

Scrutiny for Policies & Place Committee – 01 February 2023

Proposed 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

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1. Summary / Background

- 1.1 This report summarises the proposed Council Plan for Somerset Council (See appendix A) 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 details four overarching themes and the key focus of priorities that will deliver those themes. The plan also details several principles which will guide how the plan is to be delivered.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. **The scrutiny committee is asked to review the draft Council Plan as set out in appendix A and provide feedback.**

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. Alternative themes were considered during the early development of this plan. These were all based on the priorities set 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]
 - Government Reorganisation [LGR] Implementation Board
 - Directors and strategic leads of existing Somerset Councils
 - Senior Management Teams
 - LGR Corporate Planning Sub-workstream
 - LGR Programme Board and LGR Programme Steering Group
- 6.2.** Engagement with key stakeholders has taken place during January.
- 6.3.** The feedback from all engagement will be reviewed by Executive and, where appropriate, changes made to the plan.

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
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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

The projects, programmes and activities undertaken to deliver the plan will be subject to appropriate impact assessments on an individual basis.

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

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.** TO BE ADDED FOLLOWING SCRUTINY MEETING 1ST FEBRUARY

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.

- 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 detailed in the plan will provide the mechanism to track progress and manage delivery of the Plan Priorities.

12. Background Papers

12.1. Appendix A – DRAFT Somerset Council Plan

Report Sign-Off

		Date completed
Legal Implications	Honor Clarke	28/11/22
Governance	Scott Wooldridge	Click or tap to enter a date.
Corporate Finance	Jason Vaughan	Click or tap to enter a date.
Customers, Digital and Workforce	Chris Squire	25/11/22
Property	Paula Hewitt / Oliver Woodhams	25/11/22
Procurement	Claire Griffiths	29/11/22
Senior Manager	Duncan Sharkey	29/11/22
Commissioning Development	Sunita Mills / Ryszard Rusinek	25/11/22
Executive Member	CLlr Bill Revans - Leader of the Council	28/11/22
<u>Sign-off Key Decision / Consulted on Non-Key Decision</u>		
Local Member	Click here to identify the local member(s)	Click or tap to enter a date.
Opposition Spokesperson (Key decisions consult / non key decisions inform)	Click here to select the relevant Opposition Spokesperson	Click or tap to enter a date.
Scrutiny Chair (Key decisions consult / non	Click here to select the relevant	Click or tap to enter a date.

key decisions inform)	Scrutiny Chair	
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