

Somerset County Council

County Council

– 21 July 2021

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## **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 24 April 2021 and 9 July 2021, together with the items of business discussed at the Cabinet meetings on 21 June 2021 and 12 July 2021.

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 meeting held on 21 June 2021 and 12 July 2021 are published within the Cabinet webpages on the Council's website and can be viewed at <http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=134&Year=0> . 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>
Contain Outbreak Management Fund	2 June 2021	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The Department of Health and Social Care set out an updated COVID-19 Contain Framework on 18 March 2021 outlining how national, regional and local partners should continue to work with each other in their communities to prevent, manage and contain outbreaks of COVID-19. The COMF funding is specifically to support the continued public health response in working to prevent and break the chains of transmission and protecting the most vulnerable, particularly as councils work to ensure a safe de-escalation of national restrictions through summer 2021.</p> <p>This decision set out the high-level spending plan against priority areas within Somerset’s Local Outbreak Management Plan, which will be developed across the council in line with the proposals. The local authority is expected to spend this one-off funding in 2021/22, in line with the criteria for the fund.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council endorsed the high-level proposals for use of the COMF funding and further delegated authority to the Director, and Deputy Director of Public Health to finalise and approve specific COMF funding proposals and commissioning activity, including the delegation of flexibility to make variations to the indicative allocations in the fund as demand, need and opportunities arise during implementation.</p> <p>Note – Special urgency was invoked to allow the immediate consideration and implementation of this decision.</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>

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Corporate Performance Report – Quarter 4	21 June 2021 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The Cabinet considered and commented on the information received within the report and the proposed management actions already in place.</p> <p>The report highlighted areas of success including the opening of the Nexus 25 link road and the successful launch of the Asset Management Team, working to deliver more efficiently and sustainably and the completion on the iAero Centre and A Block Refurbishment. Areas of concern were also noted including Connecting Devon and Somerset Phase 2 (which was the only red rated indicator),</p> <p>The Cabinet agreed the latest position as documented in the report, for Somerset County Council against its Council Vision.</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>
Minehead Library Refurbishment works approval	22 June 2021 by the Leader of the Council	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The refurbishment works to the library building are ready to proceed in line with the preferred contractor's mobilisation and works programme now that the tender evaluations are complete.</p> <p>This decision was taken following updated information provided from the report author and lead officer following the Key Decision taken by the Leader of the Council on 19 March 2021.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council:</p> <p>i) Approved the recommendation to appoint the contractor and authorised the Authority to enter into appropriate legal contracts following tender review and evaluation for the refurbishment of Minehead library.</p>

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
		<p>ii) Approved a total capital project spend of £857,800 to include the refurbishment works and Property fit out costs.</p> <p>iii) Acknowledged that the library fit out costs are being procured separately and will be subject to internal Non-Key Decision processes, with delegated authority for this element passing to the Strategic Manager - Library and Registration service.</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>

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) – Parish and Town Councils Fund	6 July 2021 by the Director of Public Health	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: Somerset County Council is committed to empowering local towns and parishes and supporting communities as they recover and continue to respond to the coronavirus pandemic. On the 2 June 2021 as part of a Leader of the Council decision, it was agreed for a £500,000 fund to be made available for town and parish councils to help them reconnect with their communities by safely reopening facilities such as halls, rooms and other sites with good prevention control measures in place.</p> <p>The Parish and Town Council's 'Opening up Safely and Reconnecting Communities Fund' will be allocated from Contain Outbreak Management Funding (COMF), provided by the Department for Health and Social Care to support public health activities directly related to the COVID-19 response. This includes reducing transmission of the virus, surge testing, non-financial support for self-isolation, support to particular groups who have been disproportionately impacted (e.g. Clinically Extremely Vulnerable individuals, rough sleepers), communications and engagement, and compliance and enforcement.</p> <p>The Director of Public Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Endorsed a £500,000 Parish and Town Council Fund to be developed in conjunction with the Somerset Association of Local Councils.</li><li>• Approved SALC to lead the coordination and administration of the fund with support from Somerset County Council officers.</li></ul> <p>Note – Special urgency was invoked to allow the immediate consideration and implementation of this decision.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p>

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
		REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.

**RESOURCES** – *Cllr Mandy Chilcott*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report – 2020/21 outturn	21 June 2021 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report set out the forecast year-end position against the 2020/21 budget, noting the favourable revenue variance of £9.0m for the year ending 31 March 2021 against a net budget of £340.7m and the final position on the capital programme, of which £55.3m is slippage and has been reprofiled into 2021/22 with a remaining £0.4m underspend.</p> <p>The Cabinet approved the report and its recommendations including: the carry forward requests of £1.961m to enable the completion of specific service activities, the carry forward requests of £0.990m for funding allocated to Covid-19 activity in 2020/21 which will be spent in 2021/22, the transfer of £3.311m to General Reserves on the advice of the S151 Officer, the transfer the underspend of £0.889m of the other financing income to the Funding Volatility Reserve, Request for £0.737m of external funds to be earmarked for specific use in 2021/22, the transfer £0.628m to Budget Equalisation Reserve, Transfer £0.500m to the Climate Emergency Fund, the use of £5.014m of Covid-19 Emergency Support Grant.</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 Report 2021/22- Month 2	12 July 2021 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This regular report to Cabinet provides an overview of the Council's financial position from the Director of Finance and the Senior Leadership Team with detail and commentary from the responsible Director.</p> <p>The Cabinet :</p>

**RESOURCES** – Cllr Mandy Chilcott

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
		<p>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.</p> <p>b) Noted the key risks, future issues and opportunities detailed in the report, which will be closely monitored throughout the year with forecasts updated as appropriate.</p> <p>c) Approved a draw from the Climate Change reserve of £0.041m to fund the Climate Investment Manager.</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>
Disposal of Surplus Assets	28 June 2021 by Cabinet Member for Resources	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The Council is committed to the reduction of its property and land portfolio where practicable to reduce costs and to achieve capital receipts. This decision was required to enable the disposal of SCC's interest in parts of 4 surplus assets, namely Stowey Rocks Farm, Sandpits Farm, land at Coldharbour Farm, and Greenway Farm, identified for sale under the current County Farms policy, which is to dispose of land and buildings where there is no strategic need for them to be retained.</p> <p>The recommendations authorised the Lead Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure &amp; Director of Commissioning, in consultation with the County Solicitor, to conclude the sale of surplus property at Stowey Rocks Farm, Coldharbour Farm, Greenway Farm, and completion of the promotion agreement for the property known as Sandpits Farm.</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>
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Somerset Economic Recovery Fund	21 June 2021 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: Covid 19 has had a significant impact on the Somerset economy resulting in major disruption and trading difficulties for Somerset businesses, a substantial downturn in the labour market and economic hardship for many individuals and households. Although the Government has invested significantly in a wide range of business and individual support measures in response to these issues there are some gaps in this provision compared to particular local needs in Somerset. In addition, resources are needed to invest in longer term recovery in Somerset, in line with our adopted recovery and growth plan. The Somerset economic recovery fund is therefore proposed to enable SCC to take a leadership role in addressing these various needs and supporting our businesses to recover and grow and to support our communities and residents to be ready and skilled for the opportunities that this will create.</p> <p>The Cabinet approved the report and recommendations, including the investment by SCC of revenue funding of £6 million to create a Somerset economic recovery fund to assist businesses and individuals affected by the economic implications of Covid 19 and to promote economic recovery from the pandemic. These funds to be made available via the Covid 19 Emergency Fund grant received by SCC.</p> <p>Cabinet further endorsed the themes for the fund and delegated authority to the Lead Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure for detailed decisions associated with the management of the fund. This is to include managing allocations in the fund, including any variations as demand, need and opportunities arise during implementation.</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>
Decision to award contracts for	21 June 2021 by Cabinet Member for	SUMMARY OF DECISION: Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) is a local government-led partnership which is working to extend broad band infrastructure and

<p>Technical Advisory Services and for Programme Management services for Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS)</p>	<p>Economic Development Planning and Community Infrastructure and the Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure commissioning in consultation with the Director of Finance</p>	<p>improved digital connectivity in areas where commercial providers do not plan to deliver. Somerset County Council acts as the Accountable Body for the CDS partnership. The programme requires technical and programme management consultancy services to deliver improved broadband infrastructure and improved digital connectivity and the current contracts for consultancy services which commenced in 2017 will expire in July 2021.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Economic Development Planning and Community Infrastructure and the Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure commissioning in consultation with the Director of Finance, agreed that Somerset County Council approve the terms of the finalised contracts for Lot 1 Technical Advisory Services and Lot 2 Programme Management Services and agreed to appoint and contract with the respective preferred supplier for each lot to provide consultancy services to the CDS programme.</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>
<p>Decision to accept £1.7m of Department of Education (DfE) Funding to deliver technical skills bootcamps</p>	<p>29 June 2021 by Deputy Chief Executive, Lead Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure &amp; Director of Commissioning &amp; the Director of Finance</p>	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision is required to formally accept DfE funding for Technical Bootcamps to provide skills development support to individuals and retain untapped talent for local employers. Somerset County Council, acting as accountable body for the Heart of the South West (HotSW) LEP, and in collaboration with Dorset, Cornwall and the West of England LEPs, received confirmation that the bid has been successful in securing up to £1.7m of funding from DfE to deliver the technical bootcamps across the LEP areas.</p> <p>The funding secured will provide 22 bootcamps, for 719 people with 10 providers across the area. The providers will be required to enter into a subcontract with SCC.</p> <p>The Deputy Chief Executive, Lead Director for Economic and</p>

		<p>Community Infrastructure &amp; Director of Commissioning &amp; the Director of Finance approved the acceptance of up to £1.7m of DfE funding for delivery of the Technical Bootcamps programme and agrees to sign the contract.</p> <p>Note – Special urgency was invoked to allow the immediate consideration and implementation of this decision.</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>
<p>To award contract(s) to the successful supplier(s) resulting from the outcome of the E book &amp; E audio book tender(s)</p>	<p>5 July 2021 by Cabinet Member for Economic Development Planning and Community Infrastructure</p>	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: Somerset County Council Library Service has offered shared e- book and e-audio book services with partner authorities in the LW consortium since 2012. The current contracts expire on the 31 July 2021 and options to extend have already been taken. As a result, a Cabinet Member Key Decision was taken on 15 February 2021 to go out to tender to re-procure e-book and e-audio book services. To enable Somerset County Council Library Service to continue to offer joint e-book and e-audio book services with our partner authorities in the LW consortium, and Gloucestershire County Council Library Service.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning &amp; Community Infrastructure approved the recommendations including the outcome of the procurement process to award contracts to the supplier(s) named in the confidential appendices to provide eV1 book and e audio book services for Somerset County Council Library Service and other named Authorities, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>For E-audio</u> The establishment of a multi supplier framework and the award of a call-off contract to the nominated lead supplier for up to a maximum of 5 years (3 years with option of two one-year extensions). This is to be supported by call off contracts on identical terms with the other three suppliers appointed to the</li> </ul>

framework. These are to be used in the event that the nominated supplier is unable to supply requested titles.

- For E-books

The award of a single contract with the preferred supplier following the tender exercise for a maximum of 5 years (3 years with option of two one-year extensions.)

- The purchase of services from the relevant supplier/s for Somerset County Council Library Service and up to 7 other named Authorities to a maximum value of £310,000 per annum for e audio books for up to 5 years and £165,000 for e books for up to 5 years. (Over 5 years the maximum potential value for all Authorities is £1,550,000 for e audio books and £825,000 for e-books. A combined spend of £2,375,000 across both formats). The anticipated annual spend for Somerset County Council Library Service for both formats in an annual range between £52,600 to £70,224. (Over 5 years the anticipated spend is in a range from £263,000 to £351,120).

- Delegated the balance of spend between the formats to Library Service officers.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.

REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE** – Cllr David Huxtable

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Further Extension to current Contract – Community Equipment Service	18 June 2021 by the Director of Adult Social Care	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: Somerset County Council and Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group currently commission a community equipment contract with Millbrook Healthcare for a total combined value of £4,203,600 per annum. Due to the varied demographic pressures, there is greater demand on existing community equipment services. The SCC vision for the service is to work more collaboratively with all partners in order to provide a more fluid and holistic service to those in the community that need support.</p> <p>Extensive engagement work is required with frontline operational health and social care staff in addition to stakeholders from vulnerable client groups and consultation with the market. This will inform the development of a Service Specification particularly to capture feedback regarding the alignment and integration of the wheelchair and community equipment services. The current Contract is due to expire on 31.01.2022.</p> <p>The Director of Adult Social Care approved the recommendations that the current Contract for the Community Equipment Service, provided by Millbrook Healthcare Ltd. be extended for an additional period of 6 months giving a revised expiry date of 31.07.2022; that the necessary commissioning and procurement work be continued through the extension period by the Director of Adult Social Services and Director of Corporate Affairs for provision of these services from 01.02.2022.</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>

***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

**EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH – Cllr Clare Paul**

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

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – Cllr Frances Nicholson**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Secure strategic partner(s) to develop homes for Somerset children who are looked after	21 June 2021 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The Council has a statutory duty to provide good quality placements within Somerset to support children who are looked after (Children Act 1989). These homes can be provided in several ways, through foster carers, in children’s residential homes or residential schools. The Council currently individually purchase some of these homes with private providers of children’s homes, fostering and independent, non-maintained schools.</p> <p>There is an evident need to address issues in this provider market. Several recent studies (Children's Commissioner – Private Provision in children's social care - November 2020, Department for Education – Research on fees paid by LAs for children's homes in England – November 2020) have indicated rising costs and insufficient supply is leading to an ever increasing spend and poor outcomes for children and young people. Covid has compounded these issues (nationally and locally) with more complex children and young people requiring homes in a context of fewer homes being available.</p> <p>The Cabinet approved the report and authorised officers to, through a compliant process and in consultation with the Head of Property, secure a strategic partner(s) to develop a range of local options for homes and support for children and young people looked after for a contract period of 10 years and to a maximum contract value of £70 million over the contract period. Furthermore, following the initial development period (5 years) of gradually increasing investment agreed to allocate a maximum contract value of £8 million per annum (from year 5 onwards) from existing revenue budgets and £2.7 million initial investment, subject to Cabinet agreement, to be funded from the Covid Emergency Fund.</p>

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES** – *Cllr Frances Nicholson*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
		<p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Progress on Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Outcome Following Report to Cabinet 16 December 2020	21 June 2021 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This was a formal report by the Monitoring Officer and was issued under Section 5A of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. It follows the publication of findings by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman that were reported to Cabinet in December 2020 and this report dealt with matters that had not been finalised when the Cabinet last considered this matter.</p> <p>The Cabinet considered the LGSCO revised report and recommendation and approved the actions undertaken by the Director of Children’s Services.</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>

**COUNCIL TRANSFORMATION** – *Cllr Faye Purbrick*

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



**HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT** – Cllr John Woodman

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Adoption of Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy	16 June 2021 by Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: Somerset County Council and the District Councils have jointly commissioned preparation of an Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Strategy.</p> <p>In adopting The Future Transport Plan on 16th February 2011, specific delegation was made by Council for the relevant Cabinet Member with responsibility for transport policy to take subsequent decisions to adopt associated subsidiary documents such as 'thematic strategies' necessary to deliver the service going forward. The 'Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy' document forms one of these documents. The Council has an adopted Climate Emergency Strategy which includes a transport sector action plan noting that a transition to alternative fuels including electric vehicles will essential if we are to reduce carbon emissions from transport sufficiently to achieve targets for net-zero emissions.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport agreed to adopt the Somerset Councils Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy October 2020 as Council policy with regards to transport, with the intention that this is a material consideration in the creation of development plans and in considering planning applications.</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>
Decision to award a contract for the provision of the Park & Ride service	17 June 2021 by Cabinet Member of Highways and Transport	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The current Park &amp; Ride contract expired on 6th July 2021. All extension options within the current contract have been exercised and therefore, an open tender was advertised with support from the Commercial &amp; Procurement team, to commence a new contract.</p> <p>The contract has been tendered following evaluation of the bid submissions, the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) has been identified and the Cabinet Member for Highways &amp; Transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approved the award of a 5+1+1 year cost contract (this will be a fixed price for</li></ul>

**HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT** – Cllr John Woodman

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
		<p>the service to be paid to the appointed Supplier, with fare revenue returned to Somerset County Council) for the provision of the Park and Ride service in Taunton, based on the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="846 300 2031 499">• Agreed the case for applying the exempt information provision as set out in the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and therefore to treat the attached confidential Appendix A in confidence, as it contains commercially sensitive information, and as the case for the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing that information</li><li data-bbox="846 512 2031 667">• Delegated authority to the Director of Economic and Community Infrastructure Operations to set an appropriate fare structure for the Park and Ride service, to be reviewed at regular intervals throughout the contract duration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport.</li></ul> <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>
Notice of Intent to prepare an Enhanced Partnership and Plan	21 June 2021 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The government recently announced the new National Bus Strategy – ‘Bus Back Better’ with the overall aim of transforming local bus services and increasing bus patronage. Under this new strategy the expectation is that Local Transport Authority’s (LTA’s) will enter Enhanced Partnership (EP) Agreements with local bus operators across the LTA to develop and deliver improvements across local bus services and enhance the experience for passengers. Alternatively, where deemed appropriate LTAs can seek to pursue the ‘Franchising’ route but would be required to commit to an EP in the meantime. LTAs are required to commit to an EP by the end of June 2021 and then publish a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) by the end of October 2021. EPs should be in place by the end of March 2022, and the BSIP should then be reviewed and updated annually. The government has announced £3 billion of transformation funding for bus services across the UK and local BSIPs will be instrumental in influencing the distribution of this funding.</p> <p>The Cabinet approved the report and agreed that SCC commit to preparing an Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme; and delegated authority to the Strategic Commissioning Manager -Highways and Transport, in consultation with the County Solicitor, to draft and publish a Statutory Notice of Intent confirming this commitment.</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>
Covid 19 Public	21 June and 12 July	SUMMARY OF DECISION: Cabinet acknowledged the update from the Director of

<b>CROSS CUTTING – All</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Health update	2021 by Cabinet	Public Health and the Director of Corporate Affairs and welcomed the continued response and work by the Council and partners for the benefit of Somerset's communities.
One Somerset Programme Update and Proposed Local Government Reorganisation Board	12 July 2021 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: Cabinet received :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a general programme update;</li> <li>2. An update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) process and timing;</li> <li>3. details regarding the continued development and detail added to the Programme Implementation Plan for One Somerset; and</li> <li>4. A recommendation that Cabinet establish a Member and Partner Local Government Reorganisation Board. Its first role will be to oversee the design, pilot and evaluation of Local Community Networks ahead of LGR implementation. We anticipate membership comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Elected Members.</li> <li>□ Representatives of the council's key partners, who will act as non- executive members of the Board, with participation variable depending upon the topic being discussed.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>Cabinet welcomed and acknowledged the review, contributions and recommendations from Scrutiny Policies for Place Committee.</p> <p>The Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Approved the proposals set out in section 6 of the report to form a Board of elected Members and partners, chaired by the Cabinet Member for Transformation and Local Government Reorganisation, to be established around the principles, values and expectations outlined in section 6, and initially tasked to develop draft LCN boundaries and launch of between two and four LCN pilots before the end of 2021.</li> <li>ii. Delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the</li> </ol>

<b>CROSS CUTTING – All</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
		<p>Council, to submit any required responses on behalf of the Council to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) following the Secretary of State's decision and to undertake negotiations on a draft Structural Change Order, together with authorising any necessary activities and actions to deliver the Implementation Plan.</p> <p>Cabinet also considered and noted:</p> <p>i. The work that has been undertaken on the programme between March 2021 and July 2021; and</p> <p>ii. The programme implementation plan shown in Appendix A to the report (summary plan) and Appendix B (detail plan), noting that detailed project plans for each workstream and item will be developed as part of the programme design and planning phase between September and November 2021.</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 Access	20 May 2021 by	SUMMARY OF DECISION: In order to encourage a proactive approach to improving

**CROSS CUTTING – All**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
Initiative policy	Cabinet Member for Children and Families and Cabinet Member for Education and Public Health	<p>mainstream school access for pupils with a physical, visual or hearing impairment, complex medical needs or autism, the County Council has allocated an amount of capital funding each year to deliver a School Access Initiative (SAI) works programme.</p> <p>The programme enables the County Council, in partnership with mainstream schools and other partners / services, to meet its duties under the Equality Act of 2010 and Part 3 of the Children and Families Act of 2014. There is a current need to provide additional transparency of the process through a refresh of the policy that underpins the programme.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Children and Families and the Cabinet Member for Education and Public Health approved the revised SAI capital investment fund policy and instructed officers to update the County Council’s website; alert schools &amp; other key stakeholders to the updated policy; furthermore, ensure SAI funds continue to be allocated in accordance with the policy and periodically review the arrangements to ensure they continue to meet the Council’s strategic aims and statutory responsibilities.</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 Building Condition Programme 2021/22	21 June 2021 by Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Cabinet Member for Resources, Cabinet Member for	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The County Council have agreed a funding boost of £4.5m to improve the condition of School buildings. Delivery of the capital investment programme to address high priority school building condition issues will ensure the delivery of sufficient school places in safe and well-maintained buildings for children in Somerset to meet the Local Authority’s statutory duty (Education Act 1996). Current SCC policy is to utilise each year of Department for Education (DfE) allocation, in addition to supplementary capital approvals from SCC’s own funds, for planned</p>

**CROSS CUTTING – All**

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
	Education and Public Health	<p data-bbox="801 169 2022 328">maintenance, prioritising work in its School condition programme according to a clear rationale. The DfE allocation is sufficient only to undertake the highest priority items in the programme. As a result, much of the work is the replacement of items that are beyond economic repair.</p> <p data-bbox="801 376 2022 496">Within the allocation of capital funds for 2021/22 as approved by Full Council on 17 February 2021, the Cabinet Member for Children and Families, the Cabinet member for Education and Public Health, and the Cabinet Member for Resources authorised:</p> <ul data-bbox="846 544 2022 1046" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="846 544 2022 743">• The appropriate officers in the Corporate Property function under delegation to agree projects for inclusion in the schools condition programme based on prioritisation of need; to commission and deliver the agreed projects for the programme and to decide on the most appropriate means of procurement in each case;</li><li data-bbox="846 759 2022 879">• The appropriate officers in Corporate Property function under delegation to expend up to a value of £10,000 or 10% of the project value, (whichever is lesser) on each individual project for feasibility and initial design costs and fees;</li><li data-bbox="846 895 2022 1046">• The appropriate officers in the Corporate Property and Commercial and Procurement functions under delegation to competitively procure all contracts relating to the capital projects in accordance with the Authority's Contract Procedure Rules and public procurement law;</li></ul> <p data-bbox="801 1094 2022 1126">ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.</p> <p data-bbox="801 1134 2022 1166">REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>
Granting of Academy Lease – New Special Free School	28 June 2021 by Cabinet Member for Resources and Cabinet Member for Children and	SUMMARY OF DECISION: The Local Authority's successful bid to the Department for Education (DfE) SEN Free School Programme will result in the delivery of a new Special Free school for children with social, emotional, and mental health needs aged 5-16 in Somerset.

**CROSS CUTTING – All**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Summary of Decision</b>
	Families	<p>In order to facilitate the construction, opening and operation of the proposed new school, it is required that the land on which the school sits is leased to the Multi-Academy Trust for the standard term of 125 years. The proposed new school would provide local places for children with a range of complex additional needs, addressing a shortage of places in the local area and providing Somerset children with better 'in county' provision.</p> <p>3.2 In order for the project to proceed, the DfE require confirmation from the Local Authority that it is prepared to lease the land to the Trust and in order for the project to progress to the next stage, there is a need for Somerset County Council to enter into an Agreement for Lease with the DfE for the grant of a 125-year academy lease on completion of the construction project.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Resources and Cabinet Member for Children and Families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approved, in principle, that a 125-year leasehold interest in a new school near Ash will be granted to the Wave Trust if the school is constructed as anticipated;</li><li>• Instructed the Strategic Manager for Estates to enter into an Agreement for lease with the Department for Education for the land set out in the plan.</li></ul> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report. REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.</p>