

1. Background

1.1. This statement sets out my confirmation that I will work to keep within the cash envelopes indicated by the 2025/26 proposed budget for my areas of responsibility, including:

- Delivering the agreed savings for 2025/26 and putting in place delivery plans for savings in future years as applicable.
- Devising and maintaining a demand management strategy for services within my remit; and
- Will take best endeavours to mitigate any emerging forecast overspends

1.2. This statement is made in support of the Chief Finance Officer on the robustness of the proposed budget and medium-term financial strategy, and the adequacy of the Council's Reserves and the Reserves Strategy, as required by Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003.

1.3. The net budget for 2025/26 is £251.180m; the net budget of the individual departments are set out in Table 1 below, along with the change from 2024/25.

Table 1 – 2025/26 Budget

Adults Services & Housing Directorate	Base Budget 2024/25 £m	Growth 2025/26 £m	Savings 2025/26 £m	Technical Adjustments 2025/26 £m	Proposed Budget 2025/26 £m
Adult Operations	313.534	12.289	(6.830)	0.397	319.390
Adult Commissioning	(73.225)	1.108	(1.680)	0.044	(73.753)
Housing	6.749	1.287	(1.573)	(0.920)	5.544
Adults Services & Housing Total	247.058	14.684	(10.083)	(0.479)	251.180

1.4. The figures above in table 1 include the Pressures allocated to services (Table 2) as part of the budget, as well as savings (Table 3).

1.5. Technical adjustments of £(0.479)m relate to:

- Grant funding changes, £(0.999)m
- Provision for National Insurance Contribution increase, £0.520m.

2. Growth

2.1. The following amounts of pressures, reflecting demographic and other pressures within the Directorate have been recognised within the budget for 2025/26. Where possible these have been mitigated with planned actions to minimise the impact on the net cost of service.

Table 2 – Growth

Reference	Requirement Type	Description	£m
AFP-2526-ASH-03	Inflation (Non-Contractual)	Adults - Inflation (Revised)	8.321
AFP-2526-ASH-05	Demographics & Demand	Adults - Demographic	3.968
Adult Operations Total			12.289
AFP-2526-ASH-03	Inflation (Non-Contractual)	Adults - Inflation (Revised)	0.328
AFP-2526-ASH-05	Demographics & Demand	Adults - Demographic	0.780
Adult Commissioning Total			1.108
AFP-2526-ASH-01	Demographics & Demand	Temporary Accommodation	0.998
AFP-2526-ASH-02	Inflation (Contractual)	Thrive 16+ Service (YMCA Brunel Group and YMCA Dulverton Group)	0.062
AFP-2526-ASH-04	Other Pressures	Removal of Unachievable Income: Housing Strategy & Housing Enabling	0.226
Housing Total			1.287
Adult Services & Housing Total			14.684

2.2 To note there is no specific growth held centrally other than pay award which will be allocated to services during the financial year 2025/26.

3. Savings Delivery

- 3.1. The Adult Services & Housing Directorate is committed to deliver a total of £(10.083)m of savings in 2025/26 directly from its operational budgets. These savings are made up of £(1.584)m pre-agreed in previous budget rounds and £(8.498)m proposed savings for approval at February 2025 Executive and Full Council in March 2025.
- 3.2. It is expected that the full value of all the savings identified here will be delivered in 2025/26, though some may represent the full year effects of projects already delivered and / or parts of projects planned to continue into future years.
- 3.3 Savings from 2024/25 Budget Monitoring that are not fully delivered, shown as RAG status Amber (at risk) and Red (unachievable), will be require monitoring and delivery in 2025/26.

Table 3 – Proposed Savings for delivery in 2025/26

Reference	Description	£m
TSIGP-2425-ADS-004	Service that supports people with a combination of mental Health need and substance misuse	(0.420)
TSIGP-2425-ADS-005	Learning Disability Supporting Employment service funding reduction, working alongside the service provider to seek alternative solutions.	(0.238)
TSIGP-2425-ADS-006	Floating Dementia Support Services reduced funding seeking alternative solutions	(0.027)
25-26ASC01	To support people to live independent lives	(3.700)
25-26ASC02	Mental Health Transformation	(0.200)
	Workforce Restructure	(2.030)
Adult Operations Total		(6.615)
	Workforce Restructure	(0.996)
PH-2324-LTSIGP-05a	Use of Government grant to fund preventative activities within Adult Services.	(0.900)
Adult Commissioning Total		(1.896)
	Workforce Restructure	(1.573)
Housing Total		(1.573)
Adult Services & Housing		(10.083)

4. Assurance Statement

4.1. The Council's Constitution requires that all functions of the Council, except those decisions that are specified as member decisions in the Terms of Reference of the Full Council, a Committee or the Executive, or which by law have to be made by members, are delegated to officers.

4.2 Any exercise of delegated powers is subject to:

- any statutory restrictions;
- the Budget and Policy Framework;
- any provision contained in this Constitution including the Procedure Rules;
- the Council's approved budget;
- any strategy or policy set by the Council or its committees, the Executive or the Chief Executive; and
- the Code of Conduct for Employees.

4.3 Any decisions made shall accord with the Budget and Policy Framework (Scheme of delegation)

4.4 Before acting on any matter involving the adoption of any new policy which changes the Budget and Policy Framework, the Decision Maker must obtain the approval of the Council to its proposed course of action (scheme of delegation)

4.5 Decisions which incur expenditure may only be made if there is adequate budgetary provision available (scheme of delegation)

- 4.6 Every Contract made by the Council has to comply with the Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Procedure Rules set out at Part I 1.56 The Council (for non-executive functions) and the Executive (for executive functions) may contract out functions within the law, but the Council retains ultimate responsibility for those functions.
- 4.7 No power is delegated to any Chief Officer to spend above the Approved Budget for their Service Area unless or until the Executive has approved in advance the spending.
- 4.8 Officers are obliged to operate within the Council's Constitution and specifically:
- [Somerset Council Constitution](#)
 - Financial Regulations ([Financial Regulations](#))
 - Scheme of Delegation ([Part I2 - Officer Scheme of Delegation.pdf](#))

I confirm, as Executive Director of Adult Services & Housing, that I will, in support of the Constitutional arrangements of the Council, keeping within the cash envelopes indicated by the 2025/26 proposed budget for my areas of responsibility, including:

- Delivering the agreed savings for 2025/26, and put in place delivery plans for savings in future years;
- Devising and maintaining a demand management strategy for services within my remit;
- Will take best endeavours to mitigate any emerging forecast overspends; and
- Ensuring accurate forecasting is reported monthly and addressed at Executive Leadership Team

Executive Director:	Mel Lock
Directorate	Adults Services & Housing
Date:	18/02/2025