
Report of the Leader and Cabinet – Items for Decision

Cabinet Member: Cllr D Fothergill – Leader of the Council

Division and Local Member: All

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1. Summary

- 1.1** This report sets out the Leader’s and Cabinet’s recommendations to Council arising from their consideration of reports at the Cabinet meeting on 20 July 2020.

Note: The references in this report to Papers A and B relate to the relevant reports considered by the Cabinet containing specific recommendations for the County Council to consider and are appended to this report for reference.

- 1.2 Paper A (One Somerset, Local Government Reform in Somerset)** was considered by the Scrutiny Committee for Policies and Place in June and July 2020 ahead of consideration at the Cabinet meeting on 20 July.

The Cabinet agreed the proposals and recommendations set out in Paper A and is now recommending the Business Case to the County Council for decision.

Following the Cabinet meeting, the Leader of the Council is proposing an additional recommendation (shown in red overleaf) for consideration by the Council. This amendment will need to be proposed, seconded and voted upon at the Council meeting.

- 1.3 Paper B (Treasury Management outturn report 2019/20)** was considered at the Cabinet meeting on 20 July. The Cabinet endorsed Paper B and agreed for this to be reported to the County Council to consider and endorse.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 One Somerset, Local Government Reform in Somerset – see Paper A that Cabinet considered and agreed at its meeting in July 2020.

The Council is recommended to:

- a) Approve the One Somerset Business Case (Appendix A);**
- b) Authorise the Leader of the Council to submit the Business Case to the Secretary of State, MHCLG, for a decision on the future of local government in Somerset; and**
- c) Authorise the Leader of the Council to submit further supporting evidence arising from ongoing engagement, and future consultation; and any requests included in the pending invitation from the Secretary of State, MHCLG, supporting this One Somerset Business Case.**
- d) Agree to support the Leader of the Council continuing to seek consensus with the district and local councils across Somerset, towards the creation of a new single-tier unitary council for Somerset**

2.2 Treasury Management outturn report 2019-20 – see Paper B and its appendices that Cabinet considered and endorsed at its meeting in July 2020.

The Council is recommended to endorse the Treasury Management outturn report for 2019-20.

3. Options considered and consultation undertaken

- 3.1** Options considered and details of consultation undertaken in respect of the recommendations set out above are set out in the reports and appendices within Paper A and B.

4. Implications

- 4.1** Financial, legal, Human Resources, equalities, human rights and risk implications in respect of the recommendations set out in this report are detailed within Papers A and B.

It is essential that consideration is given to the legal obligations and in particular to the need to exercise the equality duty under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the impacts based on sufficient evidence appropriately analysed.

The duties placed on public bodies do not prevent difficult decisions being made such as, reorganisations and service reductions, nor does it stop decisions which may affect one group more than another. What the duties do is require consideration of all of the information, including the potential impacts and mitigations, to ensure a fully informed decision is made.

5. Background Papers

5.1 These are set out within Papers A and B and their appendices.