

**Somerset Council – Decisions taken by the Scrutiny Committee - Corporate and Resources on Friday, 2 February 2024**

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
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**Part A – Items considered in public**

<b>A1</b>	Appointment of Vice Chair	Resolved that Cllr Henry Hobhouse was appointed as vice-chair.						
<b>A4</b>	Minutes from the Previous Meeting	Resolved that the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee - Corporate and Resources held on 4 January 2024 be confirmed as a correct record.						
<b>A5</b>	Public Question Time	There was one Public Question submitted and a response was provided by the lead officer.						
<b>A6</b>	2024/25 General Fund Revenue Budget, HRA Revenue Budget and Capital Budgets	<p><b>The Committee :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>I. Scrutinised and commented on the draft budget proposals for 2024/25 and the proposed council tax increase, with reference to the cumulative impact assessment, individual equalities impact assessments and the budget consultation;</b></li> <li><b>II. Scrutinised and commented on the proposed Housing Revenue Account budget for 2024/25;</b></li> <li><b>III. Scrutinised and commented on the proposal Capital Budget for 2024/25;</b></li> <li><b>IV. Agreed to make the following recommendations to the Executive:</b></li> </ul> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th align="left" style="width: 40%;">Service Ref/title of budget proposal:</th> <th align="left" style="width: 30%;">Proposed recommendation</th> <th align="left" style="width: 30%;">Reason</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="height: 30px;"> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Service Ref/title of budget proposal:	Proposed recommendation	Reason			
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		<p>of pressures for 2025/26 to avoid a S114</p>	<p>earmarked reserves in 2024/25 and projections for 2025/26, together with projected pressures for 2025/26 as part of monthly budget monitoring reports throughout 2024/25</p>	<p>potential pressures projected for 2025/26 will result in Section 114</p>
<b>COMMUNITIES</b>				
Appendix 6 – pg 3				
		<p>Devolution of Services/Facilities to Parish/Town councils and pressures on Parishes taking on these additional areas of work</p>	<p>The Committee welcomes the partnership work being undertaken with Somerset’s Town and Parish Councils and recommends that Scrutiny Committee for Communities receives quarterly update reports regarding the progression and delivery of devolution of various communities services and assets to Parish and</p>	<p>To monitor the delivery of devolution proposals and whether additional capacity is needed from Somerset Council to enable this</p>

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			Town Councils.	
	CMS 018 (pg 3 of Appendix 6 savings proposals) - CCTV		Scrutiny Committee for Communities to receive quarterly update reports regarding the progression and delivery of income generation proposals with relevant Parish and Town Councils to deliver the target value to avoid cessation of the CCTV service.	To monitor the delivery of alternative solutions to avoid cessation of the service and provide a 2024/25 and future years viable solution
	<p>CMS022 – Octagon Theatre in Yeovil</p> <p>CMS038 – Westlands entertainment venue, Yeovil</p> <p>CMS020 – Yeovil recreation Ground</p>		Scrutiny Committee Communities to receive quarterly updates on the delivery of the devolution of specific assets and services to Yeovil town council as alternative solutions to these savings proposals.	To monitor the delivery of these devolution proposals and the proposed capital project for the Octagon during 2024/25 together with delivery of any

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			To receive a quarterly update on the capital bid to DCMS and the potential capital investment in the Octagon Theatre	mitigations if unsuccessful
		<b>Adults &amp; Health Services</b>		
		Appendix 6 – pg 1		
		Significant and high risk savings proposals	Scrutiny Committee Adults & Health to receive quarterly updates on the delivery of ADS 001, ADS 004, ADS 005, ADS 006, ADS 007 and ADS 011 and scrutinise any adverse impacts on service users, partners and providers	To be assured on the delivery of the proposed savings and scrutinise any adverse impacts on service users

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			savings proposal (CAP 010) and any adverse impacts on local communities	
	Significant and high risk savings proposals		Scrutiny Committee Climate & Place to receive quarterly updates on the delivery of savings proposals CAP 001, CAP 002, CAP 007, CAP 012, CAP 036 together with scrutinising any adverse impacts on local communities and partners	To be assured on the delivery of the proposed savings and scrutinise any adverse impacts on local communities
	CAP 027 Transport policy post		Recommend that the Executive withdraws the proposed saving CAP 027 (£70k) in order to ensure the Council can continue to adequately bid for external funding for its infrastructure	Concerns about lost opportunity for bidding for infrastructure funding



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			and to fund the target saving instead from savings to Local Community Networks support costs	
	CAP032 reduction in highways maintenance		Recommend that the Executive withdraws the proposed saving CAP 032 (£330k) in order to continue existing levels of highways maintenance and to fund the target saving instead from Local Community Networks support costs	Concerns over impacts to local communities and mitigate risks of reactive costs occurring
		<b>Resources &amp; Corporate Services</b>		
		No recommendations		

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		<p>SWL007 reduction in size of some committees</p> <p>SWL012 - reduction of some SRAs</p>	<p>financial emergency and completing the further review work on the Constitution</p> <p>Recommend that the size of each of the Planning Committees and Scrutiny Committees remains at 13 members</p> <p>The proposed reduction in some SRAs is not in line with the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations and this saving proposal should be withdrawn and not be</p>	<p>framework</p> <p>Concerns that reducing size of scrutiny and planning committees will adversely the democratic and local representation.</p> <p>Concern regarding this proposal as impacting on democracy.</p>

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			recommended to Council on 20 February	
	Local Community Networks		Recommend that the Executive reduce the council's budget for supporting Local Community Networks and instead share the costs of supporting these meetings with parish and town councils	Views that some of the costs to the Council of supporting the LCNs could be used to fund other savings proposals
		<b>HRA Budget 2024/25 Proposals</b>		
		No recommendations		

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