

Notice of Meeting of

FULL COUNCIL

Tuesday, 20 February 2024 at 10.00 am

**Hollinsworth Hall, Canalside Conference Centre,
Marsh Lane, Huntworth, Bridgwater, TA6 6LQ**

All Somerset Council Members are requested to attend.

For further information about the meeting, including how to join the meeting virtually, please contact Democratic Services democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk

All members of the public are welcome to attend our meetings and ask questions or make a statement **by giving advance notice** in writing or by e-mail to the Monitoring Officer at email: democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk by **5pm on Wednesday, 14 February 2024**.

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A: Access to Information.

The meeting will be webcast and an audio recording made.

Issued by (the Proper Officer) on Monday, 12 February 2024

AGENDA

Full Council - 10.00 am Tuesday, 20 February 2024

Public Guidance Notes contained in Agenda Annexe (Pages 9 - 12)

Click here to join the online meeting (Pages 13 - 14)

1 Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 Minutes from the Previous Meeting (Pages 15 - 32)

To approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

3 Declarations of Interest (Pages 33 - 34)

To receive and note any declarations of interests in respect of any matters included on the agenda for consideration at this meeting.

(The other registrable interests of Councillors of Somerset Council, arising from membership of City, Town or Parish Councils and other Local Authorities will automatically be recorded in the minutes: [City, Town & Parish Twin Hatters - Somerset Councillors 2023](#))

4 **Public Question Time**

Amended procedures for the budget meetings:-

Due to the high volume of submissions anticipated for the budget meetings of Scrutiny (Corporate and Resources), Executive and Full Council, the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chair of each meeting, has allocated up to 60 minutes at the meeting for Public Question Time meeting (with a maximum of 10 speakers permitted to speak at the meeting). Generally this will be set aside near the beginning of the meeting or the Chair may invite speakers at the specific agenda item their questions relate to.

Based on the time to be set aside for PQT, we anticipate up to ten speakers will be invited by the Chair to individually address the meeting. Each speaker will have for up to 3 minutes and will be allowed a maximum of 3 questions. The ten speakers will receive a verbal response at the meeting.

Each speaker must direct their questions and comments through the Chair. You may not take a direct part in the members' debate at the meeting. The Chair will have the discretion to conclude or extend the time permitted for public participation.

Any submissions that are received over the ten speakers allowed at the meeting, will receive a written response after the meeting. However, all questions and statements received will be published on the Council's website and circulated to all members at least 1 working day before the meeting.

If you wish to speak or ask a question about any matter on the agenda, please contact Democratic Services by 5pm providing 3 clear working days before the meeting. (for example, for a meeting being held on a Wednesday, the deadline will be 5pm on the Thursday prior to the meeting) Email democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk or telephone 01823 357628. You will need to include your full name, address and contact details.

Anyone wishing to speak, make a statement or ask a question will need to attend in person or alternatively can join the meeting remotely. If you are unable to do either of these then your question or statement could be read out at the meeting if time permits.

If an item on the agenda is contentious, with many people wishing to attend the meeting or if multiple speakers wish to ask questions that are similar to others, a representative will need to be nominated to present the views of the group. Democratic Services will assist in the process of nominating a representative if this occurs.

5 **Chair's Announcements** (Pages 35 - 36)

Reports for Decision

6 **Report of the Section 151 Officer** (Pages 37 - 84)

To consider the Section 25 Report.

Agenda items 7-11 set out the Leader's and Executive's recommendations to Council arising from their consideration of reports at the Executive meeting on 7 February 2024 (the Executive also met on 15 January 2024, but no decisions requiring Full Council approval were considered at this meeting). Agenda item 11 also includes Council Tax Setting 2024-25.

7 **Report of the Leader and Executive - Capital Strategy 2024/25 to 2026/27**
(Pages 85 - 132)

To consider the Capital Strategy 2024-25 to 2026-27.

8 **Report of the Leader and Executive - Treasury Management Strategy 2024-25**
(Pages 133 - 172)

To consider the Treasury Management Strategy 2024-25.

9 **Report of the Leader and Executive - 2024/25 General Fund Capital Budget**
(Pages 173 - 196)

To consider the 2024-25 General Fund Capital Budget.

10 **Report of the Leader and Executive - Housing Revenue Account 2024-25**
(Pages 197 - 298)

To consider the Housing Revenue Account 2024-25.

Note - A recorded vote on these recommendations will be required as per the legislation.

11 **Report of the Leader and Executive - General Fund Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2024-25 including Council Tax Setting 2024-25**
(Pages 299 - 502)

To consider the following reports:-

- General Fund Revenue Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024-25
- Council Tax Setting 2024-25

To view all the supporting documents, including the Savings Proposals, the Cumulative Impact Assessment and the relevant Equality Impact Assessment forms, please access the web library by using this link - [Supporting Documents](#)

Please note: The Monitoring Officer has agreed a dispensation for all 110 councillors to enable them to fully participate Full Council in debating, setting and agreeing the Council's budget 2024/25 (including setting council tax), Housing Revenue Account budget and the Members Allowances Scheme 2024/25.

Note - A recorded vote on these recommendations will be required as per the legislation.

12 **Report of the Human Resources Committee** (Pages 503 - 518)

To consider the Pay Policy Statement 2024-25.

13 **Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel** (Pages 519 - 558)

To consider the Member Scheme of Allowances 2024-25.

14 **Report of the Chief Executive** (Pages 559 - 566)

To consider the report for Service Director Appointment.

15 **Report of the Monitoring Officer** (Pages 567 - 572)

To consider the following reports:-

- a) Appointment of Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Committee for Corporate and Resources
- b) Appointment of Independent Person

16 **Report of the Audit Committee** (Pages 573 - 656)

To consider the Somerset Joint Auditors Annual Report.

Reports for Information

17 **Report of the Leader and Executive - For Information** (Pages 657 - 660)

To note the report.

17.1 Annual Report of the Lead Member for Adult Services (Pages 661 - 678)

To note the annual report of the Lead Member for Adult Services.

17.2 Annual Report of the Lead Member for Transformation and HR (Pages 679 - 686)

To note the annual report of the Lead Member for Transformation and HR.

18 **Report of the Five Scrutiny Committees** (Pages 687 - 700)

To note the report of the five Scrutiny Committees.

19 **Annual Report of the Pensions Fund Committee** (Pages 701 - 956)

To note the annual report of the Pensions Fund Committee.