

Somerset County Council

County Council

- 21 July 2021

Report of the Leader and Cabinet – Items for Decision

Cabinet Member: Cllr D Fothergill – Leader of the Council

Division and Local Member: All

Lead Officer: Patrick Flaherty, Chief Executive

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1. Summary

- 1.1** This report sets out the Leader's and Cabinet's recommendations to Council arising from their consideration of reports at the Cabinet meeting on 12 July 2021.

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

- 1.2** **Paper A (Business Plan)** was considered by the Scrutiny Committee for Policies and Place on 6 July ahead of consideration at the Cabinet meeting on 12 July.

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

- 1.3** **Paper B (Treasury Management outturn report 2020/21)** was considered at the Cabinet meeting on 12 July. The Cabinet endorsed Paper B and agreed for this to be reported to the County Council to consider and approve.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Business Plan** – see Paper A that Cabinet considered and agreed at its meeting on 12 July.

The Council is recommended to:

- a) approve the Business Plan for formal adoption as the Business Plan for Somerset County Council until 2023; and**
- b) note that the business plan is flexible enough to continue as the strategic direction for authority until April 2023, conscious of, but not dependent upon any potential vesting day as a result of a Local Government Reorganisation decision being made.**

- 2.2 Treasury Management outturn report 2020-21** – see Paper B and its appendices that Cabinet considered and endorsed at its meeting on 12 July.

The Council is recommended to endorse the Treasury Management outturn report for 2020-21.

3. Options considered and consultation undertaken

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

4. Implications

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

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

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

5. Background Papers

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