

# PAPER B

## Executive Report

Forward Plan Reference: FP/23/01/15

Decision Date - 13/02/23

---

## Adoption of the Council Plan for Somerset Council

Executive Member(s): Cllr Bill Revans - Leader of the Council

Local Member(s) and Division: All

Lead Officer: Duncan Sharkey – Chief Executive

Authors: Tony Johnson – Strategic Manager Business Intelligence, Sunita Mills – Strategic Manager Commissioning Development

Contact Details: [tony.johnson@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:tony.johnson@somerset.gov.uk), [Sunita.mills@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Sunita.mills@somerset.gov.uk)

### 1. Summary / Background

- 1.1 This report summarises the proposed Council Plan for Somerset Council (See appendix B) which details the strategic ambitions and direction of the authority for the term of the administration. This plan aims to give residents, businesses, and communities a transparent view of the strategic direction of the organisation and provides a focal point from which all further strategic planning and decision making can grow.
- 1.2 The plan has been developed at a time of great change in Somerset and given the context of the ongoing work to form the Somerset Council it is designed to allow flexibility for the future development of the business plan.
- 1.3 The plan sets out the vision and details four overarching priorities. The plan also details a number of principles which will guide how the plan is to be delivered.
- 1.4 Stakeholder engagement has taken place, a summary of the feedback can be found in appendix A.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **The Executive notes the report from the stakeholder engagement that is included as appendix A and agrees to adopt the Council Plan as set out in appendix B.**

### 3. Reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 This plan will provide a key focal point for strategic direction of the new authority and provide a transparent document for residents, businesses and communities to see the key priorities of the Council.

### 4. Other options considered

- 4.1 A number of alternative themes were considered during the early development of this plan. However, these were all based on the priorities set

# PAPER B

out in the manifesto of the administration and adapted to take account of the current environment in which the council will need to operate.

## 5. Links to County Vision, Business Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy

- 5.1** This plan provides the new vision and strategic direction for the Council. Whilst this plan does not include detailed costings it does set out that the delivery of this plan will need to be funded within the Medium-Term Financial Plan.
- 5.2** The Business Plan for Somerset Council will be developed following adoption of the Council Plan, and this will set out in detail how the priorities within the Council plan will be delivered.

## 6. Consultations and co-production

- 6.1** Consultation on developing the draft plan has been undertaken with:
- Executive [collectively and individually]
  - Directors and strategic leads of existing Somerset Councils
  - Senior Management Teams
  - LGR Corporate Planning Sub-workstream
  - LGR Programme Board and LGR Programme Steering Group
  - LGR Implementation Board (in place of the LGR Joint Scrutiny Panel which was cancelled)
  - Extraordinary Place Scrutiny
- 6.2** Stakeholder engagement took place in January 2023. The responses have been analysed, fed into the final plan, and captured in the stakeholder engagement report which can be found in appendix A.

## 7. Financial and Risk Implications

- 7.1** There are no direct financial implications to this document, as the plan itself does not deliver projects, programmes or activities. However, the ambitions within are subject to any changes to budget and funding which might affect the level of impact that can be achieved.
- 7.2** There are no specific risks to be linked to the Plan however failure to deliver the plan could cause reputational harm. This will be managed through consistent performance reporting and corrective management actions as set out in the Council's Performance Management Framework.

Likelihood	1	Impact	3	Risk Score	3
------------	---	--------	---	------------	---

# PAPER B

## 8. Legal and HR Implications

- 8.1** There are no legal implications to this recommendation being accepted, as this plan provides strategic direction only, however there may be future decisions in the delivery of this plan that themselves have legal implications and will need to follow the relevant processes.
- 8.2** The plan itself does not create any staff implications, however a key role in the delivery of this plan is that staff should be able to see how their service plans link through the Business plan to the Council plan.

## 9. Other Implications

### 9.1 Equalities Implications

Equalities implications have been considered throughout the development of the plan and a priority of "A Fairer Somerset" has been included with the aspiration of reducing inequalities and recognising that some people can be disproportionately impacted because of protected characteristics.

The forthcoming Somerset Council Business Plan will provide more detail about how the priorities of the Council Plan will be delivered, including the approach to reducing inequalities and increasing fairness and inclusion. The projects, programmes and activities undertaken to deliver the plan will be subject to appropriate due regard of equality and where necessary equality impact assessments on an individual basis.

As part of the engagement, we will be clear about what the priorities mean to us and the impact we think they will have. We will do this in Plain English.

The engagement on the plan will take place with existing partners and we are already clear on the accessibility needs.

We will ensure that engagement with partners captures the impact of the plan on protected groups and these are, in turn, reflected within the final version of the plan.

We will also ensure that the forthcoming Somerset Council Business Plan captures the need to deliver against the priority to improve fairness and inclusion and reduce inequalities.

### 9.2 Community Safety Implications

Whilst this plan provides strategic direction to services within the authority, it does not have any direct implications on community safety.

### 9.3 Sustainability Implications

This plan details A Greener, More Sustainable Somerset as one of the key themes for the organisation and provides strategic direction for services within the authority.

### 9.4 Health and Safety Implications

There are no implications to Health and Safety

# PAPER B

## 9.5 Health and Wellbeing Implications

This plan gives strategic direction for the authority around improved health and wellbeing, a focus on prevention and the reduction of inequalities.

## 9.6 Social Value

The Council Plan continues to promote building social value into the strategic direction of the authority.

Once the associated Business Plan is adopted there will be a review of the Council's Social Value priorities to ensure alignment.

## 10. Scrutiny comments / recommendations:

**10.1** The plan was presented to LGR Implementation Board in lieu of the LGR Joint Scrutiny Panel because the later was cancelled. The recommendations from the LGR Implementation Board were-

- adding the importance of education to all the priorities not just in the Fairer Somerset section
- adding the word honesty to the principles
- referring to the West Somerset coastline.

The plan was presented to the Extraordinary Place Scrutiny on 1 Feb, who welcomed it as a good starting point for the corporate planning for the new council. The committee recommended –

- more emphasis on carbon neutrality
- including something on how we listen to and work with children and young people
- referring to regeneration activities
- refining the vision so that it' s less clunky.
- ensure there is ownership of the plan at all levels of the organisation.

Work has taken place to ensure these recommendations are captured within the final version of the text or, where more appropriate, taken forward to inform the development of the Business Plan over the coming months.

## 11. Background

**11.1** The Council Plan sets out the overarching aims of the Council for the coming years. The plan will sit at the top of the Strategic Planning Framework for the council and its themes and priorities will flow through the Business Plan. The Business Plan will set out in more detail how priorities will be delivered, and down in to Service Plans and Individual Plans, hence enabling staff to identify how their work contributes to the Council's overall objectives.

# PAPER B

- 11.2** The plan will provide a clear view on the priorities of the Council to residents, businesses, and partners.  
How the organisation will work towards delivering the outcomes of the plan will be described in the Council's Business Plan and Service Plans. The performance reporting arrangements will be detailed in the Business Plan, this will provide the mechanism to track progress and manage delivery of the Plan Priorities.

## 12. Background Papers

- 12.1** Appendix A – Stakeholder Feedback Summary Report  
Appendix B - Council Plan for Somerset Council

### Report Sign-Off

		Date completed
Legal Implications	Honor Clarke	02/02/23
Governance	Scott Wooldridge	02/02/23
Corporate Finance	Jason Vaughan	30/01/23
Customers, Digital and Workforce	Chris Squire	02/02/23
Property	Paula Hewitt / Oliver Woodhams	01/02/23
Procurement	Jason Vaughan	30/01/23
Senior Manager	Duncan Sharkey	01/02/23
Commissioning Development	Sunita Mills / Ryszard Rusinek	31/01/23
Executive Member	Cllr Bill Revans - Leader of the Council	30/01/23
<b><u>Sign-off Key Decision / Consulted on Non-Key Decision</u></b>		
Opposition Spokesperson Informed	Opposition Spokesperson - Leader - Cllr David Fothergill	02/02/23
Scrutiny Chair Informed	Scrutiny For Policies - Adults and Health Committee - Cllr Rosemary Woods	02/02/23
Scrutiny Chair Informed	Scrutiny for Policies - Childrens and Families - Cllr Leigh Redman	02/02/23
Scrutiny Chair Informed	Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee - Cllr Gwil Wren	02/02/23
Scrutiny Chair Informed	Scrutiny For Policies and Environment - Cllr Martin Dimery	02/02/23

## PAPER B

Scrutiny Chair Informed	Scrutiny Committee – Joint Scrutiny for Local Government Reorganisation Committee- Cllr Bob Filmer	02/02/23
----------------------------	--	----------