

Report of the Leader and Executive – Items for Decision

Executive Member: Councillor Bill Revans – Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Governance and Communications

Division and Local Member: All

Lead Officers: Duncan Sharkey – Chief Executive and Alyn Jones – Executive Director for Strategy, Workforce and Localities

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1. Summary

- 1.1** This report sets out the Leader’s and Executive’s recommendations to Council arising from their consideration of reports at the Executive Meeting on 6 September (the Executive also met on 2 August 2023, but no decisions requiring Full Council approval was considered at this meeting).

Note: The references in this report to Paper A relate to the relevant report considered by the Executive containing specific recommendations for Full Council to consider and are appended to this report for reference.

1.2 Paper A (Somerset Council – Consolidated 2022/23 Outturn Report)

was considered at the Executive meeting on 6 September 2023. The Executive endorsed Paper A and agreed for this to be reported to Full Council to consider and approve.

The report highlights that all of the five former Somerset authorities Statements of Accounts have been published and sets out the overall impact of the outturn position for each legacy Council in Somerset. This includes the opening position of reserves, capital receipts and slippage on the capital programme which requires a revised capital programme to be approved for 2023/24.

The report include details of the overall outturn position for 2022/23 across all 5 councils is £18.7m and notes that there are General Fund Reserves of £26.8m and Earmarked Reserves of £104.9m after allowing for the transfer of Earmarked Reserves to General Fund Reserves and the planned use of reserves in the agreed 2023/24 budget plus other commitments that will require financing.

The report specifically sets out that the revised general fund capital programme and the revised HRA capital programme require Full Council approval (to incorporate the slippage from the legacy authorities of £99.5m and £90.4m respectively).

2. Recommendations

2.1 Somerset Council – Consolidated 2022/23 Outturn Report – see Paper A and its appendices that the Executive considered and endorsed at its meeting in September 2023.

The Council is recommended to:

- Note the year end position of the legacy Councils' General Fund Capital Programmes and approve the carry forward requests of £99.5m and revised Capital Programme attached at **Appendix 7**.
- Note the year end position of the legacy Councils' HRA Capital Programmes and approve the carry forward requests of £90.4m and revised Capital Programme attached at **Appendix 7a**.

3. Options considered and consultation undertaken

3.1 Options considered and details of consultation undertaken in respect of the recommendations set out above are set out in the reports and appendices within Paper A.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial, legal, Human Resources, equalities, human rights and risk implications in respect of the recommendations set out in this report are detailed within Paper A.

It is essential that consideration is given to the legal obligations and in particular to the need to exercise the equality duty under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the impacts based on sufficient evidence appropriately analysed.

The duties placed on public bodies do not prevent difficult decisions being made such as, reorganisations and service reductions, nor does it stop decisions which may affect one group more than another. What the duties do is require consideration of all of the information, including the potential impacts and mitigations, to ensure a fully informed decision is made.

5. Background Papers

5.1 These are set out within Papers A and its appendices.