

Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee

Tuesday 31 October 2017

10.00 am Luttrell Room - County Hall,
Taunton



To: The Members of the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee

Cllr T Lock (Chairman), Cllr M Lewis (Vice-Chairman), Cllr P Ham, Cllr T Napper, Cllr A Wedderkopp, Cllr B Filmer, Cllr John Hunt, Cllr J Thorne and Cllr G Noel

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

Issued By Julian Gale, Strategic Manager - Governance and Risk - 23 October 2017

For further information about the meeting, please contact Lindsey Tawse on 01823 355059 or ltawse@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 Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

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 Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee - 10.00 am Tuesday 31 October 2017

****Public Guidance notes contained in agenda annexe****

1 **Apologies for absence**

2 **Declarations of Interest**

Details of all Members' interests in District, Town and Parish Councils will be displayed in the meeting room. The Statutory Register of Member's Interests can be inspected via the Community Governance team.

3 **Minutes from the previous meeting held on 03 October 2017 (Pages 5 - 14)**

The Committee is asked to confirm the minutes are accurate.

4 **Public Question Time**

The Chairman will allow members of the public to ask a question or make a statement about any matter on the agenda for this meeting. **These questions may be taken during the meeting, when the relevant agenda item is considered, at the Chairman's discretion.**

5 **Heart of the South West Productivity Strategy (Pages 15 - 18)**

To receive this report.

6 **Heart of the South West Joint Committee (Pages 19 - 24)**

To receive this report.

7 **County Vision (Pages 25 - 26)**

To receive this report.

8 **Verbal Update from County Farms Task & Finish Group**

To receive a verbal update.

9 **Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee Work Programme (Pages 27 - 46)**

To receive an update from the Governance Manager, Scrutiny and discuss any items for the work programme. To assist the discussion, attached are:

- The Committee's work programme
- The Cabinet's forward plan

10 **Any other urgent items of business**

The Chairman may raise any items of urgent business.

Agenda Annexe

Guidance notes for the meeting

1. Inspection of Papers

Any person wishing to inspect Minutes, reports, or the background papers for any item on the Agenda should contact the Committee Administrator for the meeting – Lindsey Tawse on Tel: (01823) 355059 or 357628 or Email: ltawse@somerset.gov.uk They can also be accessed via the council's website on www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers

2. Members' Code of Conduct requirements

When considering the declaration of interests and their actions as a councillor, Members are reminded of the requirements of the Members' Code of Conduct and the underpinning Principles of Public Life: Honesty; Integrity; Selflessness; Objectivity; Accountability; Openness; Leadership. The Code of Conduct can be viewed at: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/organisation/key-documents/the-councils-constitution/>

3. Minutes of the Meeting

Details of the issues discussed and recommendations made at the meeting will be set out in the Minutes, which the Committee will be asked to approve as a correct record at its next meeting.

4. Public Question Time

If you wish to speak, please tell Lindsey Tawse the Committee's Administrator - by 12 noon the (working) day before the meeting.

At the Chairman's invitation you may ask questions and/or make statements or comments about any matter on the Committee's agenda – providing you have given the required notice. You may also present a petition on any matter within the Committee's remit. The length of public question time will be no more than 30 minutes in total.

A slot for Public Question Time is set aside near the beginning of the meeting, after the minutes of the previous meeting have been signed. However, questions or statements about any matter on the Agenda for this meeting may be taken at the time when each matter is considered.

You must direct your questions and comments through the Chairman. You may not take direct part in the debate. The Chairman will decide when public participation is to finish.

If there are many people present at the meeting for one particular item, the Chairman may adjourn the meeting to allow views to be expressed more freely. If an item on the Agenda is contentious, with a large number of people attending the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group.

An issue will not be deferred just because you cannot be present for the meeting. Remember that the amount of time you speak will be restricted, normally to two minutes only.

5. Exclusion of Press & Public

If when considering an item on the Agenda, the Committee may consider it appropriate to pass a resolution under Section 100A (4) Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, as defined under the terms of the Act.

6. Committee Rooms & Council Chamber and hearing aid users

To assist hearing aid users the following Committee meeting rooms have infra-red audio transmission systems (Luttrell room, Wyndham room, Hobhouse room). To use this facility we need to provide a small personal receiver that will work with a hearing aid set to the T position. Please request a personal receiver from the Committee's Administrator and return it at the end of the meeting.

7. Recording of meetings

The Council supports the principles of openness and transparency. It allows filming, recording and taking photographs at its meetings that are open to the public - providing this is done in a non-disruptive manner. Members of the public may use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings and a designated area will be provided for anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings. No filming or recording may take place when the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting. As a matter of courtesy to the public, anyone wishing to film or record proceedings is asked to provide reasonable notice to the Committee Administrator so that the relevant Chairman can inform those present at the start of the meeting.

We would ask that, as far as possible, members of the public aren't filmed unless they are playing an active role such as speaking within a meeting and there may be occasions when speaking members of the public request not to be filmed.

The Council will be undertaking audio recording of some of its meetings in County Hall as part of its investigation into a business case for the recording and potential webcasting of meetings in the future.

A copy of the Council's Recording of Meetings Protocol should be on display at the meeting for inspection, alternatively contact the Committee Administrator for the meeting in advance.

SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES AND PLACE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee held in the Luttrell Room - County Hall, Taunton, on Tuesday 3 October 2017 at 10.00 am

Present: Cllr M Lewis (Vice-Chairman), Cllr A Wedderkopp, Cllr B Filmer, Cllr John Hunt and Cllr J Thorne and Cllr S Coles

Other Members present: Cllr C Aparicio Paul, Cllr H Davies, Cllr L Leyshon and Cllr L Redman

Apologies for absence: Cllr T Lock, Cllr P Ham, Cllr T Napper and Cllr G Noel

31 **Declarations of Interest** - Agenda Item 2

Cllr Simon Coles declared an interest as a Borough Councillor.

Cllr Bob Filmer declared an interest in Item 7 as a member of the Bridgwater Tidal Barrier Planning Committee.

32 **Minutes from the previous meeting held on 05 September 2017** - Agenda Item 3

The minutes of the meeting held on 05 September 2017 were accepted as being accurate by the Committee.

33 **Public Question Time** - Agenda Item 4

Sue Osborne asked a public question regarding Item 8. She expressed concern that the Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Resources had disregarded the recommendation made by the Committee at the last meeting to suspend sales of county farms. She asked what reassurance could be given that the recommendations of the County Farms Task & Finish Group would also not be disregarded. She asked how outside bodies would be able to contribute to the review and questioned why the questionnaire sent to tenants did not ask for information on the type of tenant or for equalities information. She welcomed the inclusion of tenant views but sought assurance that the Cabinet Member would approach the findings of the review with an open-mind.

Mrs Osborne will receive a written response to her question.

Nigel Behan, Unite Branch Secretary, asked a public question regarding Item 9. We support the vision statement and we also support the assessment that the best option is retaining an in-house model for the future of the Library Service in Somerset.

Q1 When will "Appendix 1b – Appraisal of alternative delivery model options" be released into the public domain?

Q2 How will access and public transport be taken into account when considering the future of the 34 libraries in Somerset?

It was confirmed by the Vice-Chair that Appendix 1b is a confidential paper and it will not be released into the public domain. The Strategic Manager, Community & Traded Services responded to question 2. We will be carrying out a comprehensive needs assessment as part of the review and this will consider access to services. We want to ensure that Somerset residents have reasonable access to library services and public transport will be factored into this.

Anthony Butler submitted a public question regarding Item 9 which was read by the Governance Manager. I wish to emphasise the overwhelming sense of feeling in Shepton Mallet regarding the proposed move of the library from the Market Square to council offices in Mendip hub. Of the many people who have expressed a view, nobody outside Mendip District Council has expressed a preference for this move. A few have expressed that moving would be better than having no library at all but the majority have expressed a positive preference for the library to remain in the town centre. Objections to the move are largely focussed around two areas: the lack of access for library users and the economic impact on the town. The library is an important community resource and has a far wider role than just loaning books. It requires professional oversight and provides an essential service to those that do not have access to the web at home. Any business case relating to libraries such as Shepton Mallet must consider wider consequences including to the community and to those relating to training, education and discovery services. Residents and businesses consider that moving the library would have a damaging effect on an already neglected town centre. The library does not need to remain in its current expensive site but other far better locations are available in the town centre.

The Director, Economic and Community Infrastructure Commissioning responded to the question. The engagement process has only just begun and this will be followed by a long process of consultation before any decision is made on the future provision of library services. The consultation process is designed to be thorough, open and inclusive so that we can engage with communities on the future of individual libraries. If it is proven that a move is required then the library may move but the Leader of the Council has publicly stated that the intention is to keep libraries open and we will be looking to communities to support us with that.

Ciara Eastell, Chief Executive of Libraries Unlimited, asked a public question regarding Item 9. She expressed reservations over the conclusions drawn in the review of alternative delivery models. She questioned the robustness of evidence examined including advice from an independent consultant. She highlighted that she had not been asked by Somerset to take part in the consultation and that the financial information examined dated from 2015/16 when the service was still under Devon County Council management. She highlighted the successes achieved by Devon Libraries since it was externalised 18 months ago.

The Director, Economic and Community Infrastructure Commissioning responded to the question. Devon and Somerset services have previously worked well together and we would welcome the opportunity to continue this

relationship. We are confident about our facts and the conclusions drawn. We are quite open that it was a desk-top exercise using information available in the public domain. We have no wish to undermine the work of Libraries Unlimited but we are clear in our report that externalising is not the right solution for Somerset at this time. It may be right in the longer term and we plan to look at this again in 3 years time.

Peter Murphy, Chairman of Friends of Somerset Libraries (FoSL), asked a public question regarding Item 9. In 2011 we raised over £10k from public donation to make a successful legal challenge against SCC which had decided to cease funding a third of static libraries. We retain most of these funds against the future threat to library services. Since 2011 SCC and FoSL have had constructive dialogue and this report describes FoSL as a valuable critical friend. There has been an evidence-led re-structure of the library network which was carefully considered and consulted on at local level. We are aware, however, that the council has stated it could operate fewer libraries in the future. FoSL would like to see a proper needs assessment carried out that is open to the possibility of opening new branch libraries where there is an identified need. We support the recommendation to defer and further consider the decision to outsource the service. We welcome the commitment to engage with all communities that have a static library to better understand the needs of each individual community. The provision of libraries is a statutory service which has to meet the test of the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act to provide “a comprehensive and efficient library service to all persons desiring to make use thereof”. In this report reference is made to a consultation to ‘re-determine the comprehensive and efficient library network and the funding provided beyond that network’. In the Equalities Impact Assessment this phrase occurs on several occasions: “any changes to service provision maintain *reasonable* access to library services for a *reasonable* majority of the population”. Two uses of the word reasonable, a word beloved by lawyers, in one sentence. FoSL look forward to a continued engagement with officers and councillors as the service develops.

The Director, Economic and Community Infrastructure Commissioning responded to the question. She thanked FoSL for its cooperation, support and insight as this has been invaluable. The library service does need to live within its means and, therefore, we do need to have a look at how far our pound stretches. However, our Leader has clearly said that our intent is to keep as many libraries open as possible.

John Irven, Treasurer of Watchet Library Friends (WLF), asked a public question regarding Item 9. He paid tribute to the way that SCC officers have worked collaboratively since 2011. WLF understand that by 2020 further cuts of around 15% will be required with potential reduction or removal of funding from some libraries including Watchet. The WLF will support working with SCC and Watchet Town council on buildings and facilities. We will not support local communities being faced with a ‘take it on or leave it to close’ approach or the transfer of libraries to voluntary trusts or volunteer operation as statutory library services require professional management and Watchet demographics mean volunteers would not be available, able or willing to run year-long services. We urge you to find acceptable budget solutions via continuing positive engagement.

The Director, Economic and Community Infrastructure Commissioning responded to the question. She thanked John for his comments and stated that SCC has already started to engage with Watchet as part of the engagement process. We welcome the support and healthy conversations that we are having and don't wish to pre-determine any decisions on any library.

34 Corporate Performance Monitoring Report Q1 (+1) 2017/18 - Agenda Item 5

The Committee considered this report from the Strategic Managers for Performance and for Business Change. The report provided Members with an update on performance across the organisation.

Members were reminded that this was the first performance report using the refreshed metrics and that quarter 1 plus 1 month data had been provided in order to give as up to date information as possible to the Committee. The report summarised that overall performance is stable with three red segments (P1, P3,C4), one segment with a declining performance (P2) and four segments with improving performance (P1, P3, P5, C1).

The Committee discussed those segments which fell under the Committee's remit. They agreed to discuss the projected overspend of £10.054m when it was covered in more detail under Item 6.

They queried the significant rise in housing development linked with the development of a garden town and asked what plans had been made for infrastructure and employment opportunities. It was confirmed that SCC is working closely with officers at Taunton Deane Borough Council (TDBC) to accommodate future transport demand. The Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) is designed to support the delivery of housing. SCC has made a bid to this fund and is proactively looking at every opportunity for investment in Taunton and housing growth. Members commented that the HIF is oversubscribed and that social housing will be squeezed out. It was clarified that the HIF relates to infrastructure only and aims to ensure that land can be unlocked for development. It is not the role of SCC to get involved with TDBC housing policy.

It was confirmed that proposals for the development of A Block at County Hall will be coming forward shortly. Both A and C Block are in need of modernisation with A Block needing significant investment to maintain, particularly for heating and lighting.

A Member queried how the Core Council programme feeds into the performance wheel and it was clarified that there are some things on the Core Council programme that don't directly relate to the performance wheel or they may only form part of a segment. The Core Council Programme stands alone.

The delay with the Customer Service Model for Shepton Mallet Library was queried and it was confirmed that this relates to a delay in terms of plans of delivery. No decision has yet been made regarding the library customer service model and this doesn't relate to a decision about the library itself.

The Committee noted the report.

35 **2017/18 Revenue Budget Month 4 - Agenda Item 6**

The Committee received this report from the Service Manager, Chief Accountant which provided an update on the current Revenue Budget outturn position for the 2017/18 financial year based on the end of July (Month 4).

The Committee heard that the Authority's forecast shows a projected net overspend of £10.054m when compared to the Revenue Budget. This represents 3.22% of base budget. The majority of the overspend lies in the Children's Services budgets. Most other areas of the Council are within reasonable tolerance although some corporate and support budgets are under pressure

Last year, 2016/17, there was a year-end overspend of £7.049m, with the main areas of overspend in Adults and Children's services. The demands upon these services have not reduced in the early part of this financial year and are not likely to over the course of the year. The transformational work under way to improve demand management and simultaneously improve outcomes for vulnerable children and adults is well under way. The additional funding from government for Adult Services, alongside the management action in adults, is keeping this budget under control. There has been no additional funding for children services and management action is struggling to change patterns of expenditure.

SCC is therefore in a similar position to last year in trying to find mitigating actions across the whole Council as well as in those core care services to offset the overspend while transformation takes place in line with our MTFP themes. The implication of this early forecast is that Cabinet and the Senior Leadership Team will need to take some immediate actions to address the overspend projections. Given last year's position, there are already 5 high priority projects under way (all but one of which are affecting children's services budgets) to identify ways of reducing spending and managing demand. These are having some success in reducing overspend and delivering MTFP savings but are projects that in some cases span last year, this year and next before coming to fruition.

The Committee then considered the forecast overspend in individual budget areas particularly children's services and aged debt analysis. They also considered the progress of the 2017/18 MTFP savings proposals. The Committee heard that 63% of savings will be delivered as predicted, 7% of savings have been classified as an amber risk meaning delivery is unsure and 30% are no longer deliverable in 2017/18.

Concern was expressed at the overspend in children's services. It was highlighted that the figures around the increase in demand for children's services could be confusing. It was clarified that the service is supporting more children overall but that less children were coming into care. Therefore, the service could be said to be making improvements even though overall numbers had risen. It was agreed that this would be made clearer in future reports.

Members also heard that the Children and Young People Plan had recently been updated and that the Children's Scrutiny Committee would be looking at the progress of this plan in detail to ensure progress.

Members questioned what is driving the hike in demand for children's services. The Chief Accountant agreed to contact the Director of Children's Services for a response on this and send this to the Committee.

Concern was expressed that aged debt was almost double the target and that the majority seemed to be owed from health partners. The Committee heard that SCC has seen an increase in aged debt pressures and that these are reported to the Audit Committee on a quarterly basis. The debt is mostly 3rd party but is often complicated and some resolutions take a long time to achieve.

Concern was expressed over the 30% of savings that are not achievable and the limited reserves available and whether this would result in an illegal budget being set. It was confirmed that SCC will not set an illegal budget and that plans are in place to deliver a balanced budget. It is difficult to deliver saving after saving. As far as we are aware the 30% of savings are still achievable but there has been slippage meaning they cannot be delivered in this budget year.

The Committee noted the report.

36 **Flood & Water Management including the Bridgwater Tidal barrier -** Agenda Item 7

The Committee received a presentation from the Strategic Commissioning Manager (Community Infrastructure) and the Service Manager, Flood Risk Management. The presentation provided an update on the Lead Local Flood Risk Management Service (LFRMS), the Bridgwater Tidal barrier and the future of the service.

The Committee heard that the LFRMS has restructured all non-highway elements of flood risk management into one team and now has direct control and delivery of strategic objectives and schemes on the ground. The service will now prepare its programme and submit its Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) grant application for 2018/19. It's anticipated that this will be a smaller work programme which will allow the service to focus on the actions in the LFRMS and carry out studies focused on local flooding, its mechanisms and consequences. The committee were also updated on a planned Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) review and SuDS inspector service and the SPONGE2020 project. SPONGE2020 is an EU funded project aimed at encouraging urban areas to soak up more water. Following an innovative mapping approach to identify flood risk areas, this is initially being focused on Taunton but could be taken to other areas in Somerset.

The Committee were then updated on the proposed site for the Bridgwater Tidal Barrier and the proposed vertical lift gate. The estimated cost of the barrier has risen to £60-70m and it is hoped that construction will be completed by 2024. Full design, economic, cost and impact assessments will need to be prepared. It was confirmed that the Internal Drainage Board is a key partner.

In addition, the Committee heard that the service plans to carry out a review to deliver improvements to the service in future. The service aims to be less reactive and more strategic in its approach using a 3 year plan. This will include: working with other councils to make the most of SuDS on developments; ensuring a high profile in flood management through its partnerships; pioneering SuDS techniques and developing a high quality developer guide on SuDS for all planning authorities in Somerset to adopt and working with local communities and Members to further build knowledge of local flood issues.

The Committee discussed the need to take a holistic, whole-county approach to flood management and that it was also important to consider across county borders. They also stressed the importance of the upper catchments. It was confirmed that work is on-going with regards to slowing the flow of water.

It was confirmed that SuDS inspections would focus on what is being constructed and would not look at what already exists. This may be something to address in future years. The inspection service does not have any powers but will refer any non-compliance to the local authority.

It was confirmed that the Riparian Rights Enforcement Officer does have enforcement powers with regard to maintaining the flow of water courses but that the aim is always to work with the landowner. The Committee noted the report.

37 County Farms Task & Finish Group - Agenda Item 8

The Governance Manager provided an update on behalf of the Chair of the Task & Finish Group.

The Committee heard that the Group had met for the first time last week and that Cllr Philip Ham had been appointed as Chair. Further meeting dates had been set and the Group planned to submit its report to the Committee at its 05 December meeting. Outside stakeholders have been invited by the Group to attend the next meeting and there will be a further verbal update from the Group at the 31 October meeting.

The Committee noted the update.

38 Library Service Update and Proposed Strategy - Agenda Item 9

The Committee received a report and presentation from the Director for Economic & Community Infrastructure Commissioning and the Strategic Manager, Community & Traded Services.

The Committee were updated on the progress and performance of the library service, the proposed strategic direction for the service over the next three

years and a community engagement exercise that was recently commenced by the service.

The library service is currently performing well and has delivered a number of successful, innovative projects and initiatives which have gained national recognition. Responses from a customer satisfaction survey carried out in June/July 2017 indicate that customers value the service and are overwhelmingly positive about their experience. It has delivered over £1m of savings to date.

In order to put the service on a sustainable financial footing a long term strategy is required. It was outlined that the intention is to keep libraries open wherever possible. As part of looking at the future of the service over the next 3 years an investigation into alternative delivery models has been carried out. Only 4 library services in the country have externalised so there is a limited breadth of evidence to refer to. The service has concluded that it cannot recommend externalising at this time. It would be more appropriate to revisit this in 3 years time when more evidence will be available.

The Committee heard that the proposed future strategy for the service will have 4 main strands: continuing to deliver a thriving, modern service across a broad spectrum of outcomes; review the libraries network, review the frontline workforce and invest in technology. An informal community engagement process to review the library network has recently begun. This will be supported by a comprehensive needs assessment and an equalities impact assessment before a formal consultation takes place on specific proposals in December 2017 or January 2018. It is planned to bring a further update on this consultation to the Committee in February/March 2018 before a final decision is taken in March/April 2018.

The Committee commented that this was a positive report and commended the service on its performance. It commended the early engagement with the commitment with regard to the network review.

The Committee asked if staff morale had been affected. The service had concerns over morale last year as a result of a staff survey. It has been working hard to engage with staff and understands that the workforce strand of the strategy will be key to its future success.

A Member highlighted the importance of partnership working and the role libraries play in communities. It was felt that digital support services could be better promoted and that the library could do more to widen its appeal to men and advertise more. It was agreed that the library has a great role to play in supporting the community particularly disadvantaged families and socially isolated and disenfranchised residents. The service is working with public health colleagues to join up and better promote the services available.

A proposal was made to set up a Task & Finish Group but it was felt that this would not be appropriate at this stage as the service is currently in the early stages of engagement and gathering information.

A proposal was made to support the conclusion not to pursue an alternative delivery model at this time. Instead we should give our support to the library service to use the 3 year period to develop its service whilst continuing to look at alternative models with a view to the future. This was seconded and carried unanimously following a vote.

The Committee noted the report.

39 Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee Work Programme - Agenda Item 10

The Committee considered and noted the Council's Forward Plan of proposed key decisions.

Following debate, the Committee requested the following addition to the work programme:

- Update on Library Service Consultation (Feb/Mar 2018)

Following a suggestion from a Member, it was agreed that consideration would be given to scrutinising the Revenue Budget in a different way. As the report contains a lot of financial information it was suggested that this could be scrutinised in smaller sections or in a separate meeting with just that item.

40 Any other urgent items of business - Agenda Item 11

With regard to the proposal from Devon County Council to form a Joint Task & Finish Group to monitor the Connecting Devon & Somerset Broadband Programme, the Governance Manager confirmed that officers are waiting for some further information from Devon colleagues before they were able to provide an update to the Committee.

(The meeting ended at 12.50pm)

CHAIRMAN

This page is intentionally left blank

Consultation on the ‘Heart of the South West Productivity Strategy: Stepping Up to the Challenge’.

Lead Officer: Paul Hickson

Author: James Gilgrist

Contact Details: jgilgrist@somerset.gov.uk 01823 355339

Cabinet Member: David Hall, Cabinet Member for Resources & Economic Development
Division and Local Member: All

1. Summary

- 1.1.** An outcome of discussions on devolution was that SCC along with other partners in the Heart of the South West (HotSW) would jointly commit to developing a plan in 2017 for boosting productivity. The Draft Productivity Strategy is the result of this commitment. It has been prepared in partnership with district, county and unitary authorities, national parks and the HotSW Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), as well as with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), private and third sector partners and central government.
- 1.2.** The Productivity Strategy is a successor document to the LEP’s Strategic Economic Plan published in 2014. It is an overarching strategy document that outlines key priorities and objectives for the HotSW. Specifically, it sets out the aim of narrowing the ‘productivity gap’ evident in the HotSW LEP area, driving up prosperity and living standards for all, and securing the resources needed to do so.
- 1.3.** The Productivity Strategy will act as a basis for:
 - Local engagement in the UK Industrial Strategy
 - Securing investment for our area (e.g. via the Government’s proposed Shared Prosperity Fund)
 - Devolution
- 1.4.** At the HotSW level it will:
 - Align local economic delivery plans/strategies (e.g. Somerset Growth Plan 2017-2030)
 - Draw together resources of local partners and stakeholders
- 1.5.** This report sets out the background to the Productivity Strategy, highlights some of its key themes, and explains the consultation process and timeline for adoption of the Strategy.
- 1.6.** The Productivity Strategy will be key to delivering the County Plan and its vision to secure ‘More jobs; more homes; more powers from government; more local co-operation; better health; better education and prospects; better roads, rail, broadband and mobile signal’. Achieving this vision will require SCC to work together with local partners and stakeholders to align priorities and draw together resources, to secure future investment for our area, and to ensure we get the powers that we need from government

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1. Members are asked to consider and comment on the purpose/importance of the productivity strategy and SCC's engagement in the consultation.
- 2.2. For the meeting members will receive a detailed presentation about the Productivity Strategy, including a review of it in the context of the adopted Somerset Growth Plan. The presentation will identify issues which could form the basis of SCC's response. The views of Scrutiny members on the proposed response will be sought.

3. Background

- 3.1. In March 2014, the HotSW LEP published the area's Strategic Economic Plan, aiming to maximise economic growth across the area. Since its publication, Government has turned its attention to the challenge of productivity and is now developing a national Industrial Strategy to boost UK productivity. The HotSW Productivity Strategy will replace the Strategic Economic Plan. It will set out the contribution the HotSW area can make to close the UK's 'productivity gap' and how we will be an integral part of the forthcoming UK Industrial Strategy. It will form the basis of negotiations with government for investment and devolved powers and it will act as a focal point to draw together local economic delivery plans and strategies as well as local resources.
- 3.2. The draft Productivity Strategy has been put together by a project team over the last few months with input from the LEP and various LAs including SCC. This drafting process followed a Green Paper (*'Driving Productivity in the Heart of the South West'*) consultation which Somerset County Council responded to along with a joint response on behalf of Somerset partners from the Somerset Growth Board. Once it has received final sign off the Productivity Strategy will be owned by both the Joint Committee, representing all local authorities, and the business-led HotSW LEP.
- 3.3. In short, the Productivity Strategy aims to double the net worth of the HotSW economy from approximately £35 billion to £70 billion of GVA by 2036. Its stated vision is 'for all parts of the HotSW to become more prosperous, enabling people to have a better quality of life and higher living standards'. Since the financial crisis levels of employment have risen in the HotSW, yet productivity has slipped against the UK average. The Productivity Strategy argues that closing this so called 'productivity gap' is vital to realising the area's potential and avoiding the future risk of declining communities, reduced living standards, higher levels of poverty and potentially greater pressure on public services.
- 3.4. The document itself identifies numerous challenges facing the HotSW area:
 - Productivity has slipped and varies considerably across the patch
 - Businesses are less likely to export or invest in innovation
 - We have a growing and ageing population
 - We have notable skills shortages
 - We have issues with transport and digital connectivity
 - We have growing infrastructure demands for both housing and employment

- 3.5.** Besides challenges, the Productivity Strategy points out that the HotSW has numerous areas of world class economic strength and potential for increasing productivity. It calls these our 'golden opportunities', many of which are found here in Somerset, including strengths in aerospace and advanced manufacturing, nuclear and agri-tech. Indeed, the challenges, opportunities and priorities identified in the Productivity Strategy closely reflect those faced in Somerset specifically, as identified through the development of the recently adopted Somerset Growth Plan. The latter effectively sits beneath the Productivity Strategy, both informing it and being informed by it, whilst focusing specifically on Somerset's needs. Crucially, the work that was done in developing the Somerset Growth Plan formed the basis for feeding into the draft Productivity Strategy, to ensure the priorities we have agreed for Somerset are addressed.
- 3.6.** The Productivity Strategy is structured around the three strategic objective areas of 'Leadership and Knowledge', 'Connectivity and Infrastructure', and 'Working and Learning'. A number of indicative programmes are set out beneath these strategic objectives. More generally, the Productivity Strategy highlights other important themes, including the importance of ensuring that growth is inclusive, that challenges associated with rurality are addressed, and that we continue to value and capitalise on our natural environmental assets (i.e. our 'natural capital').
- 3.7.** The Productivity Strategy is a high-level strategy document, capturing overarching priorities and objectives for the HotSW. It is not intended to articulate all the specific issues and priorities of partners and stakeholders. Moreover, it focusses specifically on boosting productivity and is not a generalised economic development strategy. Local specificities and other economic development priorities are better captured in local plans and strategies. Subsequent to adoption of the Productivity Strategy a detailed Delivery Plan will be developed outlining how the Strategy will be implemented. At this stage it is suggested that we advocate a focus on strategic level feedback, specifically regarding productivity improvement, in our response. We are simply being asked to consider whether the overarching vision and objectives of the Strategy are fit for purpose, and reflective of the needs and priorities of Somerset.
- 3.8.** The draft Productivity Strategy was approved for wider circulation and consultation by the LEP board and Shadow Joint Committee in September 2017. The Strategy will receive final sign off by the Joint Committee and LEP Board in January 2018. The intention is for SCC's response to be considered by Cabinet on 15th November 2017 and the views of the Scrutiny committee will be highly informative in this regard.

4. Consultations undertaken

- 4.1.** The draft Productivity Strategy has been put together based on extensive consultation with partners and stakeholders, including businesses and individuals across Somerset and the wider HotSW.
- 4.2.** As stated in 3.2 there was a Green Paper consultation early in 2017 to which SCC responded along with a joint response on behalf of Somerset partners from the Somerset Growth Board. The focus of the SCC and Growth Board responses were based themselves on extensive consultation work for the recently adopted Somerset Growth Plan 2017-2030.

- 4.3. Views from the Green Paper consultation informed the drafting of the Strategy by a project team with further input from the LEP and other partners including SCC.
- 4.4. SCC and other partners and stakeholders are now being consulted on the final draft in advance of a 30th November 2017 deadline. There is also a series of public consultation events planned across the HotSW including one in Somerset on 22nd November 2017.

5. Implications

- 5.1. There are a number of potential strategic implications as a consequence of the adoption of the Productivity Strategy.
 - The Productivity Strategy will form the basis for discussions with government regarding the future devolution of powers to our area.
 - The Productivity Strategy will have strategic financial implications insofar as it will be used to attract future investment from government (incl. the proposed Shared Prosperity Fund), as well for drawing together local resources in support of its vision and objectives.
 - There are potential positive equalities implications insofar as the Productivity Strategy has a stated commitment to 'inclusive growth' to ensure that individuals, groups and communities are not excluded from the benefits of productive economic growth.
 - There are positive sustainability implications insofar as the Productivity Strategy has a stated commitment to both safeguarding and capitalising upon our significant natural assets (i.e. our 'natural capital').
- 5.2. There are no direct implications for SCC as a business in terms of immediate financial implications, HR, or legal implications.

6. Background papers

- 6.1. Heart of the South West Productivity Strategy: Stepping Up to the Challenge [Draft]. The Draft Strategy is being hosted on the Torbay Council website for the purposes of consultation, please see www.torbay.gov.uk/devolution.
- 6.2. The Somerset Growth Plan 2017-2030. Please see www.somerset.gov.uk/policies-and-plans/plans/somerset-growth-plan.
- 6.3. Driving Productivity in the Heart of the South West [Green Paper].
- 6.4. SCC response to Green Paper.

Note For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author

Somerset County Council
Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee
– 31st October 2017

Heart of the South West Joint Committee

Lead Officer: Julian Gale

Authors: Julian Gale and Alastair Higton

Contact Details: JJGale@somerset.gov.uk 01823 359047

Cabinet Member: David Fothergill

Division and Local Member: All

1. Summary

- 1.1 Members who were here during the last quadrennium will recall the work done over the last two years across the Devon and Somerset authorities to seek a devolution deal for the area to bring down Government powers, functions and funding to improve productivity for the area. Against a backdrop of policy shifts at Government level the partners worked as one voice for the region but ultimately came up against a Government requirement that the area would need to have an elected mayor led combined authority established in order to achieve a worthwhile financial deal. The elected mayor requirement was a major stumbling block for many authorities in the partnership and earlier in the year the authorities agreed to move ahead incrementally with a less restrictive model and gave an 'in principle' agreement to establish a HotSW Joint Committee to progress our productivity strategy and put in place a formal mechanism to take forward negotiations with government on a range of policy agendas with a view to achieving additional benefits for the region. The Joint Committee model was designed to add additional benefit to the constituent authorities and not take powers away from the constituent authorities. The 'in principle decision to establish a Joint Committee was not then taken forward on the planned timetable as planned because of the County and General Elections.
- 1.2 Following the elections, the plan to establish the Joint Committee has been reinvigorated and on the 22nd September a shadow Heart of the South West Joint Committee meeting was held at which Leaders from across the Heart of the South West agreed to move forward with the establishment of a Joint Committee. The primary purpose of the Joint Committee will be to agree and oversee implementation of the emerging Productivity Strategy for the area. It also has the potential to provide a formal mechanism to negotiate with Government on a range of policy areas to bring additional benefits to the area.

- 1.3 The shadow Joint Committee meeting on the 22nd followed a meeting with a Government Minister involving David Fothergill and other representatives of the partnership at which a clear indication was given that there is scope to potentially negotiate a devolution deal for the HotSW partnership and establish a Combined Authority without the need for a mayor. This welcome clarity together with the removal of the elected mayor requirement is likely to be attractive to the partners but much work needs to be done to move this agenda forward to agree a proposal to Government and take forward the possible establishment of a Combined Authority. The latter, if eventually established, would be a new and separate legal entity and would be on a different scale to the Joint Committee. However, moving to a Joint Committee at this stage has the advantage of creating a relatively simple formal model of governance that could be developed into a shadow Combined Authority at a point in the future if agreed by the partners.
- 1.4 A series of recommendations required to establish the Joint Committee will now be taken through the constituent authorities over the autumn period via a template report to ensure consistency with a view to the Joint Committee being established by January 2018. These recommendations will be taken through SCC's Cabinet and Full Council in November 2017.
- 1.5 The template report will be accompanied by an 'Arrangements' document outlining the legal status, purpose, aims and objectives, membership and functions of the Committee. In summary the body established by this process will be a formal joint committee of the 17 councils and two National Park authorities. Each constituent authority will have one 'seat' on the Committee and it is anticipated that these will be filled by Council Leaders. The LEP and the CCGs will have non-voting representation.
- 1.6 There will also be an inter-authority agreement that each constituent authority will be asked to agree. This covers the administrative arrangements for the Joint Committee, its operating and support budgets, the roles and responsibilities of the constituent authorities, and other provisions to ensure the smooth running of the Committee.

2. **Action Required of Scrutiny**

- 2.1 Committee members are asked to consider and comment on the Joint Committee proposal.

3 Functions of the Joint Committee

3.1 The proposed list of functions for the Joint Committee is set out in 3.3 below. The list of functions can be expanded at any time with the agreement of the constituent authorities so the list agreed at this meeting should be regarded as the starting point. The list below remains a draft list at this stage and subject to further discussion within the partnership before being finalised for consideration. .

3.2 The principle of subsidiarity will apply to the operation of the Joint Committee. In this regard the functions and powers of the constituent authorities will be protected under these Arrangements as indicated in the list of functions that follows:

3.3 Accordingly, it is proposed that the Joint Committee shall:

- (a) Develop and agree the HotSW Productivity Strategy in collaboration with the LEP.
- (b) Ensure delivery of the HotSW Productivity Strategy in collaboration with the LEP and the constituent authorities
- (c) Continue discussions /negotiations with the Government on the possibility of achieving devolved responsibilities, funding and related governance amendments to assist with the delivery of the Productivity Strategy. Joint Committee proposals arising from these discussions /negotiations would require the formal approval of the constituent authorities / partner agencies.
- (d) Continue discussions / negotiations with the Government / relevant agencies to secure delivery of the Government's strategic infrastructure commitments, eg, strategic road and rail transport improvements
- (e) Work with the LEP to identify and deliver improvements to the LEP's democratic accountability and to assist the organisation to comply with the revised (November 2016) LEP Assurance Framework. This includes endorsing the LEP's Assurance Framework on behalf of the constituent authorities as and when required. However, the framework must be formally approved by the LEP's Administering Authority
- (f) Ensure that adequate resources (including staff and funding) are allocated by the constituent authorities to enable the objectives in (a) to (e) above to be delivered.

3.4 A key requirement of the recommendations is to appoint an Administering Authority to run the Joint Committee and, in particular, provide financial, legal and democratic services support. The shadow meeting on 22nd September agreed to recommend the appointment of Somerset County Council as the Administering Authority for a two year period. This complements the Chief Executive's role as the governance lead for the devolution project on behalf of the partnership.

4. **Background to the Joint Committee**

- 4.1 The 19 authorities gave 'in principle' agreement to the establishment of a HotSW Joint Committee over the February to April 2017 period. Only one authority did not sign up to the full list of proposed functions of the Joint Committee at that stage: Exeter City Council had reservations about the wider ability of the Joint Committee to negotiate with government for powers and funding. Discussions are on-going with Exeter with a view to finding a form of words that is likely to be acceptable to that Council and indeed all of the constituent authorities as the overriding intent is to keep all of the partners on board and involved in the Joint Committee. In negotiations with Government it is clear that there is considerable strength in our partnership's ability to speak with 'one voice'.
- 4.2 The 'in principle' approvals given were subject to each authority approving documents detailing the Joint Committee's Arrangements and the Inter-Authority Agreement confirming how the Joint Committee will operate and be supported. The plan at that stage was to bring these documents through the summer 2017 democratic cycle but this was put on hold pending the outcome of the County Council and then the General Elections.
- 4.3 The HotSW Chief Executives Group (which includes Somerset County Council's Chief Executive) now considers that the time is right to move forward with the proposal to establish the Joint Committee with a view to having it in place by January 2018. The Shadow Joint Committee meeting on the 22nd September was called on the back of this initiative and the actions resulting from that meeting are detailed at the front of this report.

4.4 **Background to the HotSW Productivity Strategy**

The key function of the Joint Committee is to agree and ensure the implementation of the HotSW Productivity Strategy. This aims to narrow the 'productivity gap' evident in the HotSW LEP area, driving up prosperity and living standards for all, as well securing the resources needed to do so:

- The overarching ambition of the Productivity Strategy is to double the size of HotSW economy in Gross Value Added (GVA) terms by 2036.
- It will also act as a basis for any future negotiations with Government, whether related to devolution or other activities, such as the UK Industrial Strategy, or making the case for investment in our area.
- It has been prepared in partnership between all HotSW district, county and unitary authorities, national parks and the LEP, and in wider partnership with CCGs, private and third sector partners and central government.
- It is a successor document to the LEP's Strategic Economic Plan which was published in 2014.

The Productivity Strategy is currently going through public and stakeholder consultation and will eventually be considered by the Cabinet alongside the Joint Committee proposal. The intention is for the Joint Committee to approve the Productivity Strategy on behalf of the partners in January 2018.

4.5 **Consultation and Implications**

These aspects will be fully covered in the decision report to be brought to Cabinet in due course.

A key issue will be a budget for the Joint Committee. This is being developed but is likely to be in the region of £89,000 in 2018/19 which includes a sum of £40,000 to the Administering Authority to run and support the Committee and £49,000 to fund the Committee's work. These are draft figures and will require revisiting once the Committee is in place and has developed a work programme. It will be proposed that all of the constituent authorities contribute to meeting these costs on the basis of the following formula for 2018/19.

- County Councils - £10,500
- Unitary Councils - £4,000
- District Councils and National Park Authorities - £1,400

These proportions are based on those used in 2015 to support the devolution project. The actual amounts above are calculated on the basis that all authorities agree to become members of the Joint Committee. The sums would be recalculated should less than 19 authorities become members of the Joint Committee. It is also based on the constituent authorities maintaining the current levels of 'in-kind' officer support to the Joint Committee as has been the case during the course of the devolution project.

Background papers

Heart of the South West Productivity Strategy and consultation:
www.torbay.gov.uk/devolution

This page is intentionally left blank

Somerset County Council
Scrutiny for Polices and Place Committee
– 30th October 2017

County Vision

Lead Officer: Simon Clifford

Author:

Contact Details:

Cabinet Member: Cllr David Fothergill

Division and Local Member: All Cllrs

1. Summary

- 1.1. Members of the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee are asked for their input into the draft County Vision 2018-21. The presentation to be tabled at the meeting will start to describe the key principles and ambitions the vision presents and will then give the opportunity to reflect the thoughts and consideration of scrutiny members. The same opportunity will be given to the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sectors and then to a meeting of strategic partners to build a consensus and agreement on a jointly supported vision across Somerset.

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1. Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee are asked to reflect on and enhance the draft County Vision. Amendments will be taken into consideration and where appropriate will be accepted.

3. Background

- 3.1. The new Administration wishes to update the existing County Plan for Somerset County Council. The timeline for this update encompasses the quadrennium although in common with previous plans many of the initiatives and approaches are on a far longer timeline.
- 3.2. In previous Administrations, a detailed County Plan has been approved giving direction and strategic guidance to officers and politicians. It was felt that in some ways the County Plan process was trying to provide a detailed reference point for all the Council's services and with that scope had only a limited success.
- 3.3. The new approach for 2018-21 is to present a Vision instead of a Plan setting high level principles and direction of travel but flexible enough to adapt and change according to national government as well as local pressures and opportunities.
- 3.4. The accompanying presentation is in draft form and will flex and change according to input from a variety of audiences, forming a true consensus approach not just for Somerset County Council (SCC) but for the whole of Somerset and in some areas beyond our own boundaries.

4. Consultations undertaken

- 4.1. The Vision has been taken to the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise

(VSCE) quarterly forum and will be on the agenda for the VCSE's own high level strategic group meeting in November. It will also be the subject of a strategic partners conference to be held early next calendar year.

4.2. The finalised Vision will be taken to Full Council in February 2018.

5. Implications

5.1. As a strategic Vision, the implications are significant across all SCC teams. The Vision will provide the necessary direction for key and non-key decisions and will be reflected across the Council's own planning and performance framework and our work with partners.

6. Background papers

6.1. <http://www.somersetcountyplan.org.uk/>

Note For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author

Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee Work Programme

Agenda item	Meeting Date	Details and Lead Officer
	31 October 2017	
County Vision		Simon Clifford
Heart of the South West Productivity Strategy		Paul Hickson/Mel Roberts
Heart of the South West Joint Committee		Julian Gale/Alastair Higton
Verbal update from County Farms Task & Finish Group		Cllr Philip Ham
	5 December 2017	
Draft Medium Term Financial Plan		Kevin Nacey
Council Performance Monitoring report Q2 – 2017/18		Emma Plummer/ Louise Day
Report from the County Farms Task & Finish Group		Cllr Philip Ham
	2018	
Draft MTFP (Jan)		Kevin Nacey
Update on Library Service Consultation (Feb/Mar 2018)		Ollie Woodhams
Parking Services update (to include data on the use of surplus) (March/April)		Steve Deakin/Ollie Woodhams
Highways Terms Maintenance Contract (March/April)		Andrew Turner/Alyn Jones
Property Disposals update (May/June)		Steve Gale

Note: Members of the Scrutiny Committee and all other Members of Somerset County Council are invited to contribute items for inclusion in the work programme. Please contact Jamie Jackson, Service Manager Scrutiny, who will assist you in submitting your item. jjackson@somerset.gov.uk 01823 359040

This page is intentionally left blank

Somerset County Council Forward Plan of proposed Key Decisions

The County Council is required to set out details of planned key decisions at least 28 calendar days before they are due to be taken. This forward plan sets out key decisions to be taken at Cabinet meetings as well as individual key decisions to be taken by either the Leader, a Cabinet Member or an Officer. The very latest details can always be found on our website at:

<http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=134&RD=0&FD=1&bcr=1>

Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 defines a key decision as an executive decision which is likely:

- (a) to result in the relevant local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the relevant local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the relevant local authority.

The Council has decided that the relevant threshold at or above which the decision is significant will be £500,000 for capital / revenue expenditure or savings. Money delegated to schools as part of the Scheme of Financial Management of Schools exercise is exempt from these thresholds once it is delegated to the school.

Cabinet meetings are held in public at County Hall unless Cabinet resolve for all or part of the meeting to be held in private in order to consider exempt information/confidential business. The Forward Plan will show where this is intended. Agendas and reports for Cabinet meetings are also published on the Council's website at least five clear working days before the meeting date.

Individual key decisions that are shown in the plan as being proposed to be taken "not before" a date will be taken within a month of that date, with the requirement that a report setting out the proposed decision will be published on the Council's website at least five working days before the date of decision. Any representations received will be considered by the decision maker at the decision meeting.

In addition to key decisions, the forward plan shown below lists other business that is scheduled to be considered at a Cabinet meeting during the period of the Plan, which will also include reports for information. The monthly printed plan is updated on an ad hoc basis during each month. *Where possible the County Council will attempt to keep to the dates shown in the Plan. It is quite likely, however, that some items will need to be rescheduled and new items added as new circumstances come to light.* Please ensure therefore that you refer to the most up to date plan.

For general enquiries about the Forward Plan:

- You can view it on the County Council web site at <http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=134&RD=0&FD=1&bcr=1>
- You can arrange to inspect it at County Hall (in Taunton).
- Alternatively, copies can be obtained from Scott Wooldridge or Julia Jones in the Community Governance Team by telephoning (01823) 359027 or 357628.

To view the Forward Plan on the website you will need a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader available free from www.adobe.com
Please note that it could take up to 2 minutes to download this PDF document depending on your Internet connection speed.

To make representations about proposed decisions:

Please contact the officer identified against the relevant decision in the Forward Plan to find out more information or about how your representations can be made and considered by the decision maker.

The Agenda and Papers for Cabinet meetings can be found on the County Council's website at:
<http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=134&Year=0>

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
<p>FP/17/08/15 First published: 1 September 2017</p>	<p>10 Oct 2017 Public Health Director</p>	<p>Issue: New Model of Healthy Weight Services Decision: To agree a new model of healthy weight services from 1st January 2018 at the end of the current contract. This new model will be a population-level approach to encourage healthy eating and physical activity.</p>	<p>Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Support Appendix 1 Healthy eating and physical activity support model Appendix 2 Making Every Contact Count</p>		<p>Matthew Hibbert, Public Health Specialist</p>
<p>FP/17/07/12 First published: 27 July 2017</p>	<p>12 Oct 2017 Cabinet Member for Children and Families</p>	<p>Issue: Creation of a new Academy in Somerset Decision: The Secretary of State for Education has directed via an Academy Order, the conversion to Academy Status for Ashill Community School. This is a technical decision to facilitate the transfer of non fixed assets.</p>	<p>Acadmies Act 2010 Creation of a new Academy in Somerset</p>		<p>Elizabeth Smith, Service Manager – Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823 356260</p>
<p>FP/17/08/04 First published: 15 August 2017</p>	<p>17 Oct 2017 Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development</p>	<p>Issue: To approve the inclusion of the Welsh Government in the existing SME Business Support for HPC Supply Chain & Nuclear South West Inward Investment Expertise Cross-LEP Contract for which SCC is the accountable body. Decision: Approve the acceptance of £500,000.00 from the Welsh Government to extend the SME Business Support for HPC Supply Chain element of the Contract to include Wales</p>	<p>Welsh Government Funding Acceptance.docx</p>		<p>Julie Wooler, Economic Development & Strategic Tourism Officer</p>

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
<p>FP/17/06/04 First published: 13 June 2017</p>	<p>18 Oct 2017 Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development</p>	<p>Issue: Disposal of Surplus Land and Farms Decision: Authority to conclude negotiations for the disposal of surplus land and farms including those disposals to be conducted via public auction, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Disposal of surplus county farms and Woodland Appendix A - Member Key Decision - County Farm Disposals Chilton Polden land Croscombe Middle Thrupe Farm-A3 @ 5000 Edington-A4 @ 5000 Oxenford Farm-A3 7500 Willetts & Paul's Copse and D23, Donyatt Cabinet Minutes June and July 2010: County Farm Review Cabinet Member Key Decision 18 October 2010: County Farm Estate – Outcome of farm by farm reviews</p>	<p>Part exempt</p>	<p>Charlie Field, Estates Manager, Corporate Property Tel: 01823355325</p>
<p>Fp/17/03/11 First published: 29 March 2017</p>	<p>Not before 18th Oct 2017 Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development</p>	<p>Issue: Asset Rationalisation : A refreshed approach Decision: Sets out our principles for a refreshed approach to assets and disposals with a more proactive approach working with services in order to deliver the council's priorities</p>			<p>Claire Lovett, Head of Property Tel: 07977412583</p>
<p>FP/16/05/02 First published: 9 January 2017</p>	<p>18 Oct 2017 Cabinet</p>	<p>Issue: Road Safety Strategy Update Decision: To agree to adopt the updated Road Safety Strategy</p>			<p>Sunita Mills, Service Commissioning Manager Tel: 01823 359763</p>

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
FP/17/09/09 First published: 15 September 2017	18 Oct 2017 Cabinet	Issue: Proposed new 14 class primary school at Nerrols, Taunton Decision: To approve the appointment of a contractor at a gross maximum expenditure			Carol Bond, Project Manager, Property Programme Team Tel: 01823 355962
FP/17/07/09 First published: 24 July 2017	19 Oct 2017 Finance & Performance Director, Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure	Issue: Wiveliscombe Enterprise Centre (WEC) – Approval to start a procurement process, to accept ERDF/LEP funding and to sign the grant funding agreements Decision: Approval to accept the ERDF/LEP funding and sign the grant funding agreements for the WEC development. Approval to start the procurement process to find a suitable supplier for the development of the WEC.	Decision Report - Wiveliscombe Enterprise Centre Appendix 2 - Impact Assessment Appendix 3 - Key Decision Land Purchase	Part exempt	Nathaniel Lucas, Senior Economic Development Officer Tel: 01823359210
FP/17/09/08 First published: 15 September 2017	19 Oct 2017 Finance & Performance Director, Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure	Issue: SCC to proceed with the delivery of the iAero (Yeovil) Centre project at risk, pending final approval of the entire £6.84 million external funding package (ERDF and Growth Deal) Decision: SCC proceeding with the delivery of the iAero (Yeovil) Centre project at risk, pending final approval of the entire external funding package			Lynda Madge, Commissioning Manager – Economy & Planning Tel: 01823 356766

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
FP/17/09/06 First published: 13 September 2017	Not before 23rd Oct 2017 Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Issue: The transfer of Educational services within North Somerset to SCC's Support Services for Education Decision: The transfer of Educational services within North Somerset and associated staff to Support Services for Education from April 2018.			Ian Rowswell
FP/17/02/01 First published: 14 February 2017	Not before 23rd Oct 2017 Commercial & Business Services Director	Issue: Award of Contract for the provision of a 3 Classroom Block at Court Fields School, Wellington Decision: To approve the awarding of the contract to the successful contractor	Confidential Financial Report Capital Programme Paper	Part exempt	Carol Bond, Project Manager, Property Programme Team Tel: 01823 355962
FP/17/08/03 First published: 15 August 2017	23 Oct 2017 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	Issue: Updated policy in respect of the introduction of Resident Parking Schemes Decision: To agree the new policy of how resident parking schemes are introduced.	Notification of Updated Policy on the Introduction of Residents Parking Schemes		Steve Deakin, Parking Services Manager, Parking Services, Community and Traded Services Tel: 01823355137
FP/17/07/05 First published: 13 July 2017	23 Oct 2017 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	Issue: Award of specialist traffic signals contract. Decision: To approve the procurement of specialist Traffic Signals design services via a Framework contract.	Notification for Traffic Signals Specialist services Framework contract Confidential tender appendix	Part exempt	Bev Norman, Service Manager - Traffic Management, Traffic & Transport Development, John Kitchen, Traffic Control Engineer, Traffic Control, Traffic & Transport Development Tel: 01823358089, Tel: 01823358140

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
<p>FP/17/07/10 First published: 24 July 2017</p>	<p>Not before 23rd Oct 2017 Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure, Finance & Performance Director</p>	<p>Issue: Wells Technology Enterprise Centre (WTEC) – Approval to start a procurement process, to accept ERDF/LEP funding and sign the grant funding agreements Decision: Approval to accept the ERDF/LEP funding and sign the grant funding agreements for the WTEC development. Approval to start the procurement process to find a suitable supplier for the development of the WTEC.</p>		<p>Part exempt</p>	<p>Nathaniel Lucas, Senior Economic Development Officer Tel: 01823359210</p>
<p>FP/17/06/07 First published: 26 June 2017</p>	<p>Not before 23rd Oct 2017 Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure, Commercial & Business Services Director</p>	<p>Issue: Authorise the purchase of Land at Cathedral Park, Wells for the development of Wells Technology Enterprise Centre. Decision: Authority to: • Purchase of land at Cathedral Park, Wells for the development of the Wells Technology Enterprise Centre</p>	<p>Any relevant decision paper which have acted as precursors to this decision paper.</p>		<p>Nathaniel Lucas, Senior Economic Development Officer Tel: 01823359210</p>
<p>FP/17/09/14 First published: 26 September 2017</p>	<p>Not before 26th Oct 2017 Cabinet Member for Children and Families</p>	<p>Issue: Expansion of Norton Fitzwarren Primary School Decision: Approval to fund expansion of Norton Fitzwarren Church School (an Academy) to meet Local Authority Statutory Duty to provide sufficient school places</p>			<p>Elizabeth Smith, Service Manager – Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823 356260</p>

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
<p>FP/17/08/01 First published: 14 August 2017</p>	<p>Not before 30th Oct 2017 Cabinet Member for Children and Families</p>	<p>Issue: AdoptSW, Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) virtual Adoption Panel Decision: Operating an AdoptSW adoption panel is a first step to regionalisation ahead of the move to full regionalisation on 1st April 2018.</p>			<p>Suzanne Lyus, Operations Manager, Resources - Fostering Adoption Placements Tel: 01823357146</p>
<p>FP/17/08/16 First published: 1 September 2017</p>	<p>Not before 30th Oct 2017 Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development</p>	<p>Issue: Library Service Redesign - Strategy Decision: Agree the recommendation of commissioners (following a strategic review of delivery model options) to continue to manage the Library Service predominantly in-house and not to pursue an alternative / externalised delivery model for the whole service for the next three years. 2. Agree a revised outcomes framework for the Library Service for the period to 2020/21. 3. Agree a 3 year strategy for the library service to put the service on a sustainable, affordable financial footing whilst maximising the delivery of outcomes, having regard to potential impacts assessed. 4. Endorse the proposed process and timetable for developing and consulting on specific proposals to implement the overarching service re-design strategy.</p>	<p>Appraisal of alternative service delivery model options Library service redesign Cabinet Report - December 2015</p>	<p>Part exempt</p>	<p>Oliver Woodhams, Strategic Manager, Community and Traded Services Tel: 07977400667</p>

Weekly version of plan published on 3 October 2017

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
<p>FP/17/08/01 First published: 9 August 2017</p>	<p>Not before 6th Nov 2017 Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development</p>	<p>Issue: Disposal of Surplus Land at Castle Cary Decision: Authority to conclude negotiations for the disposal of surplus (former) farm land (13 acres, land only) at Castle Cary. Authority to conclude negotiations for the disposal of surplus (former) farm land (13 acres, land only) at Castle Cary.</p>	<p>Disposal of Surplus Land</p>		<p>Richard Williams, Commercial & Business Services Director Tel: 01823 359007</p>
<p>FP/17/09/03 First published: 11 September 2017</p>	<p>Not before 6th Nov 2017 Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure, Finance & Performance Director</p>	<p>Issue: iAero (Yeovil) Aerospace Centre (2,500 sq m) Acceptance of Growth Deal Funding Decision: The acceptance of the offer of Heart of the South West LEP Growth Deal funding, commence the procurement process for a management operator the the iAero (South) Centre, and commence procurement process for the construction of the iAero (South) Centre</p>			<p>Lynda Madge, Commissioning Manager – Economy & Planning Tel: 01823 356766</p>

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
<p>FP/17/07/03 First published: 10 July 2017</p>	<p>Not before 10th Nov 2017 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport</p>	<p>Issue: To agree to the purchase of the land for the construction of the M5 Junction 25 Highways Improvement Scheme. Decision: The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport agrees to: • the acquisition of land required for the construction of the M5 Junction 25 highways scheme • the continued development of the scheme.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member Key Decision - M5 Junction 25 – decision to proceed with consultation, design, planning and procurement – 19 Aug 2016 Cabinet Member Key Decision - To agree to enter into a funding agreement with the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (HotSW LEP) for the M5 J25 Improvement scheme – 13 Jan 2017</p>	<p>Part exempt</p>	<p>Sunita Mills, Service Commissioning Manager Tel: 01823 359763</p>
<p>FP/17/04/08 First published: 24 April 2017</p>	<p>Not before 10th Nov 2017 Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure, Finance & Performance Director</p>	<p>Issue: Approval to accept Highways England Growth & Housing Fund award toward the M5 J25 improvement scheme. Decision: To accept the funding awarded by Highways England & sign the funding agreement</p>	<p>Copy of the funding agreement to be signed.</p>		<p>Sunita Mills, Service Commissioning Manager Tel: 01823 359763</p>
<p>FP17/09/07 First published: 13 September 2017</p>	<p>Not before 13th Nov 2017 Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Commercial & Business Services Director</p>	<p>Issue: Creation of two new Academies in Somerset Decision: The Secretary of State for Education has directed via an Academy Order, the conversion to Academy Status for the following two schools - King Alfred School and Pawlett Primary School. This is a technical decision to facilitate the transfer of land and non fixed assets</p>			<p>Elizabeth Smith, Service Manager – Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823 356260</p>

Weekly version of plan published on 3 October 2017

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
<p>FP/17/09/18 First published: 10 October 2017</p>	<p>Not before 13th Nov 2017 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport</p>	<p>Issue: West Somerset Railway - Funding of Phase two of the level crossing upgrade at Seaward Way, Minehead Decision: That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport authorises the expenditure of £850,000 for Phase Two of the West Somerset Railway (WSR) level crossing upgrade at Seaward Way, Minehead</p>			<p>Neil Guild, Highways Asset Improvement Officer</p>
<p>FP17/7/06 First published: 19 July 2017</p>	<p>15 Nov 2017 Cabinet</p>	<p>Issue: Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 - proposed revenue savings Decision: To consider the proposed revenue themed savings and proposed approach</p>			<p>Kevin Nacey Tel: 01823 359014</p>
<p>Fp/17/09/15 First published: 2 October 2017</p>	<p>15 Nov 2017 Cabinet</p>	<p>Issue: Annual report of the Director of Public Health Decision: To receive the annual report and comment on any issues raised</p>			<p>Trudi Grant, Public Health Director Tel: 01823 359015</p>
<p>FP/17/09/17 First published: 10 October 2017</p>	<p>15 Nov 2017 Cabinet</p>	<p>Issue: Proposed new secondary provision for Selworthy School on the former St Augustine's School site Decision: To approve the appointment of a contractor at gross maximum expenditure</p>	<p>Financial Report Capital Programme Paper</p>		<p>Carol Bond, Project Manager, Property Programme Team Tel: 01823 355962</p>

Weekly version of plan published on 3 October 2017

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
FP/17/10/01 First published: 12 October 2017	15 Nov 2017 Cabinet	Issue: Children's Services Improvement Programme - Workforce update Decision: to consider an update from the HR & OD Director			Chris Squire, HR & OD Director Tel: 01823 310055
FP/17/09/13 First published: 26 September 2017	15 Nov 2017 Cabinet	Issue: Decision to conclude the award of a contract for the provision of highway improvements at Colley Lane Southern Access Road Decision: Agree to let a contract for highway bridge construction and associated works at Colley Lane Southern Access Road			Sunita Mills, Service Commissioning Manager Tel: 01823 359763
Fp/17/08/12 First published: 16 August 2017	15 Nov 2017 Cabinet	Issue: County Plan 2017-2021 Decision: to consider the proposed County Plan to recommend to November's Full Council			Simon Clifford, Customers & Communities Director
FP/17/08/05 First published: 16 August 2017	15 Nov 2017 Cabinet	Issue: Quarter 2 Revenue and Capital Budget monitoring reports Decision: to consider the Quarter 2 position in relation to the Council's revenue and capital budgets for 2017/18			Elizabeth Watkin, Service Manager - Chief Accountant Tel: 01823359573

Weekly version of plan published on 3 October 2017

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
Fp/17/08/06 First published: 16 August 2017	15 Nov 2017 Cabinet	Issue: Quarter 2 2017/18 Performance monitoring report Decision: to consider the quarter 2 update against the council's performance targets			Emma Plummer, Strategic Manager Performance Tel: 01823 359251
FP/17/08/07 First published: 16 August 2017	15 Nov 2017 Cabinet	Issue: 2018/19 Proposed Capital Programme Decision: to consider and recommend to November's Full Council the proposed Capital Programme for 2018/19			Elizabeth Watkin, Service Manager - Chief Accountant Tel: 01823359573
FP/17/08/11 First published: 16 August 2017	15 Nov 2017 Cabinet	Issue: 2017/18 Treasury Management mid-year report Decision: to consider and recommend to November's Full Council the mid-year report			Alan Sanford, Principal Investment Officer Tel: 01823 359585
Fp17/09/11 First published: 25 September 2017	15 Nov 2017 Cabinet	Issue: Heart of the South West - Productivity consultation response Decision: To consider the proposed Productivity Plan consultation response for submission			Paul Hickson, Strategic Manager - Economy and Planning Tel: 07977 400838

Weekly version of plan published on 3 October 2017

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
FP/17/09/10 First published: 25 September 2017	15 Nov 2017 Cabinet	Issue: Heart of the South West - Proposed Joint Committee Decision: To consider a report setting out the proposed Joint Committee arrangements			Julian Gale, Strategic Manager - Governance & Risk and Monitoring Officer Tel: 01823 359047
FP/17/09/12 First published: 26 September 2017	15 Nov 2017 Cabinet	Issue: Somerset Waste Partnership Draft Business Plan 2018-2023 Decision: To consider the draft Business Plan and provide any comments back to the Somerset Waste Board on behalf of SCC			Mickey Green, Strategic Manager - Commissioning Development Tel: 01823356897
FP/17/10/02 First published: 19 October 2017	Not before 20th Nov 2017 Commercial & Business Services Director	Issue: County Hall A Block - Priority 1 repairs and maintenance Decision: Approval of Priority 1 design and repair works to A Block boiler and decant costs to clear A Block in readiness to carry out boiler works	Key Decision paper: Early works and decant phase equalities impact assessment Critical works cost summary Capital Investment Proposal for A Block Priority 1 works submitted 11/8/17		
FP/17/09/16 First published: 10 October 2017	Not before 20th Nov 2017 Commercial & Business Services Director, Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Issue: Creation of a new Academy in Somerset Decision: West Buckland Community Primary School - This is a technical decision to facilitate the transfer of land and non fixed			Elizabeth Smith, Service Manager – Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823 356260

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
FP/17/09/02 First published: 11 September 2017	Not before 27th Nov 2017 Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure	Issue: Somerset Energy Innovation Centre - Building 2 (2,000 sq m) Decision: The acceptance of the offer of ERDF FUNDING (£869,090), subject to legal acceptability of the final funding agreement for the Somerset Energy Innovation Centre, Phase 2			Lynda Madge, Commissioning Manager – Economy & Planning Tel: 01823 356766
FP/17/09/04 First published: 11 September 2017	Not before 27th Nov 2017 Finance & Performance Director, Director of Commissioning for Economic and Community Infrastructure	Issue: iAero (Yeovil) Aerospace Centre (2,500 sq m) Acceptance of ERDF Funding Decision: The acceptance of the offer of ERDF funding (£2.8 million), for the iAero (Yeovi) Aerospace Centre			Lynda Madge, Commissioning Manager – Economy & Planning Tel: 01823 356766
FP/17/09/01 First published: 11 September 2017	Not before 4th Dec 2017 Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Issue: Prescribed Alteration to Selworthy School - Implementation Decision: To implement the proposal to expand Selworthy School on to a second site in Taunton			Phil Curd, Service Manager: Specialist Provision and School Transport Tel: 01823 355165
FP/17/08/12 First published: 17 August 2017	17 Jan 2018 Cabinet	Issue: Full Business Case for proposed Joint Strategic Commissioning Function Decision: to consider the full business case for establishing a new Joint Strategic Commissioning Function with NHS England and Somerset CCG			Trudi Grant, Public Health Director Tel: 01823 359015

Weekly version of plan published on 3 October 2017

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
FP/17/08/13 First published: 25 August 2017	17 Jan 2018 Cabinet	Issue: Family support services for Somerset - Full Business Case Decision: to consider the consultation results and full business case			Philippa Granthier, Assistant Director - Commissioning and Performance, Children's Services Commissioning Tel: 01823 359054
FP/17/08/14 First published: 29 August 2017	17 Jan 2018 Cabinet	Issue: Retendering for insurance cover for all external policies and for South West academies. Decision: To approve the appointment of the successful tenderer following an OJEU procurement process for insurance cover. To approve the tender for an all-encompassing insurance policy for academies in the South West (to be administered by SCC but full external cover).	CIPFA Insurance Benchmarking Club 2017 Report Gallagher Bassett Audit for Somerset County Council May 2017	Part exempt	Martin Gerrish, Strategic Manager - Financial Governance and Finance Officer for SWP Tel: 01823 355303
FP/17/09/05 First published: 26 September 2017	17 Jan 2018 Cabinet	Issue: South West Peninsula Framework Contract for Independent Fostering Decision: Cabinet will be asked to agree Officer recommendations on award of the contract			Louise Palmer, Strategic Commissioner
FP/17/08/09 First published: 16 August 2017	7 Feb 2018 Cabinet	Issue: 2018/19 - 2021/22 Medium Term Financial Plan Decision: to consider and recommend the 2018/19 MTFP and Annual Revenue Budget proposals to February's Full Council meeting			Elizabeth Watkin, Service Manager - Chief Accountant Tel: 01823359573

Weekly version of plan published on 3 October 2017

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
FP/17/08/08 First published: 16 August 2017	7 Feb 2018 Cabinet	Issue: Quarter 3 2017/18 Revenue and Capital budget monitoring report Decision: to consider the quarter 3 update for the 2017/18 revenue and capital budgets			Elizabeth Watkin, Service Manager - Chief Accountant Tel: 01823359573
FP/17/08/08 First published: 16 August 2017	7 Feb 2018 Cabinet	Issue: 2017/18 Quarter 3 Performance Update Decision: to receive the quarter 3 performance update			Emma Plummer, Strategic Manager Performance Tel: 01823 359251

This page is intentionally left blank