
COUNTY COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

23 February 2022
(23 February 2022)

Item No.	Title
1	Apologies for Absence
	Cllr Mark Keating, Cllr John Parham, Cllr Tony Lock, Cllr Mark Keating, Cllr Dawn Johnson, Cllr Mike Rigby, Cllr Neil Bloomfield and Cllr Nigel Hewitt-Cooper
3	Minutes from the meetings held on 24 November 2021 and 19 January 2022
	DECISION The minutes of the meetings held on 24 November 2021 and 19 January 2022 were accepted as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair of Council.
4	Chair's Announcements
	DECISION The Council received and noted the report.
6	Report of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel - Members Allowances 2022/23
	DECISION The Council welcomed and thanked the Panel for its report and recommendations and RESOLVED to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Support and agree the Panel's recommendations 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16.2. Reject the proposed Panel's recommendation 1 and 8 to increase the level of Basic Allowance for 2021/22 and 2022/23 by inflation (as determined by CPIH) and instead increase the level of Basic Allowances for 2021/22 and

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	<p>2022/23 at the same level of increase as for officer pay levels.</p> <p>(Reason for the revised proposal is to continue with the principle that the Council has adopted for several years and concern about agreeing a recommendation to increase Members Allowances at over twice the annual percentage increase that staff will receive)</p> <p>3. Reject the Panel's recommendation 3 in relation to Junior Cabinet Members and instead propose that they are moved to Band 6 noting that these roles may be subject to review following the elections in May 2022.</p> <p>(Reason for the revised proposal is it is felt the reduction to Band 7 does not adequately reflect the support and time that current Junior Cabinet Members provide when compared to comparable roles)</p> <p>4. Reject the Panel's recommendation 4 and to continue with the current level of special responsibility allowance for Opposition Spokespersons.</p> <p>(Reasons for the revised proposal is it is felt that the level of time and commitment given by Opposition Spokespersons warrants an allowance in line with the Council's arrangements for several years)</p> <p>5. Reject the Panel's recommendation 5 and to increase the level of special responsibility allowance for Vice-Chairs of Regulation and Audit Committees to Band 6.</p> <p>(Reasons for the revised proposal is it is felt that the level of responsibility and commitment given by the Vice-Chairs of these decision-making committees warrants an allowance in line with the Vice Chair of Scrutiny Committees)</p> <p>6. Authorise the Monitoring Officer to make any amendments to the existing Scheme of Allowances in order to publish the Scheme of Members' Allowances 2022/23 as a result of the Council's decisions to</p>

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	recommendations 1-5 above.
7	Report of the Leader and Cabinet
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Medium-Term Financial Plan 2022/23 (including the Revenue and Capital Budgets and Council Tax Setting etc as set out in Paper A and its appendices).</p> <p>The Council RESOLVED to</p> <p>Approve the General Fund net revenue budget for 2022/23 of £378,646,000 and the individual service budgets for 2022/23 as outlined in Appendix 1 including:</p> <p>a) The transformation, savings and income generation plans outlined in Appendix 2, noting the savings did not require detailed Equalities Impact Assessments.</p> <p>b) The additional funding requirements set out in Appendix 3.</p> <p>c) The Finance and Assets Protocol as part of Local Government Reorganisation implementation as attached at Appendix 11.</p> <p>d) An increase in Council Tax of 1.99% in 2022/23 (an increase of £26.94 per Band D property).</p> <p>e) An increase of 1.00% to Council Tax for the Adult Social Care Precept is approved in recognition of the current demands and financial pressures on this service. This is equivalent to an increase of £13.54 on a Band D property.</p> <p>f) Agree to continue the Council Tax precept of £12.84 within the base budget for the shadow Somerset Rivers Authority (representing no increase). This results in a Council Tax Requirement of £2,577,594. Page 80</p> <p>g) Agree the precept requirement of £279,841,541 and set the County Council precept for Band D council tax charge at £1,394.00 for 2022/23.</p> <p>h) The use of reserves for once-off spend and the overall estimated position of Earmarked Reserves outlined in Appendix 4.</p> <p>i) Note the adequacy of General Reserves at £23.0m within a risk assessed range requirement of £20m - £30m.</p> <p>j) The Capital & Investment Strategy attached at Appendix 6.</p>

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	<p>k) The Efficiency Strategy attached at Appendix 7.</p> <p>l) The Capital Programme for 2022/23 of £110.2m including new capital bids of £48.4m outlined in Appendix 8, planned sources of funding, and notes the overall programme of £180.3m for 2023/24 to 2024/25 as outlined in Appendix 9.</p> <p>m) The MRP Policy attached at Appendix 10.</p> <p>n) The Capital Prudential Indicators outlined in tables 16-22.</p> <p>o) To opt into the national procurement scheme for External Auditor Appointments administered through Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA).</p> <p>p) Delegate any final Business Rates amendments to the Director of Finance and Governance in consultation with the Leader of the Council.</p> <p>And to delegate any amendments within the final Government Financial Settlement and the final Business Rates amendments to the Director of Finance and Governance in consultation with the Leader of the Council.</p> <p>Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022-23 (as set out in Paper B and its appendices).</p> <p>The Council RESOLVED to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. adopt the Treasury Borrowing Strategy (as shown in Section 2 of the report). 2. approve the Treasury Investment Strategy (as shown in Section 3 of the report) and proposed Lending Counterparty Criteria (attached at Appendix B to the report). 3. adopt the Prudential Treasury Indicators in section 4. 4. note Appendix A, that is adopted as part of the Councils Financial regulations. 5. note the current Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) attached at Appendix D to the report.
8	Report of the Monitoring Officer

Item No.	Title
	<p>DECISION The Council RESOLVED to:</p> <p>Regarding the May 2022 elections:</p> <p>Approve the scale of fees and charges for the elections on 5 May 2022 as set out in Appendix 1 and to delegate authority to the Returning Officer to agree any subsequent variations.</p> <p>Regarding the Contract Procedure Rules and Standing Order:</p> <p>Approve the revised Contract Procedure Rules and Standing Orders as set out in Appendix 2; including the updated approach to assessing the Most Economically Advantageous Tender of 60% price, 30% quality and 10% social value.</p> <p>Regarding the proposed revised Members Code of Conduct</p> <p>Agree the adoption of the revised Members Code of Conduct as set out in Appendix 3 for implementation from 6 May 2022 following the elections;</p> <p>Agree the that revised Code of Conduct is incorporated into the Council's Constitution from 6 May 2022;</p> <p>Authorise the Monitoring Officer to develop and promote a Member Development programme to support the implementation of the revised Code of Conduct;</p> <p>Agree that the revised Code of Conduct is promoted with Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) for adoption by City, Town and Parish Councils for implementation from 6 May 2022;</p> <p>Endorse the Monitoring Officer to review and make any appropriate amendments to the Council's complaints procedures for handling allegations about potential breaches of the Members Code of Conduct with reference to the LGA Guidance.</p> <p>Regarding the proposed additional meeting of the County Council</p> <p>Agree to hold a meeting of the County Council on Wednesday 27 April 2022 to approve the minutes of Committee meetings and other procedural matters before the elections are held in May 2022.</p>
9	Report of the HR Policy Committee and Pay Policy Statement

Item No.	Title
	<p>DECISION The Council RESOLVED to approve the Pay Policy Statement (PPS) for the Council for 2022-23.</p>
10	Requisitioned Item
	<p>DECISION Supporting Carers in Somerset</p> <p>The Council RESOLVED to adopt the item, as amended, regarding Supporting Carers in Somerset.</p> <p>The Council thanks all unpaid carers for looking after their loved ones through the difficult time of the pandemic, caring for their loved ones without the support that they rely on.</p> <p>The Council believes that caring for our carers needs to be at the heart of our approach to creating a sustainable future for social care in Somerset.</p> <p>That the Council notes that of the 58,000 carers in Somerset the vast majority do not seek financial support from the Council. Instead, they seek emotional support through carers groups both on-line and in person, or information on where to get support through our micro providers and volunteer networks and is the reason why the Council funds an independent carers service designed by carers for carers.</p> <p>The Council commits to work with the NHS and voluntary sector to guarantee an assessment for carers' support for all who want one, including the offer of short breaks and other options.</p> <p>That the Council lobby central government to ensure that carers assessments are properly funded so that we can support people to stay in their own homes while unpaid carers can take the break they deserve.</p>
11	Report of the Leader and Cabinet
	<p>DECISION The Council received and noted this report.</p>

Item No.	Title
12	Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Families
	DECISION The Council received and noted this report.
13	Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Education and Public Health
	DECISION The Council received and noted this report.
14	Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Transformation and Local Government Reform
	DECISION The Council received and noted this report.
15	Report of the Scrutiny for Adults and Health Committee
	DECISION The Council received and noted this report.
16	Report of the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee
	DECISION The Council received and noted this report.
17	Report of the Scrutiny for Children and Families Committee
	DECISION The Council received and noted this report.