

8. Pioneer Somerset

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Purpose of the Report

The six principal authorities in Somerset (South Somerset, Sedgemoor, West Somerset and Mendip District Councils, Taunton Deane Borough Council and Somerset County Council) agreed, at Leader and Chief Executive level, to present a joint report setting out the current 'state of play' with the Pioneer Somerset programme. This report and associated appendices have been circulated under separate cover.

Action Required

That Scrutiny Committee Members consider this report prior to consideration at Full Council in February.

Background

The joint report sets out the background. Members will no doubt recall that Full Council did ask for a detailed report to be brought back for consideration as soon as practicable.

From a South Somerset perspective it was hoped that this report would contain some innovative and exciting recommendations for members to consider. However, as the report establishes, working together does present a range of challenges, not least of which relates to timing and timescales. Nevertheless it is still to be hoped that such exciting and innovative recommendations are not too far away.

As it is a joint report, members will note that layout, presentation and language differ from that normally used by this Council.

Financial Implications

The report does not commit the Council to any further financial resources beyond that already within budgets. Officer time has been successfully managed to date to ensure no undue impact on the day-to-day business of the Council. This continues to be monitored by the Chief Executive.

Background Papers: Pioneer Somerset Update Report – 14th November 2008
