

South Somerset District Council

Decisions taken by the South Somerset District Council on Monday 28 February 2022

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
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Part A – Items considered in public

A7	Annual Action Plan 2022/23	<p>RESOLVED: That Council agreed to adopt the Annual Action Plan for 2022-2023 comprising of the revised Areas of Focus and Priority Projects.</p> <p>Reason: To adopt the Annual Action Plan 2022-2023 as part of the overall Council Corporate Plan 2020-2024 which sets out the strategic ambitions of South Somerset District Council.</p> <p><i>(Voting: unanimous in favour)</i></p>
A8	Adoption of Future Chard Strategy	<p>RESOLVED: That Full Council agreed to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. note the feedback provided through the public consultation;b. adopt Future Chard Strategy. <p>Reason: To adopt the Future Chard Strategy which proposes a long-term vision, priorities and action plan that aim to make Chard a prosperous place for all in the future.</p> <p><i>(Voting: 38 in favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions)</i></p>
A9	Decarbonisation programme phase 2 proposals	

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		<p>RESOLVED: That Full Council agreed to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. approve the programme of decarbonisation works recommended in the report; b. approve an increase to the capital budget of £2,760,000 to be funded from borrowing; c. approve an increase to the council’s revenue budget of circa £53,960 per annum to fund the financing costs arising from the borrowing required. <p>Reason: To agree a second phase of decarbonisation works to council owned properties as a significant contribution towards the council's commitment to achieving carbon neutrality.</p> <p><i>(Voting: 35 in favour, 1 against, 4 abstentions)</i></p>
A10	Options to refurbish Yeovil Crematorium	<p>RESOLVED: That Full Council agreed to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. an increase the Capital Budget by £800k, as part of the Capital Programme to give the overall project a maximum budget of £5.721m to the refurbishment of Yeovil Crematorium;

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		<p>b. note that approval has been given for the originally approved construction project to proceed provided that the contract sum is within the revised budget.</p> <p>Note: joint venture partner, Yeovil Without Parish Council, met on 16 February and agreed to support recommendation A</p> <p>Reason: To update members on the refurbishment of Yeovil Crematorium and request an increase of £800,000 to the project budget to improve upon the future quality of the service offered to grieving families and mourners.</p> <p align="right"><i>(Voting: unanimous in favour)</i></p>
A11	Octagon Theatre Finance Report	<p>RESOLVED: That Full Council agreed to:-</p> <p>a. an increase in the capital budget of £6m, to be funded by prudential borrowing, to bring the total budget for the Octagon redevelopment project to £29.01m;</p> <p>b. an increase in the revenue budget of circa £0.680m per annum for the financing costs (MRP £0.289m, Interest £0.392m) arising from the increased borrowing needs. An initial assessment is that the financing costs may be covered from Year 6 by ticket levies and operating income, however</p>

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		<p>further analysis is needed to be carried out as interest rates are expected to rise at Final Business Case stage;</p> <p>c. the project team to incur expenditure of £1.2m from the capital budget to progress to the next gateway decision stage (the Final Business Case incorporating RIBA stage 3 designs and costings).</p> <p>Reason: To provide Council with an overview of the current budget position and the revised costs of delivering the Octagon redevelopment project arising from the recent RIBA stage 2 design and costings and to seek approval for an increase to the current capital budget of £6m to reflect the revised costs of the redevelopment.</p> <p><i>(Voting: 34 in favour, 1 against, 5 abstentions)</i></p>
A12	Financing the Yeovil Refresh	<p>RESOLVED: That Full Council agreed to:-</p> <p>a. an increase in the Yeovil Refresh capital budget of £1.059m to bring the total project total to £21.838m;</p> <p>b. an increase in the Yeovil Refresh revenue budget of £0.606m to bring the total budget to £1.994m (in total over the length of the delivery period). This is proposed to be funded from the Regeneration Fund Reserve;</p>

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		<p>c. an increase to the Council’s overall revenue budget of £0.044m (capital financing costs of borrowing £1.059m is £0.025m for interest costs and £0.019m for MRP) to fund the increased borrowing costs likely to be incurred by the project if the ring-fenced assets do not sell during 2022/23;</p> <p>d. the creation of an earmarked reserve of £4.784m to pay for the possible pay back of the Future High Streets Funding grant received to-date.</p> <p>Reason: To update Council on the Yeovil Refresh budget requirements to enable the completion and delivery of a series of Refresh projects in 2022 and 2023. Also to create a reserve to cover the risks related to Future High Streets Fund and the potential for future adverse financial impacts for SSSDC relating to that funding.</p> <p align="center"><i>(Voting: 38 in favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions)</i></p>
A13	Wincanton Regeneration Finance Report	<p>RESOLVED: That Full Council agreed to:-</p> <p>a. a change in the Wincanton Regeneration project scope from that agreed by Council at its meeting in October 2019: as detailed in Table 2 of the report;</p>

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		<p>b. the re-profiling and revision of the Wincanton Regeneration budget that will result in an overall programme budget of £2,392,236: which represents a reduction of £3,280,764 compared to the current approved budget.</p> <p>Reason: To change the scope of the Wincanton Regeneration Project from that originally agreed by Council and as a consequence re-profile the budget to align with the priority projects that have been identified as both achievable and affordable within the last year of the programme.</p> <p align="center"><i>(Voting: 38 in favour, 2 against, 0 abstentions)</i></p>
A14	Ensuring sufficient staffing capacity during 2022/23	<p>RESOLVED: That Full Council agreed to:-</p> <p>a. approve the requests to increase the staffing budget by £2,465,810 as set out in paragraph 11 and Appendix One;</p> <p>b. approve the increase in the LGR Reserve of £1m as set out in paragraphs 12 to 14, and its funding from the MTFP Support Fund reserve;</p> <p>c. delete the post of Director of Commercial Services and Income Generation from the staffing establishment budget as proposed in paragraphs 15 to 19;</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. approve further changes to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) as set out in paragraphs 19 and 20; e. note the line management arrangements for SLT for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix Two; f. note the Portfolio Holder responsibilities and associated SLT leads for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix Three; g. authorise the Monitoring Officer to make such changes to the Constitution as are necessary to reflect their decision. <p>Reason: To propose increases to the staffing budget for 2022/23, the creation of a contingency in the LGR reserve for funding extra capacity if required, and changes to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).</p> <p align="center"><i>(Voting: 38 in favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions)</i></p>
A15	2022/23 Budget Report	<p>RESOLVED: That Full Council agreed to:-</p> <p>Increases to the revenue and capital budgets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. revenue budget increases of £2.108m as set out in the Budget Report in Table Five;

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		<p>b. new capital projects and increases on existing approved capital budgets of £21.521m as set out in the Budget Report in Table Twelve;</p> <p>c. the creation of a corporate capital contingency within the capital programme, included within the increase reported above in (b), of £4m to be allocated by District Executive on approved projects within the capital programme via a written report from the relevant senior officer;</p> <p>Use of reserves</p> <p>d. the use of £6.144m earmarked reserves to fund the revenue and capital budgets as described in the Budget Report in Section Five;</p> <p>e. an increase of £1m to the LGR Reserve, funded from the MTFP Support Fund reserve, to finance potential capacity issues as described in a separate report on this agenda entitled “Ensuring sufficient staffing capacity during 2022/23”</p> <p>f. transfer £0.350m from the MTFP Support Fund to the Treasury Management Reserve to support the funding of any increase in interest rates in 2022/23 should they rise above the rates assumed in this Budget Report;</p>

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		<p>g. create a reserve in 2023/24 of £4.8m for the Yeovil Refresh capital project, funded from the MTFP Support Fund reserve, should there be a requirement in that year to pay back the money received to-date from the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF);</p> <p>h. transfer £2m from the Commercial Investments Risk Reserve to the MTFP Support Fund reserve to assist the 2023/24 position of the new Somerset Council in order to help fund potentially adverse local government finance reforms and the Yeovil Refresh reserve (see recommendation g above);</p> <p>2022/23 Revenue Budget</p> <p>i. SSDC’s revenue budget requirement (Net Budget) of £19,714,320 for 2022/23 as set out in Table One of the Budget Report;</p> <p>2021/22 to 2023/24 Capital Programme</p> <p>j. SSDC’s capital programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24 of £116.469m as set out in Table Eleven in the Budget Report and the consequential increase in SSDC’s financing charges revenue budget of circa £1.272m per annum;</p>

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		<p>Council Tax</p> <p>k. an assumption that there will be an increase in the 2022/23 Band D Council Tax of 2.82% representing a Band D Council Tax (excluding preceptors) of £182.11;</p> <p>Chief Finance Officer’s Statement</p> <p>l. note the advice given by the statutory S151 Officer on the robustness of the estimates, the adequacy of reserves, and the key financial risks arising from these budget proposals;</p> <p>Treasury Management Strategy</p> <p>m the 2022/23 Investment and Treasury Management Strategy;</p> <p>n. the proposed borrowing and investment limits included in the Treasury Management Strategy;</p> <p>o. the prudential and investment indicators;</p> <p>p. the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy statement.</p> <p>Full Council also approved and adopted the Assets and Finance Protocol, as agreed by LGR Joint Committee on 4th February 2022.</p>

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		<p>Reason: To confirm the 2022/23 revenue and capital budgets and the 2022/23 Treasury Management Strategy and agree to adopt the principals included in the Finance and Assets Protocol agreed by Local Government Review (LGR) Joint Committee on 4th February 2022.</p> <p>(The following Councillors voted in favour: Jason Baker, Mike Best, Dave Bulmer, Tony Capozzoli, Martin Carnell, John Clark, Nicola Clark, Adam Dance, Sarah Dyke, Karl Gill, Peter Gubbins, Brian Hamilton, Mike Hewitson, Henry Hobhouse, Ben Hodgson, Kaysar Hussein, Val Keitch, Andy Kendall, Tim Kerley, Tony Lock, Paul Maxwell, Kevin Messenger, Graham Oakes, Oliver Patrick, Crispin Raikes, Wes Read, David Recardo, Peter Seib, Garry Shortland, Andy Soughton, Mike Stanton, Rob Stickland, Gerard Tucker)</p> <p>(The following Councillor voted against: Colin Winder)</p> <p>(The following Councillors abstained from voting: Robin Bastable, Hayward Burt, Michael Lewis, Sue Osborne, Gina Seaton, Lucy Trimnell)</p>
A16	Council Tax Setting 2022 - 2023	<p>RESOLVED: That Full Council agreed to:-</p> <p>a. approve the formal Council Tax Resolution in Appendix A as follows:</p>

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		<p>1. At a meeting on the 7 December 2021, the Chief Financial Officer agreed the Council Tax base for 2022/23:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">a. for the whole South Somerset District Council area as 60,643.62 [Item T in formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended (the Act) (the tax base for the whole district)];</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">b. for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate as in the attached Appendix B (the tax base for each parish or town council area).</p> <p>2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2022/23 (excluding parish and town precepts and special expenses) is £11,043,810</p> <p>3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2022/23 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">(a)</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: right;">£81,137,230</td> <td>being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act; (expenditure, including all precepts issued to it by parish and town councils).</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">(b)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£63,557,660</td> <td>being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council</td> </tr> </table>	(a)	£81,137,230	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act; (expenditure, including all precepts issued to it by parish and town councils).	(b)	£63,557,660	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council
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		<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act (income, including government grants, benefits subsidy and adjustments for deficits on the Collection Fund).</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(c)</td> <td align="right">£17,579,570</td> <td>being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act; as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act); (expenditure less income).</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(d)</td> <td align="right">£289.88</td> <td>being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year; (this is an overall average amount of Council Tax, per Band D property, for District, Somerset Rivers Authority and parish and town council requirements including special expenses).</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(e)</td> <td align="right">£6,535,760</td> <td>being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix B): (parish and town council precepts including special expenses).</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(f)</td> <td align="right">£182.11</td> <td>being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no</td> </tr> </table>			estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act (income, including government grants, benefits subsidy and adjustments for deficits on the Collection Fund).	(c)	£17,579,570	being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act; as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act); (expenditure less income).	(d)	£289.88	being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year; (this is an overall average amount of Council Tax, per Band D property, for District, Somerset Rivers Authority and parish and town council requirements including special expenses).	(e)	£6,535,760	being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix B): (parish and town council precepts including special expenses).	(f)	£182.11	being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no
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the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the tables below.

5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1192, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2022/23 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings. The table excludes parish and town precepts and special expenses.

b. note that if the formal Council Tax Resolution at Appendix A is approved, the total Band D Council Tax is as follows:

	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	Increase %
South Somerset District Council	177.11	182.11	2.82
Somerset County Council	1,201.97	1,228.90	2.99
Somerset County Council (Adult Social Care)	151.56	165.10	
Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner	241.20	251.20	4.15
Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority	90.00	91.79	1.99
	1,861.84	1,919.10	3.08
Town and Parish Council	100.16	101.77	7.60

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		<table border="1" data-bbox="938 448 2047 523"> <tr> <td data-bbox="938 448 1444 488">(average)</td> <td data-bbox="1444 448 1646 488"></td> <td data-bbox="1646 448 1848 488"></td> <td data-bbox="1848 448 2047 488"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="938 488 1444 523"></td> <td align="center" data-bbox="1444 488 1646 523">1,962.00</td> <td align="center" data-bbox="1646 488 1848 523">2,026.87</td> <td align="center" data-bbox="1848 488 2047 523">3.31</td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="869 564 2033 635">Reason: To approve the Council's calculation and setting of the Council Tax for 2022/23.</p> <p data-bbox="840 683 2078 970">(The following Councillors voted in favour: Jason Baker, Robin Bastable, Mike Best, Dave Bulmer, Hayward Burt, Tony Capozzoli, Martin Carnell, John Clark, Nicola Clark, Adam Dance, Sarah Dyke, Karl Gill, Peter Gubbins, Brian Hamilton, Mike Hewitson, Henry Hobhouse, Ben Hodgson, Kaysar Hussein, Val Keitch, Tim Kerley, Michael Lewis, Tony Lock, Paul Maxwell, Kevin Messenger, Graham Oakes, Sue Osborne, Oliver Patrick, Crispin Raikes, Wes Read, David Recardo, Gina Seaton, Peter Seib, Garry Shortland, Andy Soughton, Mike Stanton, Rob Stickland, Lucy Trimnell, Gerard Tucker and Colin Winder)</p> <p data-bbox="840 1018 2078 1082">(The following Councillor abstained: Andy Kendall – not in the room at the time the report was presented)</p>	(average)					1,962.00	2,026.87	3.31
(average)										
	1,962.00	2,026.87	3.31							
A17	Statutory Pay Policy Statement for Chief Officers 2022/23	<p data-bbox="869 1150 2018 1225">RESOLVED: That Council agreed to approve the proposed Statutory Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 for publication.</p> <p data-bbox="869 1270 2018 1385">Reason: To adopt the South Somerset District Council's Pay Policy Statement (PPS) for 2022/23 which is revised and published at least annually following approval at Full Council.</p>								

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		<i>(Voting: unanimous in favour)</i>
A18	Final recommendation of the Community Governance Review of Yeovilton Parish Council and Limington Parish Meeting	<p>RESOLVED: That Council agreed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. to note the results of the consultation in the parishes of Yeovilton and Limington; b. that the final recommendation be: “To accept the vote from the people of Yeovilton and Limington and to form a single parish council to be named “Yeovilton and District Parish Council” c. to draw up a Reorganisation Order to give effect to this recommendation; d. to contact the statutory agencies to notify them of the new joined parishes. <p>Reason: To confirm the conclusion of the Community Governance Review which has taken place in the parishes of Yeovilton and Limington on the proposal to join the two parishes together (under the provisions of Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Voting: unanimous in favour)</i></p>

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A22	Motions	<p>RESOLVED: That Council agreed NOT to approve the Motion proposed that Council has no confidence in the leadership of Cllr Val Keitch due to the facts that this Council was misled, misinformed and criminal allegations were delayed from being reported to the Police with proper diligence before, during and after the Appointment of Clare Pestell as Chief Executive of South Somerset District Council.</p> <p>Reason: To dismiss the Motion proposed.</p> <p>(The following Councillors voted NOT to approve the Motion: Jason Baker, Mike Best, Martin Carnell, John Clark, Nicola Clark, Adam Dance, Sarah Dyke, Karl Gill, Peter Gubbins, Brian Hamilton, Mike Hewitson, Henry Hobhouse, Ben Hodgson, Kaysar Hussein, Andy Kendall, Tim Kerley, Tony Lock, Paul Maxwell, Kevin Messenger, Graham Oakes, Oliver Patrick, Crispin Raikes, Wes Read, David Recardo, Peter Seib, Garry Shortland, Andy Soughton, Mike Stanton, Rob Stickland, Gerard Tucker)</p> <p>(The following Councillors voted in favour of the original Motion: Dave Bulmer, Hayward Burt, Tony Capozzoli, Michael Lewis, Sue Osborne, Gina Seaton, Lucy Trimmell and Colin Winder)</p> <p>(The following Councillor abstained from voting: Robin Bastable)</p>
A1		