
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

Wednesday, 8 November 2023

(Published on date 8 November 2023)

Item No.	Title
6	<p>General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring Report - Month 5</p>
	<p>NON KEY DECISION</p> <p>Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Executive:</p> <p>a. Noted the forecast overspend of £27.3m (5.5%) for the year and the recovery actions being taken to address this.</p> <p>b. Approved that it will continue to receive a monthly update on the financial position and actions being taken to address it.</p> <p>c. Noted that the format of the Budget Monitoring will be changed from month 6.</p> <p>d. Approved a £0.3m budget virement from the Corporate Contingency budget to Strategic Asset Management to carry out the RAAC (Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete) surveys.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report</p> <p>REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report</p>
7	<p>Financial Strategy Update</p>

NON KEY DECISION

Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Executive agreed:

a. That Somerset Council faces a financial emergency and acknowledges that urgent actions need to be taken to address the position including the setting up of the Financial Focus Group and the introduction of further financial controls to limit spending.

b. To approve that the Council should continue its discussions with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) following the letter from the Section 151 officer to them concerning the councils' financial challenges and the initial meeting.

c. That there should be a special meeting of the Audit Committee in December to consider the council's financial sustainability and the issues raised in the letter from Grant Thornton.

d. To approve the disposal of the commercial investment portfolio, delegated the appointment of external agents to the Director of Strategic Asset Management in conjunction with the Lead Member for Economic Development, Planning and Assets, and uses the Property & Investment Executive sub-committee to oversee the disposal programme.

e. To receive an update report on the actions being taken and progress in closing the budget gap for the 2024/25 Budget at the 6 December Executive 2023 meeting.

f. To receive a report on the review of Earmarked Reserves at the 6 December 2023 Executive meeting.

g. To task the Asset Management Group with bringing forward asset disposals including council office rationalisation proposals, with an update to the Executive on 6 December 2023.

h. Agreed to receive a report on the vision for a sustainable

	<p>Somerset Council at the 6 December 2023 Executive meeting.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report</p> <p>REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report</p>
8	<p>Proposed formation of Property and Investments Executive Sub-Committee</p>
	<p>NON KEY DECISION</p> <p>Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Executive noted and approved the decision of the Leader of Council to establish a Property and Investments Executive Sub-Committee with the Terms of Reference set out in Appendix 1 of the report, with effect from 9 November 2023.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report</p> <p>REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report</p>
9	<p>Policy for the Disposal of Assets</p>
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Executive agreed</p> <p>a. The approval of the Policy for the Disposal of Assets.</p> <p>b. To note that a subsequent Framework for Service and Asset Devolution will provide further supplemental guidance covering the devolution of Assets to City, Town and Parish Councils.</p> <p>c. A delegation to the Service Director for Strategic Asset Management, in consultation with the Lead Member for Economic Development, Planning and Assets, to make any minor amendments to the Policy for the Disposal of Assets.</p>

	<p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report</p> <p>REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report</p>
10	<p>Celebration Mile - Bridgwater Urban Realm Enhancement Scheme Contract Award</p>
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Executive agreed:</p> <p>a. That Taylor Woodrow SWH Contracting be identified as the preferred main contractor to deliver the works with formal appointment being subject to the successful outcome of further officer and contractor discussions to value engineer and de-scope elements of work to bring an agreed contract price to within project budget levels.</p> <p>b. That a delegation be provided to the Lead Member for Economic Development, Planning and Assets in consultation with the Service Director Economy, Employment and Planning to confirm contractor appointment following the discussions and which must result in assurance that the project will not require additional top up funds from Somerset Council.</p> <p>c. The work to de-scope and value engineer the project will include the following; a reduction in the area identified for enhancement, alternative materials to replace natural stone such as granite and removal of the proposal to create new facades in the colonnade area of Angel Crescent.</p> <p>d. The case for exempt information in Appendix B and Appendix D of the report to be treated in confidence, as the case for the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing that information.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report</p> <p>REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report</p>
11	<p>Decision to award Contracts for Care and Support at Home in</p>

Somerset

DECISION

Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Executive:

a. Approved the outcome of the procurement process to award contracts to the suppliers named in Tender Evaluation Report Confidential Appendix B of the report, to provide home care services via a guaranteed block contract for a period up to 10 years.

Lot Number	Title	Awarded supplier
1	Glastonbury and Street - 150 hours p/w	Bidder E
2	Shepton Mallet and Wells - 200 hours p/w	Bidder E
3	Frome - 100 hours p/w	Bidder A
4	Yeovil - 150 hours p/w	Bidder A
5	Bridgwater - 200 hours p/w	Bidder A
6	Minehead - 200 hours p/w	Bidder G

b. Approved the establishment of an open framework for the Provision of new care and support at home for an initial period of 5 years, with an option to extend by two further periods of up to 2 years each and one further period of up to 1 year (up to 10 years in total). The annual value of the open framework is estimated at £26m in year 1. This figure will be adjusted for inflation annually as part of the Council's MTFP process.

c. Agreed the case for applying the exempt information provision as set out in the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and therefore to treat the attached confidential Appendix B in confidence, as it contains commercially sensitive information, and as the case for the

	<p>public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing that information.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report</p> <p>REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Award of contract for Highways Services</p>
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Executive:</p> <p>The Executive:</p> <p>a. Approved the award of a 4 year contract with the option of a four year extension to Supplier B as identified in the confidential Appendix A of the report; for the provision of Highway Surface Treatments services from 1st April 2024.</p> <p>b. Approved the award of a 4 year contract with the option of a four year extension to Supplier B as identified in the confidential Appendix B of the report; for the provision of Highway Surfacing services from 1st April 2024.</p> <p>c. Approved the award of a framework contract for a period of 4 years to Supplier D as identified in the confidential Appendix C of the report; for the provision of Highway New Assets services from 1st April 2024.</p> <p>d. Delegated the future decision regarding the extension of the contracts beyond their initial term to the Lead Member or equivalent responsible for Highways Services having due regard to the contract terms.</p> <p>e. Agreed that Appendices A, B and C be treated in confidence, as the case for the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing that information.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report</p>

	REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report
13	Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Strategic Funding
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Executive agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To a three-year core funding agreement (Early Help and Prevention) for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027 (with options to extend 1 plus 1), for Citizens Advice Somerset (CAS) and Citizens Advice West Somerset (CAWS). 2. To a total core funding (Early Help and Prevention strand) allocation of £629,000 in year one followed by funding of £600,000 in subsequent years for Citizens Advice Somerset and Citizens Advice West Somerset, allocated as follows - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. £629,000 – CAS £581,137; CAWS £47,863 ii. £600,000 – CAS £552,137; CAWS £47,863 3. To up to five-year contract, jointly funded with Somerset ICB, to support VCFSE infrastructure and sector engagement with Spark Somerset for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027 (with options to extend 1 plus 1), with a combined value of up to £750k per annum. 4. To allocate a minimum £250k local authority contribution to VCFSE infrastructure per annum for 3 years. 5. To delegate responsibility to the Service Director Partnerships and Localities in consultation with the Lead Member for Transformation and Human Resources to finalise and agree a mechanism to support a small grants

process.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report