

South Somerset District Council
Decisions taken by the District Executive on Thursday 3 December 2020

Agenda Item No	Agenda item	Decision
6.	Stronger Somerset Final Proposal	<p>RESOLVED: That District Executive agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. seek Council endorsement for the Stronger Somerset proposal for the reform of local government including the creation of two unitary Councils within Somerset. and recommend its approval to full Council, for submission to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. b. delegate authority to the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive, in consultation with the other Somerset District Leaders and Chief Executives, to make minor amendments to the Proposal as necessary and / or appropriate, ahead of its submission to the Secretary of State. <p>District Executive also recommended that Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. support the continuing consultation and engagement with key partners, neighbouring authorities, business, staff, unions and local stakeholders, above and beyond any programme of consultation that may be required by the Government in due course. d. agree to this Council, with the other Somerset councils, advancing the delivery of aspects of the proposals for reform ahead of the Secretary of State's approval where so doing will support the Stronger Somerset Proposal and lead to early delivery of efficiencies, community outcomes and greater collaboration & integration e. pay due regard to the Equalities Impact Assessment, attached as

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		<p>Appendix B, in considering the proposal for a Stronger Somerset</p> <p>f. note that, in the best interests of the communities and residents of South Somerset, the Council will continue to work with colleagues across all tiers of local government and public service in Somerset including ensuring our residents, communities and businesses are supported through the pandemic.</p> <p>Reason: To propose that Council confirm the submission of the Stronger Somerset proposal for the reform of local government including the creation of two unitary Councils within Somerset to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government by 9th December 2020.</p>
7.	2021/22 Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan Update	<p>RESOLVED: That District Executive agreed to:-</p> <p>a. note the current estimates and next steps in respect of the Draft Budget for 2021/22 and the Medium Term Financial Plan.</p> <p>b. approve in principle the changes to budget estimates in respect of the initial pressures and savings included within the report (para 13).</p> <p>Reason: To confirm the update for the 2021/22 Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) estimates for the period 2021/22 to 2025/26.</p>

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8.	Update Report on the Impact of Covid-19 on the Council	<p>RESOLVED: That District Executive agreed to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. note the impact of Covid-19 on Council Services and Finances. b. note the additional services and work the Council is providing in response to the pandemic. <p>Reason: To note the continued impact Covid-19 is having on the Council including finances, demand, and organisational performance across the Council.</p>
9.	Planning Reimagined - Outcomes from Members Working Group	<p>RESOLVED: That District Executive agreed to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. note the contents of the Planning Reimagined - Outcomes from Members Working Group report. b. an update on the implementation of the actions agreed by the Planning Reimagined working group (listed in Appendix A) to come forward to District Executive in 6 month's time <p>Reason: To note the actions Members have identified during a series of Planning workshops (Planning Reimagined) to improve the service.</p>
10.	Investment Assets Update Report	<p>RESOLVED: That District Executive agreed to:-</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. note the resilience of the property investment portfolio thus far in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. b. note slower progress in acquiring new commercial property investments as a result of COVID-19. c. note continued rent collection averaging in excess of 95% over the last three Quarters despite the pandemic. d. note the return being achieved across the portfolio which is slightly below the Council's target of 7% as a result of lease renewals, securing the future of the asset. e. note progress being made in securing income from our existing assets and the contribution to the revenue budget towards the revised £3.35m target. f. note progress being made in disposals and transfers of existing assets, resulting in a reduction of future liabilities associated with these assets. <p>Reason: To note the 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 June 2020 and quarterly update in September 2020.</p>
11.	South Somerset Families Programme - Supporting Families and Improving Life Chances, project update	RESOLVED: That District Executive agreed to:-

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		<p>a. note the progress in the South Somerset Families Programme - Supporting Families and Improving Life Chances, project development.</p> <p>b. note the proposal to produce a formative project evaluation to be presented by the end of the 2020/21 financial year and a future external evaluation.</p> <p>Reason: To update members on the progress in developing the South Somerset Families' Project. This is Council Plan Priority Project 7 and the project is designed to support struggling families and help to address child poverty in the district.</p>
12.	The Future Management of the Council's Leisure Facilities	<p>RESOLVED: That District Executive agreed to delegate authority to the Specialist, Strategic Planning in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing to:</p> <p>i. appoint a preferred operator to run the Council's leisure facilities following the scoring of final tenders by the Council's evaluation panel;</p> <p>ii. to agree a reserve bidder if appropriate;</p> <p>iii. report back to District Executive by April 2021, for information, on the appointment of a new operator including key terms of the appointment.</p>

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		<p>Reason: To confirm a variation on the approach to appointing a leisure operator to run the Council's leisure facilities following the expiry of the existing operating contracts in March 2021.</p>
13.	Annual review of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)	<p>RESOLVED: That District Executive agreed to note the Council's use of Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) powers and the amendments to the RIPA Corporate Policies and Procedures.</p> <p>Reason: To ensure compliance with the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ("RIPA").</p>
14.	Property Purchase of Yeovil Town Football Club Ground	<p>RESOLVED: That District Executive agreed to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. note the importance of Yeovil Town Football Club and the possible consequences if the club becomes insolvent. b. approve the proposal to purchase the property asset Huish Park and lease it back to Yeovil Town Football Club and the terms outlined in this report. c. delegate to the Director of Commercial Services and Income Generation approval of detail of the sale, subject to the initial return on capital being no worse than the minimum identified in the confidential appendices to this report.

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		<p>Reason: To agree the proposal to purchase the property owned by Yeovil Town Football Club and lease it back to them.</p>
15.	District Executive Forward Plan	<p>RESOLVED: That the District Executive:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. approved the updated Executive Forward Plan for publication as attached; 2. noted the contents of the Consultation Database as shown at Appendix B. <p>Reason: The Forward Plan is a statutory document.</p>