

Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee

Wednesday 6 March 2019

10.00 am Council Chamber, Shire Hall,
Taunton



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

Cllr A Groskop (Chair), Cllr M Lewis (Vice-Chair), Cllr P Ham, Cllr B Filmer, Cllr John Hunt, Cllr L Leyshon, Cllr N Bloomfield and Cllr M Keating

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 - 26 February 2019

For further information about the meeting, please contact Lindsey Tawse on 01823 355059, ltawse@somerset.gov.uk or Jamie Jackson on 01823 359040, jajackson@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



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AGENDA

Item Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee - 10.00 am Wednesday 6 March 2019

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

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.**

Public Questions

Scrutiny for Policies and Place – 06 March 2019

Item 5 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report:

Nigel Behan, Unite Branch Secretary

- i) How much of the financial changes (in fortune?) are attributable to MTFP 1 (February 2018 when a balanced budget was set) and MTFP2 (September 2018) when there was a forecast of a significant overspend for 2018/19 of £20m+ and how much is due to the additional government permitted “flexibilities”, technical adjustments (and CTAX surplus) and “one-off” government (extra) money as a proportion (percentages please)?
- ii) “This quarterly report also sets out a projection of the reserves as at the end of 2018/19. It is encouraging that it is anticipated that the General Fund reserve will reach of total of £11.637m, plus any residual underspend, at the year end, when in September it was thought that it would only reach £7.796m. This improvement is significant in terms of the standing of the Council and for its resilience to deal with the challenges that the Spending Review 2019 (SR2019) and the Fair Funding Review (FFR) might bring for 2020/21.” Assuming the pressures are reasonably predictable, what is SCC “expecting” (lobbying for?) - in terms of at least maintaining forecast service provision (for 2019/20) – for each Service (e.g. Adult Services, Children’s Services etc....) in terms of Revenue (and Capital)?

Item 7 Social Value Policy Statement Refresh

It is stated (in the draft refresh) that:

“Applications to provide services from organisations should demonstrate their and, where appropriate, their supply chains’, ability to add economic, social and environmental value above and beyond simply providing the tendered service and provide evidence demonstrating this.

Measures should be put in place to ensure that agreed social value activity is monitored and tracked as part of any contracting arrangements.

To improve transparency, wherever possible and practicable, steps should be taken to enable SCC to report centrally on added social value achieved across the Local Authority through commissioning and procurement arrangements.

Examples of best practice from both within the Local Authority and other local authorities should be developed to inform future commissioning activity.”

The Councils Constitution (B Contract Standing Orders) – 28. Most Economically Advantageous Tender section states:

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/organisation/key-documents/the-councils-constitution/>

“Award Criteria shall be comprised of both commercial and quality considerations, which shall be represented in the Procurement Documents as a ratio of 70:30 weighted in favour of price, although the Officer may vary the given ratio in favour of price.”

In recent years the **cost: quality ratio** (in the Council's Constitution) has changed from 50:50 to 60:40 to now 70:30 in favour of cost/price. Has the Strategic Commissioning Group (of Somerset County Council) considered how these changes in favour of cost/price have affected (impacted on) the application of the Social Value Policy and what evidence is there to demonstrate outcomes etc.?