

Somerset County Council

County Council

– 24 November 2021

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 13 July 2021 and 12 November 2021, together with the items of business discussed at the Cabinet meetings on 15 September 2021, 20 October 2021 and 15 November 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 meetings held on 15 September 2021, 20 October 2021 and 15 November 2021 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*

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Digital Innovation Centre – Delivery Agreement Award and European Regional Development Funding	23 August 2021 by Leader of the Council	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The Digital Innovation Centre scheme has been developed by Somerset County Council, in collaboration with Somerset West and Taunton Council. It will deliver a new-build innovation centre on the Firepool site in Taunton providing high-quality business accommodation as well as specialist innovation and collaboration support services targeted at digital economy businesses.</p> <p>This report specifically sought approval for Somerset County Council to accept the envisaged award of £1.7m of European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) for the Digital Innovation Centre scheme; enter into an agreement for lease, and eventual lease agreement, with Somerset West and Taunton Council for a plot on the Firepool site in Taunton to accommodate the Digital Innovation Centre; and enter into a construction contract for the Digital Innovation Centre scheme.</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>
Contract Award Decision for the Appointed of a Strategic Partner to Deliver Children’s Homes, High Needs Fostering and Therapeutic Education	14 October 2021 by Leader of the Council	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report outlined a compliant tender exercise that had been conducted following the Cabinet Decision taken on 21 June 2021 to secure a strategic partner(s) to develop homes for Somerset children who are looked after.</p> <p>A competitive dialogue procurement process took place in order to identify the supplier who demonstrated the most advantageous tender in terms of their ability to work in partnership to deliver improved outcomes for complex children and young people who are looked after by the local authority. Following the evaluation of the bid submissions a preferred supplier was identified.</p>

		<p>This decision specifically saw the Leader of the Council approve the award of a 10-year contract for the appointment of a Strategic Partner to deliver children's homes, high needs fostering and therapeutic education, based on the most advantageous tender, to the proposed supplier.</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>
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RESOURCES – Cllr Mandy Chilcott

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Electricity and Gas Professional buying Organisation	8 September 2021 by Cabinet Member for Resources	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report sought approval to appoint Crown Commercial Services (CCS) to trade and purchase gas and electricity on the Council's behalf and for SCC to enter into supply agreements with the suppliers appointed by CCS for the supply of energy and ancillary services. The contracting opportunity was publicised Nationally via the Find a Tender Service in compliance with Public Procurement Regulations.</p> <p>The report highlighted that the Council would spend approximately £40,000 per annum on the procurement service and spend approximately £4.5 million per annum on Electricity and Gas. This level of expenditure is targeted to reduce during the term of the contract as the Authority enacts its Climate Emergency Strategy moving to be more self-sufficient in terms of energy provision and transitioning to Net Zero.</p> <p>The decision ensured maximum flexibility and will not tie the Council into a multiyear agreement. While there is uncertainty in terms of the total future requirements for electricity and gas this approach was evaluated as the lowest risk option.</p> <p>Note – Special Urgency procedures were used to progress 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>
Disposal of a Surplus asset in Ash	14 September 2021 by Cabinet Member for Resources	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision authorised the disposal of SCC's interest in parts of the surplus asset known as Land at Ash.</p> <p>The Council is committed to the reduction of its property and land portfolio where practicable to reduce costs and to achieve capital receipts. The asset set out in this</p>

RESOURCES – Cllr Mandy Chilcott

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
		<p>report is not required to support statutory operations and is not considered to have particular strategic value.</p> <p>The capital receipts from this sale will contribute towards the financing of the Council's 2021/22 -2022/23 capital budgets as anticipated in the Medium-Term Financial Plan, with any surplus being held in reserve for future potential investment.</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

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Supplemental Budget Approval for Public Sector Decarbonisation Schemes	22 September 2021 by Cabinet Member for Resources	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report summarised the Officer Key Decision taken on 18 February 2021 to accept Section 31 grant funding, awarded to the County Council under the Government’s Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), being coordinated by the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) department. The decision also authorised officers to enter into contracts and expenditure commitments for the delivery of projects to significantly reduce the carbon emissions from two of our largest sites at B Block, County Hall and Taunton Library, by significantly reducing the use of gas for heating.</p> <p>Following the detailed design work, and in the light of inflationary pressures in the construction sector, the original cost plan for the scheme had been revised and exceeded the scheme budget approved in February. This decision sought approval for additional funds, financed using available capital receipts, to enable the scheme to progress and to further support the County Council’s Climate Emergency Strategy, specifically the goal to reduce carbon emissions from the council’s operations.</p> <p>The report specifically saw the Cabinet Member: approve the updated gross project costs as set out in confidential Appendix to the report and approve the financing of additional project costs through the utilisation of surplus capital receipts.</p> <p>Note – Special Urgency procedures were used to progress 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>
Disposal of Surplus Asset at Nether	29 September 2021 by Cabinet Member	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision was required to enable the disposal of SCC’s interest in parts of the surplus asset, namely the farmhouse, adjacent barns, and circa 6

RESOURCES – Cllr Mandy Chilcott

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Stowey	for Resources	<p>acres of land known as New Stowey Farm.</p> <p>The Council is committed to the reduction of its property and land portfolio where practicable to reduce costs and to achieve capital receipts. The asset set out in this report is not required to support statutory operations and is not considered to have particular strategic value.</p> <p>The capital receipts from this sale will contribute towards the financing of the Council's 2021/22 -2022/23 capital budgets as anticipated in the Medium Term Financial Plan, with any surplus being held in reserve for future potential investment.</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>

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Digital Innovation Centre – Acceptance of Getting Building Funding	20 July 2021 by the Director of Economic and Community Infrastructure Commissioning, in consultation with the Director of Finance.	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report detailed the Digital Innovation Centre scheme developed by Somerset County Council, in collaboration with Somerset West and Taunton Council, to support innovation, collaboration and growth in the local digital economy and, thereby, to contribute to improving economic productivity and prosperity in Somerset. The scheme seeks to deliver a new-build innovation centre facility on the Firepool site in Taunton providing high-quality business accommodation as well as specialist innovation and collaboration support services targeted at digital economy businesses.</p> <p>The decision enabled Somerset County Council to secure £5.5 million of Getting Building Funding for the Digital Innovation Centre scheme a key component of the funding package necessary to enable delivery of the Digital Innovation Centre scheme to proceed and respond to evidenced need for high quality business accommodation and support services to foster innovation, collaboration and growth in the local digital economy and, thereby, will contribute to improving economic productivity and prosperity in Somerset.</p> <p>The Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure Commissioning, in consultation with the Director of Finance, authorised Somerset County Council accepting, and entering into a funding agreement with the Heart of the Southwest Local Enterprise Partnership for, £5.5 million of Getting Building Funding for the Digital Innovation Centre scheme, subject to confirmation of legal and financial acceptability of any scheme-specific terms and conditions.</p> <p>Note – Special Urgency procedures were used to progress 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>
Suspension of Garden Waste Collection Service	29 July 2021 by Somerset Waste Partnership	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The national driver shortage, various local factors and now the significant increase in the number of collection staff self-isolating (the 'pingdemic') all contributed to waste collection services being put under severe strain.</p>

	<p>Managing Director</p>	<p>Despite significant work on recruitment, retention and retraining this resource shortfall is forecast to continue in the near future.</p> <p>This decision specifically saw the Waste Partnership Managing Director agree to suspend the garden waste collection service for 6 weeks from Monday 2nd August, in order to release this resource to support refuse and recycling collections.</p> <p>Note – Special Urgency procedures were used to progress 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>Decision to award contracts to deliver DfE-funded Technical Skills Bootcamps across the Southwest</p>	<p>5 August 2021 by the Deputy Chief Executive, Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure Commissioning and Director of Finance</p>	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: Following a successful Digital and Technical Bootcamp (Train4Tomorrow) pilot in the Heart of the Southwest LEP area during 2020/21, a bid for £1.9m was submitted to the Department for Education to deliver a further 24 Technical Bootcamps. Bootcamps have been developed by Government as part of the Lifetime Skills Guarantee in partnership with employers, provides and local authorities to help people develop the skills that are in demand in their local area and secure better employment.</p> <p>The funding secured will provide 22 bootcamps, for 719 people with 10 providers across the area. Providers will be required to enter into a subcontract with SCC. All appropriate contractual clauses and risks, within the DfE/SCC contract, will be passported into these sub-contracts.</p> <p>This decision specifically saw the Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure Commissioning and Director of Finance approve the issue of sub-contracts to the named training providers.</p> <p>Note – Special Urgency procedures were used to progress 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>Approval to accept ERDF Grant Funding for the Chard Enterprise Park</p>	<p>9 August 2021 by Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning and Community Infrastructure</p>	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision authorised the acceptance of ERDF funding and the signing the grant funding agreement for funding the design and build of Phase 1 of the Chard Enterprise Park.</p> <p>The Chard Enterprise Park (CEP) project phase 1 will deliver 591m2 of enterprise centre space including office and light industrial accommodation for SMEs/ start-up businesses. The £1.75m ERDF investment secured by SCC will boost the economy with an estimated 58 full time jobs over a period of 10 years for the local economy. The works completed in the initial phases will unlock the site for further development in the future.</p> <p>Note – Special Urgency procedures were used to progress 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>Appointment of Contractor for the Delivery of the Chard Enterprise Park</p>	<p>19 August 2021 by Cabinet member for Economic Development and Planning and Community Infrastructure</p>	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The Chard Enterprise Park Phase 1 is a scheme to create around 58 full time jobs, boost office and light industrial space and counter the impacts of losing a major employer in the Chard area. The town is an important centre in the county for economic activity which has a need to diversify the economy by growing and adding productivity to smaller companies - the decision supports the delivery of the Chard Enterprise Park in accordance with the current SCC business plan.</p> <p>The decision specifically saw the Cabinet Member authorise SCC entering into a call-off contract with the contractor identified in the confidential appendix for the design and build of the Chard Enterprise Park (CEP) Phase 1 in accordance with the call-off procedure in the National Major Works Framework Agreement between Scape System</p>

		<p>Build Limited and the preferred contractor for a sum of up to £3,308,100 (this sum includes pre-construction fees of £407,646 which have already been committed), and delegated to the Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure Commissioning the authority to finalise the terms of the contract in consultation with advice from the SCC legal and SCC Property services teams.</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>
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ADULT SOCIAL CARE – Cllr David Huxtable

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Appointment of a Managed Service to Undertake ASC Statutory Reviews	8 November 2021 by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision The County Council has a statutory duty to conduct regular reviews of the support to individuals where social care needs have been assessed and are funded by the local authority. Somerset County Council is experiencing high demand volumes into the Adult Social Care (ASC) locality teams. This is reflective of the position and pressure on Adult Social Care across the country.</p> <p>The locality teams are having to prioritise new contacts and assessment work, and therefore, it is important that the ASC assessment process is prioritised to ensure consistency with the model of working and adherence to the Promoting Independence Strategy. The SCC are therefore looking at outsourcing the Adult Social Care review work to enable the locality teams to focus on providing quality assessments in a timely way and looked to outsourcing review work, with the contract going live early November 2021.</p> <p>That the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care specifically endorsed the procurement process and approved the contract award and recommendations detailed in the report for the provision of a managed service for Adult Social Care statutory reviews.</p> <p>Note – Special Urgency procedures were used to progress 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>

CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITIES – Cllr Christine Lawrence

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
No individual	n/a	n/a

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<i>EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH – Cllr Clare Paul</i>		
Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Mental Health Promotion and Support	10 August 2021 by Deputy Director Public Health	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The Contain Outbreak Management Funding (COMF) is funding allocated by the Department for Health and Social Care to Somerset to support public health activities directly related to the Covid-19 response, including reducing transmission of the virus, surge testing, non-financial support for self-isolation, support to particular groups who have been disproportionately impacted</p> <p>On the 2 June 2021 as part of a Leader of the Council decision, it was agreed for £1.2 million pound investment to be made for mental health promotion and support in recognition of the challenges to mental health and wellbeing presented by the pandemic. This decision paper relates to £810k of the £1.2 million investment.</p> <p>The decision specifically saw funding approved for three areas of support: community focused positive mental health; targeted interventions; and a five ways to wellbeing community grants 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>
Building Works to Facilitate the Transition of School Organisation in Crewkerne and Ilminster	31 August 2021 by Cabinet Member for Education and Public Health	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: On 17th March 2021 Cabinet approved a key decision which sought to move schools into Crewkerne and Ilminster from the current three tier structure to two tiers. This decision relates to the next stage of the plan to revamp education in the area, starting with key appointments and tendering of planned works. It will see £3.5m spent on a number of schools which require remodelling of space in order to welcome pupils from September 2022.</p> <p>The report specifically saw approval granted for the Council to proceed to tender for all transitions works within Crewkerne and Ilminster area, including the tender of furniture and ICT, to a total value of £3.5m.</p>

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH – Cllr Clare Paul

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
		<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

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Free School Meal Vouchers – Summer 2021	30 July 2021 by Cabinet Member for Children and Families	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This decision saw the Cabinet Member agree to the allocation of £1,324,242 of the government issued grant funding to schools and colleges to fund vouchers to meet the needs of children and young people on free school meals for the 6-week summer holiday. This allocation included a 15% discretionary allowance to enable schools to provide vouchers to other children who they consider would benefit from this support. The decision further agreed the allocation of the remaining £134,151 of funding ensure individuals and families are able to meet the cost of household essentials such as energy, and to ensure direct provision of food to those who will not be supported through the provision of food vouchers through schools. It was agreed that this would be completed via the network of voluntary and community groups which work with a range of local projects, and will be overseen by and reported via the Community Resilience Partnership.</p> <p>Note – Special Urgency procedures were used to progress 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>
Approval to increase registered places at Fairmead and	4 August 2021 by Cabinet Member for Children and	SUMMARY OF DECISION: The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide children with good quality school places - this decision authorised arrangements to expand the two community special schools in Yeovil – namely, Fairmead School at Victoria Road

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – *Cllr Frances Nicholson*

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Fiveways Schools – Statutory Consolutions	Families	<p>and Fiveways at Mudford Road - in order to meet the increasing demands for specialist school places in the locality.</p> <p>The report specifically saw the Cabinet Member: accept the report on the statutory consultation process; and instruct officers to proceed in line with the stated proposals - Fairmead School to increase its registration from 80 places to 140 places and for Fiveways School to increase its registration from 70 places to 100 places.</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*

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
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<p>To consider a proposal for a Local Government Reorganisation Joint Committee</p>	<p>20 October 2021 by Cabinet</p>	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report sought approval for the establishment of a Local Government Reorganisation Joint Committee (LGR Joint Committee) with Mendip District Council, Sedgemoor District Council, South Somerset District Council and Somerset West and Taunton District Council (collectively, with the addition of Somerset County Council, the Constituent Councils).</p> <p>On 21 July 2021 the Secretary of State announced his decision to implement, subject to parliamentary approval, a proposal submitted by Somerset County Council for a single unitary council covering the whole of the administrative county of Somerset. It is anticipated that the main enabling legislation (the Structural Changes Order) will be laid before Parliament to consider from January 2022 and will take effect in March 2022. The Structural Change Order (SCO) will establish an Implementation Executive (an executive committee) which will be responsible for preparing for and facilitating the transfer of each of the Somerset councils' ("Constituent Councils") functions, property, assets, rights, liabilities and investments to the unitary council as well as various other transitional functions pending the establishment of the unitary council in April 2023</p> <p>There are a number of actions and decisions that will need to be taken by the Constituent Councils before the establishment of the Implementation Executive in order to provide collaborative oversight of the implementation and to deal with ancillary matters arising where liaison with the new Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) is needed (the DLUHC has replaced the former Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government). The leaders of each of the Constituent Councils endorse the need for a joint committee to be established to provide collaborative democratic oversight and transparency for these actions and decisions. The proposed formation of a Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Joint Committee is being considered by each of the five councils' Cabinets during October with the aim that the first meeting is held on 5 November 2021.</p>
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<p>Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Somerset: Decision to Award Contract for an Independent Expert Advice and Quality Assurance (QA) Partner</p>	<p>5 November 2021 by Chief Executive</p>	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report outlined the requirements of a robust implementation plan and delivery of a single unitary council for Somerset and the need for sufficient quality to deliver the financial and non-financial benefits outlined in the Business Case. Specifically a need was identified for independent quality assurance capacity to provide critical friend challenge and advice to the Programme Team during the implementation phase.</p> <p>This decision specifically saw the Chief Executive agree to award a contract to PwC to act as consultants to provide professional quality assurance to support delivery of a single unitary council for Somerset, for a fixed term from October 2021 to 1 July 2023, and as defined in the appendix to the report.</p> <p>Note – Special Urgency procedures were used to progress 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>

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT – Cllr John Woodman

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Supply of new vehicles for transporting Somerset	29 July 2021 by Economic and Community Infrastructure Operations Director	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report detailed that each year Transporting Somerset submit bids through the Capital Investment Programme to replace life expired vehicles for the County Fleet as a whole including Transporting Somerset's in-house Passenger Transport Fleet. Remaining in the current approved Capital Investment Programme up to the end of 2020/21 is the sum of £1,154,900. This decision sought to authorise the purchase of 9 large minibuses and 9 small minibuses. This decision also sought to vary the procurement approach to enable the service to go out to tender for the purchase of two EV vehicles in light of the council's Climate Emergency Strategy.</p> <p>The decision specifically the Director of Economic and Community Infrastructure Operations authorise the award of call-off contracts for the supply of 9 Large 16 seat Minibuses, 9 Small 7 to 12 seat Minibuses/People Carriers under a Framework Agreement. The decision further authorised the commencement of the procurement of 2 Small 7 to 12 seat EV Minibuses/People Carriers. Full financial details were explained in the confidential appendix to the report.</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>
Allocation of Additional Highways Grant 21-22	10 August 2021 by Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The report detailed that the Council had received a 2021/22 highways grant allocation of £30.338m from the Department for Transport which is £6.657m higher than the prudent planning assumptions used in agreeing the current capital programme in February 2021. This decision allocated the additional grant into specific highways programme areas and schemes in order to accommodate a range of highways capital pressures.</p> <p>The proposed allocation of the additional funding included contributions to the highways basic needs maintenance programme; major highways scheme</p>

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT – *Cllr John Woodman*

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
		<p>improvements; emergency works in the Chard area; the decarbonisation innovation project; and highways asset management plan support.</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

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Somerset Enabling Growth – Adoption of Charter and Associated Policy Documents	24 September 2021 by Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The report detailed the five Somerset Council’s joint work on an ‘end-to end’ review of the development planning process in Somerset, the ‘Enabling Growth’ programme. This is a joint and wide-ranging improvement programme aimed at streamlining the planning process across the whole system that focuses on the framework of highways and transport policies and guidance that supports the role of the Highway.</p> <p>This decision saw the Cabinet Member approve the adoption of several policy and guidance documents as Council policy in support of the Somerset Future Transport Plan 2011-2026, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Somerset Growth Charter January 2021.• Streets in Residential Developments Design Guidance Notes, May 2021 ‘The Red Book’.• Transport Assessment, Transport Statements and Travel Plan Scoping Guidance – SHIP 26/21.• Standing Advice for Planning Applications – STAN 26/20. <p>Furthermore, the Cabinet Member delegated authority to the Strategic Commissioning Manager for Highways and Transport to finalise the detail of the technical guidance and to update the guidance to ensure consistency with national advice.</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

Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)	20 October 2021 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: In March 2021, the government launched the new National Bus Strategy – ‘Bus Back Better’ with the overall aim of transforming local bus services. Under this new strategy the expectation is that Local Transport Authority’s will enter agreements with local bus operators to develop and deliver improvements across local bus services. Transport Authorities are to work in partnership with local bus operators to create and publish a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) by the end of October 2021. The BSIP needs to set out the high-level ambition for public transport in Somerset, summarising the current offer, the gaps in provision and the action required to bridge the gaps.</p> <p>This decision saw the Cabinet approve the content of the Initial Somerset Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), along with appropriate delegation to officers to ensure work on the plan can progress, along with agreement to establish a Bus Advisory Board and associated user forum.</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		
Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Social Care Accommodation – acquisition of homes for children’s services	13 July 2021 by Cabinet Member for Resources and Cabinet Member for Children and Families	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: As part of a programme of investment by the Council in residential properties, capital funding of £3m has been secured in the 21/22 financial year to purchase a number of homes for use by Children's Services to increase the Council's own capacity and ability to respond more effectively for residential accommodation needs. This report detailed that the Council is seeking to purchase properties from the domestic property market as the most effective way to meet the need identified, and requested the delegation of authority to enable the Head of Property to proceed to completion on properties meeting the Council’s requirements, using the capital funding allocated for that purpose.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cabinet Member for Children and Families authorised searches, purchases, investments, and developments with relevant permissions to secure suitable properties across the county for children looked after, up to a confirmed funded value of £3.0m, delegating responsibility for property acquisitions, investments and works contracts up to the budgeted value to the Head of Corporate Property in conjunction with the Strategic Manager – Estates.</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>
2021/22 Budget Monitoring	13 August 2021	SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report outlined the forecast year-end position of

CROSS CUTTING – All		
Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Report – Month 3 – End of June	Cabinet Member for Resources	<p>services against the current 2021/22 budget of £366.5m (the current budget included carry forwards and reserve movements) as at the end of June 2021. In addition, the Executive Summary of the report provided an overview of the Council's financial position from the Director of Finance as the Councils' S151 Officer with detail from each service and commentary from the responsible Directors, highlighting the continuing significant uncertainties due to the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Specifically, the Cabinet Member: noted the forecast underspend of £3.8m. Made up of service overspends of £4.4m, offset by £6m of unallocated Corporate Contingency and £2m of unallocated Covid-19 Emergency Fund; noted the current estimated position and funding of the Capital Programme; approved the allocation of £0.2m of the Covid-19 Emergency Fund to support free travel from the Park and Ride sites for the remainder of 2021/22, the remaining costs will come from ECI budgets and reserves; approved the allocation of £0.08m from the Workforce Reserve to support the implementation of hybrid home/office working; and noted the estimated reserves position, 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>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 – Month 4	15 September 2021 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report outlined the forecast year-end position of services against the current 2021/22 budget as at the end of July 2021.</p> <p>Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Cabinet noted the overall forecast overspend of £0.7m and the key risks, future issues and opportunities detailed in the report which will be closely monitored and updated throughout the year, and approved the request to use £1.167m from Funding</p>

CROSS CUTTING – All		
Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
		<p>Volatility Reserve to support additional maintenance activities on the County Highways network in 2021/22.</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>
Corporate Performance Report Q1+1	15 September 2021 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report provided members with the high-level information they need to lead and manage the performance of the outcomes set out in the Council’s Vision and reflected the Council’s ongoing progress towards the outcomes laid out in the Council’s Business Plan. This report consists of 30 performance indicators from across the organisation and provided the latest information available in the period up until 31st July 2021.</p> <p>The report highlighted that the period had seen particularly high demand on services, noting areas of success including: outcomes for vulnerable learners; the wellbeing framework for schools; new placements in residential and nursing care; the covid vaccination programme; and the use of digital technologies. The report further noted areas of concern including Connecting Devon and Somerset phase 2; and the resolution of adults contacts.</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		
Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
West Somerset Opportunity Area – Year 5	15 October 2021 by Cabinet Member for Children and Families and Cabinet Member for Education and Public Health	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: The West Somerset Opportunity Area has been set up to drive cultural change across West Somerset. The County Council is the accountable body and is receiving the funds on behalf of the West Somerset Opportunity Area Partnership.</p> <p>The Secretary of State has now agreed further funding of £869.7K for a Year 5 of the Programme. The 5th year is conditional on an agreed delivery plan and West Somerset sharing its lessons with other areas that are experiencing similar levels of deprivation and social immobility.</p> <p>The allocation of funding, will allow a continued focus on early years and quality first teaching, encouraging good teachers to the area. The funding is part of the governments endeavours to tackle low social mobility and improve opportunities for young people across the country.</p> <p>This decision specifically saw the Cabinet Members agree that funding secured from the DfE to deliver Year 5 of the plan through section 31 grant is allocated to the West Somerset Opportunity Area, and that unspent funds at the end of the financial year are carried forward to the next financial year to ensure the delivery of the West Somerset Opportunity Area Plan.</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 – Month 5	20 October 2021 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report outlined the forecast year-end position of services against the current 2021/22 budget of £358.8m (the current budget included carry forwards and reserve movements) as at the end of August 2021.</p>

CROSS CUTTING – All		
Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
		<p>Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Cabinet noted the overall forecast overspend of £0.4m and the key risks, future issues and opportunities detailed in the report which will be closely monitored and updated throughout the 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>
Medium Term Financial Plan and Strategy 2022/23 – 2024/25	20 October 2021 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report outlined the overall financial strategy for the next three years, including the financial planning for the initial two years of the new Unitary Council and provided an update on the progress of developing the budget proposals for producing a balanced revenue budget and an extended capital programme for the 2022/23 financial year.</p> <p>Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Cabinet approved:</p> <p>a) the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Plan and noted the current progress towards producing a balanced revenue budget for 2022/23 and capital programme. b) Approved the additional financial controls outlined in Appendix A of the report</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 Monitoring Budget Report - Month 6	15 November 2021 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report is the second quarterly report (month six). The report outlined the current position and, estimated the outturn position for revenue (including overall delivery on savings, transformation and additional income plans), capital, treasury management, and reserves. This ensures that the Council reflects</p>

CROSS CUTTING – All		
Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
		<p>national best practice and meets the requirements of the CIPFA Financial Management Code.</p> <p>The Executive Summary of the report provided an overview of the Council's financial position from the Director of Finance and Governance as the Councils' S151 Officer with detail from each service and commentary from the responsible Director.</p> <p>Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Cabinet noted the forecast underspend of £3m.</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 Mid-Year Report 2021/22	15 November 2021 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report was for information. In compliance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice this report provided Councillors with a summary report of the treasury management activity during the first six months of 2021-22. As indicated in this report all treasury activity was conducted within the benchmarks set as Prudential limits for prudent and sustainable capital plans, financing, and investment.</p> <p>Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Cabinet endorsed the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report for 2021-22 and recommended that it be received and endorsed by Full Council at the next sitting of Full Council 24 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>

CROSS CUTTING – All		
Item	Date of Meeting	Summary of Decision
Corporate Performance Report Q2 2021	15 November 2021 by Cabinet	<p>SUMMARY OF DECISION: This report provided members with the high-level information they need 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. The measures used to support this report came from across the Council’s services and are a subset of the measures monitored regularly by the Senior Leadership Team. This report consisted of 31 performance indicators from across the organisation and provided the latest information available in the period up until 30th September 2021</p> <p>This report highlighted the latest performance information for all indicator areas of success for the quarter; Improve the Outcomes for Children Looked After Placement stability, the Domestic Abuse Service, the Vaccination Programme Progress, the Driving More Effective Customer Interactions through the use of digital technologies digital services and concerns for the quarter: Connecting Devon and Somerset Phase 2. In addition, the new measure of Business Continuity highlighted the high levels of demand and staff shortages currently being experienced.</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>