

Notice of Meeting of

FULL COUNCIL

Wednesday, 18 December 2024 at 1.00 pm

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

All Somerset Council Members are requested to attend.

For further information about the meeting, including how to join the meeting virtually, please contact Democratic Services democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk

All members of the public are welcome to attend our meetings and ask questions or make a statement **by giving advance notice** in writing or by e-mail to the Monitoring Officer at email: democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk by **5pm on Thursday, 12 December 2024**.

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A: Access to Information.

The meeting will be webcast and an audio recording made.

Issued by (the Proper Officer) on Tuesday, 10 December 2024

AGENDA

Full Council - 1.00 pm Wednesday, 18 December 2024

Public Guidance Notes contained in Agenda Annexe (Pages 7 - 8)

Click here to join the online meeting (Pages 9 - 10)

1 Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 Minutes from the Previous Meeting (Pages 11 - 22)

To approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

3 Declarations of Interest (Pages 23 - 24)

To receive and note any declarations of interests in respect of any matters included on the agenda for consideration at this meeting.

(The other registrable interests of Councillors of Somerset Council, arising from membership of City, Town or Parish Councils and other Local Authorities will automatically be recorded in the minutes: [City, Town & Parish Twin Hatters - Somerset Councillors 2023](#))

4 Public Question Time

The Chair to advise the Committee of any items on which members of the public have requested to speak and advise those members of the public present of the details of the Council's public participation scheme.

For those members of the public who have submitted any questions or statements, please note, a three minute time limit applies to each speaker and you will be asked to speak before Councillors debate the issue.

We are now live webcasting most of our committee meetings and you are welcome to view and listen to the discussion. The link to each webcast will be available on the meeting webpage, please see details under 'click here to join online meeting'.

5 Chair's Announcements (Pages 25 - 26)

To receive and note the Chair's Announcements including events detailed on the Chair's Information Sheet.

Reports for Decision

6 Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Exceptional Hardship Policy 2025-26 (Pages 27 - 172)

To consider the recommendations from the Leader and Executive.

7 **Non-Domestic Rating Discretionary Rate Relief and Hardship Policy 2025-26**
(Pages 173 - 224)

To consider the recommendations from the Leader and Executive.

8 **HRA sewage treatment tank replacements using MHCLG Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund Grant** (Pages 225 - 240)

To consider the recommendations from the Leader and Executive.

9 **Annual Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2024-25** (Pages 241 - 272)

To consider the recommendations from the Leader and Executive.

10 **Report of the Leader of the Council - Local Authority Housing Fund** (To Follow)

To consider the recommendations from the Leader of the Council.

11 **Chief Executive's Pay Award 2024/25** (Pages 273 - 274)

To consider recommendations from the HR Committee.

12 **Report of the Monitoring Officer** (Pages 275 - 288)

To consider the report from the Monitoring Officer.

13 **Review of Part B of the Council's Constitution - Retention of Committee Meeting Recordings** (Pages 289 - 336)

To consider the recommendations from the Constitution and Governance Committee.

14 **Motions** (Pages 337 - 352)

To consider the three motions contained in the attached report:
Motion A - Supporting Somerset Farmers and Food Producers
Motion B - Protecting British Family Farms and Preserving Rural Communities
Motion C - Food and Farming

15 **Report of the five Scrutiny Committees** (Pages 353 - 362)

To consider the recommendations from the five Scrutiny Committees.

Reports for Information

16 **Summary of key decisions taken since the last Full Council meeting** (Pages 363 - 366)

To consider and note the report of the Leader and Executive.

17 **Annual Report of the Lead Member for Transport and Waste Services** (Pages 367 - 400)

To receive and note the annual report.

18 **Questions from Councillors to the Executive**

Councillors are required to give notice of any such question in writing to the Monitoring Officer no later than 5pm providing three clear working days' notice before the meeting, in order to be guaranteed a written response. For this meeting the deadline is 5pm on Thursday 12 December 2024.

Details of any questions received will be circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting and made available at the meeting and on the Council's website.

Any question received after 5pm on Thursday 12 December and no later than 9am 18 December may only receive a verbal response at the meeting or the Chair may direct them to the appropriate committee or the next meeting of the Council.

Questions may be asked without notice and councillors are limited to one minute to put their question. Supplementary questions can only be asked with the consent of the Chair. The Chair will determine the number of questions asked without notice and the total time allocated for this item.

Councillors are reminded of the opportunities outside of the Council meeting to raise matters directly with the Leader of the Council, Executive Lead Members or Directors. In addition, Councillors can raise questions at meetings of the Executive.