

Somerset County Council  
Scrutiny for Children and Families Committee  
7<sup>th</sup> July 2021

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## Business Plan 2021-2023

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### 1. Summary

- 1.1. Somerset County Council's Business Plan details the strategic ambitions of the authority for the next 2 years. The plan gives 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 can grow.
- 1.2. The Business Plan covers its context, the five overarching outcomes that the authority aims to achieve and the key priorities that will deliver those outcomes. Each key priority is given more detail to describe how the council will focus its efforts in achieving those priorities. Finally, the plan describes how the plan will be delivered and how delivery will be evidenced.

### 2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1. Members are asked to consider and comment upon the draft Business Plan 2021 – 2023, available in appendix A

### 3. Background

- 3.1. The Business Plan states what the County Council will aim to achieve with partners and communities to deliver the County Vision. It performs the function of strategic direction for the authority at a step below, and in more detail than the County Council Vision, and above the individual service plans for each service within the organisation. This provides a 'golden thread' for each service to the County Vision and demonstrates the cross-cutting work and focus of the authority.
- 3.2. This Business Plan builds on the work of the previous plan approved in 2018 but with a refreshed look at the key priorities for the County Council and reflects changes that have occurred over that time.
- 3.3. The Plan will provide a clear and transparent view to residents, businesses and partners of the authority's ambitions. It will also be refreshed and set out on the SCC Business Plan website.
- 3.4. How the organisation will work towards its delivery is covered in the Business Plan as well as the performance reporting arrangements which provides the mechanism to track its progress.

#### **4. Consultations undertaken**

- 4.1. The Business Plan will be made publicly available however it is designed as an internal document to provide clarity of strategic direction for staff.
- 4.2. Consultation on the Business Plan has taken place over the last few months with the following groups to ensure it reflects the future direction, ambition, and outcomes to be delivered by the authority.
  - Cabinet
  - Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee
  - Scrutiny for Children and Families
  - Scrutiny for Adults and Health
  - Directors
  - Senior Management Teams
  - Key teams and individuals.
- 4.3. All Members including Scrutiny attendees were invited to an informal briefing on the 17<sup>th</sup> June to consider and provide feedback on the draft copy of the report as the disruption of public meetings caused by the Coronavirus pandemic meant that scrutiny meetings would occur at the same time as the proposal was being taken to cabinet.

#### **5. Implications**

- 5.1. The Business Plan is a forward-looking document. By its nature therefore, some activities require further work to define scope, funding and resource requirements. Where this is the case delivery will be subject to the Council's decision-making processes and MTFP requirements.
- 5.2. Successful delivery of the Business Plan requires the County Council to work in partnership and collaborate with others. In the case of forward-looking activities delivery will be subject to the policy, financial and decision-making frameworks in which partners operate.
- 5.3. The projects, programmes and activities referred to in the Business Plan will be subject to appropriate impact assessments on an individual basis.

#### **6. Background papers**

- 6.1. Appendix A – Somerset County Council Business Plan 2021 - 2023

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