

## **Extraordinary meeting request**

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### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report is in support of the signed request for an extraordinary county council meeting received from over 5 Members of the Council to the Chair of the Council following the Cabinet meeting on 12 September 2018.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 **For the County Council to consider the matters set out in paragraph 3.4. and receive a response from the Leader / Deputy Leader of the Council.**

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Council's Constitution makes provision for more than 5 elected members to submit a signed request to the Chair of the Council to arrange an extraordinary meeting of the County Council.
- 3.2 When extraordinary meetings are held they are to consider a single item of business and any questions received for that meeting from the public or elected members need to relate to that item of business. Any other questions or matters that are submitted will either be dealt with via a written response from the relevant Director or can be considered at the next ordinary meeting that is being held on 28 November 2018.
- 3.3 The last extraordinary meeting was held in November 2017 to consider the proposed appointment of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen.
- 3.4 Purpose of the extraordinary meeting

A signed request for an extraordinary was received from more than 5 elected members from the Liberal Democrat, Labour, Independent and Green political groups. The purpose for the extraordinary meeting is consider the following matter:

“As outlined in the Somerset County Council constitution, the 5 or more named full members of Somerset County Council call on Chair of Council to hold an extraordinary full council meeting at the earliest opportunity.

Following the financial disclosures around our revenue & reserves, that have come to light during the latest round of saving proposals, our confidence in the Cabinet and their ability to deliver a balanced budget at the end of this financial year has plummeted.

We feel that following the decision of Cabinet to implement the saving proposals at today's meeting, a number of important points need to be urgently answered, these being:-

1. What contingency plans are in place should these proposed savings fail?
2. If no contingency plans are in place, then how can the people of Somerset be assured that this plan is robust?"

### 3.5 Procedural advice for the meeting

The Chair of the Council may invite any public speakers either under the Public Question Time item on the agenda or as part of agenda item 4.

As part of agenda item 4, the Chair of the Council will invite a representative from those members that submitted the signed request to address the Council to set out the matter above in paragraph 3.4 for the County Council to consider.

- 3.6 The Chair of the Council will invite the Leader / Deputy Leader of the Council to respond to the matter that has been raised and to any public statements received regarding agenda item 4.
- 3.7 Following this, any other elected members may ask a question regarding agenda item 4.
- 3.8 The County Council is able to consider and debate the matter that has been submitted at the extraordinary meeting. Any other requisitioned items or motions that members may wish the Council to consider will need to be presented to the next ordinary meeting in November.
- 3.9 Questions or statements relating to any key decisions taken since the July Council meeting (including the Month 4 2018/19 Revenue Budget and savings proposals decisions agreed at Cabinet on 12 September 2018) by the Cabinet, Cabinet Members or Officers can be raised at the next ordinary meeting in November.

## **4. Implications**

### **4.1 Legal & Risk:**

None

### **4.2 Equalities, sustainability and community safety implications:**

There are no direct equalities implications arising from any of the proposals in

this report. There are also no sustainability or community safety implications.

#### **4.3 Financial Implications:**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### **5. Background papers**

- 5.1 Month 4 2018/19 Revenue Budget report considered at Scrutiny Policies and Place committee on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and Cabinet meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018 – available to view on the council's website