

Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee (virtual meetings from May 2020 due to Coronavirus)

Wednesday 9 September 2020
1.00 pm Virtual Meeting



To: The Members of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee (virtual meetings from May 2020 due to Coronavirus)

Cllr L Redman (Chair), Cllr R Williams (Vice-Chair), Cllr M Dimery, Cllr N Hewitt-Cooper, Cllr James Hunt, Cllr J Lock, Cllr W Wallace, Cllr J Williams, Elliot, Ms Helen Fenn, Ruth Hobbs and Mrs Eillean Tipper

All Somerset County Council Members are invited to attend meetings of the Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees.

Issued By Scott Wooldridge, Strategic Manager - Governance and Risk and Monitoring Officer - 1 September 2020

For further information about the meeting, please contact democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk / 01823 359500

Guidance about procedures at the meeting follows the printed agenda.

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

This agenda and the attached reports and background papers are available on request prior to the meeting in large print, Braille, audio tape & disc and can be translated into different languages. They can also be accessed via the council's website on www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers



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AGENDA

Item Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee (virtual meetings from May 2020 due to Coronavirus) - 1.00 pm Wednesday 9 September 2020

**** Public Guidance notes contained in agenda annexe ****

1 **Apologies for Absence**

to receive Members' apologies

2 **Declarations of Interest**

Details of all Members' interests in District, Town and Parish Councils can be viewed on the Council Website at [County Councillors membership of Town, City, Parish or District Councils](#) and this will be displayed in the meeting room (Where relevant).

The Statutory Register of Member's Interests can be inspected via request to the Democratic Service Team.

3 **Minutes from the previous meeting held on 9 July 2020 (to follow)** (Pages 9 - 12)

The Committee is asked to confirm the minutes are accurate.

4 **Public Question Time**

The Chair will allow members of the public to ask a question or make a statement about any matter on the agenda for this meeting. **These questions may be taken during the meeting, when the relevant agenda item is considered, at the Chair's discretion.**

5 **Children's Services MTFP Update** (Pages 13 - 22)

6 **SENDIAS Update** (Pages 23 - 28)

7 **County Ticket Update (verbal update)**

8 **Unitary Update (to follow)**

9 **Scrutiny Work Programme** (Pages 29 - 46)

To discuss any items for the forthcoming work programme. To assist the discussion, the following documents are attached:

- a) – The Cabinet's latest published forward plan;
- b) – Current Work Programme for the Committee;
- c) – Outcome Tracker.

Item Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee (virtual meetings from May 2020 due to Coronavirus) - 1.00 pm Wednesday 9 September 2020

10 **Any other urgent items of business**

The Chair may raise any items of urgent business.

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Guidance notes for the meeting

1. Council Public Meetings

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 have given local authorities new powers to hold public meetings virtually by using video or telephone conferencing technology.

2. Inspection of Papers

Any person wishing to inspect minutes, reports, or the background papers for any item on the agenda should contact Democratic Services at democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk or telephone 07790577336/ 07811 313837/ 07790577232

They can also be accessed via the council's website on www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers.

Printed copies will not be available for inspection at the Council's offices and this requirement was removed by the Regulations.

3. Members' Code of Conduct requirements

When considering the declaration of interests and their actions as a councillor, Members are reminded of the requirements of the Members' Code of Conduct and the underpinning Principles of Public Life: Honesty; Integrity; Selflessness; Objectivity; Accountability; Openness; Leadership. The Code of Conduct can be viewed at: [Code of Conduct](#)

4. Minutes of the Meeting

Details of the issues discussed, and recommendations made at the meeting will be set out in the minutes, which the Committee will be asked to approve as a correct record at its next meeting.

5. Public Question Time

If you wish to speak, please contact Democratic Services by 5pm 3 clear working days before the meeting. Email democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk or telephone 07790577336/ 07811 313837/ 07790577232.

At the Chair's invitation you may ask questions and/or make statements or comments about any matter on the Committee's agenda – providing you have given the required notice. You may also present a petition on any matter within the Committee's remit. The length of public question time will be no more than 30 minutes in total.

A slot for Public Question Time is set aside near the beginning of the meeting, after the minutes of the previous meeting have been agreed. However, questions or statements about any matter on the agenda for this meeting may be taken at the time when each matter is considered.

You must direct your questions and comments through the Chair. You may not

take a direct part in the debate. The Chair will decide when public participation is to finish.

If there are many people present at the meeting for one particular item, the Chair may adjourn the meeting to allow views to be expressed more freely. If an item on the agenda is contentious, with a large number of people attending the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group. An issue will not be deferred just because you cannot be present for the meeting. Remember that the amount of time you speak will be restricted, to three minutes only.

In line with the council's procedural rules, if any member of the public interrupts a meeting the Chair will warn them accordingly.

If that person continues to interrupt or disrupt proceedings the Chair can ask the Democratic Services Officer to remove them as a participant from the meeting.

6. Meeting Etiquette

- Mute your microphone when you are not talking.
- Switch off video if you are not speaking.
- Only speak when invited to do so by the Chair.
- Speak clearly (if you are not using video then please state your name)
- If you're referring to a specific page, mention the page number.
- Switch off your video and microphone after you have spoken.

7. Exclusion of Press & Public

If when considering an item on the agenda, the Committee may consider it appropriate to pass a resolution under Section 100A (4) Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, as defined under the terms of the Act.

If there are members of the public and press listening to the open part of the meeting, then the Democratic Services Officer will, at the appropriate time, remove the participant from the meeting.

8. Recording of meetings

The Council supports the principles of openness and transparency. It allows filming, recording and taking photographs at its meetings that are open to the public - providing this is done in a non-disruptive manner. Members of the public may use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings. No filming or recording may take place when the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting. As a matter of courtesy to the public, anyone wishing to film or record proceedings is asked to provide reasonable notice to the Committee Administrator so that the relevant Chair can inform those present at the start of the meeting.

We would ask that, as far as possible, members of the public aren't filmed unless they are playing an active role such as speaking within a meeting and there may be occasions when speaking members of the public request not to be filmed.

A copy of the Council's Recording of Meetings Protocol is available from the Committee Administrator for the meeting.

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**SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE
(VIRTUAL MEETINGS FROM MAY 2020 DUE TO CORONAVIRUS)**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee held as a Virtual Committee meeting on Thursday 9th July at 1.00pm

Present: Cllr L Redman (Chair), Cllr R Williams (Vice-Chair), Cllr M Dimery, Cllr J Lock, Cllr J Williams, Cllr W Wallace, Ruth Hobbs.

Other Members present: Cllr F Nicholson, Cllr F Purbrick, Cllr A Govier, Cllr T Munt, Cllr B Revans, Cllr M Chilcott, Cllr C Lawrence, Cllr D Huxtable, Cllr C Paul, Cllr A Kendall, Cllr L Leyshon and Cllr M Lerry.

Apologies for absence: Cllr J Hunt and Cllr N Hewitt-Cooper.

1 **Declarations of Interest – Agenda item 2**

The Chair of the Committee invited those Members present to declare any interests not already registered as personal interests, such as being members of District, City, Town and Parish Councils and, available for inspection on the Council's website. There were no declarations made.

2 **Minutes from the previous meeting - Agenda item 3**

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 2020 were an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

3 **Public Question Time - Agenda item 4**

Ms Beverley Lister submitted her question to the Committee regarding the removal of the 49-page Unlawful document for Somerset's local offer as a member of the public. The Director of Children's Services, Julian Wooster, responded as appropriate.

Action: The Director of Children's Services to provide a written response to Ms Beverley Lister.

4 **Scrutiny Work Programme – Agenda Item 5**

Timetable to meet submission deadline for Written Statement of Actions (WSOA)

The following points were raised

- WSOA focussing on the 9 Areas to improve on.

- who will be on the improvement board and provision of a list of the Committee?
- no governance structure in terms of decision making, it will be accountable to its own organisations
- WSOA will be approved by all our own structures and agencies and submitted to OFSTED for final approval
- Upcoming meeting to discuss if we need more time to produce WSOA, the plan needs to be owned by all before submission, an extension may be required

The Director of Children's Services confirmed the list would be provided as soon as it is finalised. In addition, he advised that Senior Leaders to be involved and co-chaired by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Chief Executive, James Rimmer and Somerset County Council (SCC) Chief Executive, Patrick Flaherty. RSC will be on the Improvement Board as well as school representatives for particular sectors.

It was then asked, what happens if the WSOA is late and not good enough, will SCC Chief Executive and the CCG Chief Executive be responsible? The Director of Children's Services responded by stating that they are both committed to getting it delivered on time, however Covid19 has affected our ability to respond within the 70 day's timescale (mid-August) so now mid-September may be more realistic. He added, it's about getting it right.

A question was also asked, if the Improvement Plan and WSOA are one and the same document? (no answer recorded).

Work It was commented that the Inspectors are coming back in 18 months and underway since the inspection and can we improve our services within the given timescale?

The Director of Children's Services responded by saying that we need to have actions we can deliver at pace. The Big task is to focus on the areas we can make a significant difference, the 9 focus areas, the elements which are urgent, some are longer term and operating in a national context is important.

5 **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Area Inspection Update** – Agenda Item 6

The Chair of the Committee invited the Director of Children's Services to share the SEND Presentation with those attending the meeting and welcomed James Rimmer, Somerset CCG CEO and Becky Applewood, Somerset CCG.

The Committee considered the SEND report with various comments made on how the position was reached that resulted in the report, citing issues with a Blame culture being corrosive towards staff and that we now need to establish a more welcoming culture moving forward. It was noted that we are clearly not where we want to be, but we're in this together to improve things for young people and families. It's now about looking forward and Joint Working in Somerset, this needs building on as the commitment for a working partnership going forward is there. We now need to work together, building services that reflect the needs of those using them. It was also commented that change is a long process and that culture is not changed simply by saying it is, this takes longer. SEND is ever more complex and takes longer to deliver improvements, it takes time to establish the complex robust systems across agencies, the system is dependent on all working well together. It was also agreed that more investment needed to be made by the Council.

The presentation continued with partnership and joint commissioning and emphasized strong elements in services in Somerset, stating that there are good sets of arrangements beginning to benefit those using our services and their families. He also highlighted economic and geographic issues in terms of social mobility on certain areas in Somerset. A blame culture is leading to a feeling of mistrust. Leadership issue we need to get right, we haven't had the commitment in the past. The Director of Children's Services continued by commenting that it changed in the last year, progress made but a long way to go and more to do. Forty percent of our schools are academies, which we can't control, in terms of budget, we are spending significantly more to the impacts we need to improve the issues we are facing. School Governors need to be aware of the issues we are facing. Focus on diagnosis is a problem too at the moment, school staff need the right training and support.

It was noted that one of the 3 partners absent was the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC). The question was asked, what is going to be done to get engagement?

In response the Director of Children's Services responded by stating that the challenge from OFSTED is not sufficiently owned by the NHS and Schools. WSOA needs their ownership and commitment to move forward by owning an element of the plan. He said that the RSC was committed to the WSOA.

Cllr Leigh Redman asked if we could make an action to seek reassurance on behalf of the committee her involvement is confirmed.

The Director of Children's Services then interjected and commented that it's started to change, see the report, CCG too late but we're starting to much closer. Joint Commissioning arrangements to be in place for the coming year, we've definitely moved forward. Clearly, we will need to work with Education,

and we will be looking to see what we can learn from others. We're now putting the accelerator down, strengthening our team and gaining momentum. It was also commented that regular meetings are happening to try to move things forward, schools are individual organisations, we would welcome the involvement of the Regional Schools Commissioner.

6 **Any other urgent items of business – Agenda Item 7**

There were no other items of business

(The meeting ended at 15.56pm)

CHAIRMAN

Somerset County Council
Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families
Committee

2020/21 Children's Service Budget - Impact of COVID-19

Lead Officer: Julian Wooster, Director of Children's Services

Author: Sian Kenny, Strategic Finance Manager – Business Partnering

Contact Details: 01823 359392 SKenny@somerset.gov.uk

Cabinet Member: Cllr M Chilcott, Cabinet Member for Resources

Division and Local Member: All

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report sets out the impact of COVID-19 on the Children's Services 2020/21 Budget, based on the position at month 3 which is the end of June 2020.
- 1.2. There has been significant additional expenditure and an adverse impact upon income in both the current and future years. The council has put in place robust processes to ensure that it maintains its tight financial controls with the latest forecast showing that the financial impact of COVID-19 on Children's Services to be £7.3m.
- 1.3. The government has recognised this and has paid funding totalling £29.1m towards the additional costs that the Council has faced. The government has also announced a scheme to help fund some of the Councils lost income from fees & charges with the 5% of the loss being borne by the council and then the Government supporting 75p in every £1 above this. We are still waiting for the full details of the scheme and will keep members updated on the impacts of this through the monthly Budget Monitoring Report.
- 1.4. The Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team agreed to allocate £7.1m of the £29.1m to Children's Services.
- 1.5. The allocation of funding to Children's Services supports the County's priorities to direct resources to where they are needed most and in helping vulnerable people.

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1. The Children & Families Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the impact of COVID-19 on the Children's Services 2020/21 Budget in relation to the additional cost and loss of income to the service.
- 2.2. It is recommended that the committee receive a regular update on the impact of COVID-19 and consider the potential decisions the service may need to make to mitigate against significant financial impact on the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2021/22 to 2025/26.

3. Background

- 3.1. The 2020/21 Children's Service Full Year Budget at the end of June 2020 is £86.5m. The full year projection is £89.5m, resulting in a £2.7m forecast year-

end variance.

- 3.2.** The £89.5m full year projection includes £7.3m of additional cost and loss of income as a result of COVID-19. At this point in time, £4.2m of government funding was allocated to Children's Services, leaving £3.1m of unfunded COVID-19 pressures.
- 3.3.** Since then, a further £3.0m of government funding has been allocated to Children's Services. Resulting in total funding of £7.1m and a residual unfunded pressure of £0.2m.
- 3.4.** It has also reduced the end of June forecast year-end variance to a £0.3m underspend. Please note that the end of July (month 4) position will be reported to Cabinet shortly and the forecast year-end position has been updated to reflect the allocation of the £3.0m and any other changes to business as usual service budgets.
- 3.5.** The residual £0.2m relates to loss of income and remains unfunded pending guidance on the Local Government income compensation scheme for lost sales, fees and charges.
- 3.6.** The table below shows the breakdown of the £7.3m estimated cost of COVID-19

Description	Cost £m
Support for Early Years settings to remain open to support key workers and vulnerable children	2.2
Children's Services - notional increase in placement and targeted/wrap around support costs to prevent family or placement breakdown, for highly vulnerable group of children as they return to school and referrals rise, coupled with likely increased provider costs	1.8
Home to School Transport - notional increase in route costs	1.1
Children's Social Care External Placements commissioned in advance to ensure sufficiency	0.8
Impact on achievement of transformation savings	0.8
Schools suspended redundancies	0.3
Additional Children's In House Fostering & Leaving Care allowances	0.1
Visual Impairment agency worker and PPE	0.0
Description	Loss of Income £m
SEND Traded Services loss of income	0.1
Home to School Transport refund of paid seats	0.1
KS1 & KS2 moderation contract (Summer term) - loss of income from academies	0.0
TOTAL Cost of COVID-19 to Children's Services	7.3

- 3.7.** Work on the MTFP for 2021/22 to 2025/26 is currently underway. The service is working with People too to begin to measure the impact of the pandemic on lagged and future demand which will further inform financial projections.

4. Consultations undertaken

- 4.1. This government funding is un-ringfenced on the basis that councils are best placed to determine the specific needs of their local communities.
- 4.2. The Senior Leadership Team endorsed the allocation of the funding from the Government. Consequently, in accordance with the Council's Constitution and Emergency Democratic Arrangements (as agreed on 28 March 2020) a decision was made by the Chief Executive to allocate funding towards the services / actions to support the COVID-19 emergency response.

5. Implications

- 5.1. Any adverse variance at the end of the financial year may have an impact on the level of the Council's reserves. There is a specific Budget Equalisation reserve to address any funding shortfalls and smooth out budget gaps in future years.

6. Background papers

- 6.1.
 - Cabinet Member Decision 14 August 2020: 2020/21 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report Month 3
 - Officer Decision 01 July 2020: Allocation of COVID-19 Funding
 - Officer Decision 04 August 2020: COVID-19 – Proposed Funding Allocations

Note For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author

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Impact of COVID-19 on Children's Services Budget

Children & Families Scrutiny Committee
09 September 2020



2020/21 Children's Services Budget Position at end of June (M3)



Main Services	Revised Base Budget (M1) £m	Full Year Budget (M3) £m	Full Year Projection (M3) £m	Month 3 Variance £m
Early Help	4.3	4.5	4.5	0.0
Fostering & Permanence	11.7	11.8	11.6	-0.2
External Placements	21.2	21.9	23.2	1.3
Fieldwork	8.3	8.3	7.9	-0.4
Disabilities	3.0	3.0	2.7	-0.3
Partnership, Audit & Quality	1.1	2.1	2.0	-0.1
Business Support	3.1	3.4	3.3	-0.1
CLA	4.3	4.3	3.7	-0.6
Leaving Care	1.9	1.9	1.7	-0.2
Central	1.4	1.3	1.3	0.0
Commissioning	8.0	8.3	8.4	0.1
Safeguarding	0.5	0.2	0.1	-0.1
Improving Outcomes & Sufficiency	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0
Inclusion	2.6	1.0	1.1	0.1
Home to School Transport	9.2	9.2	9.2	0.0
SEND Transport	4.8	4.8	4.8	0.0
West Somerset Opportunity Area	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0
COVID-19	0.0	0.0	3.1	3.1
Total	86.5	86.9	89.5	2.7

Estimated cost of £7.3m (see next slide)

Funding approved from Covid-19 Emergency Grant of £4.2m (at M3)

Unfunded cost of £3.1m

Note a further £3.0m of funding was approved in M4

Residual pressure of £0.2m

Breakdown of Estimated COVID-19 Cost of £7.3m



Description	Cost	Funding Approved
	£m	£m
Support for Early Years settings to remain open to support key workers and vulnerable children	2.2	2.2
Children's Services - notional increase in placement and targeted/wrap around support costs to prevent family or placement breakdown, for highly vulnerable group of children as they return to school and referrals rise, coupled with likely increased provider costs	1.8	1.8
Home to School Transport - notional increase in route costs	1.1	1.1
Children's Social Care External Placements commissioned in advance to ensure sufficiency	0.8	0.8
Impact on achievement of transformation savings	0.8	0.8
Schools suspended redundancies	0.3	0.3
Additional Children's In House Fostering & Leaving Care allowances	0.1	0.1
Visual Impairment agency worker and PPE	0.0	0.0
Description	Loss of Income	Funding Approved
	£m	T £m
SEND Traded Services loss of income	0.1	0.0
Home to School Transport refund of paid seats	0.1	0.0
KS1 & KS2 moderation contract (Summer term) - loss of income from academies	0.0	0.0
TOTAL Cost of COVID-19 to Children's Services	7.3	7.1

Note £156k unfunded, pending guidance on the Local government income compensation scheme for lost sales, fees and charges

Key Funding approved M3

Funding approved M4

Improving
LIVES

Impact of COVID-19 on Service Transformation & MTFP Savings

There were £0.8m of MTFP savings to be achieved during 2020/21. None of these savings have been achieved to date and due to the COVID-19 response it is anticipated that all these savings are at risk. It has been agreed by SLT that these can be delayed for up to one year and funded from the COVID-19 grant.

MTFP 2020/21 Transformation Savings	£'000
Family Safeguarding	30
Increase the number of inhouse foster carers	185
Reduce the cost of off contract residential placements in line with on contract	236
Bring 10 residential placements back into Somerset	67
Education Travel Plans	330
Total	847



Impact of COVID-19 on Future Years

Work on the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2021/22 to 2025/26 is currently underway

Work continues within the commissioning team to ensure weekly placements costs remain at the pre Covid-19 level; however, this has potential to change as providers seek additional remuneration.

The service is also working with Peopletoo to begin to measure the impact of the pandemic on lagged and future demand which will further inform financial projections.



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WHAT IS SENDIAS?

FREE, CONFIDENTIAL and IMPARTIAL ADVOCACY service

An Early Help service providing information advice and support to parents, carers, children and young people (up to aged 25) about special educational needs and disability (SEND) within Education

Working with schools to support needs to be met locally

Team comprising 9.1 wte (previously 5.35 wte)

Funded by Somerset County Council, Somerset CCG and the Council for Disabled Children



SENDIAS SERVICES

- A phone helpline, email support
- Individual support to help with issues on SEND
- Information, advice and support on SEND law through the Somerset SENDIAS website and leaflets
- Information, advice and support to help with the Education, Health and Care (EHC) Needs Assessment and process.
- Information, advice and support for mediation and SEND tribunals
- Information on SEND groups available in Somerset
- Information on Somerset's Local Offer
- Signposting to other services
- The Somerset Choice Advice Service sits alongside Somerset SENDIAS as a free, arms length, impartial, information, advice and support service.



WHAT'S BEEN WORKING WELL DURING COVID-19

Page 25

- ❖ Support to children, young people and parents
- ❖ Increased levels of co-production
- ❖ Development of Advisory Group
- ❖ Development of customer satisfaction feedback



OUR CHALLENGES DURING COVID-19

- ❖ Supporting parents with virtual tribunals
- ❖ Increase in request for Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessments
- ❖ Caseloads remain high



FUTURE PLANS

- ❖ Recruitment commenced on 2 more roles funded by Children's Transformation
- ❖ A more strategic management approach to enable greater partnership working
- ❖ KPI for Transformation Fund reporting
- ❖ Hearing the voice of the SEND child and young person more clearly
- ❖ Reducing volume of unnecessary requests for EHCPS, reducing mediations and tribunals.



GET IN TOUCH

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Somerset County Council Forward Plan of proposed Key Decisions

The County Council is required to set out details of planned key decisions at least 28 calendar days before they are due to be taken. This forward plan sets out key decisions to be taken at Cabinet meetings as well as individual key decisions to be taken by either the Leader, a Cabinet Member or an Officer. The very latest details can always be found on our website at:

<http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=134&RD=0&FD=1&bcr=1>

Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 defines a key decision as an executive decision which is likely:

- (a) to result in the relevant local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the relevant local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the relevant local authority.

The Council has decided that the relevant threshold at or above which the decision is significant will be £500,000 for capital / revenue expenditure or savings. Money delegated to schools as part of the Scheme of Financial Management of Schools exercise is exempt from these thresholds once it is delegated to the school.

Cabinet meetings are held in public at County Hall unless Cabinet resolve for all or part of the meeting to be held in private in order to consider exempt information/confidential business. The Forward Plan will show where this is intended. Agendas and reports for Cabinet meetings are also published on the Council's website at least five clear working days before the meeting date.

Individual key decisions that are shown in the plan as being proposed to be taken "not before" a date will be taken within a month of that date, with the requirement that a report setting out the proposed decision will be published on the Council's website at least five working days before the date of decision. Any representations received will be considered by the decision maker at the decision meeting.

In addition to key decisions, the forward plan shown below lists other business that is scheduled to be considered at a Cabinet meeting during the period of the Plan, which will also include reports for information. The monthly printed plan is updated on an ad hoc basis during each month. *Where possible the County Council will attempt to keep to the dates shown in the Plan. It is quite likely, however, that some items will need to be rescheduled and new items added as new circumstances come to light.* Please ensure therefore that you refer to the most up to date plan.

For general enquiries about the Forward Plan:

- You can view it on the County Council web site at <http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=134&RD=0&FD=1&bcr=1>
- You can arrange to inspect it at County Hall (in Taunton).
- Alternatively, copies can be obtained from Scott Wooldridge or Michael Bryant in the Democratic Services Team by telephoning (01823) 357628 or 359500.

To view the Forward Plan on the website you will need a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader available free from www.adobe.com
Please note that it could take up to 2 minutes to download this PDF document depending on your Internet connection speed.

To make representations about proposed decisions:

Please contact the officer identified against the relevant decision in the Forward Plan to find out more information or about how your representations can be made and considered by the decision maker.

The Agenda and Papers for Cabinet meetings can be found on the County Council's website at:
<http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=134&Year=0>

Weekly version of plan published on 3 August 2020

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
FP20/05/17 First published: 28 May 2020	Not before 2nd Sep 2020 Cabinet Member for Resources	Issue: Disposal of land at Coombe Wood Lane, Coombe St Nicholas Decision: To authorise the disposal of approximately 1 acre of surplus land which has been identified as having potential for residential development to generate receipts to meet council priorities.			Charlie Field, Estates Manager, Corporate Property Tel: 01823355325
FP/20/08/04 First published:	9 Sep 2020 Leader of the Council	Issue: Climate Emergency Strategy - Amendment to Cabinet Decision 18th December 2019 Decision:			Jon Doyle, Service Manager
FP/20/07/06 First published: 4 August 2020	Not before 14th Sep 2020 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	Issue: Decision to allocate an additional DfT Highways Grant of £15.4m to specific projects and programmes Decision:			Mike O'Dowd-Jones, Strategic Commissioning Manager – Highways and Transport Tel: 01823 356238
FP/19/09/08 First published: 10 September 2019	Not before 14th Sep 2020 Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure	Issue: Heart of the South West Local Industrial Strategy and SCC innovation centres Decision: Agreement to endorse the Heart of the South West (HotSW) Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) which			Paul Hickson, Strategic Manager - Economy and Planning Tel: 07977 400838

Weekly version of plan published on 3 August 2020

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
FP/20/01/04 First published: 23 January 2020	Not before 14th Sep 2020 Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	Issue: Contract Amendment - Somerset Advocacy Service Decision: To extend the current contract for advocacy services for adults for up to two years from its current end date of 30th April 2020. New Government regulations / codes of practice associated with the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019 are expected in 2020 / 2021 and will determine the nature of the future service.			Dave Williams, Senior Commissioning Officer Tel: 01823 359103;
FP/20/08/05 First published:	14 Sep 2020 Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure	Issue: Approval to allocate funds for the development of Chard Enterprise Centre phase 2 Decision: Decision to allocation of circa £2.8mil of capital funding from SCC capital approvals for the development of the Chard Enterprise Centre			Katriona Lovelock, Economic Development Officer Tel: 01823 359873
FP/20/08/06 First published:	14 Sep 2020 Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Issue: West Somerset Opportunity Area Year 4 Decision:			Julia Ridge, Strategic Manager - Early Years & Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823357633
FP/20/07/08 First published: 4 August 2020	16 Sep 2020 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	Issue: Award of Traffic Signals Framework Contract Decision:			Bev Norman, Service Manager - Traffic Management, Traffic & Transport Development Tel: 01823358089

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FP/20/06/02 First published: 2 June 2020	Not before 21st Sep 2020 Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	Issue: Shared Lives: Banding System Decision: Approval for the banding toolkit to be adopted for existing Shared Lives carers and to provide a period of income protection for those carers who may be financially worse off.			James Cawley, Strategic Manager
FP/19/12/03 First published: 19 December 2019	Not before 21st Sep 2020 Director of Commissioning and Lead Commissioner for Economic Community Infrastructure	Issue: Acceptance of European Social Funding, under Priority Axis 2 - Skills for Growth (2.1) Decision: To accept the grant (if awarded)			Melanie Roberts, Service Manager - Economic Policy Tel: 01823359209
FP/20/07/01 First published: 13 July 2020	Not before 21st Sep 2020 Cabinet Member for Resources	Issue: Sale of part of Stowey Rocks Farm, Over Stowey. Decision: Authority to proceed to sale part of the County Farm known as Stowey Rocks Farm, Over Stowey to the tenant.			Charlie Field, Estates Manager, Corporate Property Tel: 01823355325
FP/20/07/02 First published: 30 July 2020	Not before 21st Sep 2020 Cabinet Member for Resources	Issue: Sale of land adjacent to Colliers Court, Frome Decision:			Charlie Field, Estates Manager, Corporate Property Tel: 01823355325
FP/20/07/04 First published: 30 July 2020	Not before 21st Sep 2020 Cabinet Member for Resources	Issue: Sale of Sandpits Farm, Bower Lane, Bridgwater Decision:			Charlie Field, Estates Manager, Corporate Property Tel: 01823355325

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FP/02/07/03 First published: 13 July 2020	Not before 21st Sep 2020 Cabinet Member for Resources	Issue: Sale of land at Canal Way and land at Coldharbour Farm, Ilminster Decision:			Charlie Field, Estates Manager, Corporate Property Tel: 01823355325
FP/20/08/03 First published: 12 August 2020	Not before 21st Sep 2020 Cabinet Member for Education and Transformation	Issue: Expansion of Robert Blake Secondary School to provide additional school places from 2021 Decision:			Elizabeth Smith, Service Manager – Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823 356260
First published: 31 July 2020	23 Sep 2020 Cabinet (Virtual meetings being held from May 2020 due to Coronavirus)	Issue: Covid 19 public health update Decision: To receive the regular update from the Director of Public Health			Alison Trott, SEND Casework Manager Tel: 01823359713
FP/20/05/08 First published: 21 May 2020	23 Sep 2020 Cabinet (Virtual meetings being held from May 2020 due to Coronavirus)	Issue: Revenue Budget Monitoring - Month 4 Decision: To consider the report			Sian Hedger
First published: 31 July 2020	23 Sep 2020 Cabinet (Virtual meetings being held from May 2020 due to Coronavirus)	Issue: Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 Decision: To receive an update on the development of the MTFP			Jamie Jackson, Service Manager - Governance Tel: 01823 359040

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FP/20/06/03 First published: 5 June 2020	23 Sep 2020 Cabinet (Virtual meetings being held from May 2020 due to Coronavirus)	Issue: School Exclusions - report from the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group Decision: The report contains the findings and recommendations from the task and finish group following an intensive look at School Exclusion practices across Somerset.			Jamie Jackson, Service Manager - Governance Tel: 01823 359040
FP/20/08/01 First published: 4 August 2020	23 Sep 2020 Cabinet (Virtual meetings being held from May 2020 due to Coronavirus)	Issue: Proposed expansion of Holyrood Academy Decision:			Elizabeth Smith, Service Manager – Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823 356260
FP/20/08/02 First published: 12 August 2020	23 Sep 2020 Cabinet (Virtual meetings being held from May 2020 due to Coronavirus)	Issue: Delivery of a new primary school on land at Comeytrowe, Taunton Decision:			Elizabeth Smith, Service Manager – Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823 356260
FP20/06/05 First published: 15 June 2020	Not before 1st Oct 2020 Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure	Issue: Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) Phase 2 2020 Procurement: Nominate a preferred supplier for Lot A. The Lot A area covers North Somerset, Bath & North East Somerset Administrative areas and includes Bath and Wes Decision: Nominate the preferred supplier for the Lot A area.			Amy Pettit

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<p>FP20/06/06 First published: 15 June 2020</p>	<p>Not before 1st Oct 2020 Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure</p>	<p>Issue: Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) Phase 2 2020 Procurement: Nominate a preferred supplier for Lot B. The Lot B area is in Somerset and covers Wells, Glastonbury and Burnham on Sea and includes the Mendip Hills. Decision: Nominate the preferred supplier for the Lot B area.</p>			<p>Amy Pettit</p>
<p>FP20/06/07 First published: 15 June 2020</p>	<p>Not before 1st Oct 2020 Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure</p>	<p>Issue: Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) Phase 2 2020 Procurement: Nominate a preferred supplier for Lot C. The Lot C area is the north of Somerset adjacent to the Bristol Channel and Exmoor National Park and includ Decision: Nominate the preferref supplier for Lot C area</p>			<p>Amy Pettit</p>
<p>FP20/06/08 First published: 15 June 2020</p>	<p>Not before 1st Oct 2020 Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure</p>	<p>Issue: Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) Phase 2 2020 Procurement: Nominate a preferred supplier for Lot D. The Lot D area covers the south of Somerset bordering Dorset and Devon and includes Yeovil, Wincanton, Langport Decision: Nominate the preferred supplier for the Lot D area.</p>			<p>Amy Pettit</p>

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FP20/06/09 First published: 15 June 2020	Not before 1st Oct 2020 Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure	Issue: Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) Phase 2 2020 Procurement: Nominate a preferred supplier for Lot E. The Lot E area covers part of central Devon and borders Somerset, Exmoor National Park and Exeter. Runs also Decision: 1. Nominate the preferred supplier for the Lot E area..			Amy Pettit
FP20/06/10 First published: 15 June 2020	Not before 1st Oct 2020 Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure	Issue: Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) Phase 2 2020 Procurement: Nominate a preferred supplier for Lot F. The Lot F area runs from the Exe Estuary and covers part of the South Devon coast. It runs along the coast, Decision: Nominate the preferred supplier for the Lot F area.			Amy Pettit
FP/20/05/09 First published: 21 May 2020	21 Oct 2020 Cabinet (Virtual meetings being held from May 2020 due to Coronavirus)	Issue: Revenue Budget Monitoring - Month 5 Decision: To consider the report			Sian Hedger
First published: 4 August 2020	21 Oct 2020 Cabinet (Virtual meetings being held from May 2020 due to Coronavirus)	Issue: Covid 19 Public Health Update Decision: To receive the regular update from the Director of Public Health			

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First published: 21 May 2020	11 Nov 2020 Cabinet (Virtual meetings being held from May 2020 due to Coronavirus)	Issue: Revenue Budget Monitoring - Month 6 (Quarter 2) Decision: To consider the report			Sian Hedger
FP20/06/12 First published: 15 June 2020	Not before 1st Nov 2020 Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure	Issue: Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) Phase 2 2020 Procurement: Contract award to supplier for Lot B. The Lot B area covers Wells, Glastonbury and Burnham on Sea and includes the Mendip Hills. Decision: 1. Enter into grant funding agreement with The Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) for funding for the Lot B area.			Amy Pettit
FP20/06/14 First published: 15 June 2020	Not before 1st Nov 2020 Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure	Issue: Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) Phase 2 2020 Procurement: Contract award to supplier for Lot D. The Lot D area covers the south of Somerset bordering Dorset and Devon and includes Yeovil, Wincanton, Langport, C Decision: 1. Enter into grant funding agreement with The Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) for funding for the Lot D area.			Amy Pettit

FP Refs	Decision Date/Maker	Details of the proposed decision	Documents and background papers to be available to decision maker	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private?	Contact Officer for any representations to be made ahead of the proposed decision
<p>FP20/06/15 First published: 15 June 2020</p>	<p>Not before 1st Nov 2020 Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure</p>	<p>Issue: Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) Phase 2 2020 Procurement: Contract award to supplier for Lot E. The Lot E area covers part of central Devon and borders Somerset, Exmoor National Park and Exeter. Runs along Decision: 1. Enter into grant funding agreement with The Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) for funding for the Lot E area.</p>			<p>Amy Pettit</p>
<p>FP20/06/16 First published: 15 June 2020</p>	<p>Not before 1st Nov 2020 Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure</p>	<p>Issue: Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) Phase 2 2020 Procurement: Contract award to supplier for Lot F. The Lot F area runs from the Exe Estuary and covers part of the South Devon coast. It runs along the coast, bo Decision: 1. Enter into grant funding agreement with The Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) for funding for the Lot F area.</p>			<p>Amy Pettit</p>

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<p>FP20/06/13 First published: 15 June 2020</p>	<p>Not before 1st Nov 2020 Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure</p>	<p>Issue: Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) Phase 2 2020 Procurement: Contract award to supplier for Lot C. The Lot C area is the north of Somerset adjacent to the Bristol Channel and Exmoor National Park and includes Decision: 1. Enter into grant funding agreement with The Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) for funding for the Lot C area.</p>			<p>Amy Pettit</p>
<p>FP20/06/11 First published: 15 June 2020</p>	<p>Not before 1st Nov 2020 Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure</p>	<p>Issue: Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) Phase 2 2020 Procurement: Contract award to supplier for Lot A. The Lot A area covers North Somerset, Bath & North East Somerset Administrative areas and includes Bath and Weston Decision: 1. Enter into grant funding agreement with The Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) for funding for the Lot A area.</p>			<p>Amy Pettit</p>

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FP/19/12/02 First published: 19 December 2019	Not before 1st Dec 2020 Cabinet (Virtual meetings being held from May 2020 due to Coronavirus)	Issue: Decision to conclude the establishment of a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for Passenger Transport contracts Decision: Agreement to conclude the establishment of the Passenger Transport DPS framework. All contracts for Home to School Transport, Public Transport and Health & Social Care transport are let through this framework.			Natasha Bates
FP/20/08/07 First published:	Not before 16th Nov 2020 Cabinet Member for Children and Families	Issue: Arrangements for the provision of SEN services in Mendip Decision: agreement to develop ASC provision in the Mendip Area			
FP/20/07/07 First published: 4 August 2020	25 Nov 2020 Cabinet Member for Education and Transformation	Issue: Creation of New Academies in Somerset Decision:			Elizabeth Smith, Service Manager – Schools Commissioning Tel: 01823 356260
FP/20/05/11 First published: 21 May 2020	16 Dec 2020 Cabinet (Virtual meetings being held from May 2020 due to Coronavirus)	Issue: Revenue Budget Monitoring - Month 7 Decision: To consider the report			Sian Hedger
FP/20/05/12 First published: 21 May 2020	20 Jan 2021 Cabinet (Virtual meetings being held from May 2020 due to Coronavirus)	Issue: Revenue Budget Monitoring - Month 8 Decision: To consider the report			Sian Hedger

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FP/20/05/13 First published: 21 May 2020	10 Feb 2021 Cabinet (Virtual meetings being held from May 2020 due to Coronavirus)	Issue: Revenue Budget Monitoring - Month 9 Decision: To consider the report			Sian Hedger
FP/20/05/14 First published: 21 May 2020	17 Mar 2021 Cabinet (Virtual meetings being held from May 2020 due to Coronavirus)	Issue: Revenue Budget Monitoring - Month 10 Decision: To consider the report			Sian Hedger

Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee Work Programme

Committee meeting dates & agenda items	Lead Officer/Item lead
9 September	
Q1-Q2 MTFP analysis Children's services budget	Julian Wooster
SENDIAS Update	Fiona Phur
7 October – informal joint meeting with Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee	
12 November	
Update on Safeguarding arrangements	Julian Wooster
Youth Offending Service update	Lise Bird
Early Help Strategic Commissioning Board Update – (possible visit)	Louise Palmer
Regional Adoption Agency 10-month review	Claire Winter
Children's Services Performance report	James Hadley
2 December – informal meeting	
27 January 2021	
Children's Services performance report	James Hadley
3 March 2021- last meeting before SCC elections	

Note: Members of the Scrutiny Committee and all other Members of Somerset County Council are invited to contribute items for inclusion in the work programme. Please contact Democratic Services (01823) 359500 & democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk who will assist you in submitting your item.

Suggested agenda items for joint workshop with Adults & Health Scrutiny Committee in August:

- CAHMS service;
- Immunisations;
- Adoption Medicals;
- Oral health;
- Transitions Plans for LD service users (18-25) going into Adult Services;

(What impact does that have on Children in Somerset?)

Scrutiny for Policies Children and Families Committee Work Programme

The impact on Children and Families of the next stage of migration/roll out of Universal Credit.

(What impact does that have on Children in Somerset?)

Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Agenda items	Owner	Agreed Outcome	RAG Status
26 April 2019			
Regional Adoption Agency	Suzanne Lyus	The update was accepted, and the Chair suggested, and it was agreed that an update report be provided in 6 months.	Pending – for Sept 2020
13 September 2019			
Early Help Strategic Commissioning Board Update	Scrutiny Manager	The Chair requested that Officers look in to arranging an appropriate visit for the Committee and that an update report be presented in 6 months.	Pending – for Nov 2020
18 October 2019			
Value for Money: Tracker and Social Care Experts Review 2018 - 2019	Chair & Vice Chair & Scrutiny Manager	The Committee accepted the report and the Vice Chair undertook to work with the Chair and Officers to determine how the Committee could best review progress on the 3 specific VFM actions during the year.	Pending
15 November 2019			
13 December 2019			
Young Carers update	Louise Palmer	The Chair reflected on the discussion and he noted that the Committee would be interested to see how the Community Alliance plans progressed and how schools could be better enabled so that young carers could be supported. Appropriately. He suggested and it was agreed for a further update to be provided next July, to report on the first 12 months of the new arrangements.	Pending – Sept 2020
Children's Services Performance Report Quarter 2 - 2019/2020	Committee	The Chair suggested and it was agreed that the Committee give consideration to allocating a Member Champion for each of the 6 key activity areas.	Pending
24 January 2020			

Scrutiny for Policies Children & Families Committee Outcome Tracker

Medium Term Financial Plan	Jason Vaughan	The Committee agreed to: Support the financial strategy and welcome the long-term view as presented; Note that the Director of Children's Services was content with the rebasing of the budget for the 2020/21 financial year, representing a 7.9% on year increase; Note the uncertainty of some grant funding, as this represented about 4% of the Children's Services budget and the potential impact on future funding/spending; Support the Director of Children's Services and staff and to encourage the Director and Cabinet to continue to seek and develop innovative solutions.	Pending
Family Safeguarding	Claire Winter	It was suggested and agreed that an update would be provided in 6 months.	Pending – Sept 2020
9 July 2020			

The new CYPP 2019-2022 had been produced following a multi-agency process, overseen by Somerset Children's Trust. The CYPP had 4 priorities: **Supported Families; Healthy Lives; A Great Education; Positive Outcomes.**

Completed	Action complete and will be removed from tracker for next meeting and retained on Master Tracker document.
Pending	Action on-going or plans in place to address.
Incomplete	No action currently in place with a minimum of 3 months since action agreed.