

# Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee

Wednesday 18 September 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 A Bown (Vice-Chair), Cllr P Ham, Cllr B Filmer, Cllr John Hunt, Cllr L Leyshon, Cllr M Keating and Cllr T Munt

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

Issued By Scott Wooldridge, Strategic Manager - Governance and Risk - 10 September 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](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers)



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# AGENDA

Item Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee - 10.00 am Wednesday 18 September 2019

**\*\*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 16 July 2019** (Pages 5 - 8)

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 **2019/20 Revenue Budget Monitoring - Quarter 1 (Month 3) Report** (Pages 9 - 36)

To receive the report.

6 **Property Disposal and County Farms Update** (Pages 37 - 40)

To receive the report.

7 **SCC response to Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service "Safer Together" Consultation** (Pages 41 - 50)

To receive the report.

8 **Connecting Devon & Somerset Broadband Programme Update** (Pages 51 - 54)

To receive the report.

9 **Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee Work Programme** (Pages 55 - 70)

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**

Item Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee - 10.00 am Wednesday 18 September 2019

The Chairman may raise any items of urgent business.

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# 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 – Jamie Jackson on Tel: (01823) 359040 or 355059 or Email: [JAJackson@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:JAJackson@somerset.gov.uk) or [democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk) They can also be accessed via the council's website on [www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers](http://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 Jamie Jackson the Committee's Administrator - by 5pm, 3 clear working days before the meeting (Thursday 12 September ). All Public Questions must directly relate to an item on the Committee's agenda and must be submitted in writing by the deadline.**

**If you require any assistance submitting your question, please contact the Democratic Services Team on 01823 357628.**

At the Chair'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 Chair. You may not take direct part in the debate. The Chair will decide when public participation is to finish.

If there are many people present at the meeting for one particular item, the Chair 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 Committee meeting rooms have infra-red audio transmission systems.

## **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 Chair 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 Meeting Room, Taunton Library, Paul Street, TA1 3XZ, on Tuesday 16 July 2019 at 10.00 am

**Present:** Cllr A Groskop (Chair), Cllr A Bown (Vice-Chair), Cllr P Ham, Cllr B Filmer, Cllr John Hunt, Cllr L Leyshon, Cllr M Keating and Cllr T Munt

**Other Members present:** Cllr M Chilcott and Cllr L Redman

### Apologies for absence:

#### 196 **Declarations of Interest** - Agenda Item 2

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 197 **Minutes from the previous meeting held on 19 June** - Agenda Item 3

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2019 were accepted as being accurate by the Committee.

#### 198 **Public Question Time** - Agenda Item 4

There were no public questions.

#### 199 **Prevention Fund Update** - Agenda Item 5

The Committee considered a Prevention Fund Update presented by the Interim Finance Director on behalf of the Director of Public Health who is the senior lead for the Fund.

It was agreed by Full Council to set up a prevention Fund totalling £1m in February 2019 and in June 2019 the Cabinet took the decision to allocate the fund across three core areas:

- Initiatives that will improve lives through Preventing Demand (£850k)
- Member initiatives to Improving Lives (£125)
- Somerset Young People's Fund (£25k)

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are now developing the processes for each element of the fund. As well as agreeing criteria and process, each element is now progressing to specific proposals and are at various stages.

The Improving Lives to Prevent Demand Fund enables SCC officers to put forward bids that will prevent need/or the escalation of need in order to reduce future demand on SCC services. The purpose of the fund is to empower services and teams to take responsibility for their areas in modernising their approach to how they enable a preventative culture / model which reduces

demand on SCC that demonstrates a financial pay-back over a three-year period. Proposals must support the following criteria:

- Support delivery of the Somerset County Council 2019-20 Business Plan
- prevent or reduce demand for SCC services, enabling the initial funding level to be saved through reduced costs within a three year period.
- Redesign SCC services or processes to improve lives, enabling the initial funding level to be saved through increased efficiency and productivity within a three-year period.
- Improve Lives for Somerset residents and bring additional external money into the county which exceeds the initial investment within three years.

With regard to the Preventing Demand element, Members were informed that there are currently four active proposals and officers provided a brief executive summary of these:

- Slim My Waste, Feed My Face – a scheme to reduce the amount of food waste going to landfill
- Safe Families – a scheme that works with families experiencing difficulties and seeks to prevent social care intervention for the children involved and reduce the need to access short term fostering arrangements
- Pause – a charity that supports women who have had multiple children removed from their care
- Securing Grant Funding - supporting organisations to tap into funding and match funding opportunities.

The purpose of the Members Improving Lives scheme is to empower communities and groups to take responsibility for local action, help people to become better integrated in their own communities and to reduce pressure on local services. The fund opens 1<sup>st</sup> September and applications must be received by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Each Member will have £2k to spend on up to 4 projects in their ward and proposals must support the following criteria:

- Help communities and neighbourhoods develop activities that deliver the County Council Improving Lives vision and priorities
- Help reduce pressure on local services
- Address health inequality - it is expected projects will in some way, include between one and three groups
- Provide opportunity to lever in additional funding from partners or other funders (matched funding opportunities)

The purpose of the Young People's Fund is to support internal and external youth services and organisations. The Fund will involve and benefit disadvantaged, at risk or vulnerable young people who will receive priority consideration by the Somerset UK Youth Parliament and match funding will be used to increase the fund to £50k. Proposals must support the following criteria:

- To fund youth and community projects, youth social action or aligned to UKYP campaigns
- Not to enhance educational or career prospects



- Not to secure driving lessons
- Not for transport/ travel or therapeutic/ medical treatment
- Not retrospective
- For the benefit of young people and the community
- Not for repairs, utility bills/ rent,(but hire of a venue for an event is fine), tax, insurance substantial amounts of equipment
- Has to be deemed as value for money by the Somerset UK Youth Parliament funding allocation group.

Further points raised during discussion:

- It was confirmed that a guidance document is available to help Members with completing expression of interest forms and officers are also available to give support.
- Members questioned how officers will ensure that the need of rural locations is taken into account and were reassured that there is a desire for opportunities to be locally-based and that a piece of work will be completed to ensure that there is a fair distribution across the county.
- Members expressed concern that the process may be too onerous for some councillors or that some may not engage. This could result in missed opportunities. Members also expressed concern that officers would have the ability to review 220 member applications before the deadline.
- Members questioned whether they would have sight of what was spent and it was confirmed that for every initiative there will be a full business case and a key or non-key decision taken so there will absolute transparency.

Officers agreed to consider a suggestion from Members to publish a spreadsheet on the Members' Portal showing what initiatives had been applied for by Members and when.

The Committee noted the report.

## 200 **Revenue Budget Monitoring Report - Month 2 - Agenda Item 6**

The Committee received a report outlining the revenue budget position at Month 2. The report shows a projected balanced position for the authority, however, Key Service forecasts project a small net overspend.

The Cabinet Member for Resources introduced the paper and was pleased to report a forecast balanced position for the authority. She highlighted that:

- the areas of challenge are primarily in Children's Services and in the Dillington House trading account
- Funding for Home to School Transport was inadvertently not included in the re-basing of budgets but will be in future
- The amount of savings agreed that have or will be delivered is at 99% - a significant achievement

- The authority continues to have a tight grip of finances and management actions remain in place. It is determined to deliver services within its means.

The Interim Director of Finance highlighted to members that as an early report it can only be indicative at this stage but that it allows the authority to identify any potential problems early on. The financial situation is dramatically improved from the position 12 months ago but further contingency is in place for anything that can't be addressed through management action. Additional reserves will be reported on in future reports and the Scrutiny for Policies, Children & Families Committee will now receive quarterly budget monitoring reports for additional scrutiny.

Further discussion included:

- Members expressed concern about the level of understanding that Members have of the financial situation both over the past 12 months and the current picture.
- It was noted that a detailed report from the Councils' auditors is available but members commented that a simple explanation in layman's terms is required. This would be particularly helpful to Members to report to Parish Councils. A two-page document is available on the Our Somerset pages and it was agreed to send Members a link to this.
- A Member commented that services had been reacting rather than planning for things and that some services had been permitted to overspend continually.

The Committee noted the report.

201 **Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee Work Programme** - Agenda Item 7

The Committee considered its Work programme and did not request any changes at this time.

202 **Any other urgent items of business** - Agenda Item 8

With regard to the Climate Change Member Task & Finish Group, it was agreed to articulate to relevant officers Members concerns regarding a) a lack of information being shared with Members b) no date being set for the first Member T&F Group meeting and the lack of time for the Group to report to the November full council c) a lack of urgency to commence action.

**(The meeting ended at 11.22 am)**

**CHAIRMAN**

## 2019/20 Revenue Budget Monitoring – Quarter 1 (Month 3) Report

Lead Officer: Sheila Collins, Interim Director of Finance  
Author: Leah Green, Finance Manager MTFP – Corporate  
Finance Contact Details: [SDCollins@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:SDCollins@somerset.gov.uk) 01823 359028  
Cabinet Member: Cllr Mandy Chilcott – Cabinet Member for Resources  
Division and Local Member: All

### 1. Summary

- 1.1.** This report sets out the Quarter 1 (month 3) forecast outturn position for 2019/20 for the net Revenue Budget of £327.967m. It highlights variances to service budgets, as well as emerging issues, risks, areas of concern and proposed actions to resolve them.

The Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan (2019-22) sets out proposals to further develop its financial resilience over the long-term whilst also supporting the delivery of the Council's key priorities.

- 1.2.** Although still early in the year, the report shows an overall projected **balanced position** for the Council, with the main variances being within Children's Services and Trading Units (Dillington House). Management action is under development in these areas that will aim to ensure a balanced budget by the end of the year. However, until these are more fully developed, these variances are being reported in the detail of the report (see **Appendix A**) and a proportion of the corporate contingency 'notionally' allocated to off-set the variances. This leaves £6.061m of the Corporate Contingency budget currently unallocated and therefore potentially available to further improve the Council's financial resilience in the medium term. A decision by the Cabinet regarding use of the contingency will be considered later in the year once the end of year position is firmer.
- 1.3.** As **Appendix A** is a quarterly report, more detail on debt charges, reserves, capital receipts and an up-date on the Improving Lives Programme are included than would be the case for the intervening monthly reports. This confirms the positive direction of travel to continue to strengthen the reserves position through taking appropriate opportunities to replenish reserves were sensible.
- 1.4.** The budget for 2019/20 includes a savings target of £21.550m and this report confirms delivery of £16.694m to date. Of the remainder, very close monthly tracking and change control mechanisms continue to be in place as they have

been since September 2018, to ensure full delivery during the year.

## **2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations**

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to comment on the projected revenue outturn for 2019/20, whether there are any suggestions for additional management actions or alternative options that they would like to recommend to the Cabinet.
- 2.2. The Committee is asked to consider any issues or information they would like to be addressed or included in future reports.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1. The report (Appendix A) is the second revenue budget monitoring for 2019/20 and remains an early forecast of the potential end of year position.
- 3.2. Nevertheless, it is encouraging that the forecast continues to show confidence that the more robust approach to budget planning for 2019/20 onwards has ensured that the budget assumptions are realistic, and deliverable with a relatively small adverse variance seen in service forecasts of £0.667m. At this early stage in the year, this is being off-set by a 'notional' allocation from Corporate Contingency while firm management actions to correct variances are being developed.
- 3.3. The Council must, and will, sustain this tighter financial grip going forwards. This will include the continuation of formal monthly monitoring report to Cabinet and to Scrutiny for Policies and Place and continual improvements to the format, content and layout of the reports to aid effective review and scrutiny. Alongside this internal tracking and budget monitoring processes continue to be given close attention by the Senior Leadership Team.

## **4. Consultations undertaken**

- 4.1. See Appendix A

## **5. Implications**

- 5.1. See Appendix A

## **6. Background papers**

- 6.1.
  - 2019/20 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report to Cabinet – 8 July 2019
  - Revenue Budget – Medium Term Financial Plan 2019-22 to Full Council – 20 February 2019

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

### 2019/20 Revenue Budget Monitoring – Quarter 1 (month 3) Report

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Mandy Chilcott – Cabinet Member for Resources

Division and Local Member(s): All

Lead Officer: Sheila Collins, Interim Director of Finance

Author: Leah Green, Finance Manager MTFP – Corporate

Finance Contact Details: [SDCollins@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:SDCollins@somerset.gov.uk) 01823 359028

	<b>Seen by:</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
	County Solicitor	Honor Clarke	01/08/2019
	Monitoring Officer	Scott Wooldridge	01/08/2019
	Corporate Finance	Sheila Collins	01/08/2019
	Human Resources	Chris Squire	01/08/2019
	Property	Paula Hewitt / Claire Lovett	01/08/2019
	Procurement / ICT	Simon Clifford	01/08/2019
	Senior Manager	Sheila Collins	01/08/2019
	Commissioning Development Team	<a href="mailto:commissioningdevelopments@somerset.gov.uk">commissioningdevelopments@somerset.gov.uk</a>	01/08/2019
	Local Member(s)	All	
	Cabinet Member	Mandy Chilcott	01/08/2019
	Opposition Spokesperson	Liz Leyshon	01/08/2019
	Relevant Scrutiny Chairman	Cllr Anna Groskop for Scrutiny Place	01/08/2019
<b>Forward Plan Reference:</b>	FP/19/06/05		
<b>Summary:</b>	This report sets out the Quarter 1 (month 3) forecast outturn position for 2019/20 for the net Revenue Budget of £327.967m. It highlights variances to service budgets, as well as emerging issues, risks, areas of concern and proposed actions to resolve them. The Council's Medium-Term Financial		

	<p>Plan (2019-22) sets out proposals to further develop its financial resilience over the long-term whilst also supporting the delivery of the Council’s key priorities.</p> <p>Although still early in the year, the report shows an overall projected <b>balanced position</b> for the Council, with the main variances being within Children’s Services and Trading Units (Dillington House). Management action is under development in these areas that will aim to ensure a balanced budget by the end of the year. However, until these are more fully developed, these variances are being reported in the detail of the report and a proportion of the corporate contingency ‘notionally’ allocated to off-set the variances. This leaves £6.061m of the Corporate Contingency budget currently unallocated and therefore potentially available to further improve the Council’s financial resilience in the medium term. A decision regarding use of the contingency will be considered later in the year once the end of year position is firmer.</p> <p>As this is the Quarter 1 report, more detail on debt charges, reserves, capital receipts and an up-date on the Improving Lives Programme are included than would be the case for the intervening monthly reports. This confirms the positive direction of travel to continue to strengthen the reserves position through taking appropriate opportunities to replenish reserves were sensible.</p> <p>The budget for 2019/20 includes a savings target of £21.550m and this report confirms delivery of £16.694m to date. Of the remainder, very close monthly tracking and change control mechanisms continue to be in place as they have been since September 2018, to ensure full delivery during the year.</p>
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p>	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the forecast balanced budget position for the end of 2019/20</li> <li>2. Note that £6.061m of the corporate contingency remains unallocated and this is expected to increase as management actions on service variances are confirmed</li> <li>3. Note the delivery of £16.694m savings by Quarter 1 and the forecast delivery of £21.485m by the year end.</li> </ol>

	<p>4. Note the improving financial resilience of the Council, with the level of reserves now being projected as £53.810m by the year end (comprising £35.443m of Earmarked Reserves and £18.367m of General Fund).</p>
<p><b>Reasons for Recommendations:</b></p>	<p>Closely monitoring spend against the agreed budget is necessary to ensure that the Council delivers its priorities within its means. This report requires action to be taken so that this objective can be met.</p>
<p><b>Links to County Vision, Business Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy:</b></p>	<p>The Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP 2019-22) sets the funding for the County Vision and the use of those funds is then monitored, via this report and others throughout the year to ensure delivery of Council objectives and actions within the resources available.</p>
<p><b>Consultations and co-production undertaken:</b></p>	<p>Information and explanations have been sought from directors on individual aspects of this report and their comments are contained in the report. Due process and consultations will be carried out where required for any further specific proposals for change.</p>
<p><b>Financial Implications:</b></p>	<p>The financial implications are identified throughout the report.</p>
<p><b>Legal Implications:</b></p>	<p>There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.</p>
<p><b>HR Implications:</b></p>	<p>There are no HR implications arising directly from this report, but remedial actions may have such implications. These will be dealt with in any subsequent reports.</p>
<p><b>Risk Implications:</b></p>	<p>The Council's corporate risk register recognises the difficulties to containing spend within budget in the face of service pressures, reducing funding and the challenges of delivering ever more savings and efficiencies.</p> <p>Although broader market uncertainty exists in view of the current Brexit negotiations, at this stage any precise implications are not known. The Council needs to be alert to potential implications as negotiations develop and respond accordingly at the time.</p> <p>The Children's Services budget, while rebased, remains under</p>

	<p>pressure as the Service continues to improve alongside the sensitivity of some aspects of the services to volume changes, especially placements.</p> <p>The Organisational Risk (00043) has a broad perspective, encompassing both current year spending and future years' budgets. At the beginning of each year this corporate risk is reviewed.</p> <p>The up-dated risk for 2019/20 acknowledges the improvement that has been made and describes the risk to be: "Maintaining a balanced budget for 2019/20 and ensuring a sustainable MTFP. There is a risk to the council's long-term sustainability if there are significant in-year service overspends, and or if the council suffers significant loss of funding in future years its ability to prepare a robust and sustainable MTFP for 2020/21 onwards may be impacted."</p> <p>In view of the unprecedented level of uncertainty facing local government (for example service demands, absence of a Spending Review beyond 2019/20 and lack of clarity over the future funding of Local Government more broadly), despite growing confidence with internal control mechanisms, the risk score remains at the current level of "very high" (4x4(16)).</p> <p>Robust control must be maintained.</p>					
	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Risk Score</b>	<b>16</b>

<p><b>Other Implications (including due regard implications):</b></p>	<p><b><u>Equalities Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no specific equalities implications arising from the contents of this report.</p> <p><b><u>Community Safety Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no community safety implications arising from the contents of this report.</p> <p><b><u>Sustainability Implications</u></b></p>				
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	<p>There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.</p> <p><b><u>Health and Safety Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no health and safety implications arising from this report.</p> <p><b><u>Privacy Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no privacy implications arising from this report.</p> <p><b><u>Health and Wellbeing Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.</p>
<p><b>Scrutiny comments / recommendation (if any):</b></p>	<p>This report will be presented to Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee, on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019; comments arising will be made available to the Cabinet at a subsequent meeting.</p>

## 1. Background

- 1.1.** This report is the second revenue budget monitoring for 2019/20 and remains an early forecast of the potential end of year position.
- 1.2.** Nevertheless, it is encouraging that the forecast continues to show confidence that the more robust approach to budget planning for 2019/20 onwards has ensured that the budget assumptions are realistic, and deliverable with a relatively small adverse variance seen in Service forecasts of £0.667m. At this early stage in the year, this is being off-set by a 'notional' allocation from Corporate Contingency while firm management actions to correct variances are being developed.

The Council must, and will, sustain this tighter financial grip going forwards. This will include the continuation of formal monthly monitoring report to Cabinet and to Scrutiny for Policies and Place and continual improvements to the format, content and layout of the reports to aid effective review and scrutiny. Alongside this internal tracking and budget monitoring processes continue to be given close attention by the Senior Leadership Team.

### 1.3. Reserves

- 1.4.** The Council holds reserves in two forms:

- Earmarked reserves held for specific purposes and to mitigate against future known or predicted liabilities, and;
- The General Fund to mitigate against unforeseen spends or major unexpected events.

**1.5.** During 2018/19 significant progress was made in replenishing the Council's reserves position, with total balances at the end of the year being £26.075m for Earmarked Reserves and £17.689m for General Fund Reserve. This was an improvement of over £20m during 2018/19. This first Quarter budget monitoring report sets out the forecast planned use of earmarked reserves with a summary set out in the tables below (Table 1).

Earmarked reserves are set aside for specific purposes and the transfer to and from those reserves during the year are presented to Cabinet for approval. Table 1 below confirms the contributions to earmarked reserves that were approved by the Council on 20 February 2019 together with the net additional movements now anticipated by Services during the year. This clearly demonstrates the continued positive improvement in the Council's financial resilience. These anticipated movements have been reflected in the balanced budget position as at Quarter 1 and will be monitored closely for the remainder of the year and details reported later in 2019/20.

**1.6. Table 1  
Earmarked Reserves: Actual and anticipated movements for 2019/20**

<b>Earmarked Reserves 2019/20</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b>Balance as at 31st March 2019</b>	<b>26.075</b>
Budgeted In-Year Movements 2019/20 as agreed in the MTFP:	
Set Up Invest to Save Fund	2.852
Set Up Business Rates Pilot County-Wide Pot	4.015
Set Up Prevention Fund	1.000
Budgeted Increase to Insurance Fund	0.541
<b>Balance as at 1st April 2019</b>	<b>34.483</b>
Additional Anticipated Net Service Movements (includes the £3.390m contribution to Corporate Priorities Reserve as per Month 2 report)	0.960
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st March 2020</b>	<b>35.443</b>

**1.7. General Fund**

The 2019/20 revenue budget includes plans to improve the Council's resilience of its General Fund Reserve by £2.000m as set out in Table 2 below:

**1.7.1 Table 2  
General Fund Reserve Movements 2019/20**

<b>General Fund 2019/20</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b>Balance as at 31st March 2019</b>	<b>17.689</b>
<u>In Year Movements 2019/20:</u>	
Budgeted Contribution	2.000
<b>Balance as at 1st April 2019</b>	<b>19.690</b>
<i>Less impact of Negative Earmarked Reserve</i>	<i>-1.322</i>
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st March 2020</b>	<b>18.367</b>

**Capital Receipts Flexibilities (CRF)**

The MTFP (2019-22) process included a review of business cases supporting the transformation activity that planned to utilise capital receipts flexibilities during 2019/20 in compliance with Government Guidelines. This was planned at £2.795m in the MTFP, although the quarter 1 forecast position has reduced to £2.533m, a reduction of £0.262m from the original forecast. Appendix B gives a summary of the transformational projects and current forecast value. Over time the impact of these investments will be evaluated to ensure full compliance with Government Guidelines.

**1.8. Improving Lives Programme (ILP)**

The Improving Lives Programme (ILP) will deliver an ambitious redesign of the Council's services to enable the Council to better manage demand and put prevention at the heart of its thinking.

During the budget setting process for 2019/20 a new Invest to Save Fund (ITS) Earmarked Reserve was set up to fund internal projects designed to improve the Council's efficiency and drive down future revenue costs and to reduce the need to use Capital Receipts Flexibilities (CRF).

Any activities that contribute to Transformation outcomes requiring investment from a funding stream, e.g. ITS Fund or CRF require a business case to be completed and to pass through an approval process, which assesses and determines the most appropriate funding of these costs, be it ITS Fund or CRF.

As at the end of June 2019, the estimated cost of additional resources required to facilitate the Improving Lives Programme during 2019/20 is £0.480m.

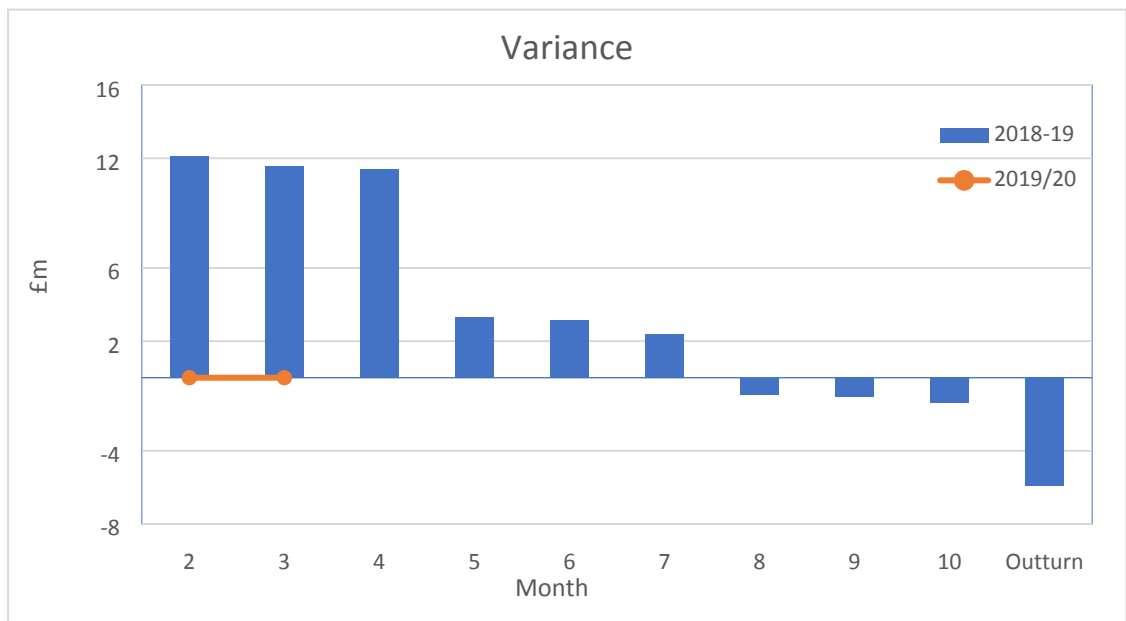
An update on the delivery of the programme can be found in section 2.10

## Summary Forecast 2019/20 – Revenue Budget

The Councils forecast shows a projected balanced position when compared to the revenue budget of £327.967m. There is a forecast overspend in Key Service Spend with most of the variance being within Children’s Services and Trading Units (Dillington House). Most other areas of the Council are within reasonable tolerance.

- 1.9.** The following graph (Graph 1) compares the reported monthly budget variances in 2018/19 and the current financial year.

**Graph 1 – Revenue Budget Variances 2018/19 and 2019/20**



- 1.10.** The table showing the projected end of year position, and variances from agreed budgets, are set out in Annex A. The paragraphs below offer short explanations of the major parts of those variances. As part of continuing improvements to financial management the format of the table in Annex A will be reviewed to ensure that it meets current best practice and aids transparency.

## 2. Key Variances

- 2.1. Adults Services** (*Net budget £126.614m, projected on budget, no movement*)

**Adult Services: on budget £0.000m, movement; £nil**

The Adults budget is projected to be a balanced position against the net budget of £126.614m. This is following management action being taken to address pressures

and use of Better Care Fund and Council Tax precept to fund growth, particularly within the Learning Disabilities service.

There has been a small increase in the projected spend reported against Adult Social Care since the month 2 report. This has resulted in an adverse movement of £0.069m (0.09%), however this growth will be offset by some of the Council Tax precept money that has been held back to fund growth.

The main cause of the above is an increased usage of Nursing beds over the past month, mainly to support hospital discharges. This follows several months of Nursing placements reducing in large numbers each month. At the end of March 2019 there were 779 nursing placements which had reduced to the 745 which were reported last month. This movement increases numbers back up to 761. Although fluctuations like this are common when dealing with a large number of placements, Adults management team will keep this under review to ensure any further growth is managed accordingly.

There have also been increases in the use of Respite placements with quarter one of 2019/20 being 20% higher when compared to the same period in 2018/19. This approach is part of the 'Promoting Independence' strategy and enabling people to remain in their own homes with their families for longer. These increases are offset by a reduction in Residential placements which is in line with the MTFP saving put forward to reduce the use of Residential.

Mental Health activity has also increased since month 2 with projected spend being £0.053m higher than the previous report. This 0.36% growth will also be offset by Council Tax precept.

Following a review of residential placement end dates with the Strategic Manager for Mental Health services there are a number of extensions which are now being projected for. This has increased anticipated spend by £0.220m. This has however been offset by additional income from NHS England for a Transforming Care case which wasn't being projected for previously.

The Learning Disabilities Pooled Budget expenditure has increased marginally this month. Spend is now projected to be £0.193m higher than that reported at month 2 which is an increase of 0.24%. As agreed previously with the Clinical Commissioning Group this growth will be funded by the Better Care Fund inflation.

The main reasons for this growth are a net increase of 10 people taking a Direct Payment to meet their outcomes, increases for 2 clients following a review where their support has changed to a Direct Payment, and a client who has transitioned from Children's into a Supported Living placement. Although there has been

growth in Learning Disabilities there were no new residential placements which is in line with the services commissioning intentions. Spend against the Learning Disabilities budget will continue to be tracked closely throughout the year to enable any potential further growth to be flagged early and managed appropriately.

There are MTFP savings of £5.157m to be achieved during 2019/20. Of these £2.767m have already been fully achieved with the remainder on track to be delivered throughout the year.

**2.2. Children's Services** *(Net budget £83.372m, £0.497m projected overspend, favourable movement -£0.477m)*

**Children & Learning Central Commissioning: adverse £0.064m, movement; favourable -£0.493m**

The budgets for transporting children and young people to and from their place of education has benefited from a transfer from contingency of £0.498m substantially decreasing the overall overspend reported last month. This was a decision taken in the month 2 monitoring report and reflects 're-basing' of the budget, rather than any increased costs.

However, there has been an adverse variation of £0.195m from month 2 to month 3 in the full year forecast expenditure for PRU (Pupil Referral Unit) transport. This is as a result of a reporting issue but Month 3 forecasting now projects an overspend on the budget where an underspend had been forecast last month. A large proportion of this will be funded by schools so the net impact on the PRU transport budget is small at £0.082m.

A number of permanent exclusions late in the academic year have seen an increase in demand but around 130 children accessing PRUs were in school year 11 and will now leave reducing the forecast spend. Transport to some PRU centres has also stopped altogether and the service expects to see a reduction in costs for Month 4.

Tendering for school transport routes starting in September 2019 is due to take place in August and at that point the Council will have a much clearer view of what the 2019/20 costs are likely to be for this budget line.

**Children & Families Operations: adverse £0.433m, movement; adverse £0.016m**

The overall position for Children's & Families is a £0.433m overspend, no material change to the bottom line since month 2.

**External Placements: adverse £1.046m, movement; adverse £0.006m**

The placements forecast currently assumes a standstill position in terms of number and type of placements. Given the volatility of this area of activity with placement costs for the most complex children costing up to £0.250m per child in a full year, this brings a risk that any increase in number or escalation of placement type will have an adverse impact on the future financial position, conversely a reduction in a number of these high cost placements may result in an underspend in this budget area. The placement forecast does not yet account for any management actions to mitigate the overspend.

**Leaving Care: adverse £0.241m, movement; adverse £0.021m**

The successful placement of 16 and 17-year olds into Pathway to Independence (P2i) accommodation has created a pressure on the Leaving Care budget of £0.241m. In addition to being a positive outcome for these young people, it has contributed to reducing the costs of external placements.

**Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC): favourable -£0.139m; movement; £nil**

An increase in the grant rate for over 18 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) has increased grant income by £0.139m.

**Transport: favourable -£0.000m, movement; favourable -£0.200m**

A review of use of transport for contact visits is being undertaken by the service and management action is being taken to address the previous months overspend.

**Allowances: favourable -£0.189m, movement; adverse £0.111m**

A reduction in the projected volumes of allowances across Permanence since last year has given rise to a forecast underspend of £0.189m. A review of the forecast model has led to a reduction in the projected underspend.

**Staffing: favourable -£0.321m, movement; adverse £0.185m**

There are £0.321m of vacancy savings across the service, in particular Emotional Health and Wellbeing and the Kinship Team, where a number of vacancies are actively being recruited to. A review of all vacancies and recruitment assumptions and an update against a savings target has reduced the projected underspend by £0.185m since last month.

**2.3. Public Health** *(Net budget £1.081m, on budget.)*

**Public Health: on budget £0.000m, movement; £nil**

As reported last month there remains an underspend projected against this budget. However, the Director of Public Health is continuing to develop a plan to use this underspend to increase capacity within the specialist public health team. This capacity would provide additional support to the developing prevention focus across the organisation and wider system.

All savings have been fully achieved for 2019/20. These were a £0.547m reduction to the Public Health Grant and £0.100m of MTFP savings.

**2.4. Economy Community and Infrastructure** *(Net budget £66.367m, -£0.371m projected underspend, favourable movement of -£0.389m from month 2)*

**Economy & Community Infrastructure: favourable variance -£0.371m, movement; -£0.389m**

Economy Community and Infrastructure's (ECI) are forecasting an underspend of £0.371m for 2019/20. The major variations are;

Highways and Transport Commissioning are projecting a £0.337m overspend which is an adverse movement of £0.062m from month 2. This is as a result of new urgent technical studies, and additional staff re-charges to District Councils to improve service levels in highways development management.

Highways is forecasting an £0.309m overspend. The £0.102m adverse movement from month 2 is due to increased legal costs and highways licence income being lower than budgeted. It is anticipated that this overspend will be addressed through additional management action that will be reported in subsequent months.

Traffic Management are forecasting a £0.181m underspend, a favourable increase of £0.156m to the underspend reported in month 2. This is due to improved income forecasts as a result of an increase in applications for Temporary Traffic Regulation Order income (road closures and diversions) and a more consistent approach to enforcement charging.

Property Services are projecting a £0.123m underspend, this is as a result of rental income on some properties not reducing as expected due to the delay in the sale of properties. However, the underspend from month 2 has reduced by £0.050m as a number of premises have been and are expected to be vacated resulting in a reduction of rental income projections.

Transporting Somerset are £0.197m underspent which is an adverse movement of



£0.067m from month 2. This in the main is due to Concessionary Fares projections. However, it is very early in the year and Concessionary Fares volumes and County Ticket take up can impact the outturn position as the year progresses. The movement from month 2 is as a result of an additional commitment for redundancy costs and more accurate data on relief/permanent staff projections.

Somerset Waste Partnership are forecasting a £0.572m underspend, a favourable movement of £0.545m from month 2. The movement is as a result of being further into the year and having more accurate waste tonnage data available to project the outturn position.

There are still a number of factors that could change forecasts including winter and emergency costs and any upturn in waste volumes and transport costs (Concessionary Fares as a result of operator's data and County Ticket).

Economy Community and Infrastructure have £3.165m of savings for 2019/20. Of this £1.796m has been achieved, £1.261m is on track to be achieved and £0.108m is unachievable but will be met through a substitute saving.

**2.5. Corporate and Support Services** *(Net Budget £22.277m, -£0.006m projected underspend, adverse movement of £0.006m from month 2)*

**Corporate and Support Services: favourable -£0.006m, movement; adverse £0.006m**

Corporate and Support Services are forecasting a minor underspend of £0.006m for 2019/20. This is due to the following;

Customers and Communities are forecasting and underspend of £0.030m. This is due to staff vacancy savings of £0.065m offset in part by a shortfall in income and additional training costs. The movement of £0.030m from month 2 is due to an increase in staff vacancies.

Democratic Services are projecting an overspend of £0.046m, this is as a result of a shortfall of Partnership Governance funding and £0.037m of MTFP savings (Member allowances voluntary deduction, Partnership Governance income generation and Democratic Services demand management) that are unachievable. These savings are unachievable due to the business need to continue as the Host Authority for several significant Partnership Governance arrangements and additional work as part of the Improving Lives Programme and Peer Challenge recommendations for Member training and the review of the council's scrutiny function.

Legal Services are £0.037m overspent, this is in part due to the Coroners budget

overspend on conveyance of bodies and pathologist costs. Also, the anticipated cost of counsel fees for 2019/20 resulting in an overspend, this will be reviewed throughout the year.

Commercial and Procurement are forecasting an £0.093m underspend, as a result of a number of staff vacancies that are yet to be filled and staff MTFP savings being achieved earlier than anticipated. The movement from the month 2 position of £0.081m underspent is due to further staff vacancies.

The ICT budget is projecting an £0.035m overspend for 2019/20 due to the under recovery of income. This will be reviewed throughout the year through budget monitoring. The £0.007m movement from month 2 is due to increased staff and software costs.

All other areas within Corporate and Support Services are anticipated to come in on budget for 2019/20 at this stage.

Corporate & Support Services have £3.577m of savings for 2019/20. Of this £3.201m has been achieved, £0.326m is on track to be achieved and £0.049m is currently unachievable. This is made up of £0.037m of unachievable savings within Democratic Services for income recovery and generation and a £0.012m unachievable saving in Legal Services which is pending change control.

**2.6. Non-Service** (*Net budget £28.257m, -£0.410m projected underspend, adverse movement of £0.860m*)

**Contingencies: favourable -£0.662m, movement; adverse £0.784m**

The 2019/20 budget included £7.226m in a corporate contingency to mitigate against the risk of unexpected in-year service pressures and or funding changes. This sum is now £6.728m following the agreed recommendation to transfer £0.498m to fund some of the pressure within Children's Services for SEN transport (as per July Cabinet meeting). At this stage in the year it is prudent for this contingency budget to be shown as fully committed however an element is being shown as a favourable variance to off-set the small overspend of £0.667m currently forecast in service areas and Trading Units which is a movement of £0.777m from month 2. If the current overspend in other services and Trading Units is not mitigated by additional management action the remaining available contingency budget would be £6.061m. If no other pressures materialise during the year the outturn position would be an overall underspend of this sum for the authority.

**Pay Award: adverse £0.076m, movement; adverse £0.076m**

This is the second year of the Governments national 2% pay offer for local

government workers and in view of this the Council budgeted £3.017m (including increments) for 2019/20. Now that the actual pay award and increments have been calculated by each service the Council is reporting an adverse variance of £75,600 which is 2.5% of the pay award budget and a marginal variance compared to total pay bill for the Authority.

**2.7. Trading Units:** *(Net budget £0.00m, adverse £0.290m projected outturn position)*

**Dillington House: adverse £0.290m, movement; £nil**

Dillington is currently forecasting a deficit of £0.290m following the latest monthly budget/performance review of month 3 accounts. The variance reflects revised projections of income levels across all areas of activity. Costs have also been adjusted to reflect the reduction in forecast bookings, particularly for weddings. A development plan has been formulated and work is on-going to generate additional income wherever possible for this year and secure bookings for future years.

An additional analytical review of the trading position for Dillington will be carried out during September with a view to report with more confidence an update as part of quarter 2 budget monitoring which will also indicate future year forecasts.

**Support Services for Education: on budget £0.000m, movement; £nil**

A reduction in income levels across Somerset Music, Somerset Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) and Health and Safety have resulted in deficits within the service of £0.059m. This is due to reduced buyback and three trainees withdrawing from the SCITT programme.

Contract Support's deficit of £0.029m is due to increased contract costs from Kier because of a greater inflationary increase than we were anticipating at the time of setting forward budgets. This is currently being disputed.

These deficits are partly being offset by £0.021m of surplus predominantly in our outdoor education centres due to increased traded income from additional bookings.

The current projected deficit of £0.067m is expected to be managed through efficiencies and increased traded income.

**2.8. Delivery of Savings**

The Financial Imperative approach, established to manage the preparation and delivery of MTFP continues to provide assurance for the development, delivery and

validation of savings plans. Business Change continues to prioritise resources to support this and processes and assurance mechanisms have been improved for 2019/20 informed by lessons learnt reviews and feedback from Audit.

The different savings statuses are as follows:

- Red: This means that the saving has been identified as being at risk of delivery and plans to replace the saving have not yet been agreed via the change control process.
- Green: The saving is on track for delivery.
- Blue: The saving has been delivered.

Savings proposals included within the 2019/20 budget are made up of savings agreed as part of MTFP 2018/19 additional savings agreed at Cabinet in September 2018 (MTFP2) and savings agreed as part of MTFP 2019/20.

99% of the proposals for change have been classified as having a green or blue status, meaning service directors are confident that these savings will be delivered or in the case of the blue savings, they have already been delivered. 1% of savings proposals have been classified as red meaning the savings are currently at risk or replacement savings have not been agreed through the change control process. The monitoring of the delivery of the savings across the three decision processes can be seen in Appendix C.

The following table (Table 3) shows a summarised breakdown of achievement of combined savings for 2019/20. Please note that these numbers are valid as at 30 June 2019.

**Table 3 – Revenue Savings 2019/20**

Area	Agreed Savings (£)	Red (at risk) £	Green (on track) £	Blue (delivered) £
Adult Services	5,506,800	-	1,962,000	3,544,800
Children's Services	4,592,825	5,800	1,246,525	3,340,500
Corporate & Support Services	3,576,500	49,300	326,403	3,200,797
Economic & Community Infrastructure	3,165,300	10,000	1,256,100	1,899,200
Non-Service	4,708,800	-	-	4,708,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,550,225</b>	<b>65,100</b>	<b>4,791,028</b>	<b>16,694,097</b>

Percentage of Delivery		0.30%	22.23%	77.47%
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## 2.9. Aged Debt Analysis

The overall debt position shows a total gross debt of £10.874m, of which £2.116m (19%) is over 90 days old. This is an improvement on last year, where the figure was 34% at quarter 1. Previous areas where debt has been difficult to collect promptly have improved. A summary of aged debt can be found in Table 4 below

Detailed debt information is reported to Audit Committee on a quarterly basis. In addition, last year, a SWAP audit report was issued on debt management, which informed updates to the Income Code of Practice. Mandatory training awareness sessions have also been provided to all officers involved in actively managing debt and additional support has been provided to services on specific debt management processes and controls.

Members are reminded that over the last 3 years, the Council has collected 99% of all the debt raised on our Accounts Receivable system.

**Table 4 – Aged Debt Analysis by Service**

Service	Not Overdue	0-30 Days	31-90 Days	91-365 Days	365+ Days	Total (Gross)
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Adult Services</b>	0.088	4.707	0.519	0.723	0.370	<b>6.407</b>
<b>Children &amp; Families Operations</b>	0.009	(0.001)	0.004	0.002	0.006	<b>0.020</b>
<b>Children &amp; Learning Commissioning</b>	0.044	0.018	0.140	0.052	0.003	<b>0.257</b>
<b>Schools &amp; Early Years</b>	0.026	0.023	0.011	0.004	0.006	<b>0.070</b>
<b>Public Health</b>	0.000	0.000	0.007	0.010	0.000	<b>0.017</b>
<b>Economic &amp; Community Infrastructure</b>	0.097	1.048	0.606	0.742	0.164	<b>2.657</b>
<b>Corporate &amp; Support Services</b>	0.024	0.385	0.023	0.026	0.007	<b>0.465</b>
<b>Support Services for Education (Trading Units)</b>	0.004	0.886	0.090	0.001	0.000	<b>0.981</b>
<b>Total (£m)</b>	<b>0.292</b>	<b>7.066</b>	<b>1.400</b>	<b>1.560</b>	<b>0.556</b>	<b>10.874</b>
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Adult Services: £6.407m**

Debts over 30 days old have reduced by £0.879m since the figure reported at Outturn following a lot of focus on the debt position by the Adults Finance Team.

The current amount of debt over 30 days stands at £1.612m and of this £0.502m relates to invoices that are in dispute with Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group. Discussions are taking place to resolve these as quickly as possible. There are also a number of debts relating to client contributions and these have been referred to legal services for further action to be taken.

**Children’s Services: £0.277m**

Of the debts over 30 days, the majority (61%) relates to 3 invoices owed by partner health authority for the recoupment of interagency fees of children in care and the annual NHS contribution to the Somerset Safeguarding Children’s Board (SSCB). These invoices are not in dispute and settlement is due imminently.

**Economic & Community Infrastructure: £2.657m**

ECI are reporting a total of £0.906m outstanding debt over 90 days old. These debts are all being actively chased by services or by legal/debt recovery. The majority of these debts are for Engineering Design and Property Services.

**Corporate & Support Services: £0.465m**

The total value of debts over 90 days is £0.033m, all debts are being actively chased or have been referred Legal/Debt recovery.

**Support Services for Education: £0.981m**

The majority of debt (90%) is under 30 days old and relates to services and courses purchased via the SSE website. This is expected to be recovered in line with the timescales set out within the Income Code of Practice.

**2.10. Improving Lives Programme**

During Quarter 4 of 2018/19 the evolution and transition of the former Core Council Programme into the Improving Lives Programme was completed. The Council continues to build on the foundations laid by our Core Council and Financial Imperative Programmes in 2018/19, which established financial control and sustainability and enabled us to bring our focus to a transformational redesign of the Council.

The Improving Lives Programme (ILP) is an overarching strategically important programme that has a vision aligned to the County Plan. The ILP will redesign the organisation to create a sustainable Council and a culture that promotes innovation and values our staff. It will enable the Authority to better manage demand and put prevention at the heart of its thinking. It also incorporates the Children’s

Transformation Programme and the continued Financial Imperative focus (as detailed above)

The ILP Programme has 4 Design themes

- **Behaviours and Cultures** - Ensuring that we have the right skills, tools, values and behaviours to improve lives across the County.
- **Commissioning for the Future** - Working as one organisation and in partnership with others to prioritise early intervention and prevention, encourage self-help and commission creatively and to ensure value for money.
- **Managing Demand and Building Stronger Communities** - Developing a shared vision with our communities focussed on improving lives. It should mean emphasising prevention so demand on our statutory services is minimised and workstreams are aligned to these areas of focus
- **Helping People to Help themselves** - Empowering our residents to help themselves wherever possible. We will do this by providing the right advice and information and encouraging and supporting more customer self-service via digital channels and a lot of work has commenced under the Digital Customer Workstreams

The programme continues to be mobilised with the last 3 months focusing on developing the scope of the programme and associated delivery plans to provide a firm foundation to enable a transition into a delivery phase later in 2019. Governance has been put in place to establish clear and effective organisation and assurance reporting commenced in June.

The Senior Leadership Team have been working on a shared narrative of the Programme, allowing each to bring to life the vision of the Programme as well as the expectations on their staff. A varied and engaging session for Strategic and Service Managers was held in June, where staff exhibited 15 examples of where the design principles are being brought to life across SCC. There are plans to replicate this session, in a roadshow form, thereby promoting the Programme design themes and reaching as many staff and Councillors as possible.

Significant strides have been made in identifying the resources and skills that will be required to drive the Programme forward. Business Cases, from across the design themes, have been approved and the majority of posts are now filled, or appointments have been made pending start dates. Building this capacity will form the foundation to scope and deliver the cross cutting transformational activity to follow.

Key enabling activity to build capability is being progressed. The Somerset's People Attributes have been launched with a delivery plan to promote their

adoption across services and embed these new behaviours and attitudes required to support new ways of working in SCC's practice by April 2020. The Somerset Mini-Academies, a training and development approach to develop commissioning capability across SCC, has also been scoped for further development in the Autumn.

The £0.850m Prevention Fund's is an opportunity for proposals to be developed by service areas in discussion with the relevant Cabinet Member and must focus on preventing needs/or the escalation of need in order to reduce future demands on SCC service. The fund has attracted good levels of interest with four Business Cases, asking for total funding of £0.600m, being approved by the Senior Leadership team. Once the business cases have followed due process the bids will be monitored through the Improving Lives Programme governance.

### **Children's Transformation**

This programme wraps governance, rigour and assurance around a number of workstreams which collectively intend to deliver improved outcomes for Children within a sustainable budget. Workstream plans are underway with leads in place and meetings held regularly with the Board Chair to challenge progress and identify risks, issues and decisions that require escalation.

Workstreams such as Placements and Systems Review have received particular attention in terms of savings opportunities identified and deep dive sessions held with the leads of these areas to ensure the Board understands progress within the context of the volatility of Children's service demand.

This period the Inclusion Service submitted a report outlining the 3-year plan to address the Designated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit which is also tracked in this programme due to the High Needs component of the DSG.

Integral to the success of this Programme is a focus on workforce development and required cultural and behavioural change across the system based on an agreed vision and set of shared values and outcomes, and which is being led by the Director of HR/OD. Workstream outcomes align to The Improving Lives programme with improvement opportunities identified such as the 'Family Front Door' project within the Early Help workstream highlighted as having a digital customer element to it which supports the themes of demand management, prevention, self-service thinking and commissioning for the future.

### **Adults Transformation**

From April 2019 Adults re-set their transformation priorities and the scope of their Transformation Programme for the next 3-5 years which builds upon our Promoting



Independence Strategy. The Programme has transitioned to being service led and the scope, plan and activity baseline for each Theme has been developed and aligned to ILP Design principles. This is now being used to review and identify opportunities to take into the Improving Lives Programme as well as identifying dependencies.

### **3. Options considered and reasons for rejecting them**

- 3.1.** There is no alternative but to undertake effective and thorough budget monitoring to follow through with appropriate actions to address any variances.

### **4. Background Papers**

- 4.1.**
- 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 Cabinet Month 2 Budget Monitoring Report

## Annex A – Revenue Budget Monitoring (month 3) – Headline Summary Table

Service	Total Revised Budget	Net Variance Adverse / (Favourable)	Planned Use of Earmarked Reserves	Planned Use of Capital Receipts Flexibilities	Net Variance (Under) / Overspend		Previous Cabinet Report Net Variance	Movement from Previous Cabinet Report
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	%	£m	£m
Adult Services	<b>126.614</b>	3.454	(2.830)	(0.624)	<b>0.000</b>	<b>(0.00%)</b>	0.000	<b>0.000</b>
Children & Families - Operations	<b>58.554</b>	0.433	0.000	0.000	<b>0.433</b>	<b>0.74%</b>	0.417	<b>0.016</b>
Children & Learning - Commissioning	<b>24.818</b>	0.064	0.000	0.000	<b>0.064</b>	<b>0.26%</b>	* 0.059	<b>0.005</b>
Public Health	<b>1.081</b>	0.000	0.000	0.000	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	0.000	<b>0.000</b>
Economic & Community Infrastructure Services	<b>66.367</b>	1.131	(0.780)	(0.723)	<b>(0.371)</b>	<b>(0.56%)</b>	0.018	<b>(0.389)</b>
<b>Key Services Spending</b>	<b>277.433</b>	<b>5.082</b>	<b>(3.610)</b>	<b>(1.347)</b>	<b>0.126</b>	<b>0.05%</b>	<b>0.494</b>	<b>(0.368)</b>
Corporate & Support Services	<b>22.277</b>	(0.033)	1.214	(1.186)	<b>(0.006)</b>	<b>(0.02%)</b>	(0.012)	<b>0.006</b>
Non-Service Items	<b>28.257</b>	(3.767)	3.357	0.000	<b>(0.410)</b>	<b>(1.45%)</b>	* (0.772)	<b>0.362</b>
Trading Units	<b>0.000</b>	0.290	0.000	0.000	<b>0.290</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	0.290	<b>0.000</b>
<b>Support Services &amp; Corporate Spending</b>	<b>50.534</b>	<b>(3.510)</b>	<b>4.570</b>	<b>(1.186)</b>	<b>(0.126)</b>	<b>(0.25%)</b>	<b>(0.494)</b>	<b>0.368</b>
<b>Total SCC Spending</b>	<b>327.967</b>	<b>1.572</b>	<b>0.960</b>	<b>(2.532)</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>

Total Revised Budget = Revised budget after transfers between services, not affecting the total budget for 2019/20

Adverse variance = one that deteriorates the projected outturn position

(Favourable) variance = one that improves the projected outturn position

\* Children & Learning Commissioning and Non-Service "Previous Cabinet Report Net Variance" has been adjusted to reflect the transfer from contingency of £0.498m as approved by Cabinet at their meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

## Appendix B – Planned use of Capital Receipts Flexibilities

Service		Original Planned Costs £m	Current Forecast Costs £m	Previous Forecast Costs £m	Description
Adult Services	Learning Disabilities	0.624	<b>0.624</b>	0.624	Contractual transformation costs
Children and Families	Getset	0.055	<b>0.000</b>	0.000	Supporting the Family Support Service model
ECI Services	Property	0.206	<b>0.206</b>	0.206	Costs associated with property rationalisation and transforming the use of assets
	Economic Development	0.381	<b>0.381</b>	0.381	Supporting the roll-out of Broadband, underpinning how services can be delivered to the public
	Commissioning	0.070	<b>0.070</b>	0.070	Commissioning development and working towards integrated commissioning solutions
	Libraries	0.066	<b>0.066</b>	0.000	Costs associated with the activity supporting the Library transformation
<b>Key Services</b>		<b>1.402</b>	<b>1.347</b>	<b>1.281</b>	

Corporate and Support Services	Core Council Programme	1.006	<b>0.802</b>	0.981	Costs within the Core Council Programme team who support transformational projects across the Council
	ICT and related costs	0.233	<b>0.220</b>	0.227	Costs associated with supporting the digital transformational changes across the Council
	Customers and Communities	0.154	<b>0.154</b>	0.154	Costs supporting the transformation of the customer "front door" service delivery
	Community Governance	0.000	<b>0.010</b>	0.000	Costs for the Cabinet Member for Education and Transformation who supports transformational work for the Council.
<b>Support Services and Corporate</b>		<b>1.393</b>	<b>1.186</b>	<b>1.362</b>	
<b>SCC Total</b>		<b>2.795</b>	<b>2.533</b>	<b>2.643</b>	

## Appendix C – Delivery of Savings Summary 2019/20

### Savings agreed in February 2019 for 2019/20:

Area	Agreed Savings (£)	Red (at risk) £	Green (on track) £	Blue (delivered) £
Adult Services	3,389,000	-	1,962,000	1,427,000
Children's Services	1,701,025	-	98,325	1,602,700
Corporate & Support Services	2,955,900	-	270,503	2,685,397
Economic & Community Infrastructure	2,307,200	10,000	766,200	1,531,000
Non-Service	4,708,800	-	-	4,708,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,061,925</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>3,097,028</b>	<b>11,954,897</b>
<b>Percentage of Delivery</b>		<b>0.07%</b>	<b>20.56%</b>	<b>79.37%</b>

### Savings agreed in September 2018 (MTFP2) for 2019/20:

Area	Agreed Savings (£)	Red (at risk) £	Green (on track) £	Blue (delivered) £
Adult Services	1,717,800	-	-	1,717,800
Children's Services	2,891,800	5,800	1,148,200	1,737,800
Corporate & Support Services	564,700	49,300	-	515,400
Economic & Community Infrastructure	842,400	-	489,900	352,500
Non-Service	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,016,700</b>	<b>55,100</b>	<b>1,638,100</b>	<b>4,323,500</b>
<b>Percentage of Delivery</b>		<b>0.92%</b>	<b>27.23%</b>	<b>71.86%</b>

**Savings agreed in February 2018 for 2019/20:**

Area	Agreed Savings (£)	Red (at risk) £	Green (on track) £	Blue (delivered) £
Adult Services	400,000	-	-	400,000
Children's Services	-	-	-	-
Corporate & Support Services	55,900	-	55,900	-
Economic & Community Infrastructure	15,700	-	-	15,700
Non-Service	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>471,600</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>55,900</b>	<b>415,700</b>
<b>Percentage of Delivery</b>		<b>0.00%</b>	<b>11.85%</b>	<b>88.15%</b>

**ALL Combined Savings for 2019/20:**

Area	Agreed Savings (£)	Red (at risk) £	Green (on track) £	Blue (delivered) £
Adult Services	5,506,800	-	1,962,000	3,544,800
Children's Services	4,592,825	5,800	1,246,525	3,340,500
Corporate & Support Services	3,576,500	49,300	326,403	3,200,797
Economic & Community Infrastructure	3,165,300	10,000	1,256,100	1,899,200
Non-Service	4,708,800	-	-	4,708,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,550,225</b>	<b>65,100</b>	<b>4,791,028</b>	<b>16,694,097</b>
<b>Percentage of Delivery</b>		<b>0.30%</b>	<b>22.23%</b>	<b>77.47%</b>

## Property Disposal and County Farms Update

Lead Officer: Paula Hewitt

Author: Charlie Field

Contact Details: 01823 355325

Cabinet Member: Mandy Chilcott

Division and Local Member: N/a

### 1. Summary

- 1.1. The report provides a review of property and land sales completed in the last year, including sales of County Farm properties, the receipts received by the Council set against the annual capital receipt target and the proposed and anticipated sales for the 2019/20 financial year.
- 1.2. The disposal of land and property and the capital income received meets the County Plan vision to create a thriving and productive County that is ambitious, confident and focussed on improving people's lives.

### 2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1. Scrutiny is asked to note the progress with property disposals during 2018/19 and the anticipated sales for 2019/20

### 3. Background

#### 3.1. Property Disposals

The Council sets an annual target through its Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for capital receipts achieved through the disposal of land and property identified as being surplus to the Councils both short and long term operational requirements. The decision to declare a Council asset as being surplus to requirement is only taken following a process of consultation with all relevant parties and services, including the Cabinet Member for Resources, Senior Officers and the Asset Strategy Group who consider recommendations and proposals.

The receipts generated from the proposed sale of assets makes a significant contribution towards the Council being in a financial position to meet its annual spending priorities as set out in the County Plan.

The disposal of assets declared surplus to requirements also reduces the demand on the Councils revenue budgets through the removal of the cost of maintaining such assets e.g. utility and running costs, repair and maintenance. The need to meet the on-going costs for maintaining an asset in reasonable condition places a long-term economic burden on the Council. The removal of a vacant building, declared surplus to the Councils requirements, removes the risk of vandalism and other local anti-social behaviour.

The sale of land and property not only economically benefits the Council for the reasons stated above but also has a strategic benefit in the rationalisation of the delivery of Council services. Furthermore, the sale of surplus land for business and housing development has a significant impact in developing the local economy, creating local employment opportunities and supporting local businesses.

The creation, development and support of local commercial opportunities generated from the Council's disposal programme is seen to be a significant driver in boosting Somerset's economy in terms of growth and sustainability.

### **3.2. County Farm Disposals**

Since 2010, the Council has operated under a Cabinet Member decision, following a review of County Farms, which identified those farm holdings which could be sold immediately and without further review (known as List A). The sales would take place as and when the opportunities arose or were deemed necessary. The remaining farms (known as List B) were categorised as being retained for the time being due to their strategic location and future development potential. The policy enabled the Council to continue to "provide some farming opportunities (as) the estate has done over the years".

The Council has managed the estate in this way since 2010 with A List farms and land holdings being sold at the earliest opportunity whilst farms and land on the retained B List were essentially only considered for disposal when suitable development opportunities arose or if they became vacant. The Council manages its estate by letting the farms and land holdings to tenant farmers in return for rental income.

The Scrutiny Committee for Policies and Place established a Task and Finish Group to consider the management of the County Farm Estate under the 2010 policy decision. The Task and Finish Group final report and recommendations to Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee (5 December 2017) can be accessed via the Background papers and these recommendations are taken into account for each disposal. The farms estate is managed to provide strategic opportunities, and in recent years has provided sites for doctor's surgeries, schools, economic development schemes, community projects and development opportunities to maximise value.

To meet buyer expectations the Corporate Property Team, seek to ensure that the disposals are completed early in the financial year where possible. The negotiated prices reflect the current market value for land. On private sales, a covenant clause will be generally be put in place to restrict the use to agricultural, thereby protecting the Council's interests.

Properties to be sold at public auction will have a minimum reserve price set for each sale and overage provisions where appropriate to protect the council's interests.

### **3.4 Capital Receipts Received in 2018/19 and 2019 to date**

Capital receipts from Surplus Property in 2018/19 were £10,677,725. Sales



included (The completion of the Northgate joint venture with Sedgemoor DC with the sale to Aldi, the sale to the Samaritans of Morley House, Yeovil, the former further education buildings in Minehead and Glastonbury and a number of farms.)

For the current financial year to 30 August 2019 receipts to the sum of £1.61m have been achieved, with contracts exchanged to the sum of £2.67m and an anticipated sum of £3m for Property's currently under offer. Note: some of these potential estimated receipts may of course be received in the following financial year.

#### **4. Consultations undertaken**

- 4.1. The Lead Cabinet Member and Local Members are also consulted upon the disposal programme.

#### **5. Implications**

- 5.1. The failure to proceed with the existing policy for property and farm disposals will significantly reduce the Councils ability to meet its annual MTFP target for capital receipts, thereby detrimentally impacting its annual programmes of expenditure, and furthermore will place a further financial burden for the maintenance of surplus property and sites.

#### **6. Background papers**

- 6.1. Cabinet Member Key Decision – Outcome of County Farms Review 18 October 2010  
[http://www1.somerset.gov.uk/council/meetings/portfolio\\_reports.asp?report=92](http://www1.somerset.gov.uk/council/meetings/portfolio_reports.asp?report=92)
- 6.2. Scrutiny Committee (Policies and Place) – Report from the County Farms Task and Finish Group 5 December 2017  
<http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=184&MId=391&Ver=4>
- 6.3.
- 6.4.

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

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## SCC response to Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service “Safer Together” Consultation

Lead Officers: Trudi Grant and Paula Hewitt  
Authors: Lucy Macready and Nicola Dawson  
Contact Details: 01823 259146 (Lucy Macready) and 01823 355690 (Nicola Dawson)  
Cabinet Members: Cllr Christine Lawrence and Cllr David Hall  
Division and Local Members: all

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1.** The purpose of this paper is to introduce Somerset County Council's proposed response to the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service (DSFRS) consultation on its proposed new service delivery operating model.
- 1.2.** The DSFRS consultation includes proposals for the closure of fire stations (Porlock), removal and relocation of fire engines (Bridgwater, Taunton, Yeovil, Martock) and changes to crewing arrangements (Chard, Frome, Wellington, Wells and Williton.)
- 1.3.** Issues and comments have been identified under the following headings: consultation document and methodology; prevention activity and opportunities; risk factors; deployment activity; partnership working.

### **2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations**

- 2.1.** Members are requested to consider and endorse the comments in the attached draft response to the consultation.
- 2.2.** Members are further requested to identify any additional considerations that might inform the consultation from the perspective of local communities.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1.** Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service has launched a public consultation to seek views on the proposed redesign of its services. The consultation includes seven options for change, including closure of fire stations, removal and relocation of fire engines and changes to crewing arrangements. According to the consultation document, reasons for the proposed changes include:

- In the last 10 years, total fires have reduced by 33% across England.
- 56 of D&SFRS fire station areas, (including Lundy) have fewer than 10 dwelling fires a year.

- Population, technology and habits have changed e.g. fewer chip pans and more smoke detectors.
- Need to match resources - crews, equipment and fleet - to specific risks in each community.
- Wish to increase capacity for important prevention and protection work activity within FRS annual budget.

**3.2.** The consultation closes on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September and the Fire Authority will make its final decision in November 2019.

**3.3.** The FRS consultation was inviting feedback by means of a questionnaire however the SCC response is in written format as there are several observations, comments and questions that could be not fitted into the questionnaire format.

#### **4. Consultations undertaken**

**4.1.** All Elected Members were given the opportunity to contribute to the response via a Members information sheet circulated in July. SCC services were asked to comment including: Public Health, Civil Contingences Unit, Highways and Corporate Health and Safety Unit.

**4.2.** One of the authors attended a DSFRS public drop-in event in Taunton during July.

#### **5. Implications**

**5.1.** There are no direct financial implications for SCC arising from this report. The consultation is focused on resource reductions from DSFRS only.

**5.2.** There are no direct risks for SCC including equalities and health and safety but DSFRS will need to be mindful of these implications when implementing services changes.

**5.3.** As a statutory partner, DSFRS will need to have regard to community safety implications in the planning and implementation of these proposed service changes.

#### **6. Background papers**

**6.1.** Appendix 1: Covering letter to Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service.

Appendix 2: Observations, comments and questions from Somerset County Council in response to the consultation.

Appendix 3: Page from DSFRS consultation document identifying which Somerset fire stations would be affected by the options for change.

Lee Howell  
Chief Fire Officer  
Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service  
Service Headquarters  
The Knowle  
Clyst St George  
Exeter  
EX3 0NW

**Please ask for:**

**Email:**

**Direct Dial:**

**Date:**

Dear Mr Howell

**Safer Together: Somerset County Council response to Fire and Rescue Service Consultation**

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your service consultation.

The Council has chosen to reply by means of a letter rather than completing the questionnaire as there are several observations and questions that require consideration for which the format of the consultation does not allow. These comments have been compiled through discussions with a number of services within the Council, with Elected Members and through consideration at the Policies and Place Scrutiny Committee. These comments are captured in the enclosed document.

I would appreciate a full response which can be shared with our Elected Members and staff and if you would like to meet to discuss any of the points raised in more detail, please contact me and I will make the necessary arrangements.

Yours Sincerely

Xxxxxxx  
Director of ....

**Copied to:**

xxx

## **Observations and questions for Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Safer Together Consultation from Somerset County Council**

### **1.0 The Consultation Document and Methodology**

- 1.1 The consultation questionnaire appears to lead the reader's thinking, has limited detail and does not allow for innovative thinking to enable a comprehensive high level response.
- 1.2 The way the options are set out to the reader, gives the impression of an accumulative set of choices with options 1,2 and 3 stating that alone, they would not achieve the desired cost savings. This presents the respondent with limited choice in the knowledge that only certain groups of options would meet outcomes required. This is leading the reader to respond in certain ways.
- 1.3 The options state that where stations are closed, resources will be redeployed, but gives no further information or clarity.

### **2.0 Prevention Activity and Opportunities**

- 2.1 The emphasis on prevention is a welcome one, fitting nicely with the Council's own strategic planning and it is recognised that social progress has reduced incidence of fire. However, more could be done to make communities aware of the various types so fire prevention activity can and will take place and its impact.
- 2.2 The Council would welcome greater engagement on reducing smoking in the population as part of prevention activity to match the partnership activity that is seen in neighbouring regions such as Cornwall.
- 2.3 When stating 'Protection and Prevention' in the consultation document and options, only home/business safety checks and briefly, education is mentioned. However, there is an abundance of prevention activity that is undertaken and planned with partner agencies that is omitted. A good example is the Safer Homes initiative and child accident prevention projects. This is a missed opportunity to demonstrate the breadth of work the fire service undertakes and leaves readers unclear with what the future service offer for prevention will look like.
- 2.4 The data within the consultation document shows that there was an increase in false alarms of 16% between 14/15 and 18/19 with a total of 35% of calls being false alarms during 18/19. Further, in the same period secondary fires increased by 40% 14/15 to 18/19. Has the service considered how they would

prevent these occurrences in the future and would this have an impact on resource and demand planning?

### **3.0 Risk Factors**

- 3.1 Socioeconomic factors are the best known predictors of fire incidents, including age, health and lifestyle, income, status and education. However, it appears that lifestyle is the only factor that is briefly considered within the consultation document in relation to smoking and reduced use of chip pans. Around 38,000 Somerset residents now live in a neighbourhood (LSOA) identified as one of the 20% most deprived in England. Poverty alone, is a very important factor to consider in fire risk due to links between poverty and overcrowding, lack of home safety awareness, increased uptake of smoking and other risk taking behaviours and likelihood of accidents amongst children in the home.
- 3.2 Another risk factor essential to this debate is age. The number of people aged 75 or more is projected to double in the next two decades in Somerset. In parts of West Somerset and Burnham-on-Sea, more than half of the population is projected to be aged 65 or older by 2033. The projected risk of fire and use of existing and future resource does not appear to fully appreciate the impact of Somerset aging population, particularly, when proposing to remove resource in West Somerset, an area identified as most impacted by this.
- 3.3 The proportion of older housing stock is more prevalent in rural areas with the 2011 census stating that West Somerset comprised of 5% of Somerset's housing stock without central heating. This locality also includes a large proportion of the County's homes with thatched roofs and unlike new builds, more likely to fall victim to open fire.
- 3.4 Somerset attracts 11.4million day visitors per year and 1.8 million overnight visitors (ONS 2015). Looking specifically at West Somerset, this equates to roughly 5,000 to 8,000 extra visitors in Minehead Butlins per week during the summer months, plus all the other Hotels and self-catering apartments spread across the Moors and beyond. Although it is noted that the impact of the summer holidays is referenced in the rationale for option 6 – roving resource, it is not clear whether the full impact of tourism been factored in the risk modelling.
- 3.5 Somerset is a largely rural area with a high portion of agricultural activity and farm land. Has the Devon and Somerset Fire and included in their risk methodology, activities which carry with them additional risk and demand for fire resource e.g. Swaling and storage of potentially hazardous chemicals?

### **4.0 Deployment Activity**



- 4.1 What would be the impact of the closure of fire stations on the co-responder functions? This could have a determinantal impact on the more isolated stations such as Porlock.
- 4.2 The proposal to deploy engines based on demand predictions makes sense but it is important to make sure that crews can remain active whilst awaiting deployment. Is there an opportunity for staff to engage in prevention or other positive work in this situation? If so, what would this be?
- 4.3 Given the proximity to Hinkley Point, the proposal to reduce the number of engines at Bridgwater is surprising. It is also concerning that Hinkley Point is not referenced in the consultation document and given the scale of the developments both at the site and in the supporting infrastructure.
- 4.4 Option 6 - 'roving' fire engines. If actual fires are as low in number as stated, would it not be better to have more agile, less resource intensive vehicles? It is unclear how the model of 'roving' fire engines would work practically for example, would they be linked to a station of fully mobile during the day?
- 4.5 Chart 1 on page 14 appears to show the average number of engines available but does not appear to consider travel distance.
- 4.6 In option 1 it states that there are nearby fire stations within a 15 minute radius able to respond. We would query this comment with reference to Porlock. The nearest fire resource to Porlock is Minehead, which in perfect travel conditions is under the 15 minute threshold, however, this route is served by a single access road which is frequently hindered by delays due to tourism, sheer traffic volumes and severe weather.
- 4.7 It is noted that that the DSFRS statutory duties are: to make provision to response to fires and road traffic collisions and promote fire safety. This does not include dealing with hazardous materials or responding to flooding, which is one of the highest risks for Somerset.

## **5.0 Partnership Working**

- 5.1 It is not clear from the consultation document what impact the options would have on DSFRS capacity for multi-agency working for example on emergency planning and preparation and on promoting community resilience. Currently DSFRS is an active and valued partner in such groups as the Avon and Somerset Local Resilience Forum and the Somerset Prepared Partnership.

- 5.2 It is not clear from the consultation documents what impact there would be on the DSFRS specialist capabilities including urban search and rescue and response to flooding and wildfire.
- 5.3 The consultation is based upon savings made by the DSFRS in isolation and does not factor in opportunities for working with partners in a place-based/systems approach.
- 5.4 Public Health with CCG and other partners have been working on strategies for Improving Lives in Somerset including the development of the Neighbourhoods Model and ongoing partnership activities to create stronger communities. We would have welcomed involvement from DSFRS and consider that the DSFRS would have gained useful local intelligence to inform their analysis and planning.
- 5.5 Has DSFRS explored possibilities for joint working with the Somerset Road Safety partnership and Devon Road Safety Partnership in the planning for these changes?
- 5.6 It is suggested that DSFRS consider retaining a small fire safety vehicle at Porlock and suggest that this can be housed in a different way, not necessarily in a DSFRS owned facility. Again, this is an example of opportunities that can come with broader discussions with partners.

# Options for Change

<b>Station closures</b>	Appledore, Ashburton, Budleigh Salterton, Colyton, Kingston, <b>Porlock</b> , Topsham, Woolacombe
<b>Third fire engine removal</b>	<b>Bridgwater</b> , <b>Taunton</b> , Torquay, <b>Yeovil</b>
<b>Second fire engine removal</b>	Crediton, Lynton, <b>Martock</b> , Totnes
<b>Change of status to day crewing</b>	Barnstaple, Exmouth, Paignton
<b>Change of status of second fire engine to on-call at night only</b>	Brixham, <b>Chard</b> , Dartmouth, Frome, Honiton, Ilfracombe, Okehampton, Sidmouth, Tavistock, Teignmouth, Tiverton, <b>Wellington</b> , <b>Wells</b> , <b>Williton</b>
<b>Introduction of six day crewed roving fire engines</b>	Mobile fire engines crewed by day duty firefighters in areas of greater risk across Devon and Somerset

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## Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Broadband Delivery Programme

Lead Officer: Michele Cusack  
Author: Katriona Lovelock  
Contact Details: 07977 401 921 / KLovelock@somerset.gov.uk  
Cabinet Member: Cllr David Hall  
Division and Local Member: All

### 1. Summary

- 1.1. CDS is a local government-led partnership which is working to extend superfast broadband infrastructure in areas where commercial providers do not plan to deliver a Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband service. Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband service is a service capable of delivering download speeds of at least 30Mbps.
- 1.2. Somerset County Council is the Accountable Body for the CDS partnership.

### 2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1. This report provides an update on the progress of the CDS programme.

### 3. Update

- 3.1. To date more than 300,000 homes and businesses across Devon and Somerset can access superfast broadband, with a further 38,000 having access to improved broadband. Every month hundreds more homes and businesses are being connected due to the Connecting Devon and Somerset programme (CDS). Take up of Phase 1 Openreach broadband services is nearly 60%. This level of take up is above the national average.
- 3.2. In Phase 2 Airband Community Internet has completed the build of its fixed wireless access network in the National Parks which covers more than 5,000 premises in some of the most challenging geography in the region. Further Phase 2 network build continues in Lot 4 where Airband is delivering superfast coverage in Northern Devon. A total of 7,369 premises have been covered in lot 4 and build continues. CDS and Airband are exploring options to include some fibre delivery in the current contracts.
- 3.3. Previous reports to scrutiny have confirmed that Gigaclear's build in lots 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 has fallen behind significantly behind schedule. Gigaclear was placed on notice of default as a result of the delays. CDS allowed the company additional time to evaluate and cost alternative methods of network construction. The company was required to provide a revised plan which is acceptable to both CDS and the Government.

- 3.4. Gigaclear submitted revised plans to provide full-fibre superfast broadband coverage at the end of July and presented these at a meeting in August. CDS and the Government's Building Digital UK (BDUK) agency has been analysing the proposals in detail to see whether they can form an acceptable and credible recovery plan. The conclusions of this process are expected to be reported shortly and CDS has confirmed that it will not shrink from taking further tough action if that is deemed necessary.

#### 4. Ongoing Broadband Delivery

- 4.1. As previously reported the programme has joined the **Better Broadband Voucher Scheme**. This will benefit residents and businesses with speed of less than 2 Mbps which are not part of planned deployment from another publicly funded scheme within the next 12 months. Residents or businesses can request a voucher and a registered provider can be selected to provide a new service including 4G wireless and satellite solutions. Homes or businesses which benefit from the scheme will not have their status in any future superfast broadband roll-out affected. Details can be found at the following site.

<https://basicbroadband.culture.gov.uk/>

- 4.2. **The Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme** is also available providing businesses and residential properties with vouchers. Businesses can claim up to £2,500 either individually or as part of a group project and residents can claim a voucher of up to £500 as part of a group project. Details can be found at the following site.

<https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>

- 4.3. **Community Challenge Fund**. CDS has piloted a Community Challenge Fund in three communities across the region. The Community Challenge Fund Scheme enables local communities to select an approved private sector partner and co-produce a broadband solution that works best for them with some financial support and advice from CDS.

Pilots have been successfully trialled in Harford and Lower Combe in Devon with Openreach and Airband, and a third is underway in Yatton in North Somerset with Openreach. In total 138 homes and businesses will have access to full fibre to the premise broadband with the capability to deliver speeds up to 1 Gbps. The pilots have been supported by £70,000 capital funding from CDS.

The pilots have proved effective at enabling local people in communities with different needs to co-produce a broadband solution that works best for them with CDS support. Each community has had different characteristics and challenges, ranging from deeply rural areas and protected landscapes to urban fringes.

CDS is proposing to apply the good practice learned from these pilots to help other communities to develop their own solutions, and subject to funding

availability, where there is good buy-in from the community and cost-effective options proposed, CDS can offer some capital funding support. This is under development and adds a new dimension to complement the CDS broader programme. It also supports the Government's full fibre policy. Further details, including advice to communities and how to apply for financial support will be announced in due course.

Further information about the pilots can be found at the following link:

<https://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/cds-set-to-expand-community-broadband-scheme-after-successful-pilots/>

#### **4.4. Market Engagement**

Over the summer CDS has launched an Open Market Review to identify the plans of commercial operators to deliver superfast and gigabit broadband services. CDS has also invited providers to a series of meetings to explore opportunities to extend broadband coverage. This process is ongoing.

The purpose of the market engagement is to test and explore approaches and options with providers to serve those premises which do not yet have a 30 Mbps broadband service. CDS investigates commercial providers' appetite and capacity to build in the region. CDS is also taking the opportunity to prudently examine potential alternatives for some of the current Phase 2 programme areas under contract with Gigaclear, some 47,000 premises, predominantly in rural areas should that need arise.

A range of options will be considered including but not limited to

- potential further procurement of solutions to apply additional public subsidy,
- community-led solutions, taking forward the community challenge fund pilots,
- stimulating demand leading to commercial investments
- opportunities to connecting public buildings to act as hubs for their wider communities and
- all types of appropriate commercial models.

### **5. Future Broadband Strategy**

- 5.1.** CDS continues to work with stakeholders including BDUK and the LEP to develop a Digital Strategy for the Heart of the South West which will include connectivity and infrastructure as well as considering digital skills and innovation. This will help to guide the approach for extending coverage and investing further funding.

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**Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee Work Programme**

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>
	<b>16 July 2019</b>	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report – Month 2		Elizabeth Watkin
Prevention Fund Update		Sheila Collins
	<b>18 September 2019</b>	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report – Month 3	<b>1<sup>st</sup> on agenda</b>	Elizabeth Watkin/Sheila Collins
Connecting Devon & Somerset (CDS) Broadband Programme Update		Katriona Lovelock/Michele Cusack
Property Disposal and County Farms Update		Claire Lovett/Paula Hewitt
SCC Response to Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service Consultation		Lucy Macready/Nicola Dawson
	<b>09 October 2019</b>	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report – Q1+1		Elizabeth Watkin
Capital Budget Monitoring Report – Q1		Sheila Collins/Ian Trunks
Climate Change Task & Finish Group Update		Michele Cusack/Jon Doyle
Social Value Policy Update		Vikki Hearn
	<b>04 November 2019</b>	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report – Month 5		Elizabeth Watkin
SCC's Capital Investment Strategy		Sheila Collins/Elizabeth Watkin
West Somerset Opportunities Area Update		Julia Ridge
Registration Services Update		Genevieve Branch
	<b>11 December 2019</b>	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report – Month 6		Elizabeth Watkin
Capital Budget Monitoring Report – Q2		Sheila Collins/Ian Trunks
Temporary Labour Contract Update		

**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. [jajackson@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:jajackson@somerset.gov.uk) 01823 359040

**To add:**

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## 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 Michael Bryant in the Democratic Services Team by telephoning (01823) 357628 or 359500.

To view the Forward Plan on the website you will need a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader available free from [www.adobe.com](http://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>

Weekly version of plan published on 3 September 2019

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
<b>FP/19/07/04</b> First published: 16 July 2019	28 Aug 2019 Public Health Director	Issue: Future of Targeted Sexual Prevention Services for Sexual Health Decision: To agree on options put forward on the future of targeted prevention services for sexual health and support to people living with HIV	Targeted Prevention Services for Sexual Health		Michelle Hawkes, Public Health Specialist Tel: 01823 357236
<b>fp/19/05/12</b> First published: 31 May 2019	29 Aug 2019 Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Issue: Revision of the number of early years places developers will be required to fund for children from new housing developments in Somerset Decision: To agree to increase the number of early years places developers will be required to fund for children from new housing developments, from 5 places per 100 dwellings to 9 places per 100 dwellings.	EY & SEND Contribution		Julia Balmford
<b>FP/19/07/05</b> First published: 22 July 2019	9 Sep 2019 Director of Children's Services	Issue: Award of Contract - Hydrotherapy Pool Selworthy School Decision: Agree to award the contract for the delivery of the pool to Futures for Somerset.	Award of Contract - Hazelbrook Pool		Phil Curd, Service Manager: Specialist Provision and School Transport Tel: 01823 355165

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<b>FP/19/07/16</b> First published: 7 August 2019	Not before 12th Sep 2019 Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Issue: Frome Autism and Communications Base Decision: Cabinet Member will be asked to approve the decision to retain the Communication base and Autism Base in Frome (retracting a very historic closure decision). This decision would also agree a capital investment programme to improve both facilities as well as inviting parents to a co-production session in order to improve provision at both bases.			Vicky Thomas, Strategic Manager - Support for Educational Improvement and Commercial Development
<b>FP/19/07/06</b> First published: 22 July 2019	23 Sep 2019 Cabinet Member for Education and Council Transformation	Issue: Creation of 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 schools.			Elizabeth Smith, Service Manager – Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823 356260
<b>Fp/19/07/12</b> First published: 30 July 2019	25 Sep 2019 Cabinet	Issue: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Decision: Agree the Report			Pip Tucker, Public Health Specialist Tel: 01823 359449
<b>FP/19/05/09</b> First published: 28 May 2019	25 Sep 2019 Cabinet	Issue: Q1+1 Performance Report Decision: To agree the report			Simon Clifford, Customers & Communities Director Tel: 01823359166

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<b>FP/19/06/05</b> First published: 17 June 2019	25 Sep 2019 Cabinet	Issue: Month 4 (Q1+1) Revenue Budget Monitoring Decision: To consider the report			Interim Finance Director
<b>FP/19/06/09</b> First published: 17 June 2019	25 Sep 2019 Cabinet	Issue: Month 4 Capital Budget Monitoring Decision: To consider the report			Interim Finance Director
<b>FP19/08/01</b> First published: 12 August 2019	Not before 30th Sep 2019 Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development	Issue: Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) Phase 2: decision to introduce additional funding into the Lot 4 contract. Decision: To approve the introduction of additional funding into the Lot 4 Contract.			Katriona Lovelock, Economic Development Officer Tel: 01823 359873
<b>FP19/07/14</b> First published: 31 July 2019	30 Sep 2019 Cabinet Member for Resources	Issue: Sale of Morgan House site, Bridgwater, including former library office. Decision: Authority to proceed to sale of the surplus SCC Property, namely the Morgan House Site, Bridgwater, including Bridgwater library offices			Charlie Field, Estates Manager, Corporate Property Tel: 01823355325

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<p><b>FP19/07/07</b> First published: 23 July 2019</p>	<p>Not before 30th Sep 2019 Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	<p>Issue: Sale of The Court and Popham House property, Wellington Decision: Authority to proceed to sale of the surplus SCC Property, previously known as the Popham Court Care Home, comprising of The Court and Popham House in Wellington.</p>			<p>Charlie Field, Estates Manager, Corporate Property Tel: 01823355325</p>
<p><b>FP19/09/05</b> First published: 3 September 2019</p>	<p>13 Nov 2019 Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure</p>	<p>Issue: SCC Endorsement of the Heart of the South West Local Industrial Strategy Decision: SCC endorsement of the Heart of the South West (HotSW) Local Industrial Strategy (LIS). The HotSW LIS has been developed by the Local Enterprise Partnership in coordination with local partners and stakeholders, including SCC, and in partnership with Government.</p>			<p>James Gilgrist</p>
<p><b>FP/19/07/09</b> First published: 30 July 2019</p>	<p>Not before 1st Nov 2019 Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure</p>	<p>Issue: Decision to authorise the allocation of funding for the development of the Taunton Innovation Geospatial Centre. Decision: To allocate funding for the development of the Taunton Innovation Geospatial Centre. This will be used to both develop the project and act as matching funding for an ERDF grant funding application.</p>			<p>Samantha Seddon, Service Manager-Economy</p>



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<p><b>FP/19/07/10</b> First published: 30 July 2019</p>	<p>Not before 1st Nov 2019 Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure</p>	<p>Issue: Decision to authorise the allocation of funding for the development of the Chard Enterprise Centre. Decision: Decision to authorise the allocation of funding for the development of the Chard Enterprise Centre.</p>			<p>Katriona Lovelock, Economic Development Officer Tel: 01823 359873</p>
<p><b>FP/19/07/11</b> First published: 30 July 2019</p>	<p>1 Nov 2019 Cabinet Member for Children and Families</p>	<p>Issue: Approval of Somerset Youth Justice Plan 2018/19 Decision: Approval of Somerset Youth Justice Plan 2018/19</p>			<p>Lise Bird, Strategic Manager - Prevention,</p>
<p><b>19/09/04</b> First published: 3 September 2019</p>	<p>Not before 1st Nov 2019 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport</p>	<p>Issue: Decision to accept the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership Local Growth Fund Award towards the Creech Castle junction improvements (Toneway Corridor phase 1) Decision: That the Director of Commissioning and Lead Commissioner for Economic and Community Infrastructure and Interim Director of Finance &amp; Performance agree to accept the Local Growth Fund Award by signing an agreement with the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership.</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
<b>FP19/07/08</b> First published: 25 July 2019	1 Nov 2019 Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Issue: Increased Budget - Bridgwater Special School Decision: Agree to increase the project budget in line with increased construction costs.			Phil Curd, Service Manager: Specialist Provision and School Transport Tel: 01823 355165
<b>FP19/09/03</b> First published: 3 September 2019	1 Nov 2019 Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Issue: Increased Project Budgets - Bridgwater Special School, Somerton Primary School, Bridgwater College Academy Decision: Agree to increase the project budgets in line with increased construction costs.			Phil Curd, Service Manager: Specialist Provision and School Transport Tel: 01823 355165
<b>FP/19/07/01</b> First published: 2 July 2019	Not before 1st Nov 2019 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	Issue: Decision to extend the Term Maintenance Contract for Highways Lighting maintenance services Decision: Somerset County Council's existing maintenance contract for highways street lighting is due to end in March 2020. The contract allows for up to a 48-month extension. This decision proposes that the Council should use this option to extend the contract.			Neil Guild, Highways Asset Improvement Officer

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><b>FP/18/11/11</b> First published: 21 November 2018</p>	<p>Not before 1st Nov 2019 Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care</p>	<p>Issue: Decision to conclude the establishment of an Open Framework Agreement for Reablement Providers in Somerset Decision: To award an open framework that will ensure continued and new supply of reablement care across the county, mirroring the current arrangement for homecare. This follows interim contractual arrangements that were put in place following the unsuccessful</p>			<p>Tim Baverstock, Strategic Commissioning Manager - Strategic Commissioning</p>
<p><b>FP/19/01/12</b> First published: 5 February 2019</p>	<p>Not before 1st Nov 2019 Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>Issue: Adoption of the Somerset Air Quality Statement Decision: To agree the adoption of the statement</p>			<p>Stewart Brock, Public Health Specialist, Public Health Tel: 01823357235</p>
<p><b>FP/19/04/13</b> First published: 29 April 2019</p>	<p>Not before 1st Nov 2019 Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure</p>	<p>Issue: Decision to appoint a contractor from a framework for the delivery of the Bruton Enterprise Centre Decision: To agree to appoint a supplier for the delivery of the Bruton Enterprise Centre</p>			<p>Katriona Lovelock, Economic Development Officer Tel: 01823 359873</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><b>FP/19/01/02</b> First published: 3 January 2019</p>	<p>Not before 1st Nov 2019 Interim Finance Director</p>	<p>Issue: Acceptance of European Regional Development Funding for the Heart of the South West Inward Investment Project Decision: Approval for Somerset County Council (SCC), in its capacity as the accountable body for the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership, to accept £1,181,308 of European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) for the Heart of the South West Inward Investment Project and to enter into an associated funding agreement with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)</p>	<p>Heart of the South West Inward Investment Project</p>		<p>Paul Hickson, Strategic Manager - Economy and Planning Tel: 07977 400838</p>
<p><b>FP/19/03/03</b> First published: 26 March 2019</p>	<p>Not before 1st Nov 2019 Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure Commissioning, Interim Finance Director</p>	<p>Issue: Somerset Energy Innovation Centre (Phase 3) - acceptance of Growth Deal 3 Funding Decision: Approves acceptance of Heart of the South West Growth Deal 3 funding £2,542,755 for the development of phase 3 of the Somerset Energy Innovation Centre and approve the decision to proceed with the construction of SEIC 3</p>			<p>Julie Wooler, Economic Development &amp; Strategic Tourism Officer</p>

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<b>FP/18/04/06</b> First published: 30 April 2018	Not before 1st Nov 2019 Director of Commissioning and Lead Commissioner for Economic Community Infrastructure	Issue: Procurement of the HotSW Growth Hub Service Decision: To undertake the procurement of a Business Support Service (Growth Hub) on behalf of the HotSW LEP			Melanie Roberts, Service Manager - Economic Policy Tel: 01823359209
<b>FP/19/06/02</b> First published: 14 June 2019	1 Nov 2019 Director of Children's Services, ECI Commissioning Director	Issue: Approval to submit the full application for European Social Funding, under Priority Axis 1 - Inclusive Labour Markets (1.2) Decision: To consider thie report			Melanie Roberts, Service Manager - Economic Policy Tel: 01823359209
<b>FP/19/04/01</b> First published: 3 April 2019	Not before 1st Nov 2019 Director of Corporate Affairs	Issue: The award of a contract for the provision of replacement end of life mobile devices & connections Decision: To approve the award of a three-year contract.	Replacement mobile devices		Andy Kennell Tel: 01823359268
<b>FP/10/01/11</b> First published: 5 February 2019	Not before 1st Nov 2019 Cabinet Member for Education and Council Transformation	Issue: Bridgwater College Academy Expansion - Funding Decision: To agree funding as required			Elizabeth Smith, Service Manager – Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823 356260

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<p><b>FP/18/11/10</b> First published: 20 November 2018</p>	<p>Not before 1st Nov 2019 Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure, Economic and Community Infrastructure Commissioning Director</p>	<p>Issue: Decision to approve revisions to the Connecting Devon and Somerset phase 2 deployment contracts Decision: To approve revisions to the Connecting Devon and Somerset phase 2 deployment contracts</p>			<p>Nathaniel Lucas, Senior Economic Development Officer Tel: 01823359210</p>
<p><b>FP/19/07/03</b> First published: 16 July 2019</p>	<p>1 Nov 2019 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport</p>	<p>Issue: Implementation of New Street Works Permitting System Decision: We are responding to a request from the Secretary of State for Transport to replace our existing Street Works Noticing system with a Street Works Permitting system in line with other Highway Authorities</p>			<p>Bev Norman, Service Manager - Traffic Management, Traffic &amp; Transport Development Tel: 01823358089</p>
<p><b>FP/19/07/13</b> First published: 30 July 2019</p>	<p>Not before 1st Nov 2019 Cabinet Member for Strategy, Customers and Communities</p>	<p>Issue: Revision of Corporate Complaints Policy Decision: A periodical update to the Council's complaints policy. Key changes are a switch in title from a 'procedure' to a 'policy', a change in the stage 1 resolution target time from 10 working days to 20 working days and the addition of a quality control process at stage 1.</p>			<p>Rebecca Martin, Service manager- Customer Experience &amp; Information Governance</p>

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<p><b>FP/19/07/15</b> First published: 7 August 2019</p>	<p>Not before 1st Nov 2019 Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>Issue: Decision to Award of Contract for the Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service Decision: The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing will be asked to make a decision to award the contract for the countywide specialist domestic abuse support service known as SIDAS. This will be a 3 year contract with an option to extend for 2 years plus another 2 years.</p>			<p>Lucy Macready, Public Health Specialist- Community Safety Tel: 01823 359146</p>
<p><b>FP/19/05/10</b> First published: 28 May 2019</p>	<p>18 Nov 2019 Cabinet</p>	<p>Issue: Q2 Performance Report Decision: To agree the report.</p>			<p>Simon Clifford, Customers &amp; Communities Director Tel: 01823359166</p>
<p><b>FP/19/08/02</b> First published: 20 August 2019</p>	<p>18 Nov 2019 Cabinet</p>	<p>Issue: Heart of the South West Joint Committee - Governance Arrangements &amp; Budgetary Position Decision: To approve amendments to functions and note the updated budget position</p>			<p>Scott Wooldridge, Strategic Manager Governance &amp; Risk and Council's Monitoring Officer Tel: 01823 359043</p>

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