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## District Executive

**Thursday 2nd February 2023**

**9.30 am**

**Council Chamber, Council Offices,  
Brympton Way, Yeovil, BA20 2HT**

(disabled access and a hearing loop are available at this meeting venue)



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Members listed on the following page are requested to attend the meeting.

The public and press are welcome to attend. Any members of the public wishing to attend, or address the meeting at Public Question Time, are asked to email [democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk) by 9.00am on Wednesday 01 February 2023, so that we can advise on the options for accessing the meeting.

The meeting will be viewable online by selecting the committee meetings at:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSDst3IHGj9WoGnwJGF\\_soA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSDst3IHGj9WoGnwJGF_soA)

If you would like any further information on the items to be discussed, please contact Democratic Services at [democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk)

This Agenda was issued on Wednesday 25 January 2023.

Jane Portman, *Chief Executive Officer*



This information is also available on our website  
[www.southsomerset.gov.uk](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk) and via the Modern.gov app

# District Executive Membership

Jason Baker  
Mike Best  
John Clark  
Nicola Clark  
Adam Dance  
Sarah Dyke  
Peter Gubbins  
Val Keitch  
Tony Lock  
Peter Seib

## Information for the Public

The District Executive co-ordinates the policy objectives of the Council and gives the Area Committees strategic direction. It carries out all of the local authority's functions which are not the responsibility of any other part of the Council. It delegates some of its responsibilities to Area Committees, officers and individual portfolio holders within limits set by the Council's Constitution. When major decisions are to be discussed or made, these are published in the Executive Forward Plan in so far as they can be anticipated.

Meetings of the District Executive are held monthly at 9.30 a.m. on the first Thursday of the month in the Council Offices, Brympton Way.

The Executive Forward Plan and copies of executive reports and decisions are published on the Council's web site - [www.southsomerset.gov.uk](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk).

The Council's Constitution is also on the web site and available for inspection in Council offices. The Council's corporate priorities which guide the work and decisions of the Executive are set out below.

Questions, statements or comments from members of the public are welcome at the beginning of each meeting of the Council. If a member of the public wishes to speak they should advise the committee administrator and complete one of the public participation slips setting out their name and the matter they wish to speak about. Each individual speaker shall be restricted to a total of three minutes. Answers to questions may be provided at the meeting itself or a written reply will be sent subsequently, as appropriate. Matters raised during the public question session will not be debated by the Committee at that meeting.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the agenda co-ordinator at [democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk)

# District Executive

**Thursday 2 February 2023**

## Agenda

### 1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the District Executive meeting held on 05 January 2023.

### 2. Apologies for Absence

### 3. Declarations of Interest

In accordance with the Council's current Code of Conduct (as amended 26 February 2015), which includes all the provisions relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), personal and prejudicial interests, Members are asked to declare any DPI and also any personal interests (and whether or not such personal interests are also "prejudicial") in relation to any matter on the Agenda for this meeting.

Members are reminded that they need to declare the fact that they are also a member of a County, Town or Parish Council as a Personal Interest. Where you are also a member of Somerset County Council and/or a Town or Parish Council within South Somerset you must declare a prejudicial interest in any business on the agenda where there is a financial benefit or gain or advantage to Somerset County Council and/or a Town or Parish Council which would be at the cost or to the financial disadvantage of South Somerset District Council.

### 4. Public Question Time

### 5. Chairman's Announcements

Items for Discussion

### 6. Wincanton Town Centre Regeneration - Revisions to Timetable (Pages 4 - 8)

### 7. SSDC Opium Power Ltd - distribution of 2022/23 half year profits (Pages 9 - 13)

### 8. Yeovil Crematorium - Revisions to Timetable (Pages 14 - 17)

### 9. District Executive Forward Plan (Pages 18 - 22)

### 10. Date of Next Meeting (Page 23)

### 11. Exclusion of Press and Public (Page 24)

### 12. Briefing on Local Government Reorganisation (Confidential) (Page 25)

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## Wincanton Town Centre Regeneration – Revisions to Timetable

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Executive Portfolio Holder:	Cllr. Sarah Dyke, Chair of Wincanton Regen Board
Ward Member(s)	Cllr. Nick Colbert, Cllr. Colin Winder
Strategic Director:	Jan Gamon, Place, Recovery and Arts and Entertainment
Lead Officer:	Natalie Fortt, Programme Manager, Place and Recovery
Contact Details:	Natalie.Fortt@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462956

### Purpose of the Report

1. As we approach the transition from South Somerset District Council to the new Somerset Council, the councillors elected to the new authority have undertaken an extensive review of both the revenue and capital budgets for the financial year 2023/24 and beyond. This has implications for some of the projects currently underway in South Somerset. This report identifies the impact on the Wincanton Town Centre Regeneration.

### Forward Plan

2. This report did not appear on the forward plan, as it could not have been anticipated.

### Public Interest

3. Residents of South Somerset, and those who visit Wincanton for work or leisure, will be interested to understand how our plans for the town are influenced by the decision of the newly elected councillors to the Somerset Council.

### Recommendations

4. That District Executive notes that -
  - a. the total amount of the agreed capital budget for the Wincanton Town Centre Regeneration has been reprofiled so that the spend anticipated to be incurred 2023/24 and in following years has been deferred by a year;
  - b. future spend will be dependent upon an updated business case being submitted to the Somerset Council next year for implementation 2024/25 and beyond;
  - c. the total forecast spend to the end of the current financial year is £601k (of which £318k capital and the remainder revenue costs associated with the project (e.g. events and project management costs). Of the capital expenditure, £197k relates to 2022/23 and £121k to the period 2018/19 to 2021/22.

### Background



5. The Wincanton Town Centre Strategy was produced in 2019 following public consultation and engagement with key stakeholders. Public feedback informed the 'vision' which is for Wincanton town centre to become a place that:
  - Is well used and a thriving place to live, work and visit.
  - Has an enhanced retail, community and social function that encourages visits during the day and in the evening.
  - Makes more of the centres special cultural and heritage character through improvements to the public realm and buildings to attract investment into the town centre.
  - Has a wider mix of uses, including commercial floor space and quality housing that supports enterprise, creativity and vibrancy.
  - Will create a convenient and attractive destination for both local residents and visitors, using the unique assets of Wincanton town centre and the surrounding area.
6. A diverse range of initiatives were envisaged to help deliver the strategic objectives within three main themes:
  1. Broadening the mix of uses – includes engaging landowners of vacant premises, and under-used sites to promote owner driven re-use of the building or alternative uses appropriate to the town centre.
  2. Enhancing the attractiveness of the town centre - modest interventions such as planting/greening schemes, work to align trading hours, and larger specific projects such as public realm improvements and a property grant programme.
  3. Creating a destination – this includes a variety of projects from one off events, marketing initiatives, partnership with local attractors, signage within and to/from and within the town.

## Scope of Proposed Project

7. In the Summer of 2022 a new chair was appointed to the Wincanton Regeneration Board, and the chair took the opportunity to review, with the board members, the scope of the work. A number of initiatives to support the town and improve historic buildings at risk had been undertaken, but there was a need to re-visit plans for the remaining funds and discuss whether this should focus on public realm works as planned, or to re-focus on bringing key empty premises in the town back into use. Board members agreed that bringing key empty premises back into use should be the primary focus. The planned public realm enhancements would be passed to the new Somerset Council for future delivery as funds allow.
8. Subsequent to this decision, Executive lead members for the new Somerset Council have reviewed the entire capital programme for the new authority in the light of budgetary challenges and the decision was taken to scale back some programmes and defer others. The Wincanton Town Centre Regeneration Programme is one of the projects which will be deferred for a year and will require an updated Business Case.

9. It is proposed that a business case is prepared for consideration by Somerset Council for implementation from 2024/25, which would be followed by the development of proposed plans for the sites in consultation with the public.

## Financial Implications

10. The total approved remaining capital budget for this project remains at £2.099m. The Revised Estimates (Quarter 2 budget monitoring position) approved by Full Council in December 2022 assumed that £0.562m would be spent this year with the balance in 2023/24 (see table one below). The new position which will be included in the Quarter Three capital budget monitoring report is an estimated spend of £0.187m this year with the balance reprofiled into 2024/25 financial year.

Table 1: Wincanton Town Centre Capital Expenditure

	2022/23 Est. Spend (£000s)	2023/24 Est. Spend (£000s)	2024/25 Est. Spend (£000s)	Total
Q2 Budget Monitoring	562	1,537	0	2,099
Q3 Proposed figures	197	0	1,902	2,099

11. Members should note that the S151 Officer will review whether the revenue costs being incurred by this project, and all the Regeneration projects, can be capitalised and funded by borrowing rather than by revenue earmarked reserves as they currently are. This review will be undertaken at the year end with the objective of preserving revenue reserves if possible, for the new Somerset Council.

## Legal implications (if any) and details of Statutory Powers

None

## Risk Matrix

None arising from this report

## Council Plan Implications

None arising from this report

## Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

None arising from this report

<i>An Equality Impact Relevance Check Form has been completed in respect of the Proposal?</i>	Yes / <del>No</del>
<i>The Impact Relevance Check indicated that a full EIA was required?</i>	<del>Yes</del> / No
<i>If an EIA was <b>not</b> required please attach the Impact Relevance Check Form as an Appendix to this report and provide a brief summary of its findings in the comments box below.</i>	
<i>If an EIA <b>was</b> required please attach the completed EIA form as an Appendix to this report and provide a brief summary of the result of your Equality Impact Assessment in the comment box below.</i>	
<b>Additional Comments</b>	

## Privacy Impact Assessment

No personal data will be processed

# Equality Impact Relevance Check Form



The Public Sector Equality Duty requires us to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations with protected groups. This tool will identify the equalities relevance of a proposal, and establish whether a full Equality Impact Assessment will be required.

What is the proposal?	
Name of the proposal	Wincanton Town Centre regeneration
Type of proposal (new or changed Strategy, policy, project, service or budget):	Deferral of capital expenditure from 2023/24
Brief description of the proposal:	Expenditure to be deferred by one year to 2024/5 subject to business case
Name of lead officer:	Jan Gamon

You should consider whether the proposal has the potential to negatively impact on citizens or staff in the following ways:

- Access to or participation in a service,
- Levels of representation in our workforce, or
- Reducing quality of life (i.e. health, education, standard of living)

A negative impact is any change that could be considered detrimental. If a negative impact is imposed on any citizens or staff with protected characteristics, the Council has a legal duty to undertake a full Equality Impact Assessment.

Could your proposal negatively impact citizens with protected characteristics? (This includes service users and the wider community)	<b>NO</b>
Could your proposal negatively impact staff with protected characteristics? (i.e. reduction in posts, changes to working hours or locations, changes in pay)	<b>NO</b>

<b>Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required?</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>If Yes,</b> Please provide a brief description of where there may be negative impacts, and for whom. Then complete a full Equality Impact assessment Form	
<b>If No,</b> Please set out your justification for why not.	
There is no inherent change to plans but a delay to their implementation. Individual initiatives within the overall Wincanton Town Centre Regeneration Project will be required to complete EIA's at the relevant stage so that provision can be made for adjustments to address neagative impacts.	
Service Director / Manager sign-off and date	Jan Gamon 16/1/2023
Equalities Officer sign-off and date	Dave Crisfield 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2023



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## SSDC Opium Power Ltd - Request for Consent to distribution of 2022/23 half year profits

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Executive Portfolio Holder:	Cllr John Clark, Economic Development including Commercial Strategy
SLT Leads:	Karen Watling, Chief Finance Officer Jill Byron, Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Report Author	Karen Watling, Chief Finance Officer Jill Byron, Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Contact Details:	<a href="mailto:Karen.watling@southsomerset.gov.uk">Karen.watling@southsomerset.gov.uk</a> or 07521 460232 <a href="mailto:Jill.byron@southsomerset.gov.uk">Jill.byron@southsomerset.gov.uk</a>

### Purpose of the Report

1. To consider a request from SSDC Opium Power Ltd under the Shareholders' Agreement to consent to the distribution of the half-yearly profits for 2022/23 of £900K, as a dividend.

### Forward Plan

2. This report was recently added to the District Executive Forward Plan following receipt of the request after the SSDC Opium Power Ltd Board meeting on 21 November 2022.

### Public Interest

3. Like many Councils, South Somerset District Council (SSDC) has over recent years developed and implemented a commercial strategy to generate additional income. The objectives were to replace the funding lost due to reductions in central government grant funding and to support the continued financing of key front-line services.
4. The Council invested in a renewables joint venture known as SSDC Opium Power Ltd and its two subsidiary companies. These investments have started to deliver an income stream and the Council has received a request from the directors of SSDC Opium Power Ltd to consent to the distribution of the half-yearly profits for 2022/23 as a dividend. The Council's express consent is required under the provisions of the Shareholders' Agreement.

### Recommendation

5. That District Executive consents to the request from SSDC Opium Ltd to distribute the half-year profit generated in 2022/23 by FERL1 of £900k as a dividend payment to the two shareholders, SSDC and Opium Power Limited, in the agreed proportions: 65:35 respectively.



## **Background**

6. As part of its commercial strategy SSDC invested £42m through a joint venture company, SSDC OPL, in the design, build, finance and operation of battery energy storage systems (BESS) at Taunton, Somerset and at Fareham, Hampshire.
7. The current structure of the joint venture comprises a parent company, SSDC Opium Power Ltd (SSDC OPL) and two subsidiary companies, Fareham Energy Reserve Ltd (FERL1) and Fareham Energy Reserve 2 Ltd (FERL2). There are 100 shares in SSDC OPL: the Council holds 50 and OPL holds 50. All the shares in FERL1 and FERL 2 are held by SSDC OPL.
8. The returns from these investments come by way of interest on the capital lent by SSDC to the joint venture and dividends from the profits. In addition, the loan repayments are used to fund the capital budget thus reducing the Council's overall borrowing needs.
9. To date, the loan repayments, including interest, have been made in accordance with the agreements. The overall loan balance at the end of March 2023 is forecast to be £39m.
10. As these projects needed to be constructed prior to trading, there was an initial period of investment without immediate return. Taunton started trading in 2020, Fareham 1 started trading in early 2022 and Fareham 2 reached completion in June 2022 and will shortly start trading.

## **Proposal from SSDC Opium Power Ltd.**

11. Having made loan repayments in accordance with the minimum amounts set out in the loan agreement and leaving a small surplus in the company, the directors of FERL1 have declared a profit of £900k for the half-year 2022/23. This profit has been transferred to the parent company, SSDC OPL.
12. The Council received a request from the Board of SSDC OPL on 21 November 2021 for consent under the Shareholders' Agreement to use the profit to make a dividend payment to their shareholders, such dividend to be split 65% SSDC and 35% OPL in accordance with the provisions of the DSA.
13. An alternative option is for the profits to be used to repay the loan more quickly.

## **Financial Assessment and potential risks**

14. This financial assessment analyses the two options the council has, namely:
  - Use the profits generated to make earlier repayments to the council of the loan debt outstanding, or
  - Use the profits to make a dividend payment to the two shareholders, SSDC and OPL.



15. The two options have been analysed and discounted back to directly comparable totals in today's prices using Discounted Cash Flow (DCN) modelling over the 25-year period of the loan to FERL1, as the company generating the profit in question.
16. The analysis assumes that the council's indebtedness arising from it having to borrow to lend to the company is financed by using loan finance from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) at an interest rate of 4.5%. This is the assumption being used in the 2023/24 budget reports being prepared for the new Somerset Council and given that the analysis is over a 25-year period it is appropriate to use the new council's financing assumptions.
17. It has also been assumed that DLUCH (Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing) will enact anticipated legislation in 2023/24 requiring local government to make Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) costs in their revenue budget to cover the principal costs of borrowing the council undertakes for the purpose of lending to third parties. The annual MRP costs have been estimated at 2% of the loan total, again using the new council's financing assumptions.
18. **Option One:** Use the profits generated to make earlier repayments to SSDC of the debt outstanding. The financial implications of this option are:
  - All the half year profit (of £900k) is used to repay FERL1 outstanding debt.
  - The outstanding debt at beginning of 2022/23 was £18.691m.
  - Scheduled loan payments during this year are £0.444m, so along with the additional repayment of £900k, the debt outstanding at beginning of 2023/24 would be £17.347m – meaning that 7.2% of the total loan outstanding would be repaid during the 2022/23 financial year.
  - The net financial impact on the Council's revenue budget over a 25-year period, and discounted and totalled to a present-day value, is a beneficial impact of **£516k** comprising:
    - Annual loss of interest income received by the council as the debt is repaid quicker than anticipated in the agreed loan repayment schedule.
    - Annual savings in financing charges (interest costs) arising from the Councils overall indebtedness being reduced by the loan repayment of £900k.
    - Annual savings in MRP costs (assuming the new legislation is introduced).
19. **Option Two:** Use the profits generated to make dividend payments to the two shareholders. The financial implications of this option are:
  - 65% of the half year profit is distributed to SSDC – our share being £585k.
  - 35% (or £315k) is received by the other shareholder (OPL).
  - There will be no loss of interest income received by the Council as interest payments will remain in line with the agreed loan repayment schedule.
  - Local government is not taxed on dividend income so there are no additional costs.
  - The result is a one-off beneficial impact on the revenue budget of **£585k**.
20. In summary therefore:
  - The Net Present Value of using the profit to repay outstanding debt is an income of **£516k** realised over the next 25 years.



## South Somerset District Council

- The Net Present Value of distributing the profit as a dividend is a one-off income of **£585k** in this financial year.
21. This analysis has just been undertaken for the half year profits realised in 2022/23. The company however is forecasting further profit for this year and for future years.
22. There are two main financial risks that need to be considered as follows:
- The bank base rate (currently 3.5%) is likely to rise to 3.75% by the end of this financial year. The long-term borrowing rate from PWLB is currently 4.5% and could increase further. The loans to FERL1 however charge 4% per annum over 25 years – so there is a risk that if interest rates continue to rise, and do not decline as economists predict in the medium term, that the Council is making a loss on its lending and is effectively subsidising the company in terms of the latter's costs of borrowing.
  - Elected Members also need to consider whether there is also the potential risk of the company not continuing to trade profitably over 25 years and therefore not being able to repay the total amount of debt outstanding to the Council. Option One, i.e. reducing the loan more quickly, decreases this risk.
23. In mitigation of these risks, it should be noted that every request to declare a dividend will require consent under the Shareholders' Agreement, which will allow the new Somerset Council to consider the development and likely impact of these risks over time.

### Financial Implications

24. Any dividend income from the companies has not, for prudential reasons, been included by the S151 Officer in the base revenue budget position. Nor have the financial implications of any loan repayments above the agreed loan schedule been included in the revenue budget.
25. Option One: given that the additional loan repayment of £900k would not be received until February, very late in the financial year, this would have minimal impact on the 2022/23 revenue budget in terms of interest income lost net of the savings arising in financing costs. It would however give a £900k reduction in the Council's Capital Financing Requirement figure (the council's indebtedness position) presented in the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts.
26. Option Two: this would result in new unbudgeted income of £585k being received in 2022/23 which would be reported in the Quarter Three revenue budget report to District Executive in March 2023.

### Officer assessment and recommendations

27. Given that the new Somerset Council will have ongoing pressures on its revenue budget position, the Chief Finance Officer, on balance, recommends that District Executive



## **South Somerset District Council**

agrees to the profit being distributed by means of a dividend payment to the shareholders on this occasion and it is therefore recommended that SSDC grants shareholder consent to the declaration of this dividend (option 2). This will not fetter the flexibility of the new Somerset Council in future decisions.

### **Legal implications and details of Statutory Powers**

28. The Council's position is covered by the terms of the various agreements with SSDC OPL and its subsidiary companies. There is a requirement in the Shareholders' Agreement that any dividend requires express consent from the Council.

### **Council Plan Implications**

29. Environment: Deliver schemes to enhance the quality of our local environment and its resilience to adapt to climate change

### **Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications**

30. Battery storage as a business compliments our carbon emission and climate change aspirations.

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

31. An equality relevance check has not been undertaken on this proposal as there are no adverse implications.

### **Privacy Impact Assessment**

32. There are no adverse personal data implications to this report.

### **Background Papers**

None

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## Yeovil Crematorium – Revisions to Timetable

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Executive Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Peter Gubbins, Yeovil Crematorium/Area South
Ward Member(s)	Cllr Peter Seib, Cllr Barbara Appleby, Cllr Jeny Snell
SLT Leads:	Nicola Hix, Director, Support Services and Strategy/ Jill Byron, Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Service Manager:	James Divall, Assistant Director, Strategy & Support Services
Lead Officer:	Robert Orrett, Commercial Property Land & Development Manager

### Purpose of the Report

1. As we approach the transition from South Somerset District Council to the new Somerset Council, the councillors elected to the new authority have undertaken an extensive review of both the revenue and capital budgets for the financial year 2023/24 and beyond. This has implications for some of the projects currently underway in South Somerset. This report identifies the impact on the Yeovil Crematorium Refurbishment and Extension Project.

### Forward Plan

2. This report did not appear on the forward plan, as it could not have been anticipated.

### Public Interest

3. Residents of South Somerset and the wider area will be interested to understand how our plans for Yeovil Crematorium are influenced by the decision of the newly elected councillors to the Somerset Council.

### Recommendations

4. That District Executive notes that -
  - a. The total amount of the agreed capital budget has been reprofiled so that the spend anticipated to be incurred 2023/24 and in following years has been deferred by a year.
  - b. Future spend will be dependent upon an updated business case being submitted to the Somerset Council next year for implementation 2024/25 and beyond.
  - c. The total forecast capital spend for this financial year is £0.700m, spending in 2023/24 is £0.385m and the remaining £3.367m has been reprofiled for 2024/25 and beyond.

## Background

5. Yeovil Crematorium is the only crematorium facility in the immediate area and averages 1700 cremations a year. It supports a large geographic area. The crematorium is managed by SSDC on behalf of the Yeovil Crematorium and Cemetery Committee. The existing crematorium was built in 1970 and is now rather dated and lacking in capacity (for example, the existing chapel accommodates less than 100 mourners).
6. South Somerset District Council (SSDC) owns an 89% interest in Yeovil Crematorium and Yeovil Without Parish Council (YWPC) owns an 11% interest.
7. Project work has been progressed since 2017 to design and deliver refurbishment of the Crematorium by constructing a new chapel, a new waiting room (created from the existing chapel), a smaller secondary chapel and improved parking and other associated facilities, including replacement cremators. The construction project was in the final stages before commencement on site when the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown started. It was deferred due to cost risk and operational pressures linked to the pandemic. Throughout the remainder of 2020 and the first half of 2021, the operational focus for the crematorium was meeting continuing needs for funerals in the area during the pandemic. This was often challenging for families and mourners coping with loss, and also for the staff at the crematorium.
8. Work on the part of the project to totally replace and renew the cremator equipment and install Mercury Abatement plant has been carried out. This is now all in use and only minor aspects of commissioning detail and ancillary works remain. Detailed review of the proposed extension and refurbishment project has continued with close attention to enabling the crematorium services to continue to be provided throughout. This is a challenge to achieve and the potential for the project to require a far longer than typical period on site potentially creates additional financial risks to both the council clients and the contractor in a difficult and volatile construction market.
9. A report to Full Council in February 2022 recommended that the total project budget was increased to £5.721m. This increase gave confidence to the contractor to commit the large amount of time to detailed repricing. The estimate of project cost inflation at that stage was made by council officers. The world and national inflation situation has worsened materially since that estimate was made and evidence prepared by independent construction industry analysts confirm the experience of rapidly accelerating costs. A further budget increase of £0.185m, being shared 89/11% between SSDC and YWPC in accordance with the ownership shares was approved in September 2022.
10. Subsequent to this decision, Executive lead members for the new Somerset Council have reviewed the entire capital programme for the new authority in the light of budgetary challenges and the decision was taken to scale back some programmes and defer others. The Yeovil Crematorium Refurbishment and Extension Project is one of the projects which will be deferred for a year and will require an updated Business Case.

## Next Steps

11. It is proposed that a business case is prepared for consideration by Somerset Council for implementation from 2024/25.





12. There are remaining committed costs to meet in relation to this project – final instalments to the cremator supplier, ancillary costs on the cremator replacement, committed costs on the construction project, planned works to provide for capacity needs in the Garden of Remembrance and limited short term repair needs with the main building project deferred. These costs are reflected in table 1 below.

### Financial Implications

13. The total approved remaining capital budget for this project remains at £4.452m. The Revised Estimates (Quarter 2 budget monitoring position) approved by Full Council in December 2022 assumed that £1.085m would be spent this year with the balance in 2023/24 (see table one below). The new position which will be included in the Quarter Three capital budget monitoring report is an estimated spend of £0.700m this year, which includes provision for some of the outstanding costs set out in paragraph 12, £0.385m reprofiled from this year into 2023/24 with the balance reprofiled into 2024/25 financial year.

Table 1: Yeovil Crematorium Project Capital Expenditure

	2022/23 Est. Spend (£000s)	2023/24 Est. Spend (£000s)	2024/25 Est. Spend (£000s)	Total
Q2 Budget Monitoring	1,085	3,367	0	4,452
Q3 Proposed figures	700	385	3,367	4,452

### Legal implications (if any) and details of Statutory Powers

14. None

### Risk Matrix

15. None arising from this report

### Council Plan Implications

16. None arising from this report

### Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

17. None arising from this report

### Equality and Diversity Implications



<i>An Equality Impact Relevance Check Form has been completed in respect of the Proposal?</i>	Yes / <del>No</del>
<i>The Impact Relevance Check indicated that a full EIA was required?</i>	<del>Yes</del> / No
<i>If an EIA was <b>not</b> required please attach the Impact Relevance Check Form as an Appendix to this report and provide a brief summary of its findings in the comments box below.</i>	
<i>If an EIA <b>was</b> required please attach the completed EIA form as an Appendix to this report and provide a brief summary of the result of your Equality Impact Assessment in the comment box below.</i>	
<b>Additional Comments</b>	

## Privacy Impact Assessment

18.No personal data will be processed

## Background Papers

June 2017 – District Executive	Refurbishment and Development of Yeovil Crematorium (Confidential)
June 2017 – Full Council	Refurbishment and Development of Yeovil Crematorium (Confidential)
December 2017 – Scrutiny Committee	Update Report on Progress with the Scheme to Develop and Refurbish Yeovil Crematorium
August 2019 – Full Council	Update on the Refurbishment and Development of Yeovil Crematorium (Confidential)
February 2022 – Full Council	Options to refurbish Yeovil Crematorium
August 2022 - District Executive	Yeovil Crematorium Project - Request for Additional Funding from the Corporate Capital Contingency Budget



## District Executive Forward Plan

Executive Portfolio Holder: Val Keitch, Leader, Strategy  
Strategic Director: Jill Byron, Monitoring Officer  
Lead Officer: Angela Cox, Democratic Services Specialist  
Contact Details: angela.cox@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462148

## Purpose of the Report

1. This report informs Members of the current Executive Forward Plan, provides information on Portfolio Holder decisions and on consultation documents received by the Council that have been logged on the consultation database.

## Public Interest

2. The District Executive Forward Plan lists the reports due to be discussed and decisions due to be made by the Committee within the next few months. The Consultation Database is a list of topics which the Council's view is currently being consulted upon by various outside organisations.

## Recommendations

3. That District Executive agree to:
  - a) approve the updated Executive Forward Plan for publication as attached at Appendix A
  - b) note the contents of the Consultation Database as shown at Appendix B.

## Executive Forward Plan

4. The latest Forward Plan is attached at Appendix A. The timings given for reports to come forward are indicative only, and occasionally may be re scheduled and new items added as new circumstances arise.

## Consultation Database

5. The Council has agreed a protocol for processing consultation documents received by the Council. This requires consultation documents received to be logged and the current consultation documents are attached at Appendix B.

## Background Papers

6. None.

## SSDC Executive Forward Plan – February 2023

Date of Decision	Decision	Portfolio	Service Director	Contact	Committee(s)
02 March 2023	Ilminster Neighbourhood Plan	Portfolio Holder - Strategy	Director Strategy, Support & Environmental Services	Jo Wilkins, Specialist (Strategic Planning)	District Executive
02 March 2023	Revenue Budget Quarter 3 Monitoring Report	Portfolio Holder - Finance, Legal & Democratic Services	Chief Finance Officer	Paul Matravers, Lead Specialist (Finance)	District Executive
02 March 2023	Capital Budget Quarter 3 Monitoring Report	Portfolio Holder - Finance, Legal & Democratic Services	Chief Finance Officer	Paul Matravers, Lead Specialist (Finance)	District Executive
02 March 2023	Quarterly Corporate Performance Report	Portfolio Holder - Strategy	Director Strategy, Support & Environmental Services	Kate Arscott, Specialist (Strategic Planning)	District Executive
02 March 2023	Lufton 2000 Joint Venture	Portfolio Holder – Economic Development inc Commercial Strategy	Monitoring Officer	Robert Orrett, Commercial Property, Land and Development Manager	District Executive
02 March 2023	Briefing on Local Government Reorganisation (Confidential)	Portfolio Holder - Strategy	Chief Executive	Jane Portman, Chief Executive	District Executive
30 March 2023	Presentation on the Kickstart Scheme	Portfolio Holder - Strategy	Director Service Delivery	Trevor Green, Case Officer, Service Delivery	South Somerset District Council

<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Service Director</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Committee(s)</b>
30 March 2023	2021/22 External Auditors' Annual Report (from Audit Committee)	Portfolio Holder - Area North, Licensing & Environmental Health	Director Strategy, Support & Environmental Services	Nicola Hix, Director (Strategy, Support & Environmental Services)	South Somerset District Council
30 March 2023	External Audit Value For Money (VFM) Audit	Portfolio Holder - Finance, Legal & Democratic Services	Director Strategy, Support & Environmental Services	Nicola Hix, Director (Strategy, Support & Environmental Services)	South Somerset District Council

## APPENDIX B - Current Consultations – February 2023

Purpose of Document	Portfolio	Director	Response to be agreed by	Contact	Deadline for response
<p><b>The Building Safety Levy: consultation</b></p> <p>This consultation seeks views on the design and implementation of the Building Safety Levy (the Levy). The Levy will be paid by developers and charged on new residential buildings requiring building control approval in England, for the purpose of meeting building safety expenditure.</p> <p>The levy was announced in February 2021 and will ensure the taxpayer and leaseholders do not pay for the necessary remediation of building safety defects.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-building-safety-levy-consultation">The Building Safety Levy: consultation - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></p>	Protecting Core Services	Kirsty Larkins Director of Service Delivery	Officers in consultation with Portfolio Holder	Julian Cleal, Building Control Manager	07 February 2023
<p><b>Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy</b></p> <p>This consultation seeks views on our proposed approach to updating to the National Planning Policy Framework. We are also seeking views on our proposed approach to preparing National Development Management Policies, how we might develop policy to support levelling up, and how national planning policy is currently accessed by users.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy">Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></p>	Protecting Core Services	Director – Service Delivery	Officers in consultation with the Portfolio Holder	John Hammond, Lead Specialist – Built Environment	02 March 2023

Purpose of Document	Portfolio	Director	Response to be agreed by	Contact	Deadline for response
<p><b>Late Night Levy</b></p> <p>The Home Office need to fulfil a public commitment to consult on the level of charge to be applied to late night refreshment premises. This is in order to commence legislative changes made to the late night levy.</p> <p>The consultation seeks views on the level of the levy to be applied to late night refreshment providers.</p> <p><a href="http://www.gov.uk">Late night levy - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></p>	<p>Area North, Licensing &amp; Environmental Health</p>	<p>Director – Service Delivery</p>	<p>Officers in consultation with the Portfolio Holder</p>	<p>Michelle James, Principal Licensing Specialist</p>	<p>04 April 2023</p>



## **Date of Next Meeting**

Members are asked to note that the next meeting of the District Executive will take place on **Thursday, 02 March 2023** commencing at 9.30 a.m. in the Council Chamber, SSSDC Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil BA20 2HT.

Members and the public will also be able to join the meeting via Zoom and view the meeting on YouTube.

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## **Exclusion of Press and Public**

The District Executive is asked to agree that the following Agenda item be considered in Closed Session by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A under paragraph 3:

“Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).”

It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption from the Access to Information Rules outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

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## **Briefing on Local Government Reorganisation (Confidential)**

Executive Portfolio Holder:	Val Keitch, Strategy
Chief Executive:	Jane Portman
Strategic Director:	Jan Gamon, Place and Recovery
Lead Officer:	Jan Gamon, Director – Place and Recovery
Contact Details:	Jan.gamon@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462095

The Chief Executive and Director for Place and Recovery will provide Members with a verbal update on any matters relating to the future of Local Government in Somerset.