

**South Somerset District Council  
Decisions taken by the District Executive on Thursday 4 June 2020**

Agenda Item No	Agenda item	Decision
6.	Impact of Covid-19 on the Council	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That District Executive:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. agreed to note the impact on Covid-19 on Council Services and Finances.</li> <li>2. agreed to an update every two months, over the coming year or until no longer required.</li> <li>3. agreed to the approach to dealing with the financial and service impacts of the Covid-19 crisis as set out in paragraphs 48 to 55 in the report.</li> <li>4. agreed to the revision of the Financial Strategy, Budget and Council Plan, the drafts to be brought back to District Executive in August.</li> <li>5. agreed to a draft Recovery Plan being brought to District Executive in July.</li> </ol> <p><b>Reason:</b> To give Members an overview of the initial impact Covid-19 has had on the Council including finances, demand, and organisational performance across the Council and the potential implications for the council, its services and what it aims to deliver.</p>
7.	Digital Strategy	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That District Executive agreed to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. approve the Digital Strategy, with its proposed organisation and</li> </ol>

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		<p>operational changes, for immediate adoption and implementation;</p> <p>b. note the strategy will be implemented in line with the budget agreed by Full Council as part of the 2020/21 budget setting report in February 2020;</p> <p>c. note any potential savings identified as a result of its implementation will be added to the financial strategy and medium term financial plan once identified.</p> <p><b>Reason:</b> To provide a new council wide Digital Strategy, outlining the strategic aims of the council, why we need a Digital Strategy, how we achieve our objectives and how we measure the outcomes and evaluate our success.</p>
8.	South Somerset Families Programme - supporting struggling families, improving life chances for children and young people	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That District Executive:-</p> <p>a. agreed the development of a strategy, with partners.</p> <p>b. in advance of the strategy, agreed action now to start to address some of the issues and challenges.</p> <p>c. approved the engagement of Yeovil4Family to carry out the Council's priority project to support struggling families and help address child poverty and low rates of social mobility in the district for a period of three years, subject to meeting agreed milestones.</p>

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		<p>d. approved the allocation of funding for Yeovil4Family to carry out this programme of work in the sum of up to £361k for Year 1 of the project which includes £62k of set up costs.</p> <p>e. approved in principle, a future funding allocation of £303k for each of the following two years of the programme subject to budget approval and satisfactory progress reports at month 10 and 22 of the project.</p> <p><b>Reason:</b> To agree a proposed programme delivery the “South Somerset Families Programme” to meet the Council Plan Priority Project 7 - support struggling families and help to address child poverty and low rates of social mobility in the district, and to approve the funding required to enable delivery.</p>
9.	Planning Validation Guide	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the District Executive agreed to adopt the Planning Application Validation Guide at Appendix B.</p> <p><b>Reason:</b> To adopt a new Validation Guide to aid the validation and registration of planning applications.</p>
10.	Planning Enforcement Protocol	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the District Executive agreed to adopt the Planning Enforcement Protocol at Appendix B.</p>

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		<p><b>Reason:</b> To adopt a new Planning Enforcement Protocol to support the investigation of breaches of planning regulations.</p>
11.	Investment Assets Update Report	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That District Executive:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. noted the resilience of the property investment portfolio thus far in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>b. noted progress made to date in acquiring new commercial property investments and the asset management following acquisition.</li> <li>c. noted the return being achieved across the portfolio which is slightly above the Council’s target of 7%.</li> <li>d. noted progress being made in securing income from our existing assets and the contribution to the revenue budget towards the revised £3.35m target.</li> <li>e. noted progress being made in disposals and transfers of existing assets, resulting in a reduction of future liabilities associated with these assets.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reason:</b> To update members on progress with implementing the Commercial Strategy agreed by Council including the commercial investments and management of the existing asset portfolio since the last half yearly update in January 2020.</p>

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12.	District Executive Forward Plan	<p>The following additions and amendments to the Forward Plan were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority Project Accelerated Housing Report – July</li> <li>• Amendments to the Budget, Financial Strategy and Council Plan – moved to August</li> <li>• Budget outturn and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter monitoring reports – August</li> <li>• Covid 19 Update Report - financial and service impact – bi-monthly reports</li> <li>• Investment Asset update report – quarterly reports</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the District Executive:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. approved the updated Executive Forward Plan for publication as attached at Appendix A, with the following amendments; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority Project Accelerated Housing Report – July</li> <li>• Amendments to the Budget, Financial Strategy and Council Plan – moved to August</li> <li>• Budget outturn and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter monitoring reports – August</li> <li>• Covid 19 Update Report - financial and service impact – bi-monthly reports</li> <li>• Investment Asset update report – quarterly reports</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. noted the contents of the Consultation Database as shown at Appendix B.</li> </ol> <p><b>Reason:</b> The Forward Plan is a statutory document.</p>