

## **Report of the Leader and Cabinet – Items for Information**

Cabinet Member: Cllr David Fothergill – Leader of the Council

Division and Local Member: All

Lead Officer: Scott Wooldridge - Strategic Manager – Governance & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

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### **1. Summary**

- 1.1. This report covers key decisions taken by the Leader, Cabinet Members and officers between 20 July 2020 and 9 November 2020, together with the items of business discussed at the Cabinet meetings on 20 July 2020, 23 September 2020, and 21 October 2020 and 9 November 2020.

The Leader and Cabinet Members may also wish to raise other issues at the County Council meeting.

### **2. Details of decisions**

- 2.1. Agenda and papers for the Cabinet meetings held on 20 July 2020, 23 September 2020, and 21 October 2020 and 9 November 2020 are published within the Cabinet webpages on the Council's website. Individual Leader, Cabinet Member and Officer key decision records and related reports are also published within the Cabinet webpages on the Council's website.

**LEADER OF COUNCIL** – *Cllr David Fothergill*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Q1+1 Performance Report	21 October 2020 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report provided members with the high-level information (in the period up until 22 September 2020) required to lead and manage the performance of the outcomes set out in the Council's Vision and reflects the Council's ongoing progress towards the outcomes laid out in the Council's Business Plan.</p> <p>The report provided information regarding 25 performance indicators highlighting that 11 were rated as green, 13 amber and 1 red. In addition the report demonstrated the direction of travel for each of the indicators.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

**RESOURCES** – *Cllr Mandy Chilcott*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Treasury Management Mid-Year Report	9 November 2020 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The report offered a summarised account of Treasury Management activity and outturn for the first half of the year. The report highlighted that gross investment balances stood at £255m on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, yielding an average rate of return of 0.60% as at that date.</p> <p>The report requested that the Cabinet endorse the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2020-21 and recommended its endorsement by full Council.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

**RESOURCES** – Cllr Mandy Chilcott

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report - Month 6	9 November 2020 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report set out the Month 6 end of September position against the 2020/21 budget with a forecast underspend of £0.706m for year.</p> <p>The report requested the that Cabinet note the forecast underspend.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Capital Budget Monitoring report - Month 6	9 November 2020 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report offered the second capital budget report for 2020/21 and provided a mid-year forecast of the potential end of year financial position. Cabinet were asked to approve that the projected overspend of £1.5m on Polden Bower School be funded from within the current programme approvals and to note the forecasted position for the end of this financial year.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Revenue Budget Monitoring – Month 5	21 October 2020 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report set out the Month 5 end of August position against the 2020/21 budget with a forecast underspend of £0.683m for year. This report recommended the noting of the forecast underspend for year of £0.683m and the approval of the transfer £0.199m from Corporate Contingencies to service budgets to cover Covid-19 costs.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

**RESOURCES** – Cllr Mandy Chilcott

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Revenue Budget Monitoring – Month 4	23 September 2020 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report set out the Month 4 end of July position against the 2020/21 budget, highlighting that the usual budget monitoring process had been made more complicated with the significant financial impact that Covid-19 is had on Council services and that there had been significant additional expenditure and an adverse impact upon income.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Disposal of land at Coombe Wood Lane, Coombe St Nicholas	3 September 2020 by the Cabinet Member for Resources	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision authorised the sale of land at Combe Wood Lane, Combe St Nicholas, a land parcel of just over 1 acre, which is surplus to requirements and has been identified as having potential for residential development, subject to planning.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Month 3 Capital Budget Monitoring	14 August 2020 by the Cabinet Member for Resources	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report offered the first formal capital budget report for 2020/21 and provided a relatively early forecast of the potential end of year position. The report highlighted that at the end of quarter 1 for 2020/21 the 5-year programme forecasted an overall favourable variance of £2.690m and that this sum was largely due to a favourable variance of £3.829m within the Somerset Waste Partnership programme. The report also highlighted that the Council's own capital programme indicated an overall adverse variance of £1.139m.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

**RESOURCES** – Cllr Mandy Chilcott

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Month 3 Revenue Budget Monitoring	14 August 2020 by the Cabinet Member for Resources	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report set out the financial position against the 2020/21 budget with the position for month 3, end of June 2020. The report highlighted that the usual budget monitoring process had been made more complicated with the significant financial impact that Covid-19 had on council services and that the significant additional expenditure would have an adverse impact upon income in both the current and future years. In addition, the report highlighted the robust processes the Council had put in place to ensure that it maintained its tight financial controls with the latest forecast showing the financial impact of Covid-19 to be £45.8m.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Sale of Morgan House site, Bridgwater, including former library office	12 August 2020 by the Cabinet Member for Resources	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision concluded the sale of Morgan House and the former library headquarter premises in Mount Street Bridgwater. The buildings had been declared surplus to the Councils requirements and the sale generated receipts to meet operational priorities.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Sale of the Court and Popham House property, Wellington	21 July 2020 by the Cabinet Member for Resources	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision concluded the sale of The Court and Popham House property's in Wellington, this generated receipts to meet council priorities. The Popham Court Care Home closed in November 2018 and as such the buildings were surplus to the Council's operational requirements.</p> <p>The proposed sale to a housing developer will result in no less than 25 dwellings being built on the site.</p>

**RESOURCES** – Cllr Mandy Chilcott

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
		<p>The sale will support the County's Asset Management Plan and comply with the Council's Policy for Disposal of Property Assets and the Strategy for the Disposal of Property Assets.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Treasury Management Outturn Report 2019-20	20 July 2020 by the Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report covered the Annual Treasury Management Outturn activity for 2019-20, presenting details of capital financing, borrowing, and investment activity and reporting on the risk implications of treasury decisions and transactions.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Revenue Budget Monitoring – Month 2	20 July 2020 by the Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report offered the forecast outturn against the budget showing a predicted adverse variance of £10m reducing down to £3.3m when taking into account corporate contingencies and the unallocated Covid-19 grant funding. The report further highlighted the importance of ensuring the Council continues to maintain tight financial control over its budget.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

***ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE – Cllr David Hall***

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Extension of the existing contract for the operation of the Somerset Enterprise Centre Network	2 November 2020 by the Cabinet Member for Economic Development Planning and Community Infrastructure	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report covered the extension of the Somerset Enterprise Centre Network (SECN) operator contract to allow Torbay Development Agency (TDA) to continue operation of the Somerset Enterprise Centre Network for a further 3 years until 31st December 2023.</p> <p>This decision extended the contractual term in accordance with the provisions of the contract and also made provision for the inclusion of new enterprise centres into the network.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
HOT SW LEP Growing Place Fund	31 July 2020 by Director of Commissioning and Lead Commissioner for Economic and Community Infrastructure and Director of Finance	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: As a result of the national Local Enterprise Partnership Review in 2018 all LEPs are required to have a single accountable body to manage funding. As the main accountable body for the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (HotSW LEP) Somerset County Council (SCC) were approached to take on this role which was agreed in principle by the Director of Finance. The only grant funding not held by SCC is the Growing Places Fund (GPF). This is a revolving loans fund that is currently managed by Devon County Council (DCC) and DCC have agreed to relinquish management of this fund to SCC.</p> <p>This report ratified the decision given in principle to act as the single accountable body for the LEP and to obtain approval for the stages required to transfer the management of GPF to SCC.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE** – Cllr David Huxtable

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
No individual decisions	n/a	n/a

**CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITIES** – Cllr Christine Lawrence

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
No individual decisions	n/a	n/a

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING AND CLIMATE CHANGE** – Cllr Clare Paul

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Climate Change Emergency Strategy	9 November 2020 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The Climate Emergency Strategy has been developed in response to the declaration or recognition of a Climate Emergency by Somerset County Council and the four District Councils of Somerset. The strategy identifies ways in which Somerset can become carbon neutral by 2030 and to make the county resilient to the effects of Climate Change in the longer term.</p> <p>This decision saw the Strategy endorsed by the Cabinet and recommended for adoption by full Council.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES** – Cllr Frances Nicholson

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Children's Social Care	16 October by the	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report agreed the allowances and fees from April 2020



<b>CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – Cllr Frances Nicholson</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Allowances, Fees and Charges 2020/2021	Cabinet Member for Children and Families	<p>for the financial year 20/21 to: Somerset foster carers; short break carers and staying put providers; supportive lodgings providers and proposed changes for the same period to charges to parents whose children are accommodated under section 20 Children Act 1989 and the hourly rate charged to other local authorities for social work intervention.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

<b>EDUCATION AND COUNCIL TRANSFORMATION – Cllr Faye Purbrick</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Future Schools Provision in the Ilminster and Crewkerne Area	21 October 2020 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision was brought forward following an independent review which concluded that the current three tier schooling system in Ilminster and Crewkerne is not viable due to falling pupil numbers.</p> <p>The decision authorised the publication of a formal consultation on a proposed two-tier system and delegated responsibility for agreeing the publication of statutory notices to the Cabinet Member for Education and Transformation.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Proposed Expansion of Holyrood Academy	23 September 2020 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report sought approval to deliver a school project associated with the Council's Capital Investment Programme 2018/19. This covered the Council's statutory duty and forecast projections indicating that additional secondary school places are required for the Chard area.</p>

**EDUCATION AND COUNCIL TRANSFORMATION** – Cllr Faye Purbrick

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
		<p>The decision granted approval for the appointment of Futures For Somerset Limited (the local education partnership) to project manage the delivery of the expansion of Holyrood school by 225 11-16 places for September 2022 and gave approval to cover the purchase of furniture and ICT equipment as required for the additional classrooms.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

**EDUCATION AND COUNCIL TRANSFORMATION – Cllr Faye Purbrick**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Holway Centre PRU – Award of Contract	14 August 2020 by the Director of Children’s Services	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report covered the Local Authority legal duty to provide children with good quality school places in their local area, with not enough specialised school places in the Taunton area, the aim is to refurbish The Holway Centre, the main student base for children on roll at the Taunton Deane Partnership College, a Pupil Referral Unit for children and young people aged between 5 and 16.</p> <p>This paper sought authority for the County Council to appoint a contractor at a gross maximum expenditure to deliver the refurbishment project at the Holway Centre, including the purchase of furniture, equipment and IT for the new elements of the school.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Sky College, Taunton, appointment of contractors	31 July 2020 by the Director of Children’s Services	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report covered the Local Authority legal duty to provide children with good quality school places in their local area, with not enough special school places in the Taunton area, the aim is to expand Sky College to enable its staff and governors to accommodate up to an additional 40 pupils (six new classrooms) aged 10 and over that have social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties.</p> <p>This paper sought authority to appoint a contractor at a gross maximum expenditure to deliver the expansion project at Sky College, including covering the purchase of furniture, equipment and IT for the new elements of the school.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

**HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT – Cllr John Woodman**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Decision to allocate an additional DfT Highways Grant of £15.4m to specific projects and programmes	16 September 2020 by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report covered the receipt by the Council of an additional 2020/21 highways grant allocation of £15.402m from the Department for Transport. Receipt of the funding will enable the detailed work programmes to be agreed and to enable schemes to be progressed.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>

**CROSS CUTTING – All**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Integrated Care System Governance	21 October 2020 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report detailed the proposed direction of travel towards the formal designation of an Integrated Care System (ICS) for Somerset. The report highlighted building on progress as a sustainability and transformation partnership (STP), across health, care and the voluntary sector.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Arrangements for the provision of SEN services in Mendip	14 October 2020 by the Cabinet Member for Children and Families and the Cabinet Member for Education and Council	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report detailed how the SEND thematic review in 2015/16 had recommended that all ASC bases should be brought under the control of mainstream school management.</p> <p>The report included recommendations relating to transferring the Park Road Support Centre ASC base in Frome to sit under the management of St Dunstan's school, along with other associated recommendations.</p>

<b><i>CROSS CUTTING – All</i></b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
	Transformation	<p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
West Somerset Opportunity Area Year 4	28 September 2020 by the Cabinet Member for Children and Families and the Cabinet Member for Education and Council Transformation	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report detailed how unspent funding secured from the Department for Education to deliver year 4 of the West Somerset Opportunity Area would be carried forward into the next financial year to ensure the continued delivery of the West Somerset Opportunity Area Plan. The report highlighted the importance maximising the effect of the funding on the area.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
School Exclusions – report from the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee – Task and Finish Group	23 September 2020 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report from the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group covered the findings and recommendations from the task and finish group following an intensive look at School Exclusion practices across Somerset.</p> <p>The report proposed a series of recommendations which aim to ensure that permanent exclusions are used consistently and appropriately but as the last resort across the County.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Review of the Emergency	20 July 2020 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report covered the decisions made to ensure services continued to operate during the first Covid-19 'lockdown period'. The report included</p>

<b><i>CROSS CUTTING – All</i></b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Democratic and Decision-Making Arrangements for the Council		<p>a commitment to review the emergency arrangements after 3 months to establish their continued requirement or amendment and highlighted that meetings should focus on essential business only.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
One Somerset, Local Government Reform (LGR) in Somerset	20 July 2020 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The report highlighted the importance of local government re-organisation, noting that the current two-tier system is no longer fit for purpose and emphasised how the proposed re-organisation would further improve public services in the County.</p> <p>This report requested that the Cabinet consider and endorse the case for change set out in the report and the One Somerset Business Case, and submission of the business case to the Full County Council meeting on 29th July for their consideration, furthermore, seek approval to then submit the case to the Secretary of State, Ministry of Housing, Communities &amp; Local Government (MHCLG).</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>