

Somerset Council – Decisions taken by the Scrutiny Committee - Corporate and Resources on Monday, 6 January 2025

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

<p>A5</p>	<p>2024-25 General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report - Month 7</p>	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>The Scrutiny Corporate and Resources Committee approved the recommendations to the Executive Committee, which were that the Executive:</p> <p>a) Notes Council is now forecasting a balanced revenue position (on-budget).</p> <p>b) Notes the total Council revenue forecast underspend of £8.782m for the year. There is a forecast underspend of £2.722m within Service Directorates for 2024/25 and the Corporate Contingency of £6.000m, whilst remains unallocated it has been released into the forecast outturn within budget lines Table 1.</p> <p>c) Note that the planned use of reserves of £36.800m for Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Support towards the budget is forecast to reduce by £8.782m to £30.717m, due to the forecast underspend within budget lines. This is shown on the Reserves line of Table 1.</p> <p>d) Agree that mitigating actions are to be identified in order to reduce any overspends, to take action and to contribute to the long-term financial sustainability of the authority.</p> <p>e) Agree that the Council continues with the aim of avoiding a Section 114 notice by taking all of the necessary actions and continuing to operate as if one has been issued.</p> <p>f) Note the progress and delivered savings of £14.293m of the approved savings programme as set out in Table 2 and Appendix J.</p> <p>g) Notes that work will continue to find mitigating or substitute savings for the £1.239m of Red unachievable savings, deliver the £4.410m Amber at risk savings and the £18.935m Green on track savings.</p> <p>h) Note the in-year forecast overspend on the Dedicated Schools Grant of £32.767m, an increase of £4.508m from Quarter 2 (in section 12).</p> <p>i) Note the total forecast Dedicated Schools Grant year-end deficit of £68.707m as set out in Appendix C.</p>
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		<p>j) Note the collection rates for Council Tax and Business Rates as set out in section 19.</p> <p>k) Note the Capital Programme forecast outturn at Month 7 is £113.678m.</p> <p>l) Approve that any application for Exceptional Financial Support for the 2025/26 budget is delegated to the Interim Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) as detailed in section 31 of this report.</p> <p>Scrutiny Corporate and Resources also proposed an additional recommendation for the Scrutiny Children and Families Committee which read as follows:</p> <p>“The Scrutiny Committee Corporate & Resources scrutinised the Month 7 2024/25 General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report, the mitigating actions being undertaken, the work being undertaken by services to identify alternative substitute savings where agreed savings for 2024/25 are not delivered and welcomed the forecast of a balanced revenue position.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to retain a focus on the Dedicated Schools Grant forecast year-end deficit and the management of child placements within budget allocations. The Committee requested further scrutiny and a report back from Scrutiny Committee for Children & Families on these areas to address the Children’s Services forecast overspend to a balanced outturn position.”</p>
A6	Improvement and Transformation Programme Update	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>Scrutiny Corporate and Resources agreed the recommendations within the report which were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the progress made in the month from 11 November – 6 December 2024.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To note the current assessment of programme risks which includes those with a score of 16 or higher that may arise during the change process, along with the status of actions to mitigate these risks, as detailed in Appendix A