

Council
Implementation Plan -
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ber 2018



New Council Implementation Plan Update

Commentary

During the past month or so there has been significant progress in a number of areas.

Firstly, the Somerset West and Taunton Implementation Plan was approved by the Shadow Council at its October meeting. The Plan is owned by the Shadow Council and is managed on a day to day basis by the Central Implementation Team, as approved by the Shadow Council at its first meeting.

The Plan is attached as **Appendix A**. A commitment has been made to share progress with Shadow Scrutiny on a monthly basis. An update was provided at the Shadow Scrutiny meeting held on 26 November 2018. There were no challenges made in relation to the report. An observation was made that not all actions can be of equal importance. This was acknowledged. Any problems with an action which affects the critical path will be clearly highlighted. There are none at present.

The Boundary Commission warding review recommendations were published and shared with Members at the end of October. Subject to parliamentary approval Somerset West and Taunton Council will be made up of 59 elected members. This is a key piece of work, essential to planning for the May 2019 elections, the next key milestone for which is the publication of the combined electoral register in February.

Work on developing the Constitution has commenced with the first two parts of new constitution having been reviewed by the Constitution Sub-group of the New Council Member Working Group. Further parts will follow, as per an agreed schedule, with approval by Shadow Council anticipated in late March.

There has also been positive news regarding the three consequential orders which we have been working with the Ministry of Housing Local Government and Communities (MHCLG) and the other 'merging' councils to develop. The General order which deals with the transfer of assets, liabilities, decisions, orders etc. was made by the Minister, laid on 2 November and came into force on 26 November.

The final draft of Finance order has been received from MHCLG. This primarily provides the rules around Council Tax equalisation. On 6 November we attended a meeting with MHCLG and the other 'merging' councils to review this draft. Regarding the Place-specific order we have submitted details of the areas we believe need covering within the order and have responded to a final draft from MHCLG which their lawyers are reviewing.

Finally, there has been progress on closing actions within the Implementation Plan. 29 Actions are now completed. There has also been an increase in the number of actions that have commenced. Whilst there are many yet to start, in most instances these have a known dependency (e.g. branding being agreed) and cannot start yet (e.g. closure of the accounts) so are not cause for particular concern at this point.

Somerset West and Taunton Council Implementation Plan Summary

Implementation Plan Actions (@27 Nov)

Not Started	In Progress	Completed	Total
73	69	29	171
43%	40%	17%	100%

Highlights this period

1. Implementation Plan approved by Shadow Council;
2. Boundary commission review recommendations published;
3. First two parts of new constitution reviewed by Constitution Sub-group;
4. General order made and laid in Parliament - effective from 26 Nov 19;
5. Final draft of the Finance order received from MHCLG;
6. Second draft of the Place Specific order received from MHCLG

Risks and Issues

Risks

- A Dependencies on third parties (e.g. Government departments, technology providers, banks), causes delay beyond our control.

Issues

- A Practicalities for decision making between 1 Apr and May 19;
- A Movement of staff within, and exiting, the council and their capacity

New Council Cost

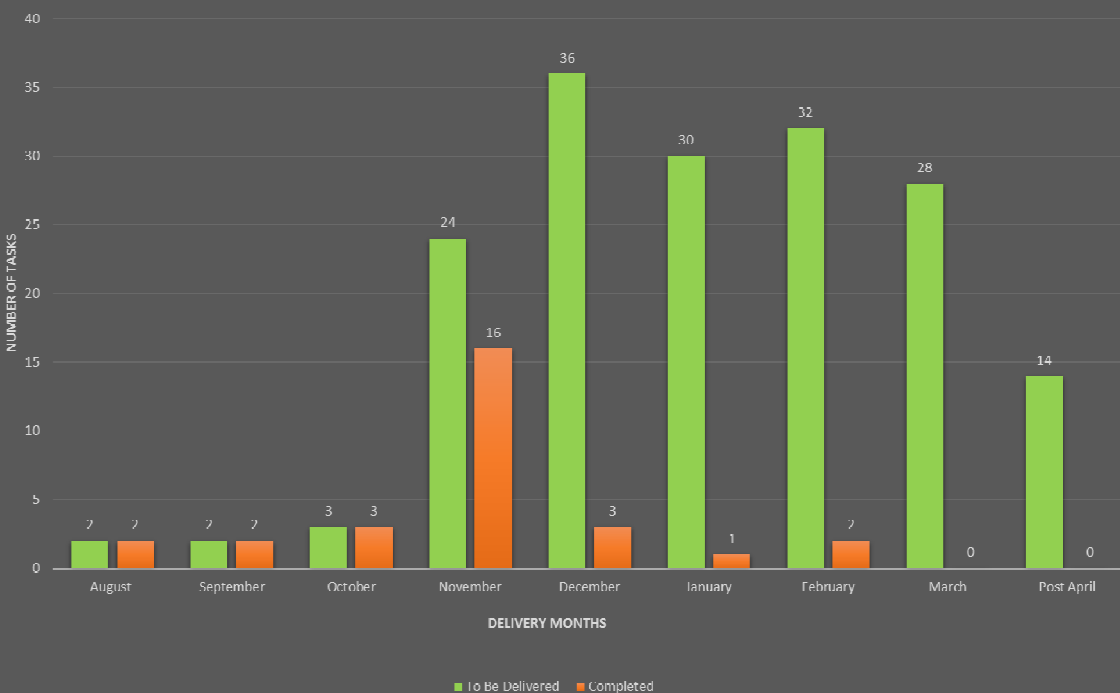
Baseline Cost
£329,000

Forecast Cost
£381,000*

% Spent To
Date
38%

*Variance related to
legal costs to
safe delivery
council

Task Delivery Profile





New Council Implementation- Critical Path

