

Somerset Council

Full Council
20 February 2024



Joint Auditors' Annual Report to Somerset Council

Executive Member: Councillor Liz Leyshon, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Resources and Performance

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1. Summary

1.1 This report sets out the Audit Committee's recommendation to Council arising from their consideration of the report at the Audit Committee meeting on 25 January 2024.

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

1.2 **Paper A (Joint Auditors' Annual Report to Somerset Council)** details the Auditors' finding on arrangements in place at the Council to secure Value for Money (see Paper A). It reports on whether all aspects of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

1.3 Paper A also includes a summary of findings and recommendations to Somerset Council, as the new unitary Council, which are accompanied by the Council's management response.

1.4 As a result of Audit Committee reviewing this paper, they have suggested that the management responses could be expanded and strengthened to provide more assurance of action taken or to be taken. Management will do this, and report back to Audit Committee on progress of the actions.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Council:-

- a) Notes the Auditors' Annual Report (Paper A – Appendix A) and all recommendations: and
- b) Notes and endorses management's proposed responses and action to the improvement recommendations.

3. Background and Implications

3.1 These are set out in Paper A and its appendix.

Note: For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author