the Council.</p> <p>This decision endorsed the Management of Risk Pathway documents and recommend</p>

RESOURCES – *Cllr Mandy Chilcott*

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
		<p>approval and adoption as part of the Council's Governance arrangements.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

RESOURCES – Cllr Mandy Chilcott

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Investment Strategy	18 December 2019 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report outlined the three options available to the Council to make investments and generate a financial return to support the delivery of council priorities, including: the investment of surplus cash through Treasury Management activities, further investment in property assets that the council already owns and the purchasing of new property assets.</p> <p>The report forecast that a more diversified approach to investments could lead to additional income of over £1m over the next two years.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Medium Term Financial Plan (2020-2023) Strategy	18 December 2019 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This paper set out how the Council has developed a Medium-Term Financial Plan Strategy to include: Investing in transforming services to improve lives for residents; Investing in communities; Avoiding further service cuts, and rather; Protecting front-line services and strengthening prevention activities.</p> <p>The paper further recognised that more could be done if Government allocated more funding on a fairer basis according to rising needs, and therefore endorse further lobbying of Government.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Month 6 (Quarter 2) Revenue Budget Monitoring	13 November 2019 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report set out the Quarter 2 (month 6) forecast outturn position for 2019/20 for the net Revenue Budget of £327.967m. It highlighted variances to service budgets, as well as emerging issues, risks, areas of concern and proposed actions to resolve them.</p>

RESOURCES – *Cllr Mandy Chilcott*

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
		<p>The report showed an overall projected balanced position for the Council, with the main adverse movement from month 5 being within Children’s Services.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

RESOURCES – Cllr Mandy Chilcott

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Month 6 (Quarter 2) Capital Budget Monitoring	13 November 2019 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report set out the Quarter 2 (Month 6) forecast outturn position for 2019/20 for the Capital Budget of £788.425m. It highlights variances to service budgets, as well as emerging issues, risks, areas of concern and proposed actions to resolve them.</p> <p>The report highlighted that at the half way point in the year, a favourable variance of £1.735m was currently being reported.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Treasury Management 2019/20 mid-year	13 November 2019 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report gave a summarised account of Treasury Management activity and outturn for the first half of the year to ensure Somerset County Council (SCC) is embracing Best Practice in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) recommendations.</p> <p>The Cabinet were informed that during the six months, gross investment balances averaged £224.7m (£165.2m net of funds held for others), yielding 1.12% for the period including the CCLA Property Fund.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Use of Apprenticeship levy funds as match funding for ESF Full Application –	17 October 2019 by the HR & OD Director	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision approved the use of £1,353,000 of the Council's Apprenticeship Levy, as match funding for a European Social Fund bid, led by Somerset County Council. The Apprenticeship Levy is a type of organisation tax, where organisations who have paybills over £3 million must pay the equivalent of 0.5% of their paybill into the Levy. This tax, however, is not collected by authorities but is</p>

RESOURCES – Cllr Mandy Chilcott

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Somerset Skills in Employment Project		<p>instead held by the employer in a digital account and can only be used on apprenticeship training and assessment.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Month 4 Capital Budget Monitoring	25 September 2019 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report outlined progress against the County Council Capital Programme position for the first quarter of the 2019/20 financial year. At this point, an under spend of £1.355m was forecast against the existing approvals of £788.885m.</p> <p>The decision further: approved a transfer of £0.175m of Corporate Contingency to allocate the grant funding for Brexit to a specific Brexit budget within Economy Community and Infrastructure; noted that £6.033m of the corporate contingency remains unallocated if the above recommendation is approved and this is expected to increase as management actions on service variances are confirmed; and noted the delivery of £16.990m savings by Month 4 and the forecast delivery of £21.485m by the year end of the total target of £21.547m.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Month 4 (Q1+1) Revenue Budget Monitoring	25 September 2019 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report set out the Month 4 forecast outturn position for 2019/20 for the net Revenue Budget of £327.967m. It highlighted variances to service budgets, as well as emerging issues, risks, areas of concern and proposed actions to resolve them.</p> <p>The report highlighted an overall projected balanced position for the Council, with the</p>

RESOURCES – Cllr Mandy Chilcott

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
		<p>main variances being within Children's Services and Trading Units (Dillington House).</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

RESOURCES – Cllr Mandy Chilcott

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
2019/20 Revenue Budget Monitoring – Quarter 1 (Month 3) Report	14 August 2019 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report set out the Quarter 1 (month 3) forecast outturn position for 2019/20 for the net Revenue Budget of £327.967m. It highlighted variances to service budgets, as well as emerging issues, risks, areas of concern and proposed actions to resolve them.</p> <p>The report presented an overall projected balanced position for the Council, with the main variances being within Children’s Services and Trading Units (Dillington House).</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE – Cllr David Hall

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
To identify a sustainable long-term location for a library in Shepton Mallet	18 December 2019 by the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: Somerset County Council's Cabinet took a number of decisions about the network of Libraries arising from the Libraries Redesign Programme on 5th November 2018. One of the decisions taken determined the need for a statutory libraries service to be provided from a library building within Shepton Mallet.</p> <p>This decision agreed to retain the library in the existing building and enter into a new lease agreement for the premises and to build on initial work with the Library Friends Group, Shepton Mallet Town Council and others to create a 'community hub' facility as part of the regeneration of the Market Place in Shepton Mallet. The</p>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE – Cllr David Hall

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
		<p>report further included the acceptance of funding from the Town Council and a local benefactor to reduce the net cost of the library to budgeted level.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE – Cllr David Hall

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019	15 November 2019 by the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision agreed that the Council would make no changes to the current arrangements within the Hinkley Point B Detailed Emergency Planning Zone, maintaining all current protective actions and public information for the population within 3.5km of the site.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
To accept grant funding for the Bruton Enterprise Centre and sign the subsequent terms and conditions for funding agreements	10 July 2019 by the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure and the Interim Finance Director	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision authorised the acceptance of ERDF funding (£712,886) and the signing the grant funding agreement for funding the design and build of Phase 1 of the Bruton Enterprise Centre (BEC). Phase 1 will deliver 355m2 of flexible office space. The centre will expand the Somerset Enterprise Centre Network and allow for its business support services to benefit the area</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

ADULT SOCIAL CARE – Cllr David Huxtable

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Report Outcome	14 August 2019 by the Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report noted the findings and endorsed the actions taken by the Director of Adult Social Services as recommended by the Ombudsman.</p> <p>The report highlighted that the Council has agreed to write to apologise to the complainant and pay her £250 for the trouble it has put her to in pursuing her complaints, and to update her assessment so that it includes a clear decision on</p>

ADULT SOCIAL CARE – Cllr David Huxtable

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
		<p>eligibility. In addition, the Council has taken action to ensure all its assessments include clear decisions on eligibility by updating its guidance for officers.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Award of Contract for Care and Support Services to Shared Lives South West in Somerset	14 August 2019 by the Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: Shared Lives is where an individual or family is paid a modest amount to include an older or disabled person in their family and community life. In many cases that person goes to live with a Shared Lives carer and their family.</p> <p>This paper set out the options, financial implications and recommendation for the service to be made external to the council and the support and improvement that this would give to the scheme.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING – Cllr Christine Lawrence

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
NHS Health Checks	18 December 2019 by the Cabinet Member for Public Health and	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision gave approval to award the contract for the NHS Health Check service to Bidder A following a competitive tendering process. The new service to commence on 1st April 2020 for a minimum of one year, with the option to extend by two further 12-month periods (1+1+1)</p>

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING – Cllr Christine Lawrence

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
	Wellbeing	<p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Decision to award the Contract for the Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service	16 September 2019 by the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report approved the award of the contract for the re-commissioning of the Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service. This specialist service provides emergency accommodation and outreach support service to people affected by domestic abuse.</p> <p>A procurement process has been completed to commission the new service from 1st April 2020 to enable a continuous service to people experiencing domestic abuse in the county.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment	25 September 2019 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The JSNA for 2019 focused on how to join data from different organisations to understand the complexity of individuals' needs, whilst adhering to the safeguards legally established in information governance.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Future if Targeted Sexual Prevention Services for Sexual Health	28 August 2019 by the Director of Public health	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision proposed to improve how targeted prevention services are offered, in accordance with new evidence base to ensure resources are targeted at the highest need and to reduce demand on sexual health services. The proposals included within the decision included: a competitive procurement exercise</p>

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING – *Cllr Christine Lawrence*

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
		<p>for a two year contract for an HIV prevention; brining the co-ordination and provision of the universal C-Card condom distribution scheme for young people back into Somerset County Council; and a variation of the Integrated Sexual Health Service contract with Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to incorporate certain targeted prevention services.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – *Cllr Frances Nicholson*

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Revision to the number of early years places developers will be required to fund for children from new housing developments in Somerset	29th August 2019 by the Cabinet Member for Children and Families	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: Recent research showed that the yield of children from new housing developments in Somerset is higher than previously thought. This decision agreed that the number of Early Years places funded by developers for children from new housing developments increases from five (5No.) places per 100 new dwellings to nine (9No.) places per 100 new dwellings.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

EDUCATION AND COUNCIL TRANSFORMATION – *Cllr Faye Purbrick*

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Award of contract to	9 September 2019	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision gave approval to appoint Futures for Somerset

EDUCATION AND COUNCIL TRANSFORMATION – *Cllr Faye Purbrick*

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
deliver the Hydrotherapy Pool at Selworthy Schools (Hazelbrook site)		<p>to deliver the hydrotherapy pool at Hazelbrook, and further approved the purchase of furniture and IT as required.</p> <p>The delivery of the new hydrotherapy pool at Selworthy School (Hazelbrook Campus) will mean the school is fully able to meet the therapeutic needs of its most complex children. There is a shortage of hydrotherapy pool space in the local area and it is privately owned, meaning access is expensive.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT – *Cllr John Woodman*

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Implementation of Street Works Permitting Scheme in Somerset	23 December 2019 by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision approved the implementation of a street works permitting scheme, and was taken following from a communication by the Secretary of State for Transport who expressed an expectation that Somerset County Council would implement such a scheme.</p> <p>The scheme includes coordinating essential works, supporting businesses, economic growth, getting people into work, getting children safely to school, improving air quality and protecting and enhancing our unique natural and built local environments.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT – Cllr John Woodman

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Decision to extend the Term Maintenance Contract for Highways Lighting maintenance services	4 November 2019 by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision approved the extension of the contract with SSE Contracting Limited for street light maintenance services for 48 months. This decision will enable the LED lighting roll-out to continue and so has direct positive implications for the climate change emergency declaration.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

CROSS CUTTING – All

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Award of contract for the provision of Somerset County Council (SCC) Hybrid Mail	6 November 2019 by the Lead Director for ECI and Director of Commissioning	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision approved the award a new contract for the provision of Postal Goods and/or Services (Hybrid Mail). The contract will continue to enable staff to send letters and attachments from their PCs from any office or remote location.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Increased Project Budgets – Bridgwater Special School, Somerton Primary School, Bridgwater College Academy	3 October 2019 by the Cabinet Member for Children and Families and the Cabinet Member for Education and Council Transformation	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision sought approval to increase the budget allocations for the schemes Bridgwater Special School, Somerton Primary School and Bridgwater College Academy. Details of the increase values are included in the confidential Appendix A to the decision report.</p> <p>The initial feasibility studies undertaken indicated that these schemes could be delivered within the allocated budgets, however pre-contract cost estimates (following value engineering) identified that these values could not be achieved.</p>

CROSS CUTTING – All

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
		<p>Details of the reasons for the increased costs are included in the decision report, and further details of the increased financial values are included in the confidential Appendix A to the decision report.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>