

**Somerset Council MTFP 2024/25 - 2028/29  
Savings Proposal**



Title of savings proposal	Reviewing our Supported Living accommodation and Extra Care Housing
Reference Number	ADS003

Executive Directorate	Adult Services
Service Directorate	ASC Operations
Service	

Lead member	Cllr Bill Revans - Adult Social Care
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Cost centre name	
Cost centre code	

**Overview of proposal**

Description of savings proposal (alt+return for new line)

Somerset Council has void and nomination agreements in place with social landlords of properties that are designated to provide services that meet the Care Quality Commission definition of 'Supported Living' that need ongoing management as part of 'business as usual'.

These agreements exist to enable the Council to manage capacity and demand for specialist accommodation for people with learning disabilities and require the council to pay a weekly fee when the room is vacant. Many of these agreements date back to the mid-1990s.

Substantial work has been undertaken in recent months to identify all the agreements to which the Council is a party, some of which date back 25+ years, in order to support work to significantly reduce the number of voids in the local system. However, it should be noted that unless we move to a position of removing all void and nomination agreements there will likely always be some.

What will the saving achieve? (alt+return for new line)

The target saving is £200,000

Type of saving	Non-LGR - Contract
Which of the 17 key areas does the saving cover?	Adult Services
Is this saving once-off or ongoing?	Ongoing
Does this impact on either the Council's priorities or another service?	No
Are there any policy change requirements? If yes, please provide further information below.	No

**Benefits of the proposal**

Tangible Benefits - savings/income £ (pro-rata for part year)		Intangible benefits (e.g. cost avoidance)
2023/24 (in-year)		
2024/25	200,000	Ongoing
2025/26	0	

**Delivering the proposal**

Describe the high level milestones for delivery, including timescales and target delivery date for the saving.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work is being prioritised on the basis of financial impact</li> <li>• A task and finish group has been established and is meeting fortnightly with the objective of removing as many voids as soon as possible. The aim is to have all decisions made about individual services completed by 31/03/2024 which may require some services that are no longer fit for purpose to be de-commissioned. However, where an individual does not have capacity to make a decision about their care and/or accommodation, then appropriate legal processes will need to be followed which can take many months.</li> <li>• In the case of one property in Minehead that we have already agreed to de-commissioning and move to a more suitable site, the landlord and care provider that we are working with have indicated an approximate 8-month timescale until the existing property can be vacated, once the new site has been purchased.</li> </ul>
Who are the key people/services involved/required (internal and external).
Internal: ASC Commissioning, Contract Management, Operational, and Housing Staff External: Care Providers and Landlords
What activity is needed to achieve the saving?
Detailed work with with care providers, operational staff and landlords
What are the financial resources required?
Officer time, notice periods on existing agreements, and finance capacity to track savings.
Are there any limitations or constraints?
The current voids have been a historical challenge due to agreements that were set up many years ago requiring the Local Authority to continue to fund voids even when the supported living tenancy that it relates to is not fit for purpose - e.g. a box room that is unable to be let or the location of the service.
What is the anticipated impact on service delivery to residents or business?
We do not anticipate an impact on care delivery as this saving is not about reducing an individual's care and support, but where we reach agreement to de-commission a particular property work will need to take place as part of business as usual with any remaining residents using appropriate legal frameworks.

Please note that an equalities impact assessment is required for all proposals.

Other implications	
Impact	Number or description
Staffing impact (#s)	N/A
Redundancy or vacancy?	
Legal impact	Where we reach agreement to de-commission a particular property work will need to take place as part of business as usual with remaining residents using appropriate legal frameworks. This may include applications being made to the Court of Protection
Insurance or other impact	None
Equalities impact	An EIA has not been required as the management of voids is a business as usual task.

Please ensure that you have consulted HR and your Finance Business Partner regarding any staffing savings.

Risks	
What is the risk status of the proposal?	Low
What are the risks associated with this proposal?	

If we reduce our voids to too low a level it will reduce our ability to respond to short notice demand, potentially necessitating the commissioning of higher cost alternatives.

This is why we would always expect there to be a level of voids within the local system.

**Are there mitigations or actions that if implemented can reduce those risks?**

No mitigations are required as the management of voids is an ongoing activity. Work will be required with care providers and landlords, and in some cases individuals, where a property is being de-commissioned, but this will be undertaken within business as usual processes.

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**Please send your completed form to your Finance Business Partner for sign-off and submission of request.**