

## **Report of the Scrutiny Committee for Policies and Place**

Cabinet Member: N/A

Division and Local Member: All

Lead Officer: Scott Wooldridge – Monitoring Officer, Democratic Services

Author: Jamie Jackson – Deputy Strategic Manager, Democratic Services

Contact Details: 01823 359040

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1.** The Scrutiny Committee for Policies and Place is required by the Constitution to make an annual report to the Council and also to provide each other meeting of the Council with a summary progress report and outcomes of scrutiny. This regular report covers the work of our meeting held from 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020 to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021.
- 1.2.** The Committee agreed their work programme would comprise items considered directly at meetings plus other items considered or “commissioned” using flexible arrangements outside of the formal committee structure.
- 1.3.** Members of the Council are reminded that:
  - all Members have been invited to attend meetings of the Scrutiny Committee and to contribute freely on any agenda item;
  - any Member could propose a topic for inclusion on the Committee’s Work Programme;
  - any Member could be asked by the Committee to contribute information and evidence, and to participate in specific scrutiny reviews.
- 1.4.** The Committee has 8 elected Members and we have meetings scheduled approximately for every month. Our next meeting will be held Virtually via Microsoft Teams at 10.00am on 7 September 2021.

### **2. Background**

#### **2.1. Scrutiny Work Programme**

At each meeting the Committee considers and updates its work programme, having regard to the Cabinet’s forward plan of proposed key decisions. The Committee also agreed to hold themed meetings and Members are looking forward to this approach, in particular the attendance of representatives and/or stakeholders from partner agencies.

## **2.2. 16 September 2020**

### **Climate Change Strategy Task and Finish Group Report**

The ECI Commissioning Director introduced the update setting out the work of the Task and Finish Group, consultation on the framework document, strategy development and Task and Finish Group Feedback. The Governance and timeline for the adoption of the strategy was set out alongside the branding. The strategy development was set out in the update and built on the Framework developed and consulted upon early in 2020

During the discussion the committee considered the governance timescale along with the consultation responses, National Grid capacity and working alongside the rural network alliance, the work of the director was commended as part of the Task and Finish Group.

The Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee noted the completed, formatted and branded full strategy document, action plan and appendices.

### **2020/21 Revenue Budget Report – Month 4**

The Finance Director introduced the Cabinet report setting out the Month 4 end of July position against the 2020/21 budget. The usual budget monitoring process has been made more complicated with the significant financial impact that Covid-19 is having upon council services. There has been significant additional expenditure and an adverse impact upon income.

The government recognised this and has paid £29.1m of grant to cover additional expenditure in 3 tranches of funding with grants of £15.7m being received in March, £9.9m in April and £3.5m in July.

Out of the £29.1m Covid-19 grant, £18.8m has been allocated against the current year increased services costs and £9.5m is requested to go into the Budget Equalisation Reserve to address the reductions in Council Tax and Business Rates in future budgets. This remaining unallocated grant of £0.8m is included within the corporate contingency.

The forecast as at the end of July, is a net overspend of £2.262m which becomes an underspend of £1.238m when taking into account the estimated £3.5m of funding from Government for lost income.

During the discussion of the report, the committee considered the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the impact on the district Councils was also felt and the potential of funding for fire marshals. The potential of a second spike adversely impacting the financial position further was considered a real risk.

The Scrutiny Committee for Policies and Place noted the projected revenue outturn for 2020/21,.

**14 October 2020**

## **Climate Change Strategy**

The first Item considered was the Climate Change Strategy.

The ECI Commissioning Director introduced the completed Towards Climate Resilient, Somerset's Climate Emergency Strategy report, which has been fully branded, with a joint statement from the five Cabinet members of the five Councils, the report including an overview of nine sectoral themes for strategy. During the discussion of the report, the consultee response numbers were considered along with the next steps and local Councils collaborating together in tackling climate change.

The work of the Task and Finish Group was set out and considered with the challenges and ambition to tackle climate change. The Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee: - noted the report, with the Chair of Committee for Policies and Place thanking the officer and members for the huge amount of work they have put in to this extraordinary piece of work and emphasised that this is strategy for all of the residents for all of Somerset.

## **Rights of Way Service Update**

The Service Manager, for Rights of Way (RoW) introduced the report and then explained the definitive map regarding the application process, the number of applications and the distribution across the County; advised that the backlog of undetermined applications is increasing, however due to processes within the service implemented the applications determined is also increasing. In addition, commented that during the Covid-19 lockdown, there were a 100% increase in service requests, with service provision maintained throughout.

Communications with District Council planning departments is taking place, especially regarding where developments can impact on or help deliver application routes / rights of way and multiuser route development. The Service Manager RoW continued with a resource update. Following the June 2019 process review of the RoW whole service, a business case for extra resource had been submitted.

During the discussion of the item the backlog of applications were considered along with addressing this, areas and length of adopted pathways and delays to planning applications due to the delay in responses. There remained the possibility of increased demands on the service depending on the direction from the secretary of state.

The Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee noted the report.

## **Month 5 Budget Monitoring Report**

The Committee received a in introduction from the Cabinet Member and the Finance Director presented the report which set out the Month 5 end of August position against the 2020/21 budget which is forecast underspend of £0.683m for year.

Covid-19 has had a major financial impact upon council services with significant additional expenditure and an adverse impact upon income. The government has recognised this and has paid a grant of £29.1m to cover additional expenditure.

The grant has been used to cover the additional service costs with £0.8m remaining unallocated and included within the corporate contingency. There is a recommendation that £0.199m of this is used to fund £0.090m additional costs within the Inclusion Service and £0.109m is set aside to cover reductions in income for Registration Service (£0.086m), Communications (£0.013m), and the Inclusion Service (£0.010m). Further details can be found in the appendices to the Cabinet report.

In conclusion the Committee noted the update recognise the claim back crucial and thanked the Finance team for the monthly report which all find useful and appreciated.

## **4 November 2020**

### **2020/21 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report – Month 6**

The first Item considered was the 2020/21 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report

The Cabinet report set out the Month 6 end of September position against the 2020/21 budget which is forecast underspend of £0.706m for year. Covid-19 has had a major financial impact upon council services with significant additional expenditure and an adverse impact upon income. The government has recognised this and has paid a grant of £29.1m to cover additional expenditure and a scheme to help fund some of the Councils lost income from fees & charges with the 5% of the loss being borne by the council and then the Government supporting 75p in every £1 above this. It is estimated that £3.5m of income can be claimed back through this scheme.

During the discussion of the report, the committee considered the compensation for lost income and the impact on a potential redeployment of staff following a second spike. It was considered that monthly monitoring reports would still be considered at Committee but would focus on key areas.

The Committee noted the projected revenue outturn for 2020/21, whether there are any suggestions for additional management actions or alternative options that they would like to recommend to the Cabinet.

### **2020/21 Capital Budget Monitoring Report – Quarter 2 Report**

The Cabinet report was the second capital monitoring report for the year. It shows that there is a projected underspend of £4.279m at the end of this financial year (2020-21). The Cabinet Report provided a forecast position for the overall five-year programme.

Forecasts at this point indicate a projected underspend of £13.277m. At the end of quarter 2, the capital programme is currently forecasting total expenditure of £154.219m for this financial year, this was a movement of £56.328m against the original forecast for the year. The report shows slippage of £52.049m and an underspend of £4.279m from the original forecast position (see table 1). The slippage is a continuation of the trend seen at Quarter 1 and Service explanations are provided. The programme is currently forecasting an overall favourable variance of £13.277m. Of this, £3.713m relates to the Somerset Waste Partnership programme meaning the County Council's capital programme is forecasting a favourable variance of £9.564m.

The majority of this was due to a review of approvals in Early Years in which £9.415m is no longer required as the projects have been managed through condition and remedial works. During the discussion of the report, the Chair thanked the Finance team for their hard work throughout the pandemic

The Committee noted the projected capital outturn for 2020/21 and the forecasted position of the future programme, whether there are any suggestions for management actions or alternative options that they would like to recommend to the Cabinet.

### **Dillington Business Plan Update**

The Committee were provided a presentation setting out an update of the Dillington business case and performance of the service. The Service had been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic but emphasis was placed that the service was back open since the release of lockdown measures. During the discussion of the report, the committee considered the impact that Covid-19 pandemic had made on the business plan and projected revenue of the service.

Discussion took place relating to the break clause in the lease and the future of the services. Some concerns were expressed by the perception of Dillington House locally and the performance of its management group. The Committee encouraged where possible that the Council used this facility to support its ongoing viability.

### **Scrutiny Review Update**

The Democratic Services Scrutiny Manager introduced the update which set out the work undertaken by the Committee since the Scrutiny Review and the ongoing work of the Scrutiny Committee over the last year setting out the work of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group along with work undertaken in relation to 5G Technology and budget monitoring. The Scrutiny Manager reminded the Committee that there continued to be ongoing Scrutiny work with the Somerset Waste Partnership Scrutiny Board and the Somerset Rivers Authority Scrutiny Committee.

During the discussion of the report, the committee considered the progress made and the items considered within the Committee and the new ideas and approaches to Scrutiny.

The Scrutiny Committee for Policies and Place noted the report.

**9 December 2020**

### **One Somerset Update including Consultation Outcomes**

The One Somerset Programme Director introduced the One Somerset Update and Consultation outcomes. The timeline of the process was set out along with the request for a deferred 2021 election, clarification was provided that the election deferral period would be one year with the May 2022 election comprising the New Authority and the Shadow Authority in place in the run up to implementation.

During the discussion of the report, the consultee response numbers were considered along with the next steps and the process leading up to the Secretary of States decisions. The 2022 election would be based on existing county divisions to be elected to the new shadow authority so they could oversee the implementation of the programme Boundary review in advance of the go live date. Once the decision had been made in relation to the business cases the structural change orders would address issues raised including the election and boundary review.

The Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee: - noted the One Somerset Business Case Update and Consultation Outcomes.

### **Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Broadband Delivery Service**

The second report considered was an update in relation to the Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Broadband Delivery Programme.

The Economy Service Manager, introduced the report and then set out the update, more than 300,000 homes and businesses across Devon and Somerset can access superfast broadband, with a further 38,000 having access to improved broadband. Every month hundreds more homes and businesses are being connected due to the Connecting Devon and Somerset programme. Take up of Phase 1 Openreach broadband services is nearly 60%. This level of take up is above the national average.

During consideration of the report, discussion took place in relation to commercial activity, following concerns in relation to duplicate upgrade and infrastructure works the committee were reassured that avoiding duplication of delivery was part of the design process. The process was underway to have further consultation in the next months to update information for what could to be done commercially.

The Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee noted the progress of the CDS Programme.

## **Establishment of a new Passenger Transport Dynamic Purchasing system (DPS)**

The third item considered was the establishment of a new Passenger Transport Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS)

The Service Manager, Commissioning, Highways and Transport introduced the item. Transporting Somerset currently uses a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) to procure all Passenger Transport contracts to include Home to School, Public, Social Care and Health Transport. The current DPS was established in 2015, one of the first in the UK to be let under the updated Public Contract Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations"). Following a 2-year extension in 2019, is due to end 31st March 2021.

The Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee: -

- i. Approved the establishment of a new Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for the provision of Passenger Transport Services to take effect from 1st April 2021 and to continue for an initial period of five years, with rights for the Council to extend by two further periods of two years each;
- ii. To approve the publication of a contract notice in the OJEU in January 2021, advertising the DPS and inviting suppliers to submit their expressions of interest for the DPS;
- iii. To delegate authority to the Lead Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure & Director of Commissioning (in consultation with the County Solicitor) to admit eligible suppliers to the DPS during its term by agreeing DPS agreements with each eligible supplier;
- iv. Agrees that the Council lets the majority of its passenger transport contract portfolio through this system for an initial period of five years and, accordingly, delegates authority to the Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure Operations and/or the Strategic Manager (in consultation with the County Solicitor) to award individual contracts for passenger transport services, in accordance with the award and call-off ordering procedure set out in the DPS agreement;
- v. Delegates authority to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to exercise the Council's right to extend the DPS agreement with suppliers for two further periods of two years each, subject to satisfactory performance of the DPS arrangements.
- vi. Delegates authority to the Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure Operations and/or the Strategic Manager (in consultation with the County Solicitor) to agree with suppliers such variations to individual contracts let under the DPS as may be necessary from time to time to meet the Council's business needs.

## **2020/21 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report – Month 7**

The Director of Finance introduced the report setting out the forecast year position against the 2020/21 budget as at the end of October (Month 7). Predicting the year end

position was very difficult given the significant financial impacts of Covid upon council services and the speed at which position can quickly change. The latest forecast is an underspend of £1.896m for the financial year which is an improvement of £1.2m from the previous month.

During consideration of the report, discussion took place on recovery of Covid-19 costs, value for money around the business case for Local Government reorganisation and funding for parking reviews.

The Scrutiny for Policy and Place Committee noted the projected revenue outturn for 2020/21.

### **3 February 2021**

#### **Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 Budget Update**

The Finance Director presented the report.

On the 17 December the Government announced the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement which provided details of the funding for 2021/22 including referendum levels for Council Tax and the Adult Social Care precept. The provisional finance settlement is subject to consultation and will be finalised at the end of January/early February 2021.

During the consideration of the report questioning took place around the Discovery contract, council tax support scheme, loss of Council Tax and Business Rates revenue and reserves held for Maintained Schools. Concerns were expressed around adequate funding for Citizens Advice alongside funding for Community Groups. Further questions were placed in relation to Covid-19 Government Grants and funding from the impact of the pandemic in future years.

The Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee noted the proposed budget for 2021/22 and indicative budgets for 2022/2023 and 2023/24. The Committee is asked to review specific proposals for changes from previous years, so that they can comment on them, offer assurance to Cabinet and/or identify any matters for consideration that they would like to highlight to the Cabinet.

#### **Update regarding the Somerset Levels and Moors Nutrients Issue**

There was significant concern across Somerset, following a letter from Natural England, in relation to the impacts of (predominantly housing) development on the Somerset Levels and Moors Ramsar Site. Natural England issued this letter (a statutory direction) stating that prior to determining a planning application that may give rise to additional phosphates within the Somerset Levels and Moors Ramsar catchment (the Rivers Tone, Parrett, Brue and Axe), competent authorities (each of the Planning Authorities in Somerset) should undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to ensure that the development reaches nutrient neutrality.

Main concerns of the committee focused around the impact on Communities and



Planning. The Strategy would be considered at a future meeting.  
The Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee noted:-

1. The Somerset Planning and Development team (included Somerset Ecology Services) were actively working within two live, parallel work streams with the other Planning Authorities in Somerset.
2. Whilst there are Service Level Agreements (SLA) operating between Somerset Ecology Services and each of the Districts in respect of Business As Usual tasks, the time spent supporting these workstreams is not being externally charged, as the service believes that this is a critical role that we should be leading on.
3. As well as dedicating officer time, the Planning and Development service has managed to find £25k from this year's budget to contribute to the development of a strategic County wide project to develop a Phosphates/Nutrients strategy for Somerset. Once complete, this strategy will need to be adopted by each of the Planning Authorities in Somerset.
4. It was agreed by each Authority that the reporting of progress on this strategic piece of work will be through the Somerset Growth Management Group

## **10 March 2021**

### **Registration Services Update**

The first item considered was a Registration Services Update.

The Registration Services Manager, Sue Crawley presented the report using a PowerPoint presentation, including a summary of the background to the registration service of births, deaths and marriages and explained the impacts on relevant services following national restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the discussion of the report including birth and death registrations and marriages and Civil Partnerships were considered alongside the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Changes to the service were noted including hybrid appointments and telephone death registrations to enable the service to continue operations during the pandemic.

The Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee noted the report.

### **Capital Monitoring Report Quarter 3 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report – Month 10**

The second and third reports considered were the Capital Monitoring Report Q3 and Revenue Budget Monitoring Report Month 10.

#### **Revenue Budget Monitoring Report – Month 10**

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr Mandy Chilcott introduced the report noting: an underspend of £3.161m; the predicted adult services budget overspend due to pandemic related pressures; the significant carry forward requests as workstreams have been delayed across the Council due to Covid-19; and that Covid-19 funding received currently totals £31.9m, with £27.5m

currently allocated. The Cabinet Member further noted that at present £4.4m of Covid-19 funding is unallocated but will be utilised to cover related costs for the remainder of the financial year, and that any unspent amount at year end will be carried forward and added to the Covid-19 budget in 2021/22.

#### Capital Monitoring Report Q3

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr Mandy Chilcott introduced the report noting: the projected underspend of £0.652m against the approvals within the current capital programme; and that the overall five-year programme is currently forecasting a favourable variance of £13.476m.

The Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee discussed the report and the following points were raised: the unique overspend within the Adult Social Care budget and the ongoing budgetary pressure in this area; and reporting of precepts including: the Somerset Rivers Authority as an accountable body; and the Somerset Waste Service Partnership.

The Cabinet Member for Resources responded by acknowledging the future pressures within the Adult Social Care budget and advised that this had been reflected in the 2021/22 budget.

The Chair thanked the Finance team for the report. The Scrutiny Committee for Policies and Place noted the projected capital outturn for 2020/21 and the forecasted position of the future programme

### **One Somerset Business Case Update**

The fourth item considered was the One Somerset Business Case Update. The One Somerset Programme Director introduced the item and provided further information making reference to the six questions asked of all consultees by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the criteria by which the Secretary of State is to assess the unitary proposals.

The Programme Director further informed the Committee that there is a duty to publicise the consultation, with this being actioned by promotions, engagement and communications, and signposting to the consultation, all of which fall within the boundaries of recommended practice.

As part of the debate the following points were considered:

- Clarity of the independence of the analysis and the report, and similar studies elsewhere.
- Concerns were expressed regarding inequalities between the east and west of the County if a two-unitary model were adopted: a more affluent east but more demand in the west.
- Whether there was any impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the findings of the report regarding an imbalance between potential income and demands on services for those authorities as an east and west divide.
- Stronger Somerset representation and individual authority representation at the meeting.

The Scrutiny Committee for Policies and Place Committee noted:

1. The work that had been undertaken on the programme between December 2020 and March 2021.
2. Experts had acted independently in their analysis and report.
3. The concerns expressed over inequalities between east and west in a two-unitary model: a more affluent east but more demand in the west.
4. Difficulties in fully scrutinising the Stronger Somerset proposals regarding place and place-based services owing to lack of detail, e.g. highways.
5. Challenges on how a two-unitary structure could be implemented and operate, a complex system

## **14 April 2021**

### **2021 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report – Month 11**

The Committee received a presentation from the Finance Director

The summary of the forecast outturn was highlighted as a favourable variance of £6.642m, but to date services have identified £4.315m of proposed carry forward requests, and that if these were approved the favourable variance will reduce to £2.327m.

It was noted that overall there had been a favourable movement of £3.311m since month 10 and it was further highlighted that the Council had received various grants relating to Covid-19 totally £31.881m, with £4.368m currently unallocated. It was further noted that any unspent amount at year end will be carried forward and added to the £10.8m Covid-19 Emergency Fund in 2021/22.

During the debate, the comments and questions that were considered included: the carry forward figures from previous years; funding spent in relation to enforcement; and ongoing funding for Covid-19 enforcement across the County was welcomed.

The Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee noted the projected revenue outturn for 2020/21.

### **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Health Impacts of the Climate Emergency**

The Strategic Manager – Climate and Flood Management, Jon Doyle introduced the report highlighting progress against the Climate Emergency Strategy actions, noting the wish for the County to become Carbon Neutral by 2030 and to reduce the impacts of climate change. The committee were provided with updates regarding renewable energy potential within the County; the Local Authority Treescapes Fund; work to decarbonise the Council's estate; and the public sector decarbonation grant. The Public Health Specialist, added further points, highlighting: the Public Health implications of climate change; the role of particulate pollution; housing standards; and multi modal travel.

The Committee discussed the points raised, including: nuclear fusion; alternative fuels, transport methods and increased cycle provision through the active travel scheme; infrastructure including charging points; housing concerns and the potential to 'retrofit'; the cost of housing improvements; the £1m Climate Emergency fund recently approved by the Leader of the Council; highway design standards; and ensuring paths and cycleways are not overgrown.

The Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee noted the evidence presented in considering the broad range of council activities upon which it bears.

## **6 July 2021**

### **One Somerset Programme Update and Proposed Reorganisation Board**

The Committee received a presentation from the Programme Director who updated the committee in relation to work undertaken since the previous update and set out a timeline alongside proposals to create a Member & Partner Local Government Reorganisation Board.

During the debate the discussion centred around the timeline for a decision from Central Government which was anticipated in July 2021. The recent outcomes of the consultation and poll conducted by the District Councils.

In conclusion the Committee recommended:-

1. The Committee noted the work that has been undertaken on the programme between March 2021 and June 2021.
2. The Committee scrutinised the programme implementation plan shown in Appendix A (summary plan) and Appendix B (detail plan), noting that detailed project plans for each workstream and item will be developed as part (Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee July 6, 2021) 2 of 7 of the programme design and planning phase between September and November 2021.
3. The Committee considered and scrutinised the LCN design principles, values and expectations proposed in section 4 of this report, which are based on Council's One Somerset business case, including the adopted seven recommendations from the 2020 Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) and Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) report (page 74 of the One Somerset business case).
4. The Committee recommended a Member & Partner Local Government Reorganisation Board be established, and requested Cabinet carefully consider membership to ensure cross party consideration across Somerset County Council and District Council's to include 'twin hatter' membership alongside ensuring Planning, Housing and Licensing expertise is represented.

## **Somerset County Council Business Plan 2021-23**

The Committee received a presentation from the Corporate Affairs Director setting out the 2021-23 Business Plan.

During the debate the discussion centred around the ambitions of the Business Plan with achieving the majority of the aims would be a success for all involved, the committee thanked officers for the time spent briefing Councillors on the Business Plan.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and noted the 2021-23 Draft Business Plan set out in Appendix A

## **2021-22 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report – Month 2**

The Committee received a presentation from the Finance Service Manager

The forecast outturn for service expenditure as at the end of May 2021 is £345.6m against a budget of £343.6m which would represent an overspend of £2m for the year if no further action were taken. The significant variances are set out below with further detail and actions being taken by the responsible Director outlined in the body of the report. Covid-19 has had and is continuing to have a significant adverse impact upon our resources and to date £13.6m of Covid-19 Emergency Funding from the £5m carry forward and the current year's budget of £10.8m has been allocated to services to mitigate against this. At this stage there is £2.2m of the Covid-19 Emergency budget unallocated but this will be fully utilised in the financial year to cover future Covid-19 costs. When setting the 2021/22 budget it was clear that there were significant uncertainties caused by Covid-19 and to ensure that the budget was robust, the budget proposals included a Corporate Contingency of £6m. When taking these into account the overall position is a forecast underspend of £6.2m.

During the debate the discussion centred around Covid-19 funding, and the resulting pressures around, Adults and Children's, along with mental health services across the Council. The Committee commended the new reporting format.

In conclusion the Committee:

- a) Noted the forecast underspend of £6.2m. Made up of a £2m service overspend, offset by £6m of unallocated Corporate Contingency and £2.2m of unallocated Covid-19 Emergency Fund.
- b) Note the key risks, future issues and opportunities detailed in report, which will be closely monitored throughout the year with forecasts updated as appropriate.
- c) Noted the intention to draw from the Climate change reserve of £0.041m to fund the Climate Investment Manager.

## **Somerset County Council Road Adoptions Process**

The Committee received a presentation from the Strategic Manager for Highways and Transport setting out the process of road adoptions alongside the relationships with the developers and planning processes with new developments across Somerset

During the discussion the debate centred around the process of developers completing roads to enable the local authority to sign them off for adoption. Concerns were expressed in relation to the instances where a developer went out of business leaving a cost to the Council in completing road infrastructure commitments. Everything was done to ensure relationships with developers remained professional and there bonds were arranged to account for instances where a developer did not meet its obligations before a road was adopted,

The Scrutiny Committee noted the report

### **3. Consultations undertaken**

- 3.1.** The Committee invites all County Councillors to attend and contribute to every one of its meetings.

### **4. Implications**

- 4.1.** The Committee considers carefully, and often asks for further information about the implications as outlined in, the reports considered at its meetings.
- 4.2.** For further details of the reports considered by the Committee please contact the author of this report.

### **5. Background papers**

- 5.1.** Further information about the Committee including dates of future meetings, and agendas & reports from previous meetings are available via the Council's website. [www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers)

**Note:** For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author.