



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CORPORATE AND RESOURCES

Friday, 2 February 2024

10.00 am

**Hollinsworth Hall, Canalside Conference Centre,
Marsh Lane, Huntworth, Bridgwater TA6 6LQ**

SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA

To: The members of the Scrutiny Committee - Corporate and Resources

We are now able to enclose the following information which was unavailable when the agenda was published:

Agenda Item 6

2024/25 General Fund Revenue Budget, HRA Revenue Budget and Capital Budgets (Pages 5 - 60)

To consider the 2024/25 Budget Proposals and provide feedback to the Executive for consideration. The following documents are attached:

Scrutiny of the 2024/25 Budget – pages 19 – 23.

Paper A - 2024/25 General Fund Revenue Budget – pages 25 - 63. This report has the following Appendices:

- Appendix 1: Strategic Risks associated with the budget – pages 65 - 67
- Appendix 2: MTFP Forecast – pages 69 - 70
- Appendix 3: Provisional Finance Settlement – pages 71 - 72
- Appendix 4: Changes to budget 2023/24-2024/25 – pages 73 - 76
- Appendix 5: Council Tax trends – page 77
- Appendix 6: Detailed list of savings proposals – pages 79 - 91
- Appendix 7: Detailed list of pressures – pages 93 - 98
- Appendix 8: Full & part reversals of prior year savings – page 99
- Appendix 9: Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25 – pages 101 - 105
- Appendix 10: Summary of findings from the budget consultation exercise – pages 107 - 135
- Appendix 11: Reserves – pages 137 - 141

To view all the supporting documents, including the savings proposals, the Cumulative Impact Assessment and the relevant Equality Impact Assessment forms, please access the web library by using this link – [Supporting Documents](#)

Paper B - Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue and Capital Budget Setting 2024/25 including Dwelling Rent Setting and Fees and Charges for 2024/25, MTFP and 30-Year Business Plan Update' – pages 143 – 194. This report has the following Appendices:

- Appendix A - Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan for 2024/25 – page 195
- Appendix B - Proposed Fees and Charges for Homes In Sedgemoor for 2024/25 – pages 197 - 198
- Appendix C - Proposed Fees and Charges for the In-House Service for 2024/25 – pages 199 - 209
- Appendix D - HRA MTFP 10-Year Capital Programme – pages 211 - 212
- Appendix E - HRA Proposed Capital Budgets for 2024/25 and Capital Financing per Scheme – pages 213 - 216
- Appendix F – EIA form – pages 217 - 224

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Scrutiny of the 2024/25 Budget 2 February 2024



Somerset
Council

Finance Papers

	Audit	Scrutiny	Executive Council	
2023/24 General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring Report - Q3			X	
2023/24 Capital Budget Monitoring Report - Q3			X	
2023/24 Housing Revenue Account Capital & Revenue Monitoring Report Q3			X	
Developing the approach to Transformation			X	
2024/25 HRA Budget setting report		X	X	X
Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25	X		X	X
Capital Strategy 2024/25 (including MRP policy & Flexible Use of Capital Receipts)	X		X	X
2024/25 General Fund Capital Budget		X	X	X
2024/25 General Funding Revenue Budget & MTFP		X	X	X
Section 25 Statement by S151 Officer				X

Legal Requirements

The council **must set a balanced budget** by the 11th March for the forthcoming year

The Local Government Act 2003 requires that each authority **must have a Medium Term Financial Plan**

The budget **council**

REMINDER

Councillors not being more than 2 months in arrears on Council Tax

Section 25 Statement

Under the terms of section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 the Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer) is required to report to the Council on two specific matters:

the **robustness of the estimates** included in the budget, and

the **adequacy of the reserves** for which the budget provides.

Section 26 of the same act places an onus on the Chief Finance Officer to ensure the Council has established a **minimum level of reserves** to be retained to cover any unforeseen demands that could not be reasonably defined within finalising the proposed budget.

Given the very challenging financial position that the council faces it is important that all members take note of this report when approving the budget at Full Council.

A separate section 25 report will be presented to Full Council by the Section 151 Officer

Financial Strategy

Focused upon **avoiding a section 114 notice** by taking the following actions:

- 1.
2. reviewing and reducing budget pressures,
3. identifying further saving options,
4. reducing the capital programme and bids for new schemes,
5. maximising funding & income to the council,
6. generating capital receipts from asset disposals,
7. disposing of commercial investments,
8. completing the outstanding statement of accounts from the predecessor councils,
9. reviewing Earmarked Reserves and repurposing them to support the budget,
10. of the organisation (workforce transformation) to enable it to become financially sustainable in the future, and
11. working with DLUHC on a capitalisation direction.

Updates following publication of papers

Savings options in Communities

CCTV service

Sports and leisure facilities at Yeovil Recreation Centre

Additional funding announced by Government

Commercial investment income following review of portfolio by

Updated Appendix on 2024/25 Budget consultation

Communities updates to Savings

Reference Number	New or Already Approved	Title	Description	Financial Strategy Type	Risk Profile	Service Director	Saving Amount
							2024/25
CMS018	Removed	Cease CCTV service	There are currently cameras serving Taunton, Bridgwater, Yeovil, Street, Burnham On Sea, Highbridge, Street, Wells, Glastonbury, Frome, Shepton Mallet. This proposal would turn off the cameras, close the monitoring centre and no monitoring would be carried out. There may be contract termination financial penalties.	Savings Level	Medium	Service Director - Reg & Ops	(489)
CMS045	Removed	Reduction in the CCTV maintenance budget by 20%	Reduction in CCTV maintenance budget. At 20% this will equate to a reduction in roughly 46 cameras across Somerset from the current 225 total provision	Service Level	Low	Service Director - Reg & Ops	(50)
CMS052	Replaced by	Contributions towards the CCTV Service	Somerset Council has been offered contributions from various town councils to ensure the continuation of the CCTV service.	Income Generation	Low	Service Director - Reg & Ops	(489)
CMS020	Original	Reduce sports and leisure facilities at Yeovil Recreation Centre	The closure of managed sport and leisure facilities at Yeovil Recreation Centre including most outdoor sports facilities and the leisure facilities in the Jon O'Donnell Pavilion building. Green spaces on site, the tennis courts, children's play area and multi-use games area are proposed to remain open to the public. The cafe on site is not included in this proposal and is being considered separately.	Service Level	Medium	Service Director - Culture	(90)
CMS020	Reworded	Devolve Yeovil Recreation ground to Yeovil Town Council	This saving propose to devolve Yeovil Recreation Ground to Yeovil Town Council. If this cannot be achieved by 1st August 2024, Somerset will revert back to reducing the leisure facilities as below: The closure of managed sport and leisure facilities at Yeovil Recreation Centre including most outdoor sports facilities and the leisure facilities in the Jon O'Donnell Pavilion building. Green spaces on site, the tennis courts, children's play area and multi-use games area are proposed to remain open to the public. The cafe on site is not included in this proposal and is being considered separately.	Income Generation	Medium	Service Director - Culture	(110)

Updates to the 24/25 Budget Gap

Changes to 2023/24 budget	
	37.9
	(0.1)
	(5.2)
Grant	(0.5)
	(0.1)
Reduction in Commercial investment income (assuming sale of commercial assets as per JLL)	1.4
Reduction in Business Rates funding (following completion of NNDR1)	3.2
Updated budget gap	36.6

Table above updated the figures in the report to Jan Executive & Feb Scrutiny

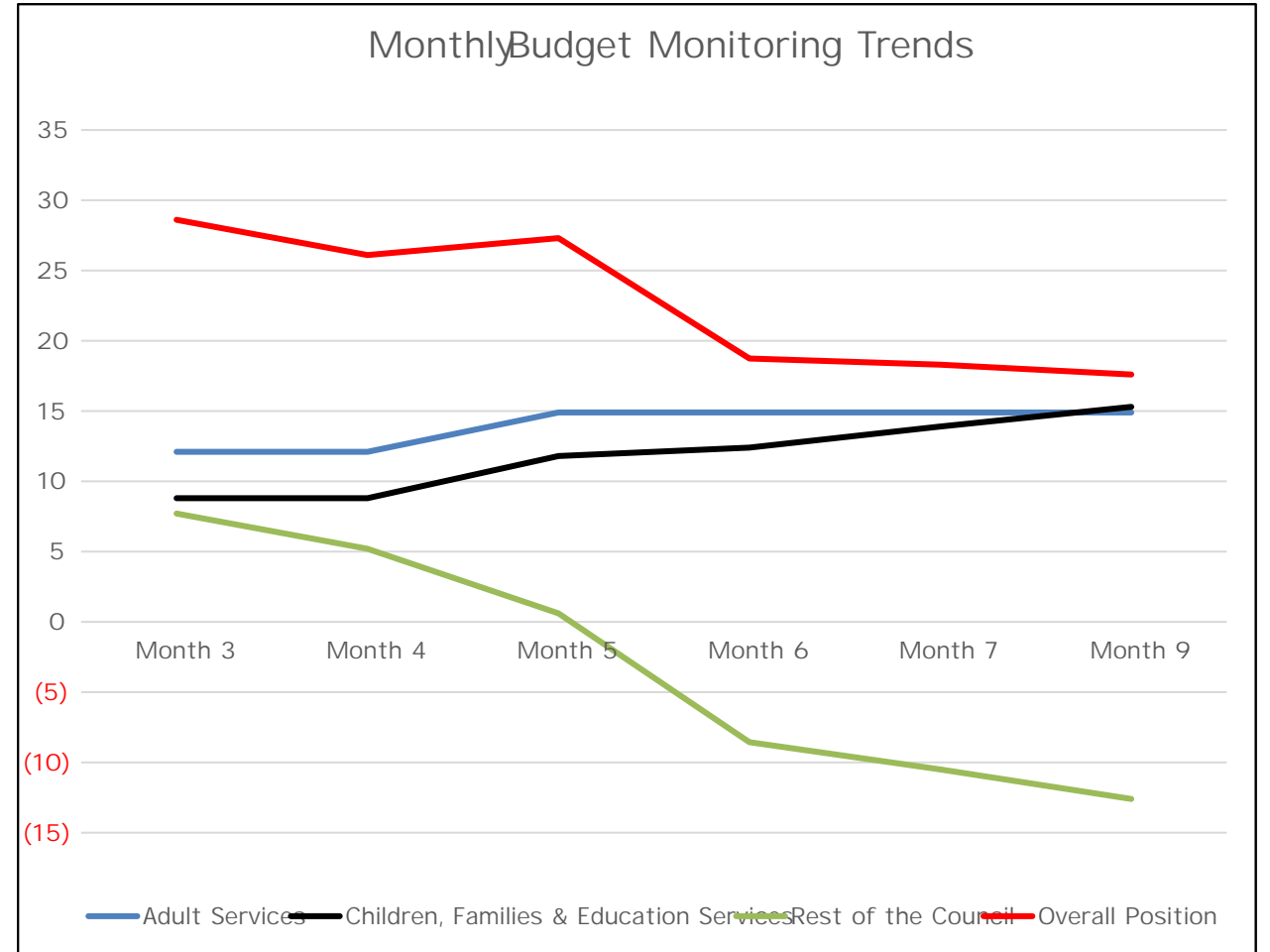
Figures may change with the final finance settlement which we expect on 5 Feb

Changes to 2023/24 budget	
Reversals for once off items	19.9
Pressures	109.8
Savings	(35.2)
Changes to pay	13.8
Increase in financing costs	12.9
Increase in funding	(40.1)
Updated budget gap	81.1
Use of Medium Term Financial Plan Support Reserve	(36.8)
Council Tax Collection Fund surplus	(6.2)
Business Rates Collection Fund surplus	(1.5)
Remaining budget gap	36.6

Remaining budget gap	2024/25
	36.6
Exceptional Financial Support from DLUHC (Capitalisation Direction & 5% additional Increase in Council Tax)	(36.6)
Balanced position	0.0

2023/24 Budget Monitoring

Service Area	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 9
Adult Services	12.1	12.1	14.9	14.9	14.9	14.9
Children, Families & Education Services	8.8	8.8	11.8	12.4	13.9	15.3
	20.9	20.9	26.7	27.3	28.8	30.2
Community Services	-	-	-	1.3	-	(0.3)
Climate & Place Strategy, Workforce & Localities	-	-	-	(5.3)	(5.4)	(7.0)
Resources & Corporate Services	5.1	2.7	2.3	0.9	0.9	0.1
Public Health	1.5	1.5	1.3	(2.2)	(2.8)	(2.4)
Non-Service	1.4	1.3	0.3	-	-	-
Corporate Contingency	(0.5)	(0.5)	(3.5)	(3.6)	(3.5)	(3.5)
Traded	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rest of the Council	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4
	7.7	5.2	0.6	(8.6)	(10.5)	(12.7)
Overall Forecast Overspend	28.6	26.1	27.3	18.7	18.3	17.5



24/25 Budget - Changes

Service	2023/24 Original Budget	2024/25 Draft Budget	Net Change	
				%
Adults Services	179.3	237.3	58.0	32%
Children, Families & Education Services	122.5	138.2	15.7	13%
Community Services	32.5	30.9	(1.6)	(5%)
Climate & Place	91.4	91.4	0.0	0%
Strategy, Workforce & Localities	23.0	22.1	(0.9)	(4%)
Resources & Corporate Services	20.5	25.1	4.6	22%
Public Health	1.0	1.0	0.0	0%
2023/24 & 2024/25 Pay Award	15.3	29.1	13.8	90%
Financing Costs	40.7	53.7	13.0	32%
Other Corporate Costs	16.6	9.8	(6.8)	(41%)
Total	542.8	638.6	95.8	18%

Funding	2023/24 Original Budget	2024/25 Draft Budget	Net Change	
				%
Revenue Support Grant	(7.9)	(8.5)	(0.5)	7%
New Homes Bonus	(3.8)	(1.9)	1.9	(51%)
Rural Services Delivery Grant	(3.2)	(4.1)	(0.9)	29%
Service Grant	(3.2)	(0.5)	2.7	(84%)
Social Care Support Grant	(39.2)	(51.0)	(11.8)	30%
Flexible use of Capital Receipts	(4.0)	-	4.0	(100%)
Business Rates	(122.2)	(128.4)	(6.3)	5%
Collection fund (BR+ CTax)	(0.6)	(7.7)	(7.1)	1185%
Council Tax	(338.8)	(361.1)	(22.3)	7%
Use of Reserves	(19.9)	(38.8)	(18.9)	95%
Total	(542.8)	(602.0)	(59.1)	11%

Pay Award - will move from a central provision into services

24/25 Budget - Changes

Savings

Total Savings by Directorate	2024/25
Adults Services	(9.8)
Childrens, Families and Education	(9.6)
Communities Services	(3.0)
Climate & Place	(5.6)
Strategy, Workforce & Localities	(0.6)
Resources & Corporate Services	(2.6)
Local Government Reorganisation	(4.0)
Total	(35.2)

Total Saving Value	Number of Savings	% of Savings
	56	42%
	28	21%
	13	10%
	24	18%
	5	4%
Value to be confirmed	6	5%
Total	132	100%

Pressures

Total Pressures by Directorate	2024/25
Adults Services	69.6
Childrens, Families and Education	26.5
Communities Services	1.3
Climate & Place	5.3
Strategy, Workforce & Localities	0.1
Resources & Corporate Services	7.0
Total	109.8

Total Pressure Value	No. of Pressures	% of Pressures
	13	19%
	19	28%
	11	16%
	8	12%
	17	25%
Total	68	100%

Reserves

Somerset Council Reserves (DLUHC Reporting Categories)	31 March 2023	Adjust- ments	01 April 2023	Forecast Use	31 March 2024	Forecast Use	31 March 2025
Contractual commitments	14.8	(1.1)	13.7	(0.4)	13.2	(0.1)	13.2
Planned future revenue & capital spending	50.9	(18.9)	32.1	(15.7)	16.4	(4.2)	12.2
Specific risks	24.7	(7.2)	17.6	(2.9)	14.6	(3.7)	11.0
Budget stabilisation	52.3	(10.1)	42.2	1.2	43.4	(39.5)	3.9
Public Health	4.1	(1.7)	2.4	0.0	2.4	(1.8)	0.6
Other	142.4	(4.0)	138.4	(99.8)	38.6	(6.9)	31.7
Total Earmarked Reserves	289.2	(43.0)	246.3	(117.7)	128.6	(56.1)	72.5
General Fund Reserves	26.8	23.1	49.8	(17.5)	32.3	0.0	32.3
Total Reserves	316.0	(19.9)	296.1	(135.2)	161.0	(56.1)	104.9

Exceptional Financial Support

gap

Also asked for

5% additional Council Tax increase
(which would reduce the capitalisation
direction ask)

transformation / re-sizing of the council but
would look at Flexible Use of Capital
Receipts

	2024/25
Remaining budget gap	36.6
Increase Council Tax by a further 5%	(17.1)
Capitalisation Direction from DLUHC	(19.5)
Balanced position	0.0

Requirement to have an external assurance review from

MTFP 2024/25 to 2028/29

Assuming no additional Council Tax

High Level MTFP Forecast	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Budget Gap from previous year	0.0	36.6	104.0	147.9	170.0
Budget Gap for year	36.6	67.4	43.9	22.1	28.6
Budget Gap	36.6	104.0	147.9	170.0	198.6

Assuming 5% additional Council Tax for 2024/25

High Level MTFP Forecast	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Budget Gap from previous year	0.0	19.4	85.8	128.6	149.6
Budget Gap for year	19.4	66.4	42.8	21.0	27.4
Budget Gap	19.4	85.8	128.6	149.6	177.0

Community Services

CIlr Federica Smith-Roberts

Chris Hall, Executive Director



Summary of Pressures

Reference Number	Title	Description	Service Director	Pressure Amount
				2024/25
CMS001	Abri Income Target	South Somerset Council previously undertook external grounds work for Abri Housing Association on a contractual basis. This contract was cancelled at the end of 2021/22 by the Council as it was deemed to be impacting core services, however, this income target has incorrectly remained in the budget.	Service Director - Regulatory & Operations	505
CMS002	Repairs & Maint - Planned Maint - Building Ext Fabric + Revenue Support	Sedgemoor Council signed a "Community Use Agreement" (2009-2028) with English Sports Council (Sport England) and Kings of towards the 'wet side' aka swimming pool in Cheddar. There is RPI built into the contract but this has never been called upon and the amount has remained the same.	Service Director - Culture	411
CMS003	16-25 yr old homeless duty from April 2024	The housing options service will take responsibility for 16-25 yr olds who the Council have a duty under the Homeless Act previously part of	Service Director - Housing	400
CMS004	Public Health Funerals	Budget provision of Public Health funerals, approximately 83 a year not funded previously.	Service Director - Regulatory & Operations	20
Total Community Services				1,336

Slide 1 of 7

Reference Number	New or Already Approved	Title	Description	Financial Strategy Type	Risk Profile	Service Director	Saving Amount
							2024/25
CMS052	New	Contributions towards the CCTV Service	Somerset Council has been offered contributions from various town councils to ensure the continuation of the CCTV service.	Income Generation	Low	Service Director - Reg & Ops	(489)
CMS014	New	Closure of all Council owned public toilets.	Closure of all Council-owned public toilets exploring devolution to City, Town and Parish Councils.	Service Levels	Low	Service Director - Reg & Ops	(301)
CMS030	New	Reduction in operational budgets in Operational Services	A reduction of 20% or complete removal of budget across specific maintenance and operational budgets within Operational Services. Many of these budgets can be reduced due to Local Government Reform and will therefore not impact on service delivery.	Efficiency Savings	Low	Service Director - Reg & Ops	(199)
CMS044	Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Lifeline Services - alignment of fees and charges for new customers from April 2023	Increase in fees and charges of 10% for Lifeline Customers. This modelling is reflects a phased harmonisation of fees across new and existing customers and assumes a 1% growth in service demand.	Income generation	Medium	Service Director - Customers	(195)
CMS022	New - Subject to completion of staff consultation	Continued temporary closure of the Octagon Theatre in Yeovil	The Octagon Theatre is currently closed on a temporary basis pending capital development.	Service Levels	Medium	Service Director - Culture	(174)
CMS029	New	Pause of Play Area Replacement Programme across Somerset	Throughout 2024/25 no new play equipment will be installed unless it is externally funded. A play area maintenance budget will remain to repair dangerous equipment only.	Service Levels	Low	Service Director - Reg & Ops	(168)

Slide 2 of 7

Reference Number	New or Already Approved	Title	Description	Financial Strategy Type	Risk Profile	Service Director	Saving Amount
							2024/25
CMS005	New	Registration Ceremony fees	Review fees and charges and increase in line with inflation. Non-statutory Fee's and Charges. increase from 1st April 2024	Income Generation	Low	Service Director - Reg & Ops	(150)
CMS038	New	Westlands Entertainment Venue - changes to operation of service	Savings could be achieved from changing the operation of the service to ensure the business is more viable.	Service Levels	Medium	Service Director - Culture	(116)
CMS026	New - Subject to completion of staff consultation	Closure of Taunton Visitor Information Centre	Closure of Taunton Visitor Information Centre.	Service Levels	Low	Service Director - Culture	(114)
CMS020	New - Subject to completion of staff consultation	Devolve Yeovil Recreation ground to Yeovil Town Council	This saving propose to devolve Yeovil Recreation Ground to Yeovil Town Council. If this cannot be achieved by 1st August 2024, Somerset Council will revert back to reducing the leisure facilities as below: The closure of managed sport and leisure facilities at Yeovil Recreation Centre including most outdoor sports facilities and the leisure facilities in the Jon O'Donnell Pavilion building. Green spaces on site, the tennis courts, children's play area and multi-use games area are proposed to remain open to the public. The cafe on site is not included in this proposal and is being considered separately.	Alternative Service Delivery	Medium	Service Director - Culture	(110)
CMS035	New	Taunton Crematorium Fee Increase	Increase of fees at Taunton Crematorium.	Income Generation	Low	Service Director - Regulatory & Operations	(108)

Slide 3 of 7

Reference Number	New or Already Approved	Title	Description	Financial Strategy Type	Risk Profile	Service Director	Saving Amount
							2024/25
CMS034	New	Unused sport and development budget	Consolidation of former Council budgets. Following review the budgets are no longer needed as projects have completed and as such offered up as a saving.	Efficiency Savings	Low	Service Director - Culture	(85)
CMS053	New - Subject to completion of staff consultation	Devolve Yeovil Country Park to Yeovil Town Council	Proposal to devolve Yeovil Country Park to Yeovil Town Council including the transfer of the asset, service and staffing.	Alternative Service Delivery	Medium	Service Director - Culture	(80)
CMS024	New	Reduce discretionary cultural budget	Reducing this discretionary budget will mean the Council can only provide minimal grant funding.	Service Levels	Low	Service Director - Culture	(71)
CMS025	New - Subject to completion of staff consultation	Closure of South Somerset Visitor Information Centre	Closure of the Visitor Information Centre at Cartgate.	Service Levels	Medium	Service Director - Culture	(53)
CMS040	New - Subject to completion of staff consultation	Closure of Yeovil Nursery and reducing planting across Somerset Council Parks	Closure of nursery operations at Yeovil and reducing the planting across Somerset Council Parks, using plants/shrubs brought in, not grown	Service Levels	Low	Service Director - Regulatory & Operations	(52)
CMS042	Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Contract rationalisation for grounds maintenance contracts	Providing ground care services internally for the areas covered previously by Mendip and Somerset West and Taunton Councils	Efficiency Savings	High	Service Director - Regulatory & Operations	(50)

Slide 4 of 7

Reference Number	New or Already Approved	Title	Description	Financial Strategy Type	Risk Profile	Service Director	Saving Amount
							2024/25
CMS043	Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Contract rationalisation for street cleansing contracts	Providing street cleansing services internally for the areas covered previously by Mendip and Somerset West and Taunton Councils	Efficiency Savings	Medium	Service Director - Regulatory & Operations	(50)
CMS039	New - Subject to completion of staff consultation	Closure of Taunton Nursery and reducing planting across Somerset Council Parks	Closure of nursery operations at Taunton and reducing the planting across Somerset Council Parks, using plants/shrubs brought in, not grown	Service Levels	Low	Service Director - Regulatory & Operations	(47)
CMS001	New	Remove historical (Somerset West and Taunton) grants to Parishes for open spaces maintenance	The proposal is to cease providing grants to 47 Parish Councils that have been used to support maintenance of footpaths and playing fields (not on Somerset Council Land). These parishes will need to submit a request through their parish precept.	Service Levels	Low	Service Director - Regulatory & Operations	(40)
CMS004	New	Cease funding for Operation Clean Sweep	Operation Clean Sweep was a programme in the former Somerset West and Taunton area. The funding for this is no longer required as the scheme has ceased.	Efficiency Savings	Low	Service Director - Regulatory & Operations	(40)
CMS037	New	Increase in Environmental Health Fees and Charges	Annual Increase in Fees and Charges for Licensing and Environmental Health. Proposed Fee increases, estimated additional income.	Income Generation	Low	Service Director - Regulatory & Operations	(36)

Slide 5 of 7

Reference Number	New or Already Approved	Title	Description	Financial Strategy Type	Risk Profile	Service Director	Saving Amount
							2024/25
CMS015	New	Cancellation of RNLI lifeguard contract at Somerset North Beaches	<p>The Lifeguard service is provided by RNLI at Burnham on Sea, Berrow and Brean beaches from early July until the first week in September. The contract provides some additional cover in the main season to compliment the Council employed beach safety wardens. This proposal is to cease the contract with RNLI and solely use beach safety wardens.</p> <p>The proposal is to cancel the RNLI contract and instead utilise existing Beach Safety Wardens to cover beach safety issues. Beach safety wardens currently cover beach safety from March to October and therefore there will still be beach safety controls in place throughout the whole operating season.</p>	Service Levels	High	Service Director - Regulatory & Operations	(35)
CMS006	New	Remove Relief Staff Budget in Statutory Libraries	The libraries relief staff budget is used to cover staff sickness and leave, this budget will be removed offering less cover for unplanned absences.	Service Levels	Low	Service Director - Culture	(25)
CMS033	New	Environmental Health budget reductions	Environmental Health budget reductions. These reductions relate to reducing an agency budget and other shared LGR savings so will not impact on service delivery.	Efficiency Savings	Low	Service Regs & Ops	(24)
CMS003	New	Somerset Scientific Services inflationary fees and charges increase	The fee charged when analysing samples (e.g. water) has been reviewed. The proposal is to increase the charge for this service by the Consumer Prices Index at 6.8%. Original income budgets st April 2024.	Income Generation	Low	Service Director - Regulatory & Operations	(23)
CMS002	New	Remove historical (SWT) Grants to Parishes for bereavement services	The proposal is to cease providing grants to 47 Parish Councils that have been used to support maintenance of burial grounds. These parishes will need to submit a request through their parish precept.	Service Levels	Low	Service Director - Regulatory & Operations	(20)

Summary of Savings - Slide 6 of 7

Reference Number	New or Already Approved	Title	Description	Financial Strategy Type	Risk Profile	Service Director	Saving Amount
							2024/25
CMS019	New	Minor Reductions to Statutory Library Service budgets	Reduction of several small budget streams, including catering, furniture and equipment, promotions and projects, will have no adverse impact on the delivery of library services.	Efficiency Savings	Low	Service Director - Culture	(18)
CMS041	New	Stopping carrying out the parish ranger scheme (South area)	Currently area south carrying out a ranger service using 3 members of staff to carry out paid for work by the parish councils. During the exercise of costing out the service it has been found that the service costs the council money, and is not viable. It is also not carried out in the other areas, so the view is to stop.	Service Levels	Low	Service Director - Regulatory & Operations	(16)
CMS012	New	Cease overnight locking and morning reopening of Wellington, Blenheim and Vivary parks.	Cease provision of the locking and reopening service that is currently carried out by an external contractor, harmonising approaches for parks across the County (i.e. they will remain open overnight).	Service Levels	Low	Service Director - Regulatory & Operations	(15)
CMS023	New	Phased reduction of funding to Taunton Brewhouse	The Council owns the freehold for Taunton Brewhouse operated on the Council's behalf by tenants. This proposal would see a reduction in grant funding to complete cessation by April 2025.	Service Levels	Medium	Service Director - Culture	(13)
CMS021	New	Cease funding to Burnham swimming pool	Cease revenue funding that was awarded in 2008 to a previous incumbent local operator of Burnham Pool to support swimming provision. The pool is now leased by the previous incumbent to Legacy Leisure whom would no longer receive this funding.	Service Levels	Low	Service Director - Culture	(12)
CMS046	Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Increased Berrow & Brean Beach Parking fees	An annual increase of 50p for car parking at Berrow and Burnham Beaches.	Income generation	Medium/ High	Service Regs & Ops	(12)

Summary of Savings - Slide 6 of 7

Reference Number	New or Already Approved	Title	Description	Financial Strategy Type	Risk Profile	Service Director	Saving Amount
							2024/25
CMS031	New	Fees and Charges - Annual inflationary increases Minehead Harbour Fees	Annual inflationary fee's and charges increases to Harbour Fees (Minehead).	Income Generation	Medium	Service Director - Regulatory & Operations	(11)
CMS016	New	Cease provision of temporary toilets for Bridgwater Carnival	The Council will no longer fund the hire of temporary toilets for the Bridgwater Carnival.	Service Levels	Low	Service Director - Regulatory & Operations	(9)
CMS017	New	Cease providing barrier protection around some of the open spaces around the Bridgwater Carnival route during the procession.	There will no longer be barrier protection provided for open spaces along the Bridgwater Carnival procession route.	Service Levels	Low	Service Director - Regulatory & Operations	(7)
CMS032	New	Fees and Charges - Beach Parking at Berrow and Brean Beaches	Increases to Beach Parking charges at Berrow and Brean Beaches.	Income Generation	Medium	Service Director - Regulatory & Operations	(7)
CMS036	New	Cemeteries Fee Increase - Somerset East	Increase of fees. Cemetery fees in Somerset East.	Income Generation	Low	Service Director - Regulatory & Operations	(6)

Total Community Services

(2,981)

Adult & Health Services

Cllr Bill Revans



Summary of Pressures

Reference Number	Title	Description	Service Director	Pressure Amount
				2024/25
Adults Services				
ADS001	Provider Inflation	Fee Inflation for Social Care providers for Adult Services (Residential & Nursing)	Service Director - Adult Social Care Operations	59,844
ADS002	Demographic Growth	Demographic Growth for Adults Services (Placements)	Service Director - Adult Social Care Operations	9,368
ADS003	Change in legislation	Building team capacity in the Operations team to deliver reforms and legislation changes	Service Director - Adult Social Care Operations	400
Total Adults Services				69,612

Children, Families and Education

CLlr Heather Shearer



Reference Number	Title	Description	Pressure Amount 2024/25 £'000
Children, Families and Education			
CFE002	SEND Transport	Increase in demand for Special Education Needs (SEND) transport provision.	3,070
CFE004	SEND Transport	Special Educational Needs (SEND) transport inflation increase.	710
CFE001	Home to School Transport	Inflation on Home to School Transport contracts.	700
Total Children, Families and Education			4,480

New or Already Approved	Title	Description	Risk Profile	Saving Amount 2024/25 £'000
Children, Families and Education				
New	Mind of My Own	Not recommission Mind of My Own contract from 01/04/2024. Usage of Mind of My Own app has remained low and the extensive promotion campaigns and training have resulted in little impact for children. Children and young people choose to use other apps to contact their social worker / leaving care worker at no cost to the council.	Low	(410)
New	The Council will deliver a greater proportion of the support provided to Early Years settings through centrally retained funding, reducing its use of external partners.	Currently, a significant proportion of centrally retained Early Years funding is paid to external partners and bodies to deliver various support, training and CPD activities to providers. It is intended, following consultation, that the Council provides these services using current resources to achieve a budget saving.	Low	(398)
New	More efficient delivery of home to school travel	Transformation programme to focus on more efficient delivery of school transport and promotion of independent travel.	Medium	(325)
New	External funding for the service to support young people who are at risk of not being in education, training or employment post 16	To replace the Council contribution to funding with external funding from the Shared Prosperity fund.	Medium	(141)
New	Educational Psychology Service Budget Reduction	Ceasing agency contract with agency supplier of workers and reduction in establishment, mainly through non-renewal of contracts.	Low	(132)
New	Reduction of four of nine vacant posts in the Special Educational Needs (SEND) team.	New posts were established in the 2023/24 budget to recognise the need to meet increasing demand in the SEND area. Five posts will continue to be recruited to meet this additional need with the remaining vacant posts removed from the budgeted establishment.	Medium	(125)
New	Fund the Virtual School for Children in Care using the Pupil Premium Plus grant	Use Pupil Premium Plus grant to fund staff in the virtual school so that the team does not require funding from other sources.	Low	(100)
New	The Council will deliver a greater proportion of the support provided to Early Years settings through centrally retained funding, reducing its use of external partners.	Currently, a significant proportion of centrally retained Early Years funding is paid to external partners and bodies to deliver various support, training and CPD activities to providers. It is intended, following consultation, that the Council provides these services using current resources to achieve a budget saving.	Low	(11)
Total Children, Families and Education				(1,642)

Title	Description	Pressure Amount 2024/25 £'000
Children, Families and Education		
External Placements Demand	Increased complexity of need of children and lack of sufficiency within fostering, require longer periods of care in external placements	11,885
External placements inflation	Contractual inflation for external placement contracts	5,855
Family Safeguarding	Funding to continue the Family Safeguarding Service (at £1.2m pa) in order to reduce financial pressures on the children's placement budget.	1,200
Increase demand in children in need packages	Section 17, Children in Needs, increased demand in particular around family support packages and parental assessments	892
Fostering fees and allowances inflation increase	Fostering fees and allowances inflation to recruit and retain in house foster carers and the provision of special guardianship support (to remove children from the care system to the care of a family member). Costs are significantly lower than those in the external placement market.	300
Direct Payments demand	To support families with disabled children to care for their child at home. There is a statutory responsibility under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 to assess required support to disabled children and to provide this support under the act or under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970	291
Change Management resource for the Children's Transformation Programme	A team of project/programme and change management staff is required to work alongside multiple partners to support partnership working, build capacity and capabilities within the service and deliver programme objectives and benefits across a complex programme of work.	249
Pause	Funding to continue the Pause programme (at £225k pa) in order to reduce financial pressures on the children's placement budget	225
Change in requirement for number of children being taken into care	Change in requirement for numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) children being taken into care	160

Title	Description	Pressure Amount 2024/25 £'000
Children, Families and Education		
Population Increase - Children in Need	Anticipated increase in Children in need/Care package as a result of population increase and poverty.	157
CWD External Placements Demand	External placements increased demand as a result of increase in care days. Those children in care remain in the care of an external placement provider for longer periods. Increased complexity of need of children and lack of sufficiency within fostering, require longer periods of care in external placements	148
Reduction to Childrens Vacancy factor	Reduction to Childrens Vacancy factor	141
Reduction to Childrens Vacancy factor	Reduction to Childrens Vacancy factor	132
Direct Payments inflation	To support families with disabled children to care for their child at home.	111
Transport inflation	Inflationary pressure is expected to drive higher unit costs into 2024/25.	86
Childrens Commissioning - Contract Inflation	Inflation for three Children's services contracts: Pause, SEND mediation & Adoption South West	84
CWD External Placements Inflation	Contractual inflation for external placement contracts	59
Inflation for staying put allowances and other leaving care allowances	Contractual inflation for leaving care allowances	25
Total Children, Families and Education		21,999

New or Already Approved	Title	Description	Risk Profile	Saving Amount 2024/25 £'000
Children, Families and Education				
New	New homes for young people aged 16 to 25 years who are ready to live in supported accommodation on their journey towards independent living	The Council has established new contracts for housing related support and accommodation for young people over 16. The providers are YMCA Brunel Group and YMCA Dulverton Group. This new 16+ services will support higher levels of need and are therefore more cost-effective, as well as improving outcomes for young people on their journey to independence.	High	(3,386)
New	Support children and young people in a loving Homes & Horizons home	The Council entered a strategic partnership with the Shaw Trust in 2022, with a plan to build 8 to 10 new homes for children and young people as well as providing therapeutic education and high-needs fostering. The service is called Homes & Horizons and provides loving homes for children and young people with the most complex needs, that other providers are unwilling to support. By supporting an average of 15 to 16 young people in Homes & Horizons in 2024/25, there is a saving of £1.72m, as well as better care and outcomes for those children. This saving is in addition to the previous projection PYS CS-05 due to improving performance of the Homes & Horizons programme.	High	(1,715)
New	Support eight young people in care who are currently living in residential homes, who are ready to live in supported accommodation on their journey towards independent living	The Council has established new contracts for housing related support and accommodation for young people over 16. The providers are YMCA Brunel Group and YMCA Dulverton Group. This new 16+ service will support higher levels of need and will be able to support these 8 young people to move forward into this accommodation from residential care	High	(1,586)
Approved 2023/24	Reduction in the cost of providing residential placements for Children in Care	Children in Care in external residential placements will move to new in-house residential homes, run through the strategic partnership with The Shaw Trust.	Medium/ High	(1,109)
New	Support five children in care who are currently living in residential homes to move to a foster family so they experience a caring family home	The Council is recruiting more foster carers to support children and young people in a family home. This additional capacity means we can move five young people who are currently in a residential home to the fostering home in 2024/25. As well as better outcomes for these young people by matching them to carers, there will be a financial saving of £1.07m. £1m saving has already been taken from the budget, £67k is the remaining balance.	High	(67)
New	Stop out of hours security checks for three Somerset Council supported accommodation homes for young adults aged 18+	Termination of Leaving Care Out of Hours Security & Conclerge externally commissioned service. The 2023 Supported Accommodation Regulations are applicable only to 16/17 year olds, therefore our current commissioned service providing overnight property checks for our homes for 18 year old care leavers and older, is not statutory.	High	(35)
New	Special Guardianship Support	By training our Inhouse Emotional Health & Well-Being Service to deliver a wider range of therapies, we can apply to the Adoption Support Fund (ASF) for funding to deliver services for our children that we would normally have to buy in / commission. We anticipate this being an ongoing saving BUT have submitted it as a one off as the Adoption Support Fund has only been agreed until March 2025.	Low	(30)
Total Children, Families and Education				(7,927)

Climate & Place Services

Cllrs Dixie Darch, Roz Wyke and Richard Wilk



Summary of Pressures

Reference Number	Title	Description	Service Director	Pressure Amount
				2024/25
CAP007	Highway Maintenance Contract Inflation	Contractual inflation for Highway Maintenance	Infrastructure & Transport	216
CAP008	Lighting Contract Price Rebasing at 1/4/24 (Contractual Requirement)	Additional funding to cover the rebasing of the contract price list following the retendering of the Highway Lighting Term Maintenance Contract (2012 - 2024).	Infrastructure & Transport	151
CAP009	Persistent Organic Pollutants (Soft Furnishing Wastes) Legislation Change	Government announced in August 2022 (https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/waste-sofas-must-be-incinerated-pops-ea/) that new Persistent Organic Pollutant (POPs) guidance was being introduced from January 2023, that would impact the way Councils handled and treated POPs (household soft furnishings such as sofas).	Climate, Environment & Sustainability	120
CAP010	Drainage Board Levy	Inflation on Drainage Board Levies	Climate, Environment & Sustainability	17
CAP011	Bridges & Structures - Contract Inflation	Inflationary rises to our Framework Contract Rates.	Infrastructure & Transport	71
CAP012	Street Lighting Contract Inflation	Contractual inflation for Street Lightening	Infrastructure & Transport	63
CAP013	Trading Standards - adjustment for joint service salary related costs	Trading standards duties are delivered through a joint service arrangement with Devon, Plymouth and Torbay Councils, with Devon acting as the host authority. As part of this agreement the Council is required to meet its proportion of the annual changes relating to salary, NI and superannuation costs of the joint service.	Economy, Employment & Planning	31
Total Climate & Place				5,315

Slide 1 of 6

Reference Number	New or Already Approved	Title	Description	Financial Strategy Type	Risk Profile	Service Director	Saving Amount
							2024/25
CAP010	New - Subject to further consultation / decision making	Closing 5 Household Recycling Centres	Close 5 Recycling Sites based on those sites that offer the largest saving per tonne.	Service Levels	High	Climate, Environment & Sustainability	(883)
CAP025	New	Increase in fees for Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) to cover corporate overheads	Increase in TRO fees to recover corporate over heads - at an	Financing of Activities	Low	Infrastructure & Transport	(460)
CAP009	New	Economic Development activity spend reduction	Rationalisation of economic development revenue activity expenditure following integration of service post local government reorganisation. This involves the efficiency benefits of integration of the service, focussing of spend on core functions (including economic assessment, business support, third party contributions, inward investment and essential policy and strategic requirements) and releasing as a saving non core expenditure provision.	Service Levels	Low	Economy, Employment & Planning	(450)
CAP022	New	Increasing parking charges in line with inflation	Increase in Parking charges in line with inflation.	Income Generation	Medium	Infrastructure & Transport	(400)
CAP032	New	Reduction in highway maintenance and devolution of service	Undertaking certain routine highway maintenance activities less often such as emptying gullies or cutting grass. The maintenance policy and planned works schedule for specific activities will be amended to reduce the amount of intervention by Somerset Council operatives. We will work with Parish Councils and communities to empower them to undertake some of this work themselves, such as through identifying and training local skilled people and providing access to contracts to purchase their own services where necessary.	Service Levels	High	Infrastructure & Transport	(330)
CAP008	New	Planning fees income	Increase in target for planning fee income based on assessment of current profile of income from development management services delivered by the Council.	Income Generation	Medium	Economy, Employment & Planning	(300)

slide 2 of 6

Reference Number	New or Already Approved	Title	Description	Financial Strategy Type	Risk Profile	Service Director	Saving Amount
							2024/25
CAP018	New	Recover costs of infrastructure programmes through an increase in rates	Increase the charge out rates for highways capital activity, which will remove the requirement for revenue budget. This also creates budget headroom to enable the service to provide engineering advice at the project initiation stage without directly charging.	Financing of Activities	Low	Infrastructure & Transport	(275)
CAP030	Approved December 2023 Executive	Taunton Park and Ride Service	Utilise surplus income from town centre parking charges to run this public transport service, and deliver a service that is fully funded from fees and charges. Note: Decision already taken at 6th December Executive.	Financing of Activities	Low	Infrastructure & Transport	(220)
CAP026	New	Capitalisation of staff costs - regeneration programmes	Capitalisation of staff into externally funded projects.	Financing of Activities	Low	Economy, Employment & Planning	(216)
CAP014	New	Income generation - Waste	Increased income for waste collection due to increase in demographics - relating to garden waste and bulky waste.	Income Generation	Low	Climate, Environment & Sustainability	(205)
CAP011	New	Reduction in the number of Waste Vehicles	Following the successful roll out of Recycle More we are in a position to rationalise our fleet.	Efficiency Savings	Low	Climate, Environment & Sustainability	(202)
CAP033	New	Fleet - Consolidation, Rationalisation and reallocation	This saving proposes to implement a new vehicle usage policy which will rationalise the current fleet, maximise the use of in-house fleet and make service efficiencies	Asset Management	High	- Infrastructure & Transport	(200)
CAP003	New	Reduction in maintenance budget for 20 miles an hour when lights show signs	light show assets. As this capital programme was only completed this year, it is unlikely that the full maintenance budget will be required therefore, we are able to offer up a proportion of this maintenance allocation for savings for this year only.	Efficiency Savings	Low	Infrastructure & Transport	(175)

slide 3 of 6

Reference Number	New or Already Approved	Title	Description	Financial Strategy Type	Risk Profile	Service Director	Saving Amount 2024/25
CAP019	New	Tourism Related Savings	Proposal comprises ceasing of spend across two separate service directorates, as follows: Economy, Employment & the marketing and development of Somerset's visitor economy Tourism South specific marketing support which includes Council managed print and digital activity.	Service Levels	Medium	Economy, Employment & Planning Culture	(169)
CAP023	New	Reduction in Road Safety (& Transport data) budget	Reduction in the Road Safety & Transport Data budget. This will include the reduction in project work and deletion of 2 vacant posts along with recharging/cost recovery	Service Levels	Medium	Infrastructure & Transport	(150)
CAP024	New	Forecasted increase in income for Street Works	The income for Street Works varies depending on demand and compliance with national legislation. Although it cannot be based on the income given over the past three years.	Income Generation	Low	Infrastructure & Transport	(110)
CAP005	New	Reduction of Highways Assets Commissioning Posts	Reduce number of commissioning posts to reflect reduced need for highway commissioning resource following award of long-term contracts (8-10 years) which formed the bulk of the work for these posts. Delete two posts. One at Grade 10 and one at Grade 7.	Efficiency Savings	Low	Infrastructure & Transport	(102)
CAP016	New	Building Control income	Increase in TRO fees to recover corporate over heads - at an	Income Generation	Low	Economy, Employment & Planning	(100)
CAP028	New	Reallocating funding so that Two Active Travel Posts are funded from a Department for Transport capability Fund instead of through the Somerset Council revenue budget	Funding of two posts from a Department for Transport active travel capability fund grant instead of from Somerset Council revenue budget.	Financing of Activities	Medium	Infrastructure & Transport	(90)
CAP013	New	Contractual change - Waste	Following the successful introduction of Recycle More we will now be able to reduce contractual payment to contract provider.	Efficiency Savings	Low	Climate, Environment & Sustainability	(70)

slide 4 of 6

Reference Number	New or Already Approved	Title	Description	Financial Strategy Type	Risk Profile	Service Director	Saving Amount
							2024/25
CAP027	New	Reduction in transport policy posts	Removal of two posts in the transport policy team reducing the team by 50%.	Efficiency Savings	High	Infrastructure & Transport	(70)
CAP039	Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Economic Development - integrated operating model for workspace	Generation of operating efficiencies and net income growth by aggregating the small business workspace of the five Councils under a single transformed operating model.	Efficiency Savings	Medium/High	Economy, Employment & Planning	(60)
CAP029	New	Reallocating funding so that a Commissioning Service manager post is funded from a Department for Transport Public Transport Capability Grant instead of the Somerset Council Revenue Budget.	Funding the post of transport commissioning service manager from Department for Transport public transport capacity grant instead of from Somerset Council revenue budget.	Financing of Activities	Low	Infrastructure & Transport	(54)
CAP020	New	Recharge of Salary to LNRS Grant	The salary of the office leading the work on Local Nature Recovery will be charged to the grant, thus making a revenue saving from Climate budget.	Financing of Activities	Low	Climate, Environment & Sustainability	(53)
CAP001	New - Subject to further consultation / decision making	Replacement of Black Recycling Box with a lower cost alternative.	When providing new or replacement rigid plastic 55l Black Recycling box they will be replaced with a lower cost polypropylene flexible alternative that is similar in construction to the existing Blue Bag used for the collection of mixed cans and plastics. The proposed variant will be used to for the collection of Cardboard and Paper.	Efficiency Savings	High	Climate, Environment & Sustainability	(50)
CAP012	New	Introduction of a countywide booking/permit scheme for household recycling centres	The introduction of a countywide permit booking scheme to allow Somerset residents only to access the Recycling Site network provided by the Council. This would prevent access to the sites by non residents and therefore reduce the amount of waste & cost of running the sites.	Alternative Service Delivery	Medium	Climate, Environment & Sustainability	(44)

slide 5 of 6

Reference Number	New or Already Approved	Title	Description	Financial Strategy Type	Risk Profile	Service Director	Saving Amount
							2024/25
CAP007	New - may require staff consultation	School Crossing Patrols	Stop funding School Crossing Patrols.	Service Levels	High	Infrastructure & Transport	(41)
CAP036	Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Bridges - Contract Inflation	Managing the works contract inflation costs within the existing budget, by reducing the delivery of non-essential schemes.	Service Levels	High	Infrastructure & Transport	(36)
CAP034	Approved 2022/23 MTFP	Advertising on roundabouts and Council vehicles.	Provide an advertising service to enable businesses and internal clients to advertise on highway assets, including roundabouts and fleet.	Income generation	Low	Infrastructure & Transport	(25)
CAP021	New		The salary of the ecologist leading work on Biodiversity Net Gain will be charged to the grant making a revenue saving to the Ecology budget.	Financing of Activities	Low	Climate, Environment & Sustainability	(23)
CAP006	New	Reduce funding for Transport Assessment Review and Modelling Advice	Reduce contract spend by further reducing the amount of consultancy advice utilised (e.g. for traffic modelling advice) when responding to developer transport assessments associated with planning applications.	Efficiency Savings	Medium	Infrastructure & Transport	(17)
CAP035	Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Additional Park and Ride income	Additional income received via the Bus Service Improvement Plan grant that also enables a reduction in the charges.	Income generation	Low	Infrastructure & Transport	(17)
CAP017	New	Do I need planning permission - reintroduce charge	Reintroduce a charge for residents requiring advice as to whether or not a proposed development requires planning permission.	Income Generation	Low	Economy, Employment & Planning	(10)
CAP004	New	Cease Funding for Community Rail Partnerships	Cease funding community rail partnerships such as Severnside and Heart of Wessex.	Financing of Activities	High	Infrastructure & Transport	(5)

slide 6 of 6

Reference Number	New or Already Approved	Title	Description	Financial Strategy Type	Risk Profile	Service Director	Saving Amount
							2024/25
CAP015	New	Internal order advertising	Current regulations specify that modification and public path orders have to be advertised in a local newspaper. This has a cost attached to it. As part of the RoW reforms package that DEFRA are overseeing, such advertising will switch to online (SC website). For internal public path orders (SC is applicant) and for modification orders this change will represent a saving.	Efficiency Savings	Low	Infrastructure & Transport	(4)
CAP038	Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Economic Development - fees and charges from the Somerset Business Hub	Scaling up the countywide Mendip Hub business engagement model. This will enable additional income from training and support services and introductions to the Trading Standards Primary Authority function.	Income generation	Medium	Economy, Employment & Planning	(4)
CAP037	Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Trading Standards - reduced premises requirements at Chelston Depot	Reduction in the amount of premises used by the joint Trading Standards service at the Chelston Depot. This will enable part of the space to be released for commercial letting. Trading Standards will retain a residual presence linked to metrology lab and storage needs.	Income generation	Low	Economy, Employment & Planning	(3)
CAP040	Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Charging for Fire Risk Assessments	Charging for Fire Risk Assessments.	Income generation	Medium/High	Economy, Employment & Planning	(2)
CAP041	Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Charging for Standard Assessment Procedures (SAP) & Air Testing	Charging for Standard Assessment Procedures (SAP) & Air Testing.	Income generation	Medium/High	Economy, Employment & Planning	(2)
CAP042	Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Charging Simplified Building Energy Model (SBEM)	Charging Simplified Building Energy Model (SBEM).	Income generation	Medium/High	Economy, Employment & Planning	(2)
CAP043	Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Charging for Energy Performance Certificates	Charging for Energy Performance Certificates.	Income generation	Medium/High	Economy, Employment & Planning	(1)
Total Climate & Place							(5,627)

Summary of Pressures

Reference Number	Title	Description	Service Director	Pressure Amount
				2024/25
CAP001	Waste Collection and Disposal Contract Inflation	Both Waste Collection, New Waste Treatment Facility & Core Services Contracts contract are long term contracts and are subject to agreed indexation as detailed within each contract	Climate, Environment & Sustainability	2,399
CAP002	Waste Tonnage Growth	Forecast tonnage growth to increase in line with projected population growth of 1%.	Climate, Environment & Sustainability	726
CAP003	Highway Maintenance Contract Price Rebasing at 1/4/24	Additional funding to cover the rebasing of the contract price list following the retendering of the Highway Term Maintenance Contract (2017 - 2024) to become the Highway Term Service Contract, Surfacing Contract and Surface Treatments Contract that will commence on 1st April 2024.	Infrastructure & Transport	545
CAP004	Removal of charges for DIY materials (asbestos, plasterboard & rubble)	Removal of income budget for charging residents for DIY materials in their homes following Government announcement in June 2023 to amend the Controlled Waste Regulations 2012	Climate, Environment & Sustainability	458
CAP005	Pay settlement 2023/24	Contribution to pay settlement for waste collection staff	Climate, Environment & Sustainability	273
CAP006	Waste Services housing growth	Waste collection contract cost increase due to Housing growth	Climate, Environment & Sustainability	247

Resources & Corporate Services

Cllr Liz Leyshon, Roz Wyke & Richard Wilkins



New or Already Approved	Title	Description	Risk Profile	Saving Amount 2024/25 £'000
New	Increase in the Government Council Tax admin grant	Increase in the Government Council Tax admin grant.	Low	(570)
New	Reduction in energy costs - Electricity	Reduction in energy costs across the estate due to improved pricing, energy efficiency measures and investment in decarbonisation / energy efficiency / on site renewables at key sites.	Medium	(350)
New	Reduction in energy costs (gas) - decarbonisation and energy efficiency	We are projecting a reduction in gas costs, due to a combination of reduced consumption through energy efficiency and decarbonisation projects and improvements in heating controls across the estate.	Medium	(325)
Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Property Rationalisation and running costs	Savings in premises running costs from property rationalisation, disposal and asset transfer or divestment. These savings will be delivered through reviews of the Council's property estate and asset devolution initiatives.	Medium	(225)
New	Reduce cleaning specification at larger sites	Frequency and extent of cleaning will be reduced at main office and other larger council sites (note that this does not include schools). Impacts are not considered significant.	Low	(188)
New	Revenues & Benefits Budget Realignment from LGR	The various Revenues & Benefits budgets have been worked through in detail. This exercise has identified significant budget pressures relating to staffing costs, print & post costs & Council Tax Section 13A 1(c) discounts. However, we have also identified key underspends & that the income predictions in the budget are significantly understated. The budgets have been restructured to accurately reflect the income we should receive (through various Govt. grants & court fees). This budget restructuring enables the budget pressures to be absorbed within the budget and provides a net saving.	Low	(100)
New	Change the support contract for Microsoft software	Purchase support for Microsoft Software from lower cost resellers.	Low	(100)
New	Council Tax & Business Rate Court Costs	Council Tax and Business Rates legislation allows us to apply to the Magistrates Court for court costs to cover our costs in making applications for Liability Orders in instance where people have not paid as required. Our actual costs will increase next year due to a variety of factors and consequently it is reasonable for us look to increase the costs figure. The current figures is £76.00 and we are recommending an increase to £81.00, which equates to a 6.6% increase, which is in line with inflation.	Low	(100)
New	Reduction in Microsoft licences to reflect a smaller workforce	The saving is based on a headcount reduction of 300 staff from 1st April 2024 at a licence cost of £300 per user.	Low	(90)
New	Removal of BT Exchange lines	Review all current BT exchange lines and circuits across all former authorities and identify connections to be ceased.	Low	(76)
New	Consolidation of support for the Environmental Health case management system	The contract for external hosting of one of the previous case management systems will not be renewed delivering an efficiency saving.	Low	(75)
New	Reduce ICT Operational support contracts	Reduction and removal of services utilised by ICT operational management and technical teams.	Low	(50)
Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Consolidation of Maintenance and Facilities Management Services.	Consolidation of Maintenance and Facilities Management Services reducing costs	Low	(50)
Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Use of new communication software	Savings from decommissioning Skype environment.	Low	(50)
Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Savings in the cost of Internal Audit	Reduced contract cost for internal audit as a consequence of Local Government Reorganisation in Somerset.	Medium	(48)

New or Already Approved	Title	Description	Risk Profile	Saving Amount 2024/25 £'000
New	Consolidation of data centre infrastructure	Consolidation of the Taunton on-premises servers to a single site and remove a duplication of server virtualisation licences and to avoid capital investment in new hardware.	Low	(36)
New	Consolidation of County Hall Internet connectivity	The contracts we have for our connectivity to both the internet and the Microsoft cloud (BT Express Route) are old and can be consolidated down from three separate links to two. Technology has moved on so the need for a dedicated link to Microsoft Azure is no longer needed.	High	(36)
New	Reduction in the number of staff mobile phones	Mobile phones will only be provided to staff who are essential users in the future. It is estimated that this will mean a reduction of 20% of the number of phones from 3,500 to 2,800 in 2024/25.	Low	(36)
New	Migrate Azure (Microsoft Cloud Storage) to a more cost effective contract	Take advantage of new costing models available for Microsoft Azure Cloud services.	Low	(25)
New	Reduce post, print and digital mail costs	Initial reduction in third party (non-staff) costs resulting from the transition project to align Print, Post and Digital mail services; reduction in postage costs from standardising to second class outbound mail and contract alignment.	Low	(25)
Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Reduction in the number of licences for the email security software	Reduction of 600 licences for the email security software.	Medium	(17)
Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Additional Rental Income from Yeovil Town Football club and Avon and Somerset Police	Additional income streams relating to Yeovil Town Football Club and Avon and Somerset Police	Medium	(16)
Approved 2023/24 MTFP	E-mail security contract	Consolidation of ICT support services and associated contracts.	Low	(12)
New	Increase in fees for the Asbestos team in line with inflation.	As a result of the pay award for 23/24 the team have reviewed their charge out rates for externally charged activity to third parties. We have therefore calculated this proposed increase in our income target as being a realistic reflection of the additional income that should be generated by increasing our charge-out rates.	Low	(7)
Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Consolidation of the Firewall contract that protects the Councils IT systems	Consolidation of the Firewall contract that protects the Councils IT systems.	Medium	(3)
Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Sedgemoor District Council - FortiAnalyzer	Tied up in Claranet contract until May 2024	Low	(1)
Approved 2023/24 MTFP	Sedgemoor District Council - FortiGate VPN	Supplier VPN and alternative VPN for ICT in the event of Always on failure with MS - tied up in Claranet contract until May 2024	Low	(1)
Total Resources and Corporate Services				(2,610)

Strategy Workforce & Localities

Cllrs Bill Revans & Theo Butt Phillip



Title	Description	Pressure Amount
		2024/25 £'000
Member Allowances 2024/25 - 2028/29	Anticipate increase in level of Members Basic Allowance in comparison to Peer Councils, IRP recommends a link between staff pay awards and any increases to members' allowances.	118
Total Strategy, Workforce and Localities		118

New or Already Approved	Title	Description	Risk Profile	Saving Amount 2024/25 £'000
New	Remove the budget for the Pathway to Employment Scheme	The proposal is to remove or reduce the £212.6k annual budget the Organisational Development Team is allocated to run the Pathway to Employment Scheme. The award winning scheme, which has been in existence for the several years, boosts the employability of those not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET), vulnerable/disadvantaged young people within Somerset, such as Care Leavers or those with a disability. Staff currently benefitting from the scheme will continue to do so until the end of their contracts.	Medium	(113)
New	Software Licence Fees	Computing Costs - Software Licences.	Low	(100)
New	Electoral services savings - non staffing budgets	Having brought together 4 legacy council budgets and the consolidation cost centres, a surplus has been identified in the base budget. This money could be used to reduce the anticipated £300K annual pressure to fund the next Somerset Council Election in 2027 or as a saving in itself.	Low	(75)
New	Reduction in contract costs for Land Charges	Services are delivered by Capita for Land Charges (East) and these are still required as per Contract. But a saving can be achieved due to an overall contract reduction following the exit of services (Customer Services and IT) as a result of the consolidation of these services following Local Government Reorganisation.	Low	(75)
New	Decision not to provide a directly funded community grants scheme and not to renew community grants that had been provided by predecessor authorities	The proposal is to not develop a new community grants scheme for Somerset Council. Predecessor authorities ran community grant schemes that each varied in how they operated and how funds were allocated across the Somerset as a whole. Prior to the financial emergency being declared, work was underway, linked to MTRS, to review and rationalise grants across the council. This was to deliver savings and with a view that the criteria for any future schemes would reflect whole county considerations. Not directly offering a community grant scheme at all will also mean that it will not be possible to consider renewing grants to organisations funded by predecessor authorities.	Low	(70)
New	Reduction in membership of the Executive	Reduction in membership of the Executive creating a saving on Special Responsibility Allowances.	Medium	(40)
New	Reduction of some elected member Special Responsibility Allowances	Reduce Special Responsibility Allowances for some positions, to bring them in line with comparable peer councils.	High	(35)
New	Reduction of £30k from Learning and Development Budgets for Somerset Council Staff.	An ongoing reduction of £30k to be applied to the Learning and Development Budget, from 2024/25. This sits alongside the once-off saving of £200k (separate proforma completed) in 2023/24.	Low	(30)
New	Removal of Rapid Access to Physiotherapy Contract for staff	Since 2014 Somerset County Council had provided its staff with rapid access to physiotherapy to improve workplace attendance. The service has been well used by the organisation; since its inception usage has doubled. This proposal is to remove the rapid access to physiotherapy services for staff.	Medium	(25)

New or Already Approved	Title	Description	Risk Profile	Saving Amount 2024/25 £'000
New	Reduce Scrutiny Committees and Task and Finish Group Work	To revise the number of formal scrutiny committees from 5 to 3, which would be Scrutiny Resources, Scrutiny Place and Scrutiny People. Increase the meeting frequency from bi-monthly to 6 weekly. Also to limit the number of Task and Finish Groups to 1 per Committee per annum. This would reduce travel and expenses claims as well as reducing the roles that benefit from a Special Responsibility Allowance.	Medium	(23)
New	Reduction in elected member training and support	Reduction in 2024/25 member training and conference budget allocations. All member training to be delivered internally online and face to face with no training by external providers (unless free). Delay target of achieving Member Training Charter Plus accreditation in 24/25 to 26/27 with a focus on induction for next elections. Reduce staffing resource towards member support with a focus mainly on digital and online training. Review additional support and induction training in 2026 ahead of elections in 2027. Also reduce member conference budget by 50%. (Members Budget reduction of £11k and £18.5k from DS Budget).	Medium	(13)
New	Create new Audit and Governance Committee	Merge the current Audit Committee and the current Constitution & Governance Committee into one single Committee.	Medium	(12)
New	Staff Recognition/Long Service Awards Budget	To remove the budgets for staff recognition scheme, long service awards, staff suggestion scheme. These budgets are no longer required. Also to combine the budgets for employee subscriptions and general subscriptions and reduce overall budget requirement by over 50%.	Low	(11)
New	Increase Fees & Charges in relation to Street Naming and Numbering (SNN)	Increase in fees and charges by RPI of 6.8%. Additional increase of 5% on top of the RPI increase.	Low	(7)
New	Reduce the size of majority of Committees	Reduce the membership size of the Audit Committee, Constitution & Governance Committee, HR Committee, all Scrutiny Committees, Strategic Planning Committee and the four Area-based Planning Committees from 13 Members to 9 Members.	Medium	(5)
New	Centralise Executive and Informal Executive meetings at Deane House Taunton	By Centralising all Executive and Informal Executive Meetings at Deane House in Taunton we can save on payments of travel expenses to Members.	Medium	(2)
Total Strategy, Workforce and Localities				(634)

Community Services - Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

**Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts
Chris Hall, Executive Director**

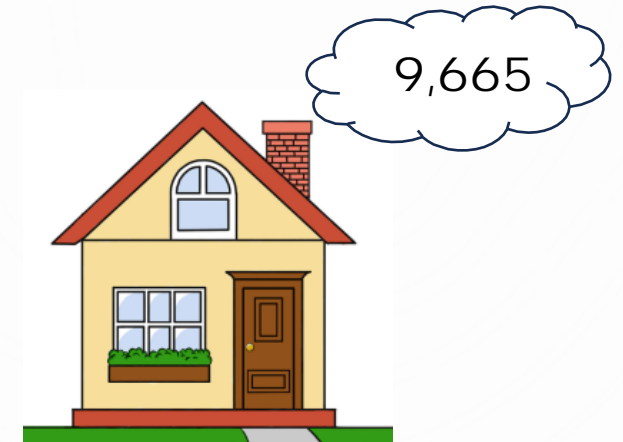


Housing Revenue Account
Manage the Councils Housing Stock
Ring Fenced, Self-Financing account since April 2012

30-Year Business Plan is required
Regulator of Social Housing

Somerset Council has inherited two landlord operating models:
In-house Service in the West (formerly Somerset West and Taunton)

Sedgemoor District Council)
Combined housing stock of 9,665 (as at 01.04.2023)
(5,653 from SWT and 4,012 from SDC)



Summary of Changes		
Original Budget 2023/24		0
Pressures		4,425
Savings		(6,232)
Reversal of One-Off Budgets		516
Budget Gap		(1,291)
Transfer to General Reserves		1,291
Original Budget 2024/25		0

Growth Bids		
Interest Payable	591	
Compliance	243	
Pre-Planned Maintenance	161	
Subscriptions	108	
Training	60	
Staff Changes	50	
	50	
Bad Debt Provision	50	
Other growth bids	259	
Total growth bids		1,555

Inflationary Pressures		
Depreciation	803	
Salaries	741	
HiS Management Fee	432	
Cost of Materials	380	
Internal Recharges	200	
Insurance Premiums	158	
Other inflation	154	
Total inflationary pressures		2,870
TOTAL Pressure		4,425

Savings / Increase in Income		
Dwelling Rental Income	5,730	
Fleet Contract (IFRS 16)	267	
Service Charges Income	217	
Other Savings	18	
Sub Total		6,232



Council

General Fund Capital Budget Review 2024/25

Reference to Report C, Appendices A, B and C of the Scrutiny Papers for 2 February 2024
Report amends capital programme for 2023/24 and sets capital programme from 2024/25
Financial emergency prompted review of capital programme with view to reducing schemes,
especially those funded by borrowing

based on those externally funded or compliance for health and safety

Appendix B shows removal of whole of Octagon Theatre refurbishment. In October 23, Executive
current scheme unaffordable. Therefore, this agreed project is being removed, a new business case
and if external grant awarded, then a revised business case will come forward to Council for a
to the capital programme.

