
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

Wednesday, 6 December 2023

(Published on 7 December 2023)

Item No.	Title
6	<p>2023/24 General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring Report - Month 6 Q2</p>
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>NON-KEY DECISION</p> <p>The Executive:</p> <p>Approved that it will continue to receive a monthly update on the financial position and actions being taken to address it.</p> <p>Noted the forecast overspend of £18.7m (3.8%) for the year and the recovery action being taken and mitigations put in place to address this.</p> <p>Noted that the format of the Budget Monitoring has now changed for month six.</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>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:</p>

	REASON FOR DECISION:
7	2023/24 General Fund Capital Budget Monitoring Report - Month 6 Q2
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>NON-KEY DECISION</p> <p>Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Executive noted the revised capital forecast spend for the financial year 2023/24 of £224m and the key risks, future issues detailed in the report.</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>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:</p> <p>REASON FOR DECISION:</p>
8	2023/24 Housing Revenue Account Capital and Revenue Budget Monitoring Report Q2
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>NON-KEY DECISION</p> <p>Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Executive agreed to note the HRA's forecast financial performance and projected reserves position for 2023/24 financial year as at 30 September 2023, including key risks and future issues and opportunities detailed in the report which will be closely monitored and updated throughout the year.</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>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:</p> <p>REASON FOR DECISION:</p>
9	<p>Corporate Performance Management Report Q2 2023/2024</p>
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>NON-KEY DECISION</p> <p>Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Executive agreed:</p> <p>a. Where performance issues were highlighted, considered that the proposed management actions already in place are adequate to improve performance to the desired level.</p> <p>b. Considered and commented on the content, level of detail provided and the format of the report and considered recommendations for improvements.</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>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:</p> <p>REASON FOR DECISION:</p>
10	<p>Annual Treasury Mid-Year Report 2023-24</p>
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>NON-KEY DECISION</p> <p>Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and</p>

	<p>discussion, the Executive approved the report as being in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management and recommended it to Full Council on 20 December 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> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:</p> <p>REASON FOR DECISION:</p>
11	2024/25 General Fund Revenue Budget & Capital Programme update
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>NON-KEY DECISION</p> <p>Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Executive:</p> <p>a. Endorsed and recommends to December's Full Council that the Council notes that it has declared a financial emergency and endorses the range of actions and mitigations being taken forward. Furthermore, that the Council fully supports the Executive and Senior Officers to continue its discussions with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and formally requests a capitalisation direction in order to set the 2024/25 budget.</p> <p>b. Approved a consultation and engagement process on Council Tax and potential service changes with the public and business sectors in line with the proposals set out in this report.</p> <p>c. Approved the re-allocation of the Earmarked Reserves as set out in Appendix 1 and receives a further update in February 2024.</p>

	<p>d. Received the draft 2024/25 budget proposals at the January Executive including details of the savings proposals and finance settlement for the council.</p> <p>e. Noted the ‘Vision for a sustainable Somerset Council’ and approves that an outline Business Case is developed for the January 2024 Executive meeting.</p> <p>f. Noted the review of the 2023/24 capital programme and the review of new bids for 2024/25 schemes with the full details being included in the report to Executive in January 2024 for approval by February 2024 Council.</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>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:</p> <p>REASON FOR DECISION:</p>
12	Council Tax Reduction & Exceptional Hardship Scheme for 2024/25
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Executive agreed:</p> <p>a. The Council Tax Reduction and Exceptional Hardship schemes set out in Appendices 4 and 5 of the report.</p> <p>b. Option 3 in relation to the income band thresholds used within Schedule 1 of the proposed Council Tax Reduction scheme i.e. uprating in line with the 6.7% rise in state benefits announced by Govt. in the November 2023 Autumn Statement.</p> <p>c. A full review of the Council Tax Reduction scheme during the 2024/25 financial year to identify options for a revised scheme</p>

	<p>in the 2025/26 financial year. (NB. The review and consultation exercise will require funding which is anticipated to be in the region of £60k).</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>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:</p> <p>REASON FOR DECISION:</p>
13	Award of a contract for highway lighting and other electrical assets
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Executive:</p> <p>a. Delegated approval of the award of an 8 year contract with the option of a four year extension for the provision of Highway Lighting, Illuminated & Electrical Assets to the Leader in consultation with the Executive Director for Climate and Place. The award to be made in accordance with the outcome of the published tender evaluation process and contract to commence from 1st April 2024.</p> <p>b. Delegated the future decision regarding the extension of the contract beyond the initial term to the Executive Lead Member or equivalent responsible for Highways Services having due regard to the contract terms.</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>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:</p>

	REASON FOR DECISION:
14	Contract award for the Taunton Park & Ride service
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Executive agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. To the adoption and implementation of the Taunton Integrated Parking Strategy set out in Appendix G, aimed at improving the town centre environment and economy, reducing demand for town centre parking and encouraging greater use of the Park and Ride and local bus services. b. Approved the award of a 3+2+2 year contract for park and ride services commencing on 12th February 2024, based on the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT), as set out in confidential Appendix B. c. Delegated the decision to exercise the contract extension options in accordance with the terms of the contract, to the Executive Director – Climate and Place. d. Approved the use of surplus income from the rental of car-parking spaces to EDF energy at the Gateway Park and Ride site to assist in balancing the Council’s budget and the on-going budget challenges that the Council faces. e. 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 and Appendix F in confidence, as it contains commercially sensitive information, and as the case for the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing that information. <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>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:</p> <p>REASON FOR DECISION:</p>
15	<p>Recommission - Learning Disabilities Open Framework</p>
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Executive approved the recommission of the current Learning Disabilities Open Framework (to be re-named) as a revised / renewed Dynamic Purchasing System.</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>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:</p> <p>REASON FOR DECISION:</p>
16	<p>Harbour Management Advisory Committee</p>
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>NON-KEY DECISION</p> <p>Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Executive agreed:</p> <p>a. That the Harbour Management Advisory Sub-Committee is disbanded with immediate effect.</p>

	<p>b. The terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Executive and the Harbour Management Advisory Committee attached as Appendix 2 of the report.</p> <p>c. To recommend to Full Council on 20 December 2023:</p> <p>i. That a Harbour Management Advisory Committee is established as an advisory committee to the Executive under s102(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.</p> <p>ii. Approval of the Terms of Reference of the Harbour Management Advisory Committee attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>iii. Approval of the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Executive and the Harbour Management Advisory Committee attached as Appendix 2.</p> <p>iv. The appointment of 6 elected members, as nominated by relevant political group leaders, to the Harbour Management Advisory Committee in accordance with the political balance requirements in section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.</p> <p>v. Delegated authority be granted to the Service Director Regulatory and Operational in consultation with the Service Director Governance, Democratic & Legal Services to conduct a skills audit for the Harbour Management Advisory Committee and to conduct the process for the recruitment of appropriately skilled co-opted members to the Committee and make recommendations to Full Council for appointment of the co-opted member.</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>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:</p> <p>REASON FOR DECISION:</p>
17	Proposed withdrawal and dissolution of the Heart of the South West Joint Committee
	DECISION

NON-KEY DECISION

Following consideration of the officer report, appendices and discussion, the Executive recommended to the Council at its the meeting on 20 December 2023 that it agrees to serve notice of it's withdrawal and that the Heart of the South West Joint Committee be dissolved on 31 December 2023.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

REASON FOR DECISION: