

## **Section 151 Officer Section 25 Report on the 2024/25 Budget in respect of the Robustness of the Budget Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves**

Executive Member(s): Councillor Liz Leyshon - Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Resources and Performance

Local Member(s) and Division: All

Lead Officer: Jason Vaughan - Executive Director – Resources & Corporate Services (Section 151 Officer)

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### **Summary**

1. The report is a statutory requirement made under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, which requires the Section 151 Officer to report on the following matters to Council Members when agreeing its annual budget and Council Tax levels.
  - the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the budget calculations, and
  - the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
2. Council must have regard to this report when making its decisions around the annual budget and the level of Council Tax for 2024/25 in accordance with section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
3. For members of the Council the Section 25 statement provides critical context for budgetary discussions. The provision of this information is a legal requirement and ensures that all Members have regard to the professional advice provided by the authority's chief financial officer when final budget decisions are made being made. To give a level of additional assurance to this report it is also prepared in consultation with the Chief Executive.

4. This report provides assurance to Council on the robustness of the 2024/25 budget estimates and the adequacy of the level of reserves for the year.
5. The report highlights the Section 151 Officer's concerns in respect of the financial position for 2025/26 where the current forecast budget gap for the year exceeds the estimated level of reserves available and that the statutory override in respect of the deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DGS) ends on 31 March 2026.

## **Recommendations**

6. That the Council:
  - a) Considers and notes the assurance provided by the Section 151 Officer in respect of the robustness of the 2024/25 budget proposals.
  - b) Considers and notes the assurance provided by the Section 151 Officer on the adequacy of reserves for 2024/25.
  - c) Approves that the Level of General Reserves are maintained within the range £30m (5% of net budget) to £60m (10% of net budget).
  - d) Note the Section 151 Officers significant concerns over the 2025/26 financial year and the ability to balance the budget.
  - e) Notes that the Section 151 will provide members with regular updates concerning the council's finances and the risks of a Section 114 notice.

## **Reasons for recommendations**

7. To ensure that the Council can set a balanced budget for 2024/25 and meet its statutory duties the Section 151 Officer of the authority must report to Council on the following matters as part of their obligations under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003:
  - (a) the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations, and
  - (b) the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
8. An authority to which a report under this section is made shall have regard to this report when making decisions about the calculations in connection with which it is made.

## **Other options considered**

9. This report is a legal requirement.

## **Links to Council Plan and Medium-Term Financial Plan**

10. It is important the Council considers how best it can continue to meet its policy objectives within the tighter financial constraints that it now faces. This requires a level of prioritisation, and the budget plans focus on the following key policy outcomes, as set out in the Council's vision.
  - A Healthy and Caring Somerset
  - A Flourishing and Resilient Somerset
  - A Greener, More Sustainable Somerset
  - A Fairer, Ambitious Somerset

## **Financial and Risk Implications**

11. It is clear that the scale of financial challenges facing the Council are significant with the forecast cost of services increasing at a faster rate than the income received. There is a separate Appendix to the Budget Report setting out the Strategic Risks associated with the 2024/25 Budget proposals.
12. The financial impact of a forecast year-end overspend of £17.5m (as at month 9) in the current financial year will result in a reduction in the level of General Reserves from £49.8m to £32.3m. This remains above the £30m minimum risk-based assessment of the reserves approved by Council in February 2023.
13. The 2024/25 budget cannot be balanced without Exceptional Financial Support from DLUHC in the form of a capitalisation direction of £36.9m. A request for an additional 5% increase in Council Tax which would have generated £17.1m in 2024/25 was not approved by DLUHC. This has the impact of increasing the required capitalisation direction necessary to balance the 2024/25 budget and adversely impact upon the budget gap for 2025/26 increasing it from £86.8m to £103.9m. It also means that further asset disposals are required to generate capital receipts to fund the capitalisation direction rather than being used to fund transformation, capital schemes or reduce debt.
14. The 2024/25 Budget proposals include using £36.8m in the MTFP Support Reserve plus a further net £2m to support specific projects. There are other expected draws from reserves during the year which have been factored into the forecast and they will be reported as part of the monthly budget monitoring reports for approval from Executive. The budget report sets out that the total reserves are forecast to drop from £316.0m at 31 March 2023 to £104.9m by the end of the 2024/25 financial

year. General Reserves are forecast to be £32.3m and Earmarked Reserves to be £72.5m which include £31.3m of Other reserves, which mainly relates to other bodies for which the Council is the accountable body.

15. The deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant is currently estimated to reach £98.2m at the end of 2025/26 when the current statutory override is due to end and would need to be offset against Council reserves.
16. The Medium-Term Financial Forecast has identified a budget gap of just under £200m over the next 5 years with costs increasing at a faster rate than income particularly in relation to Adults' and Children's social care.
17. Given the issues set out in this report and despite all of the actions taken and mitigations put in place, the risk score on Strategic Risk ORG0057 – Sustainable MTFP remains at 25 the highest risk score possible.

<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Risk Score</b>	<b>25</b>
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18. It is likely that a Section 114 notice will need to be issued in respect of 2025/26 as the forecast budget gap exceeds the estimated level of reserves unless there is a significant change to the current funding regime or continued and on-going government support is provided.

### **Legal Implications**

19. The Council is required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to make estimates of gross revenue expenditure and anticipated income, leading to a calculation of a budget requirement and the setting of an overall budget to ensure proper discharge of the Council's statutory duties and to lead to a balanced budget. The budget should include sufficient allowances for contingencies and financial reserves.
20. Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires that, when the Council is making the calculation of its budget requirement, it must have regard to the report of the Chief Finance (Section 151) Officer as to the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves. It is essential, as a matter of prudence, that the financial position continues to be closely monitored.
21. Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 outlines the duties of the chief finance officer of a relevant authority. The chief finance officer is required to make a report under this section if it appears to him that the expenditure of the authority incurred (including expenditure it proposes to incur) in a financial year is

likely to exceed the resources (including sums borrowed) available to it to meet that expenditure.

### **HR Implications**

22. There are no direct human resource implications arising from this report.

### **Other Implications:**

#### **Equalities Implications**

23. There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

#### **Community Safety Implications**

24. There are no direct community safety implications arising from this report.

#### **Climate Change and Sustainability Implications**

25. There are no direct climate change and sustainability implications arising from this report.

#### **Health and Safety Implications**

26. There are no direct health and safety implications arising from this report.

#### **Health and Wellbeing Implications**

27. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

#### **Social Value**

28. There are no direct Social Value implications arising from this report.

### **Background**

29. Under the terms of section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer) is required to report to the Council on two specific matters:

- The robustness of the estimates included in the budget, and
- The adequacy of the reserves for which the budget provides.

30. Section 26 of the same Act places an onus on the Chief Finance Officer to ensure that the Council has established a minimum level of reserves to be retained to cover any unforeseen demands that could not be reasonably defined when finalising the proposed budget.

31. Given the incredibly challenging financial position that the Council faces, it is important that all members take note of this report when considering the 2024/25 budget at the Full Council meeting on 20 February 2024.

## **Current Context**

32. Somerset Council is a new council created on 1 April 2023 from the four District Councils and County Council. Its financial position is therefore an inherited position based upon the amalgamation of the five predecessor councils. For instance, the level of Council Tax for the new council, was limited by government and based upon the levels set by the predecessor five councils.
33. Every new unitary council has identified issues during its first year and Somerset is no different. All the predecessor councils recorded budgets in slightly different ways, and it has become apparent that there are some areas where one-off sources of funding have been used to finance on-going expenditure, some items were not properly budgeted for, longer term investments were funded from short-term borrowing and there was additional staffing employed over and above the staffing establishment budget.
34. The new council faces a very stark and challenging financial position with its cost of delivering services increasing significantly faster than the income it receives. The income the council receives comes from Council Tax, government grants, and fees and charges such as parking charges and planning fees. The council is not able to increase Council Tax in line with inflation as its increases are controlled by government through referendum limits which restrict any increase to a maximum of 2.99% and for the adult social care precept to 2%. With inflation hitting double digits and being at a 40 year high over the last year, the increases in costs at the same time as income has been restricted results in a fundamental imbalance and a very considerable budget gap between the costs of providing services and the income the council receives.
35. The most significant area of impact is on the adult social care budget where costs are increasing at a much faster rate than Council Tax and the adult social care precept. The cost pressures in the adult social care budget are driven by the soaring costs of providing care, particularly the costs of residential care placements. Traditionally the costs in Somerset have been amongst the lowest in the country providing extremely good value for the council taxpayer of Somerset. The impacts of interest rates, cost of living, Brexit, Covid, Covid jobs, and the commencement and then postponement of the national Fair Cost of Care exercise by the government, have all been detrimental to the cost of placements, particularly in Somerset.
36. The Annual Audit Report from Grant Thornton in respect of 4 of the 5 predecessor councils was considered at Audit Committee on 25 January 2024 and will be considered by Council at the budget setting meeting on 20 February 2024. It highlights a number of issues that the new council has inherited and will need to be

addressed. EY (Ernst & Young) will be producing their Annual Audit Report on Mendip DC in March 2024.

37. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was approved in July 2023 and provides a strategic financial framework to help achieve financial sustainability. The financial forecast was updated and reported to the November 2023 Executive, and it set out that the estimated budget gap for 2024/25 assumed in the report to February Full Council had increased from £42m to £100m. As a result of this the Council declared a 'financial emergency' and put in place a range of local financial controls and measures to address both the current year's projected overspend and the forecast budget gap for 2024/25.
38. The recent report from the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee on Financial distress in local authorities which was published on 29 January 2024 highlights the significant financial challenges faced by the sector. In its summary it says:

*"It is no surprise that the financial crisis that local authorities are encountering comes after significant reductions in local authorities' spending power which has itself coincided with increasing demand for their services and inflationary pressures driving up costs. Ultimately, the levels of funding available to local authorities, through council tax, retained business rates, and government grants have not kept pace with these pressures, leading to a funding gap which is already estimated at £4 billion over the next two years."*

39. It also highlights the problems with the current funding system, with the fair funding reviews promised but the anticipated reforms not materialising and now deferred into the next parliament.

*"This has meant that local authorities are increasingly reliant on income from council tax to fund service delivery. However, council tax is regressive, long overdue for reform, and is contributing to a disproportionately negative impact on funding levels of local authorities in the most deprived areas of the country. Furthermore, the business rates retention scheme is increasingly misaligned with local authorities' current spending needs and the government has not delivered on its earlier commitments to review and reform the scheme. The Government must urgently reform these core funding mechanisms to ensure that the levels of demand and cost pressures faced by local authorities are adequately considered in determining their funding levels."*

40. The report recognises that the current financing system for local authorities is both broken and the sector is significantly underfunded by saying:

*“In the short term the Government must ensure that local authorities receive sufficient financial support to enable them to continue delivering the services that people need.”*

### **Robustness of the 2024/25 Budget estimates**

41. The 2024/25 budget estimates have been developed based upon the following key processes and assumptions:

- Base Budget - Reviewing the 2023/24 budget and removing one off items of spend and funding.
- Known Variances - Reviewing the latest 2023/24 Budget monitoring reports and identification of variances and establishing if they are one-off or on-going and therefore will impact upon 2024/25. The key variances in the Month 9 (Q3) report are:
  - Adult Services have an underlying overspend of £24.2m (13% of net service budget) which has been reduced by one off funding/grants/in year mitigations of £9.3m down to an overspend of £14.9m. This variance is mainly in the Adult Social Care and Learning Disabilities budget areas due to an increase in fee levels for both care home placements and delivery of home care. This variance is ongoing and has been taken into account when producing the 2024/25 budget estimates.
  - Children’s Services have a £15.3m net adverse variance against their budget (12.5% of the services net budget). The overall variance predominantly relates to external placements, fieldwork (support for children at home), and SEND transport budgets, whilst the unfavourable movement is due to the unachievable 2023/24 MTFP saving of step downs from residential to in-house fostering. This variance is ongoing and has been taken into account when producing the 2024/25 budget estimates.
  - Non-Service budgets have a favourable net variance of £3.5m due to one-off, in-year favourable treasury management activities, together with careful management of the Council’s cashflow, which has at times seen higher than anticipated cashflow levels. As this is one-off it doesn’t have an impact upon 2024/25,



- Funding from Government – The various government grants such as Revenue Support Grant, Rural Services Delivery Grant, and Social Care Grant, are based upon the finance settlement for 2024/25 from DLUHC.
- Business Rates – The income for business rates is based upon the January 2024 NNDR1 return which has been reviewed by LG Futures and adjusted for an assumption for appeals against the latest revaluations. The appeals provision has been reviewed by Analyse Local.
- Council Tax – Is in line with the council tax referendum principles of a 2% increase in the Adult Social Care precept and 2.99% for council tax. It uses the 2024/25 tax base calculation in the CTB1 form which had an increase of 1.52% incorporating a collection rate of 98%.
- Collection fund surpluses – Based upon latest forecast of surpluses and completed returns for council tax and business rates.
- Adults' Budget – With the significant variance in 2023/24 there has been a new, more detailed demand model developed incorporating the latest forecasts and cost modelling. This year the budget estimates have been based on granular data which takes into account actual placement data and predicted growth of such placements. In previous years we have used a % uplift on the total predicted costs at the point of setting the budget. To review and challenge these assumptions there has been a series of deep dive sessions on the Adults' budget using John Jackson (LGA national expert), PDLB Financial Consultancy Ltd and Newton Europe. A key part of the budget proposals is the £10m savings from the transformation programme "*My Life, My Future*". The programme is aimed at improving outcomes for older adults, those with learning difficulties and mental health needs by helping them stay within their own homes and encouraging independent community support. The programme is aimed at reducing costs on an ongoing basis by reducing the number of residential placements. Progress against this programme is regularly reported to Scrutiny.
- Children's Budget – Children's Services have commissioned Peopletoo to undertake a review of spend in Children's Social Care to determine a plan for better outcomes at a reduced cost from using best practice. With the significant variance in 2023/24 a new, more detailed demand model has been developed incorporating the latest forecasts and cost modelling on placements. To review and challenge these assumptions there has been a series of deep dive sessions on them using Peopletoo and PDLB Financial Consultancy Ltd. Edge Public Solution reviewed school transport operations comprising both mainstream home-to-school transport and SEND transport.

- Staff Pay – The estimates have been developed using the latest staffing establishment data with a list of funded posts for each service. An estimate of 4% for the 2024/25 national pay award has been included with the budget provision held centrally and will be allocated to the services once agreed.
- Commercial Investment Portfolio income – The Council has made the policy decision to dispose of the commercial investment portfolio and the Investment Sub Committee has been set up to oversee this. Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) have been appointed to review the portfolio and assist with its disposal. The MTFP has therefore factored this into the budget proposals based upon the forecast by JLL. The 2023/24 budget included income of £20.6m, has been reduced to £15.0m for 2024/25 then further down to £11.7m for 2025/26 and then fully removed in 2026/27.
- Treasury Management (Financing Costs) – The 2024/25 budget is based upon the latest interest rate forecast from Arlingclose which is forecasting interest rates to slowly reduce during 2024/25 by up to 1% from the current rate of 5.25%. The amount of funds available to invest are expected to significantly drop during the years as the level of reserves reduces. Investment income budget has been reduced by £6.8m ,down from £13m to £6.2m for 2024/25. Debt financing costs are forecast to increase by £1.5m to £33.7m based upon the latest capital programme.
- Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Budget - a new policy for Somerset Council which reflects the latest DLUHC guidance and comments from the external auditor Grant Thornton. The MRP budget for 2024/25 has been increased by £4.7m, based upon the new policy.

42. The Budget process brings all the above required changes together in the form of Pressures. These will be applied to the current year’s base budget to ensure it is updated for 2024/25. The budget Pressures have been subject to various challenges and reviews by Executive and Service Directors, as well as Members. They have also been analysed by type, service and value.

<b>Total Pressures by Type</b>	<b>2024.25 £m</b>
Demand / Demography	28.5
Inflation (Contractual)	11.9
Inflation (General)	61.5
Policy / Financing Change	6.9
Change in Legislation	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>109.9</b>

<b>Total Pressures by Directorate</b>	<b>2024/25 £m</b>
Adults Services	69.6
Childrens, Families and Education	26.5
Communities Services	1.3
Climate & Place	5.3
Strategy, Workforce & Localities	0.1
Resources & Corporate Services	7.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>109.9</b>

<b>Total Pressure Value for 2024/25</b>	<b>No. of Pressures</b>	<b>% of Pressures</b>
Below £100k	17	29%
£100k-£249k	16	27%
£250k-£499k	10	17%
£500k-£999k	6	10%
£1m+	10	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100%</b>

43. The 2024/25 Budget proposals include a range of Savings Proposals. They have been subject to various challenges and reviews by Executive and Service Directors, as well as members. There has been a separate officer Assurance Group set up to review all of these and ensure that they the savings proposals are robust, could be delivered and the implications of them understood. They have also been analysed by type, service, and value.

<b>Total Savings by Directorate</b>	<b>2024/25 £m</b>
Already approved savings	(11.0)
New Savings	(24.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(35.0)</b>

<b>Already approved Savings by Directorate</b>	<b>2024/25 £m</b>
Adults Services	(5.0)
Childrens, Families and Education	(1.1)
Communities Services	(0.3)
Climate & Place	(0.2)
Resources & Corporate Services	(0.4)
Local Government Reorganisation	(4.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(11.0)</b>

<b>Total Savings by Financial Strategy Type</b>	<b>2024/25 £m</b>
Efficiency Savings	(10.1)
Service Levels	(4.9)
Alternative Service Delivery	(0.3)
Financing of Activities	(2.1)
Asset Management	(0.2)
Income Generation	(6.4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(24.0)</b>

44. Out of the £24.0m of new savings £10.1m are efficiency savings so less risk in terms of delivery. £4.9m (14%) of new savings proposals are based upon changes to Service Levels which are more of a risk.

<b>Total Savings by Directorate</b>	<b>2024/25 £m</b>
Adults Services	(9.8)
Childrens, Families and Education	(9.5)
Communities Services	(3.0)
Climate & Place	(5.5)
Strategy, Workforce & Localities	(0.6)
Resources & Corporate Services	(2.6)
Local Government Reorganisation	(4.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(35.0)</b>

45. There are 116 total savings proposals for 2024/25 with 82% being below £250k and only 4% being above £1m.

<b>Total Saving by Value for 2024/25</b>	<b>Number of Savings</b>	<b>% of Savings</b>
Below £100k	62	53%
£100k-£249k	34	29%
£250k-£499k	14	12%
£500k-£999k	2	2%
£1m+	4	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>100%</b>

46. The estimates in the **Housing Revenue Account (HRA)** have been developed based upon:

- Capital Programme for next 10 years.
- EPC C by 2030.
- Net Zero Carbon by 2050.
- Right to Buy 1-4-1 for the next 6 years.
- Inflation at 3.25% for 2025/26, 2% thereafter.
- Dwelling rents at 7.7% in 2024/25, CPI thereafter.
- Rent flex for in-house only.
- Void loss at 2%.
- RTB sales at 55 per year.
- Interest on new debt at 4.5% until 2025/26, 3.5% thereafter.
- Minimum reserves at £3.722m (£385 per unit / 6.5% gross income).
- Efficiency gains of 2% on Management and R&M from 2025/26 over 5 years.
- Savings on corporate costs of £700k in 2025/26.
- Increased income of £50k pa for 5 years starting 2025/26 from service charges full cost recovery review.
- Increased capital receipts of £1.225m per year from 2024/25.

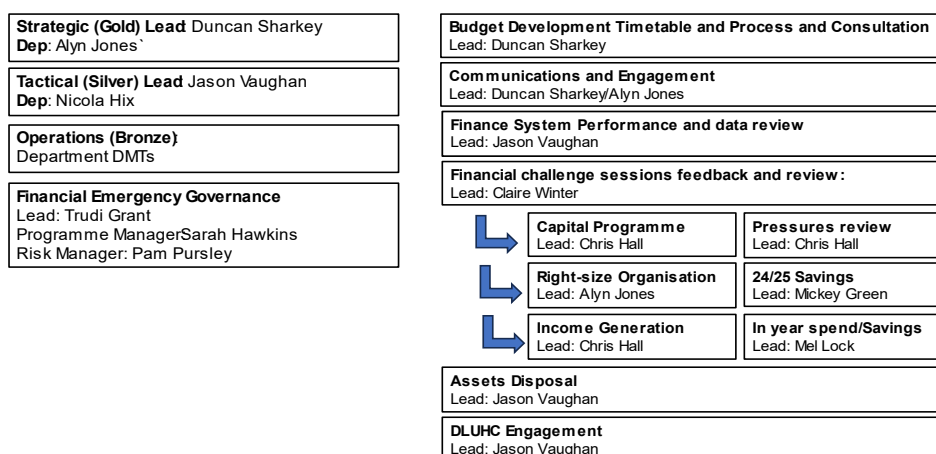
47. Altair (external housing consultant) has challenged the budgets and assumptions. Altair has also undertaken a number of scenarios and sensitivity tests to consider the impact of small changes including:

- Reducing rent loss from void properties to 1.5% from 2025/26.
- Extending the use of rent flexibility to dwellings re-let by Homes in Sedgemoor.
- Increasing the number of dwellings sold on the open market to 5 a year from 2025/26 to 2029/30.
- Combining scenarios above.
- Implementing a 5% rent increase for existing tenants in April 2024.
- Implementing a 0% rent increase for existing tenants in April 2024.
- National policy on rent increases returns to CPI +1% from 2025/26 to 2028/29.
- The Council receives 20% external funding for investment in decarbonisation.
- Interest rates increase by 1% against the baseline assumptions from 2026/27.
- Interest rates decrease by 1% against the baseline assumptions from 2026/27.

48. In order to provide further assurance around the robustness of the budget estimates it is worth setting out some of the other processes that have been part of the budget building and assurance process for the development of the 2024/25 budget estimates: -

- Member engagement – There has been a significant amount of financial reporting during the year to the 5 Scrutiny Committees, Executive and Audit Committee. Starting in July 2023 and on a regular basis throughout the year covering the 2022/23 outturn, monthly budget monitoring and the 2024/25 budget. A summary of the reports is set out in Appendix 1.
- MTFP Board – Made up of the Executive Members, key associate members and the Executive Directors meeting monthly to oversee the budget process from June 2023.
- Financial Emergency – The Council declared a ‘**Financial Emergency**’ and has taken a number of actions to address the forecast overspend in the current year and the budget gap for 2024/25. A senior management structure, in a similar way to a major flooding incident, was established, called “Gold Command” and Senior Responsible Officers identified to lead on various workstreams.

## Financial Emergency– Workstreams and SROs



- Control Board & Panels - Alongside the monthly reporting of the budget monitoring position to Scrutiny and the Executive, a number of daily and weekly control boards and panels have been established as the Council adopts an approach of operating as if a section 114 had been issued. The actions have seen the in-year forecast overspend reduce from £28.6m (Month 3) down to £17.5m (Month 9). The five boards and panels are:
  - Establishment & Recruitment Control Board - to assess all workforce requests and changes.

- Commercial & Procurement Control Board – to review and challenge all new commissions, annual uplifts in contract and contract renewals.
  - Spend Control Board – ensuring that all purchases over £100 are reviewed and challenged to avoid any non-essential spend.
  - Adult Social Care Panel – to review and challenge placements.
  - Childrens Care Panels – various panels to review and challenge placements.
- Member Briefings – Regular monthly member briefings from August 2023 with both in person and on-line options and a repeated session each month on alternative dates.
- Service Directors budget meetings – In addition to the usual meetings with their Finance Business Partners, the Service Directors have been having regular meeting as a group during the budget process to help identify savings and reduce cost pressures.
- Challenge Session – There has been a series of challenge sessions for every Service Director by their peers with a view of reducing the current service pressures and identifying new savings options using the framework set out in the financial strategy.
- Capital Programme Review – A detailed review of all the schemes in the current capital programme with the resulting being the removal of 26 schemes totalling £56.3m. The proposed 2024/25 – 2026/27 general fund capital programme totals £238.5m and comprises externally funded schemes, those essential for health and safety purposes or to deliver future savings, with a reduced borrowing requirement of £44.5m over the three years. The capitalisation direction for 2024/25 will be fully financed from capital receipts from the disposal of the commercial investments portfolio and other assets.
- Audit Committee - Considered the section 151 officer's letter to DLUHC in September 2023 on Somerset Councils Financial Challenges and the letter from Grant Thornton on the Financial Sustainability of the Council at their meeting 26 October 2023. The Audit Committee was not assured that arrangements were in place to address the current years forecast overspend or to close the 2024/25 budget gap. As a result, they called a special Audit Committee to consider the council's financial sustainability on 14 December 2023.



- Scrutiny Workshop – A workshop on 31 January 2024 for all scrutiny members on the 2024/25 budget proposals.
- Budget Scrutiny Committee – A dedicated Scrutiny Committee on 2 February 2024 focused upon the draft 2024 budget proposals ahead of the Executive Committee making their budget proposals to full Council.

49. A key part of the 2024/25 budget proposals includes a Corporate Contingency. This is for £6m and is based upon 1% of the net revenue budget. It is a budget provision to mitigate against inaccurate forecasts within the budget proposals such as changes to the forecast cost of the national pay award for staff.

### **Exceptional Financial Support**

50. Initial contact with DLUHC was made in September 2023 with a letter setting out the financial challenges that the Council faced. This was also shared with external auditors and considered by the Audit Committee at their October 2023 meeting.

51. An application has been submitted to DLUHC for a capitalisation direction and there have been a number of meetings on 6 October 2023, 7 December 2023, 21 December 2023, 23 January 2024 and 5 February 2024.

52. The letter from DLUHC 24 January 2024 is an appendix to budget reports and confirms receipt of Somerset Council's request for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS). It says:

*“You have set out your assessment of your position to the Department and reported financial pressures, particularly in relation to adults and children’s social care.*

***I can assure you that government will continue to work closely with Council officers to find a way forward, i.e. by supporting the Council to set a balanced budget for 2024/25.”***

53. Since the receipt of the letter there has been a meeting between Simon Hoare MP, Minister for Local Government, the Leader of Council, and the Chief Executive on 31 January 2024.

54. Based upon the assurances provided, we can reasonably assume that the application for a capitalisation direction will be successful. Final confirmation from DLUHC is

not expected to be received until the end of March which is after the 11 March date when the council must legally set its budget.

55. In addition to the amount required to balance the budget a capitalisation direction of £40m has been made to fund the ‘re-sizing’ of the council which is expected to deliver a significant reduction in its workforce and result in on-going savings in the region of £20m to £30m for 2025/26.

### Balancing the budget

56. The table below provides a summary of the position and shows the changes from the 2023/24 budget to the 2024/25 budget including the use of one-off items to balance budget.

<b>Changes to 2023/24 budget</b>	<b>£m</b>
Reversals for once off items	19.9
Pressures	109.9
Savings	(35.0)
Changes to pay	13.8
Increase in financing costs	12.9
Increase in funding	(40.1)
<b>Budget gap</b>	<b>81.4</b>
One off items – to balance budget	
Use of Medium-Term Financial Plan Support Reserve	(36.8)
Council Tax Collection Fund surplus	(6.2)
Business Rates Collection Fund surplus	(1.5)
<b>Remaining budget gap</b>	<b>36.9</b>
Capitalisation Direction from DLUHC	(36.9)
<b>Balanced position</b>	<b>0.0</b>

57. Any estimate of the Councils £1bn+ budget proposals in respect future costs, spend and income levels will ultimately prove to be inaccurate and there will be a resulting under or over spend for the year. The assessment on the 2024/25 budget estimates is focused upon assessing if the estimates are based upon the best and latest information available, that the risks around the key figures are set out and understood and if they seem therefore to be calculated upon a reasonable and robust basis.

## Adequacy of Reserves

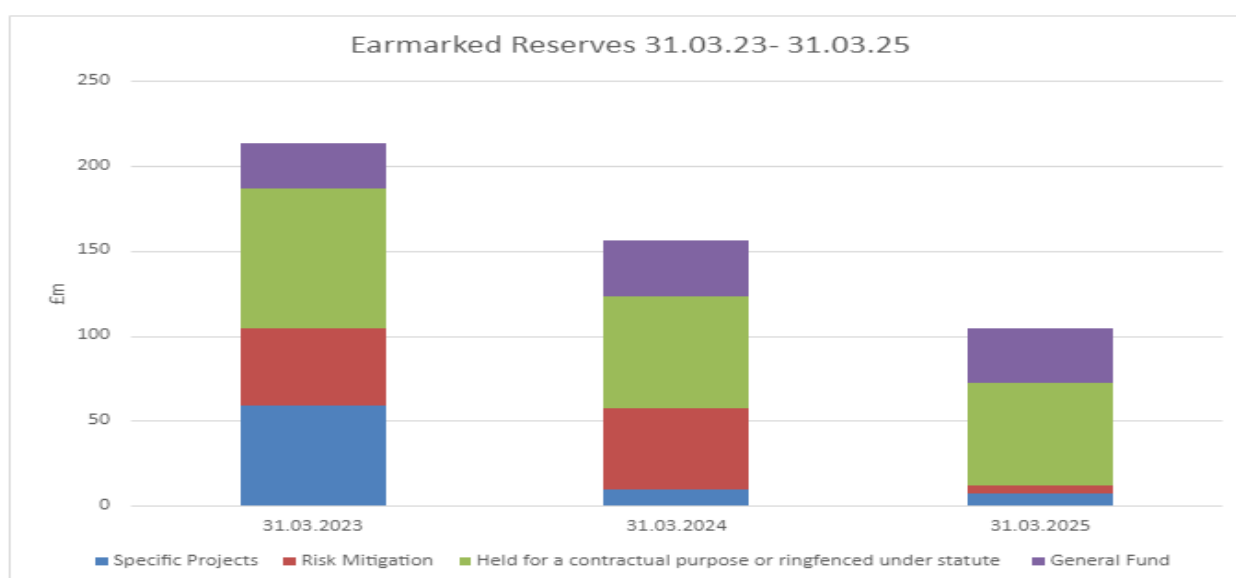
58. Being a new Council, a key part of being able to provide any assurance over levels of reserves and therefore their adequacy, is dependent upon the opening reserves position being known with certainty.
59. Somerset Council inherited the position on 1 April 2023 that there were outstanding Statement of Accounts not signed off by the external auditors relating to 2020/21 and 2021/22.
60. Completing the Statement of Accounts from the five predecessor councils for 2022/23 has been a priority for the finance team in order to provide assurance on the starting point for Somerset Council.
61. The latest position is that all outstanding external audits on the 2020/21 and 2021/22 have been completed and that 2022/23 external audits for Somerset CC, Somerset Pension Fund, Somerset West & Taunton DC and Mendip DC have all been completed. This leaves the audits for Sedgemoor DC and South Somerset DC still outstanding, but these are expected to be completed by the end of March 2024.
62. To help provide additional assurance around the opening position for Somerset Council an external Balance Sheet review by PDLB Financial Consultancy Ltd was commissioned. It compares Somerset's opening Balance Sheet position against nine comparator unitary councils. The results of this review have been considered by Audit Committee at their meeting on 25 January 2024 and informal executive on 29 January 2024. The review has not identified anything that will materially impact upon the current estimated level of reserves.
63. The new Council inherited a mixture of reserves from the five predecessor councils and a review of reserves has been undertaken to bring together similar reserves e.g. business rates, commercial property portfolio etc and to help identify reserves that could be repurposed to support the budget.
64. The on-going review of the reserves resulted in:
  - A transfer between the Earmarked Reserves to General Reserves to bring them up to £49.8m to reflect the higher risks facing the new council.
  - Repurposing of several reserves from the predecessor councils to create a MTFP Support Reserve of £36.8m which is planned to support the 2024/25 budget.
  - Setting up a Budget Delivery reserve of £2.5m to cover the costs associated with the delivery of the savings contained within the budget proposals and any delays in delivery of them.

- Setting up a Reserve for Devolution of Assets & Services – Overhead Costs of £0.6m.

65. Set out in table below is the summary of the overall position on reserves and shows the how the £316.0m in the five predecessor councils' statement of accounts on 31 March 2023 have been brought together. The adjustments column shows the £19.9m planned use of reserves agreed by Council in setting the current year's budget. The 'Other' category includes £109.0m of reserves which is the main relate to reserves held on behalf of others as part of the Council's accountable body's role.

<b>Somerset Council Reserves (DLUHC Reporting Categories)</b>	<b>31 March 2023</b> £m	<b>Adjust -ments</b> £m	<b>01 April 2023</b> £m	<b>Fore- cast Use</b> £m	<b>31 March 2024</b> £m	<b>Fore- cast Use</b> £m	<b>31 March 2025</b> £m
Contractual commitments	14.8	(1.1)	13.7	(0.4)	13.2	(0.1)	13.1
Planned future revenue & capital spending	50.9	(18.9)	32.1	(15.5)	16.6	(3.9)	12.7
Specific risks	24.7	(7.2)	17.6	(2.9)	14.6	(3.7)	11.0
Budget stabilisation	52.3	(10.1)	42.2	1.0	43.2	(39.4)	3.9
Public Health	4.1	(1.7)	2.4	0.0	2.4	(1.8)	0.6
Other	142.4	(4.0)	138.3	(100.2)	38.1	(6.9)	31.3
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>289.2</b>	<b>(43.0)</b>	<b>246.3</b>	<b>(118.0)</b>	<b>128.2</b>	<b>(55.7)</b>	<b>72.5</b>
General Fund Reserves	26.8	23.1	49.8	(17.5)	32.3	0.0	32.3
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>316.0</b>	<b>(19.9)</b>	<b>296.1</b>	<b>(135.5)</b>	<b>160.6</b>	<b>(55.7)</b>	<b>104.9</b>

66. The graph below shows the forecast reduction in reserves from the start of the financial year to end the of 2024/25 financial year.



67. The risk-based level of General Reserves was set by Council in February 2023 as being between £30m (5%) and £50m (10%). It is recommended that this range is increased for 2024/25 to between £30m and £60m which represents 5% and 10% of the net budget.
68. General fund reserves are currently £49.8m and based upon the Month 9 forecast overspend of £17.5m would be reduced down £32.3m. This remains above the £30m risk based minimum level approved by Council.
69. The government extended the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) statutory override up to 31 March 2026. DfE guidance states that "...DSG is a ring-fenced specific grant separate from the general funding of local authorities, and that any deficit an authority may have on its DSG account is expected to be carried forward to the next year's schools' budget and does not require to be covered by the authority's general reserves."
70. This means that the DSG deficit is separated from the wider reserves and based upon the statutory override the size of DSG deficit is not considered when making the assessment on the adequacy of reserves for 2024/25.
71. Based upon the forecast level of General Reserves remaining above the risk-based assessment and the projected level of Earmarked Reserves, I am able to provide assurance to members that the level of reserves is adequate for 2024/25.

## **Financial Resilience**

72. CIPFA have developed a Financial Resilience Index which is a comparative analytical tool that is intended to be used by Section 151 Officers to support good financial management. The index shows a council's position on a range of measures associated with financial risk highlighting where additional scrutiny may be required. The selection of indicators has been informed by extensive financial resilience work undertaken by CIPFA, public consultation and technical stakeholder engagement.
73. Section 151 officers may also use the index in their annual report to the council setting out the proposed budget for the year and medium-term financial strategy, in particular in preparing their statements of the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of reserves.
74. The data for the resilience index is obtained from the Revenue Expenditure and Financing England Outturn Report 2022-23 ("RO Forms") and reflects figures submitted by Local Authorities to DLUHC as at 31 March 2023.

75. While recognising some limitations in the returns (e.g. reflecting the previous financial year) they provide a consistent and transparent starting place for a discussion on financial resilience that can be tracked over time.
76. However, being a new council from April 2023 means that there is no data available for the new council. This is also true of the DLUHC Office for Local Government (Oflog) website.
77. To help deal with this a separate balance sheet review, comparing the Council to statistical neighbours was undertaken and the results presented to the Audit Committee on 25 January 2024. It did not highlight any significant areas of concern.

### **Section 114 Notice**

78. In dealing with financial challenges the Executive declared a 'Financial Emergency' at their meeting on 8 November 2023 and agreed a number of actions to help address the financial situation facing the new council. The approach adopted has been based upon avoiding issuing a Section 114 Notice by taking all the actions that Commissioners would take.
79. Under section 114(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the section 151 officer has a duty to make a report when it appears to them that the Council has made or is about to make a decision incurring unlawful expenditure, or has taken or is about to take a course of action which "if pursued to its conclusion" would be unlawful and is likely to cause a loss or is about to enter an unlawful item of account. Under section 114(3), the section 151 officer has a duty to make a report when it appears to them that the expenditure the Council has incurred or proposes to incur in a financial year is likely to exceed the resources (including sums borrowed) available to it to meet that expenditure (note: this report is the one commonly referred to as a Section 114 "notice"). A Section 114 report must be sent to the auditor and every Member and Section 115 then requires the Council to hold a meeting within 21 days to decide whether it agrees or disagrees with the views contained in the report and what action (if any) it proposes to take in consequence of it.
80. There is no need to issue a Section 114 notice in respect of the current financial year given the latest forecast overspend of £17.5m and that there are sufficient General Reserves to cover this and still remain above the minimum level of £30m.
81. In respect of setting the 2024/25 budget the remaining budget gap, after applying one-off sources of funding, is £36.9m. Given the relatively low level of reserves, in December 2023, full Council approved applying to DLUHC for Exceptional Financial Support and requesting a capitalisation direction to close the remaining gap. The meeting and letter on 24 January 2024 from DLUHC provide assurance that a

capitalisation direction will be provided during March 2024 to enable the budget gap to be closed and enable reserves to be maintained an adequate level for the year.

82. There are significant concerns about the 2025/26 financial year. The high level MTFP forecast shows that if further substantial savings or additional income received then the Budget gap for 2025/26 would be £103.9m as set in the table below.

<b>High Level MTFP Forecast</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>2027/28</b>	<b>2028/29</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Budget Gap from previous year	0.0	36.9	103.9	147.8	169.9
Budget Gap for year	36.9	67.0	43.9	22.1	28.6
Capitalisation Direction	(36.9)				
<b>Budget Gap</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>103.9</b>	<b>147.8</b>	<b>169.9</b>	<b>198.5</b>

83. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit is currently forecast to increase to £96.2m by the end of the 2025/26 financial Year when the current statutory override is due to end.

<b>Actual, current forecast and projected DSG deficits</b>	<b>31 March 2023</b>	<b>31 March 2024</b>	<b>31 March 2025</b>	<b>31 March 2026</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Forecast</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Projected</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Dedicated Schools Grant deficit	20.7	38.1	61.5	96.2

84. Within the 'Other' category of the Reserves are funds held on behalf of other bodies. The table below removes them and only includes those which directly relate to the Council. The table has been extended to include the DSG deficit to give the true underlying picture. It shows that by end of the 2025/26 it is forecast that the Councils overall reserves will become fully exhausted and turn negative unless further savings and additional funding is forthcoming.

<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>01/04/2023</b>	<b>Forecast 31/03/2024</b>	<b>Forecast 31/03/2025</b>	<b>Forecast 31/03/2026</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
General Reserves	49.8	32.3	32.3	32.3
Earmarked Reserves (excluding those held on behalf of other bodies)	114.4	94.8	44.3	42.6

<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>164.2</b>	<b>127.1</b>	<b>76.6</b>	<b>74.9</b>
Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Deficit	(20.7)	(38.1)	(65.5)	(96.2)
<b>Total Reserves after DSG Deficit</b>	<b>143.5</b>	<b>89.0</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>(21.3)</b>

85. With a forecast budget gap of £103.9m and significantly reduced reserves, there is a likelihood of a Section 114 notice being required. The simple table below shows the that the forecast budget gap is projected to be more than the reserves available. The situation is even worse in 2026/27 when the statutory override for the DSG deficit ends.

<b>Financial Overview</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Total Reserves	76.6	74.9	73.4
Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Deficit			(96.2)
Budget Gap (excluding Capitalisation Direction)	(36.9)	(103.9)	(147.8)
<b>Reserves less Budget Gap</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>(29.0)</b>	<b>(170.6)</b>

86. The Council will need to make new and significant savings but given the scale of the challenge these alone are unlikely to be sufficient to close the budget gap. It is likely therefore that the Council will be dependent upon changes to the current funding regime for local government or further and on-going support from government.

## **Conclusion**

87. Despite being a new council and in existence for less than one year, the Council's financial position is extremely challenging and is forecast to deteriorate in future years.

88. The significant work carried out in developing the 2024/25 budget proposals outlined above, means **that I can provide Members with the required assurance that the 2024/25 budget estimates are robust.**



89. In respect of the adequacy of reserves, **I can provide the required assurance that they are adequate for 2024/25.**
90. I have to highlight to Members my high level of concern around future years and the financial sustainability of the Council. Based upon the current forecasts there is a **likelihood that a Section 114 notice will need to be issued in respect of 2025/26 unless there are significant changes to current forecasts.**
91. The Council will need to make new and significant savings but given the scale of the challenge it will also be dependent upon changes to the current funding regime for local government or further and on-going support from government. The recent report from the House of Commons Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee on the 'Financial distress in local authorities' highlights the sector wide issues and concerns that urgently need to be addressed.

### **Background Papers**

92. 2023/24 Budget, Medium-Term Financial Plan & Council Tax Setting report to Council 22 February 2023.
93. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024/25 to 2026/27 report to Corporate & Resources Scrutiny & Executive July 2023.
94. Month 3 to Month 9 Monthly Budget Monitoring reports to Executive & Corporate & Resources Scrutiny Committee (August 2023 to February 2024).
95. Somerset Council – Financial Sustainability report to 26 October 2023 Audit Committee including the Section 151 Officer's letter to DLUHC and External Auditor letter on Somerset Council Financial Sustainability.
96. Financial Strategy Update report to 09 November 2023 Corporate & Resources Scrutiny and 08 November 2023 Executive.
97. 2024/25 General Fund Revenue & Capital Programme update to 05 December 2023, Corporate & Resources Scrutiny Committee, 06 December 2023 Executive and 20 December 2023 full Council.
98. Special Audit Committee – 14 December 2023.
99. 2024/25 General Fund Revenue Budget Update to Executive 15 January 2024.

100. Slides for Scrutiny Workshop 31 January 2024.
101. 2024/25 General Fund Revenue Budget report to Corporate & Resources Scrutiny 2 February 2024.
102. 2024/25 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue and Capital Budget Setting 2024/25 including Dwelling Rent Setting and Fees and Charges for 2024/25, MTFP and 30-Year Business Plan Update report to Corporate & Resources Scrutiny 2 February 2024.
103. 2024/25 General Fund Capital Budget report to Corporate & Resources Scrutiny 2 February 2024.
104. Annual Audit Report from Grant Thornton – Audit Committee 25 January 2024.
105. Letter to DLUHC 26 September 2023, Application to DLUHC for a capitalisation direction and meetings on 6 October 2023, 7 December 2023, 21 December 2023, 23 January 2024, 31 January 2024 and 5 February 2024.
106. Letter from DLUHC 24 January 2024 - confirm receipt of Somerset Council's request for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS), including the request for additional council tax flexibilities.
107. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue and Capital Budget Setting 2024/25 including Dwelling Rent Setting and Fees and Charges for 2024/25, MTFP and 30-Year Business Plan Update to Executive 7 February 2024.
108. 2024/25 General Fund Capital Budget to Executive 7 February 2024.
109. 2024/25 General Fund Revenue Budget & Medium-Term Financial Plan Report to Executive 7 February 2024.

## **Appendices**


Appendix 1 – Summary of key financial reports to Committees

## Report Sign-Off






	<b>Officer Name</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>
Legal & Governance Implications	David Clark	07/02/2024
Communications	Peter Elliott	07/02/2024
Finance & Procurement	Nicola Hix	07/02/2024
Workforce	Dawn Bettridge	07/02/2024
Asset Management	Oliver Woodhams	07/02/2024
Executive Director / Senior Manager	Jason Vaughan	07/02/2024
Strategy & Performance	Sara Cretney	07/02/2024
Executive Lead Member	Cllr Liz Leyshon	07/02/2024
Consulted:		
Local Division Members	All	
Opposition Spokesperson	Cllr Mandy Chilcott Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Opposition Spokesperson for Resources and Performance	Report sent 05/02/2024
Scrutiny Chair	Cllr Bob Filmer, Chair - Scrutiny Corporate & Resources Committee	Report sent 05/02/2024

# **APPENDIX 1**

## **SUMMARY OF KEY FINANCIAL REPORTS**

<b>Scrutiny Committee – Adults</b>	
<b>April 2023</b>	
<b>May 2023</b>	
<b>June 2023</b>	
<b>July 2023</b>	
<b>August 2023</b>	<p><b><u>Adult Social Care - Budget Report</u></b>  PDF 131 KB</p> <p>To discuss and consider the report. – Outturn Report</p>
<b>September 2023</b>	<p><b><u>Adults Social Care Budget Report</u></b>  PDF 233 KB</p> <p><b>Additional documents: Month 3</b></p> <p><a href="#">Adults Scrutiny Sept 23 , item 25.</a>  PDF 488 KB</p>
<b>October 2023</b>	<p><b><u>Adult Social Care Performance Report, Budget Report and Winter Planning</u></b>  PDF 107 KB</p> <p>To receive the report.</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">ASC Performance Slides Scrutiny Oct 2023 FINAL , item 32.</a>  PDF 863 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">Adults &amp; Health Scrutiny Budget Monitoring Month 5 , item 32.</a>  PDF 129 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">Adults Scrutiny Budget Oct 23 , item 32.</a>  PDF 391 KB</li> </ul>
<b>November 2023</b>	
<b>December 2023</b>	<p><b><u>Adult Social Care Budget Monitoring Month 5</u></b>  PDF 280 KB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">View the background to item 41.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">View the decision for item 41.</a></li> </ul> <p>To consider the report.</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Adults Scrutiny Budget Monitoring Dec 23 , item 41.</a>  PDF 598 KB</p>
<b>January 2024</b>	
<b>February 2024</b>	<p><b><u>23/24 Budget Monitoring Report Month 9</u></b>  PDF 234 KB To consider the report.</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Adults Scrutiny Feb 24 , item 8.</a>  PDF 436 KB</p>

## Scrutiny Committee – Children & Families

April 2023	
May 2023	
June 2023	
July 2023	<b><u>22/23 Budget outturn position and 23/24 Emerging issues</u></b>  PDF 537 KB
August 2023	
September 2023	<b><u>2023/24 Children's Services - Budget Monitoring Month 4</u></b>  PDF 688 KB
October 2023	
November 2023	<b>2023/24 Children's Services - Budget Monitoring</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">View the background to item 7a</a></li><li>• <a href="#">View the decision for item 7a</a></li></ul> <b><u>Education Finance - consultation</u></b>  PDF 628 KB <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">View the background to item 8.</a></li><li>• <a href="#">View the decision for item 8.</a></li></ul>
December 2023	<b><u>2023/24 Children's Services - Budget Monitoring</u></b>  PDF 1 MB <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">View the background to item 6.</a></li><li>• <a href="#">View the decision for item 6.</a></li></ul>
January 2024	<b><u>2023/24 Children's Services - Budget Monitoring</u></b>  PDF 944 KB <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">View the background to item 8.</a></li><li>• <a href="#">View the decision for item 8.</a></li></ul>
February 2024	

**Scrutiny Committee – Climate & Place**















<b>April 2023</b>	
<b>May 2023</b>	
<b>June 2023</b>	
<b>July 2023</b>	
<b>August 2023</b>	
<b>September 2023</b>	<b><u>Budget Monitoring Update</u></b>  PDF 409 KB <b>Month 4</b>
<b>October 2023</b>	
<b>November 2023</b>	
<b>December 2023</b>	<b><u>Climate &amp; Place Budget Monitoring Position Month 5</u></b>  PDF 274 KB
<b>January 2024</b>	
<b>February 2024</b>	

## ***Scrutiny Committee – Communities***

<b>April 2023</b>	
<b>May 2023</b>	
<b>June 2023</b>	
<b>July 2023</b>	
<b>August 2023</b>	
<b>September 2023</b>	
<b>October 2023</b>	<p><b><u>Budget monitoring update - Community Services</u></b>  PDF 217 KB</p> <p>To consider and comment on a month 5 Budget Monitoring update for Community Services, from the Strategic Manager Finance Business Partnering, Somerset Council.</p>
<b>November 2023</b>	
<b>December 2023</b>	<p><b><u>2023-24 HRA Revenue &amp; Capital Budget Monitoring Report - Month 6 (Qtr2)</u></b>  PDF 471 KB</p> <p>To consider the report.</p>
<b>January 2024</b>	
<b>February 2024</b>	<p><b><u>Community Services Budget Monitoring Update</u></b> PDF 344 KB</p> <p>To consider the report and presentation.</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Community Services Scrutiny Month 9 , item 6</a>  PDF 1 MB</li></ul>



## Scrutiny Committee – Resources & Corporate Services

April 2023	
May 2023	
June 2023	
July 2023	<p><a href="#">Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2026/27</a>  PDF 492 KB</p>
August 2023	<p><a href="#">Budget Monitoring Report Quarter 1</a>  PDF 73 KB</p> <p>To receive the Budget Monitoring Report for Month 3 (Quarter 1) 2023-2024 for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Accounts.</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">2023-24 GF Budget Monitoring Executive Report - Month 3 (Qtr1) , item 21</a>  PDF 758 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">2023-24 HRA Revenue Capital Budget Monitoring Report - Month 3 (Qtr1) , item 21</a>  PDF 179 KB</li> </ul>
7 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Budget Update presentation</a>  PDF 553 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">Property Rationalisation Presentation</a>  PDF 2 MB</li> <li>• <a href="#">Updated Consolidated Outturn 2022-2023 - version to be used at meeting</a>  PDF 323 KB</li> </ul> <p><b><a href="#">Draft Assets Disposal Policy - Agenda Item 5</a></b>  PDF 364 KB</p> <p>To receive a presentation and to note the accompanying draft policy on the Corporate Assets Disposals Policy.</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Draft Assets Disposals Policy-v3 , item 27</a>  PDF 408 KB</li> </ul> <p><b><a href="#">Budget Update - Agenda Item 8</a></b>  PDF 435 KB</p> <p><b><a href="#">Consolidated 2022/2023 Outturn - Agenda Item 9</a></b>  PDF 232 KB</p> <p>To consider a report going to the Executive detailing the consolidated 2022/2023 Outturn position.</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Appendix 1 SCC Outturn Report , item 31</a>  PDF 971 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">Appendix 1a - SCC Reserves , item 31</a>  PDF 80 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">Appendix 1b SCC Capital Outturn Table , item 31</a>  PDF 68 KB</li> </ul>
7 <sup>th</sup> September Cont'd	

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>29<sup>th</sup> September 2023</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Appendix 2 MDC Outturn Report , item 31.</a> PDF 96 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">appendix 2a - Mendip Reserves , item 31.</a> PDF 65 KB</li> <li>• There are a further 13 documents.<a href="#">View the full list of documents for item 31.</a></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Commercial Investment Update - Agenda Item 4</u></b> PDF 280 KB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">View the background to item 36.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">View the decision for item 36.</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restricted enclosure 5 <a href="#">View the reasons why document 36./2 is restricted</a></li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>October 2023</b></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>November 2023</b></p>	<p><b><u>2023/24 Budget Monitoring Report - Month 5</u></b> PDF 1 MB</p> <p>To receive an update report for Budget 2023/24 Month 5 – to the end of August 2023.</p> <p><b><u>Financial Strategy Update</u></b> PDF 268 KB</p> <p>To receive an update on the Financial Strategy</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Appendix 1 Letter to DLUHC , item 44.</a> PDF 232 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">Appendix 2 Letter to CE , item 44.</a> PDF 160 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">Appendix 3 17 Key Areas , item 44.</a> PDF 115 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">2024/25 General Fund Revenue Budget &amp; Capital Programme update</a> PDF 705 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">2024/25 General Fund Revenue Budget &amp; Capital Programme update - Appendix 1</a> PDF 198 KB</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>December 2023</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>December 2023 Cont'd</b></p>	<p><b><u>2023/24 Budget Monitoring Report - Month 6 - End of September 2023</u></b> PDF 167 KB</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">M6 Appendix 01 - Adult Services , item 49.</a> PDF 132 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">M6 Appendix 02 - Children, Families &amp; Education Services , item 49.</a> PDF 338 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">M6 Appendix 03 - Community Services , item 49.</a> PDF 90 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">M6 Appendix 04 - Climate &amp; Place (incl Accountable Bodies) , item 49.</a> PDF 160 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">M6 Appendix 05 - Strategy, Workforce and Localities , item 49.</a> PDF 94 KB</li> <li>• There are a further 5 documents.<a href="#">View the full list of documents for item 49.</a></li> </ul>

**2023/24 General Fund Capital Budget Monitoring Report - Month 6 - End of September 2023** PDF 264 KB

**Additional documents:**

- [2023-24 GF Capital Budget Monitoring Report - Month 6 \(Qtr2\) Appendix B , item 50](#) PDF 182 KB

**2023/24 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring as at Quarter 2 (30 September 2023)** PDF 472 KB

**2024/25 General Fund Revenue Budget & Capital Programme update** PDF 520 KB

**Additional documents:**

- [Somerset Council Reserves \(Amalgamation\) , item 52.](#) PDF 73 KB

**Framework for Asset and/or Service Devolution** PDF 114 KB

**Additional documents:**

- [Devolution Framework , item 53.](#) PDF 431 KB

January 2024

**Financial Budget Update Month 7** PDF 300 KB

To receive the update and consider any mitigations or recommendations to make to the Executive.

**Additional documents:**

- [M7 Appendix 01 - Adult Services , item 59.](#) PDF 142 KB
- [M7 Appendix 02 - Children, Families & Education Services , item 59.](#) PDF 373 KB
- [M7 Appendix 03 - Community Services , item 59.](#) PDF 93 KB
- [M7 Appendix 04 - Climate & Place \(incl Accountable Bodies\) , item 59.](#) PDF 278 KB
- [M7 Appendix 05 - Strategy, Workforce and Localities , item 59.](#) PDF 90 KB
- There are a further 3 documents. [View the full list of documents for item 59.](#)

**Somerset Council Reserves Amalgamation** PDF 613 KB

To receive the report and consider any recommendations to the Executive.

**Additional documents:**






- [PAPER A - Appendix 1 - Reserves Analysis , item 60.](#) PDF 663 KB

January 2024  
Cont'd

**Business System for Finance Implementation Review** PDF 390 KB

To receive an update on the Business System for Finance Implementation project.

**Additional documents:**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Finance System Scrutiny Committee 4-1-24 , item 61.</a>  PDF 657 KB</li></ul> <p><b><u>Commercial Asset and Realisation Task and Finish Group Report</u></b>  PDF 71 KB</p> <p><b><u>Scrutiny Corporate and Resources Forward Plan</u></b>  PDF 53 KB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Supplement 2 - Agenda Item 6 - Budget Proposals Slides</a>  PDF 2 MB</li></ul>
<p><b>February 2024</b></p>	<p><b><u>2024/25 General Fund Revenue Budget, HRA Revenue Budget and Capital Budgets</u></b>  PDF 87 KB</p> <p>To consider the 2024/25 Budget Proposals and provide feedback to the Executive for consideration. The following documents are attached:</p> <p>Scrutiny of the 2024/25 Budget – pages 19 – 23.</p> <p><b>Paper A - 2024/25 General Fund Revenue Budget</b> – pages 25 - 63. This report has the following Appendices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appendix 1: Strategic Risks associated with the budget – pages 65 - 67</li><li>• Appendix 2: MTFP Forecast – pages 69 - 70</li><li>• Appendix 3: Provisional Finance Settlement – pages 71 - 72</li><li>• Appendix 4: Changes to budget 2023/24-2024/25 – pages 73 - 76</li><li>• Appendix 5: Council Tax trends – page 77</li><li>• Appendix 6: Detailed list of savings proposals – pages 79 - 91</li><li>• Appendix 7: Detailed list of pressures – pages 93 - 98</li><li>• Appendix 8: Full &amp; part reversals of prior year savings – page 99</li><li>• Appendix 9: Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25 – pages 101 - 105</li><li>• Appendix 10: Summary of findings from the budget consultation exercise – pages 107 - 135</li><li>• Appendix 11: Reserves – pages 137 – 141</li></ul> <p>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 – <a href="#">Supporting Documents</a></p> <p><b>Paper B – Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue and Capital Budget Setting 2024/25 including Dwelling Rent Setting and Fees and Charges for 2024/25, MTFP and 30-</b></p>
<p><b>February 2024 Cont'd</b></p>	






**Year Business Plan Update'** – pages 143 – 194. This report has the following Appendices:

- Appendix A - Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan for 2024/25 – page 195
- Appendix B - Proposed Fees and Charges for Homes In Sedgemoor for 2024/25 – pages 197 - 198
- Appendix C - Proposed Fees and Charges for the In-House Service for 2024/25 – pages 199 - 209
- Appendix D - HRA MTFP 10-Year Capital Programme – pages 211 - 212
- Appendix E - HRA Proposed Capital Budgets for 2024/25 and Capital Financing per Scheme – pages 213 - 216
- Appendix F – EIA form – pages 217 - 224














**Paper C - 2024/25 General Fund Capital Budget** – pages 225 – 236. This report has the following Appendices:

- Appendix A: Removed schemes from Capital Programme 2023/24 – pages 237 - 238
- Appendix B: Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2026/27 – pages 239 - 243
- Appendix C: New Bids for 2024/25 – pages 245 - 247

**Additional documents:**

- [Paper A - 2024-25 General Fund Revenue Budget , item 6.](#)  PDF 384 KB
- [Appendix 1 - Strategic Risks Associated with the Budget , item 6.](#)  PDF 97 KB
- [Appendix 2 - MTFP Forecast , item 6.](#)  PDF 89 KB
- [Appendix 3 - Provisional Finance Settlement , item 6.](#)  PDF 101 KB
- [Appendix 4- Changes to Budgets 2023-24 to 2024-25 , item 6.](#)  PDF 117 KB
- There are a further 20 documents. [View the full list of documents for item 6.](#)

## *Audit Committee*

<b>April 2023</b>	<p><b><u>Proposed 2023-24 Internal Audit Plan and Internal Audit Charter</u></b>  PDF 1 MB</p> <p><b>Independent Member appointment</b></p> <p><b><u>Fraud Policies</u></b>  PDF 66 KB</p> <p>As part of the Somerset Council's Constitution and controls and standards the Council's Audit Committee has responsibility for Policies.</p>
<b>May 2023</b>	
<b>June 2023</b>	<p><b><u>Strategic Risk Review Report</u></b>  PDF 375 KB</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Item 09a - Strategic Risk Review , item 20.</a>  PDF 254 KB</li><li>• <a href="#">Item 09b - Strategic Risk Review - CLT Presentation Apr 2023 - Appendix b , item 20.</a>  PDF 233 KB</li><li>• <a href="#">Item 09c - Strategic Risk Review - Risk Management Workplan 2023-2024 - Appendix c , item 20.</a>  PDF 59 KB</li></ul>
<b>July 2023</b>	
<b>August 2023</b>	
<b>September 2023</b>	<p><b><u>Strategic Risk Management Update</u></b>  PDF 96 KB</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Strategic risks - 28-9-23 , item 35.</a>  PDF 406 KB</li></ul>
<b>October 2023</b>	<p><b>To confirm the appointment of a new Independent Member of the Audit Committee</b></p> <p><b><u>External Audit Report on Value for Money letter to Somerset Council on 2023/24 Financial Stability</u></b>  PDF 91 KB</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">6b Financial Challenges Report Sept23 , item 43.</a>  PDF 232 KB</li><li>• <a href="#">6c Somerset Council Letter October 2023 , item 43.</a>  PDF 160 KB</li></ul> <p><b><u>Strategic Risk Management Update Report</u></b>  PDF 360 KB</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">11b Strategic Risk Management Update Report , item 48.</a>  PDF 252 KB</li></ul>



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**Financial Emergency Assurance Update**  PDF 2 MB

- [View the background to item 56.](#)
- [View the decision for item 56.](#)

**Additional documents:**






- [Somerset Council Assurance Update for Audit Committee 14 Dec 23 , item 56.](#)  PDF 2 MB
- [Somerset Council Financial Emergency , item 56.](#)  PDF 829 KB

**2023/24 General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring Report - Month 6 Q2**  PDF 199 KB

- [View the background to item 53.](#)
- [View the decision for item 53.](#)

To consider the report

**Additional documents:**

- [2023-24 GF Budget Monitoring Executive Report Q2 - Month 6 , item 53.](#)  PDF 1 MB
- [M6 Appendix 01 - Adult Services , item 53.](#)  PDF 132 KB
- [M6 Appendix 02 - Children, Families & Education Services , item 53.](#)  PDF 338 KB
- [M6 Appendix 03 - Community Services , item 53.](#)  PDF 90 KB
- [M6 Appendix 04 - Climate & Place \(incl Accountable Bodies\) , item 53.](#)  PDF 160 KB
- There are a further 6 documents. [View the full list of documents for item 53.](#)




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2023 Cont'd






**2024/25 General Fund Revenue Budget & Capital Programme update**  PDF 225 KB

- [View the background to item 54.](#)
- [View the decision for item 54.](#)

To consider the report










**Additional documents:**














- [2024-25 Budget update - 6 Dec 2023 \(1\) , item 54.](#)  PDF 616 KB
- [Appendix 1 202425 General Fund Revenue Budget & Capital Programme , item 54.](#)  PDF 73 KB
- [Appendix 1 - Part 2 - Reserves Analysis 2023-24 Somerset Council \(Amalgamation\) , item 54.](#)  PDF 77 KB

<p><b>January 2024</b></p>	<p><b><u><a href="#">Medium Term Financial Reports 2024/25 - Capital Strategy 2024/25</a></u></b>  PDF 6 MB</p> <p><b><u><a href="#">Medium Term Financial Reports 2024/25 - Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25</a></u></b>  PDF 498 KB</p> <p><b><u><a href="#">Medium Term Financial Reports 2024/25 - Flexible use of Capital Receipts 2024/25</a></u></b>  PDF 328 KB</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <p><b><u><a href="#">Assurance Reports - Financial Emergency Governance</a></u></b>  PDF 799 KB</p> <p>To consider the report.</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u><a href="#">Appendix 1 Presentation - Somerset Council's Finance Emergency Governance Arrangements , item 6a</a></u></b>  PDF 759 KB</li> </ul>
<p><b>February 2024</b></p>	



## *Executive*

<b>April 2023</b>	
<b>May 2023</b>	
<b>June 2023</b>	
<b>July 2023</b>	<p><b><u>Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2026/27</u></b>  PDF 4 MB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">View the background to item 20.</a></li><li>• <a href="#">View the decision for item 20.</a></li></ul>
<b>August 2023</b>	<p><b><u>UPDATE - the Outturn Position across all Legacy Somerset Authorities for 2022/23</u></b>  PDF 973 KB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">View the background to item 29.</a></li><li>• <a href="#">View the decision for item 29.</a></li></ul>
<b>September 2023</b>	<p><b><u>Somerset Council - Consolidated 2022/23 Outturn Report</u></b>  PDF 2 MB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">View the background to item 37.</a></li><li>• <a href="#">View the decision for item 37.</a></li></ul> <p>To consider the report.</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Appendix 1a - SCC Reserves , item 37.</a>  PDF 27 KB</li><li>• <a href="#">Appendix 1b SCC Capital Outturn Table , item 37.</a>  PDF 52 KB</li><li>• <a href="#">Appendix 2 MDC Outturn Report , item 37.</a>  PDF 253 KB</li><li>• <a href="#">Appendix 2a - Mendip Reserves , item 37.</a>  PDF 61 KB</li><li>• <a href="#">Appendix 2b Mendip DC Capital Outturn Table , item 37.</a>  PDF 148 KB</li><li>• There are a further 15 documents. <a href="#">View the full list of documents for item 37.</a></li></ul> <p><b><u>2023/24 Budget Monitoring Report – Month 3 – End of June 2023 &amp; Month 4 update</u></b>  PDF 8 MB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">View the background to item 38.</a></li><li>• <a href="#">View the decision for item 38.</a></li></ul> <p>To consider the report.</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p>

<p>September 2023 Cont'd</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#"><u>Appendix 1 Update on Month 3 Budget Monitoring Report with Month 4 (end of July 2023) , item 38.</u></a> PDF 548 KB</li></ul> <p><b>Quarter 1 - Performance report</b>  PDF 1 MB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#"><u>View the background to item 39.</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>View the decision for item 39.</u></a></li></ul> <p>To consider the report.</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#"><u>Appendix A Performance Report , item 39.</u></a> PDF 4 MB</li></ul>
<p>October 2023</p>	<p><b>Treasury Management Outturn Report</b>  PDF 116 KB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#"><u>View the background to item 45.</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>View the decision for item 45.</u></a></li></ul> <p>To consider the report.</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#"><u>Appendix 1 SCC 2022-23 TM Outturn Report Final , item 45.</u></a> PDF 448 KB</li><li>• <a href="#"><u>Appendix 2 Mendip DC TM-Outturn-Report-2022-23 , item 45.</u></a> PDF 278 KB</li><li>• <a href="#"><u>Appendix 3 SDC TM Outturn report 2022-23 , item 45.</u></a> PDF 208 KB</li><li>• <a href="#"><u>Appendix 4 SWT Treasury Management Outturn Report 22-23 , item 45.</u></a> PDF 211 KB</li><li>• <a href="#"><u>Appendix 5 SSDC Treasury Management Performance 2022-23 , item 45.</u></a> PDF 381 KB</li></ul> <p><b>2023/24 Housing Revenue Account Report Q1</b>  PDF 3 MB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#"><u>View the background to item 46.</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>View the decision for item 46.</u></a></li></ul> <p>To consider the report.</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#"><u>General Exception Notice 26.9.23 , item 46.</u></a> PDF 208 KB</li></ul>
<p>November 2023</p>                <p>November 2023 Cont'd</p>	<p><b>General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring Report - Month 5</b>  PDF 1 MB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#"><u>View the background to item 61.</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>View the decision for item 61.</u></a></li></ul> <p><b>Financial Strategy Update</b>  PDF 607 KB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#"><u>View the background to item 62.</u></a></li><li>• <a href="#"><u>View the decision for item 62.</u></a></li></ul> <p>To consider the report.</p>

**Additional documents:**

- [Appendix 1 Letter to DLUHC , item 62.](#) PDF 232 KB
- [Appendix 2 Letter to CE , item 62.](#) PDF 160 KB
- [Appendix 3 17 Key Areas , item 62.](#) PDF 115 KB

**Policy for the Disposal of Assets** PDF 202 KB

- [View the background to item 64.](#)
- [View the decision for item 64.](#)

To consider the report.

**Additional documents:**

- [Appendix A - Disposal of Assets Process Map , item 64.](#) PDF 216 KB
- [Appendix B - Disposal of Assets Process Map - Small Sites , item 64.](#) PDF 73 KB
- [Policy for the Disposal of Assets , item 64.](#) PDF 2 MB
- [Supplement 4 - Key Decision report - Policy for the Disposal of Assets - Updated recommendation , item 64.](#) PDF 132 KB
- [Supplement 4 - Policy for the Disposals of Assets - update 7.11.23 , item 64.](#) PDF 2 MB

**December 2023**

- [Supplement 1 - agenda item 11 - 2024/25 General Fund Revenue Budget & Capital Programme update - Appendix 1](#) PDF 208 KB

**2023/24 General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring Report - Month 6 Q2** PDF 1 MB













- [View the background to item 74.](#)
- [View the decision for item 74.](#)

To consider this report.

**Additional documents:**

- [M6 Appendix 01 - Adult Services , item 74.](#) PDF 132 KB
- [M6 Appendix 02 - Children, Families & Education Services , item 74.](#) PDF 338 KB
- [M6 Appendix 03 - Community Services , item 74.](#) PDF 90 KB
- [M6 Appendix 04 - Climate & Place \(incl Accountable Bodies\) , item 74.](#) PDF 160 KB
- [M6 Appendix 05 - Strategy, Workforce and Localities , item 74.](#) PDF 94 KB

**December 2023 Cont'd**







	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are a further 5 documents.<a href="#">View the full list of documents for item 74.</a></li> </ul> <p><b><u>2023/24 General Fund Capital Budget Monitoring Report - Month 6 Q2</u></b>  PDF 2 MB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">View the background to item 75.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">View the decision for item 75.</a></li> </ul> <p>To consider this report.</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Appendix B 2023-24 GF Capital Budget Monitoring Executive Report - Month 6 (Qtr2) , item 75.</a>  PDF 279 KB</li> </ul> <p><b><u>2023/24 Housing Revenue Account Capital and Revenue Budget Monitoring Report Q2</u></b>  PDF 4 MB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">View the background to item 76.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">View the decision for item 76.</a></li> </ul> <p><b><u>2024/25 General Fund Revenue Budget &amp; Capital Programme update</u></b>  PDF 520 KB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">View the background to item 79.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">View the decision for item 79.</a></li> </ul> <p>To consider this report.</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Somerset Council Reserves (Amalgamation) , item 79.</a>  PDF 73 KB</li> </ul>
<p><b>January 2024</b></p>	<p><b><u>2023/24 General Fund Budget Monitoring Report - Month 7 - End of October 2023</u></b>  PDF 2 MB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">View the background to item 91.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">View the decision for item 91.</a></li> </ul> <p>To consider the report.</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">M7 Appendix 01 - Adult Services , item 91.</a>  PDF 616 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">M7 Appendix 02 - Children, Families &amp; Education Services , item 91.</a>  PDF 3 MB</li> <li>• <a href="#">M7 Appendix 03 - Community Services , item 91.</a>  PDF 347 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">M7 Appendix 04 - Climate &amp; Place (incl Accountable Bodies) , item 91.</a>  PDF 1 MB</li> <li>• <a href="#">M7 Appendix 05 - Strategy, Workforce and Localities , item 91.</a>  PDF 228 KB</li> <li>• There are a further 3 documents.<a href="#">View the full list of documents for item 91.</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>January 2024 Cont'd</b></p>	<p><b><u>2024/25 Budget and Somerset Council Vision update</u></b>  PDF 355 KB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">View the background to item 92.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">View the decision for item 92.</a></li> </ul>

	<p>To consider the report.</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Appendix 1 - Strategic Risks Associated with the Budget , item 92.</a> PDF 97 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">Appendix 2 - MTFP Forecast , item 92.</a> PDF 89 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">Appendix 3 - Provisional Finance Settlement , item 92.</a> PDF 101 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">Appendix 4 - Changes to Budgets 2023-24 to 2024-25 , item 92.</a> PDF 117 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">Appendix 5 - Council Tax Trends , item 92.</a> PDF 93 KB</li> <li>• There are a further 5 documents. <a href="#">View the full list of documents for item 92.</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>February 2024</b></p>	<p><b><u>2023/24 Budget Monitoring Report - Month 9 - End of December 2023 Q3</u></b> PDF 2 MB</p> <p>To consider the report.</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">M9 Appendix 01 - Adult Services , item 6.</a> PDF 156 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">M9 Appendix 02 - Children, Families &amp; Education Services , item 6.</a> PDF 499 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">M9 Appendix 03 - Community Services , item 6.</a> PDF 117 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">M9 Appendix 04 - Climate &amp; Place (incl Accountable Bodies) , item 6.</a> PDF 203 KB</li> <li>• <a href="#">M9 Appendix 05 - Strategy, Workforce and Localities , item 6.</a> PDF 104 KB</li> <li>• There are a further 5 documents. <a href="#">View the full list of documents for item 6.</a></li> </ul> <p><b><u>2023/24 Capital Budget Monitoring Report - Q3</u></b> PDF 2 MB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">View the background to item 7.</a></li> </ul> <p>To consider the report.</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">2023-24 GF Capital Budget Monitoring Executive Report - Month 9 (Qtr3) Appendix B , item 7.</a> PDF 181 KB</li> </ul>
<p><b>February 2024 Cont'd</b></p>	<p><b><u>2023/24 Housing Revenue Account Capital and Revenue Budget Monitoring Report Q3</u></b> PDF 5 MB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">View the background to item 8.</a></li> </ul> <p>To consider the report.</p> <p><b>Additional documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">General Exception Notice 30.1.24 , item 8.</a> PDF 227 KB</li> </ul>

### **2024/25 HRA Budget setting report** PDF 582 KB

- [View the background to item 9.](#)

#### **Additional documents:**

- [Appendix A - HRA Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan for 2024-25 , item 9.](#)  PDF 74 KB
- [Appendix B - Proposed Fees and Charges for Homes In Sedgemoor in 2024-25 , item 9.](#)  PDF 90 KB
- [Appendix C - Proposed Fees and Charges for the In-House Service for 2024-25 , item 9.](#)  PDF 205 KB
- [Appendix D - HRA 10-Year Capital Programme 2024-25 , item 9.](#)  PDF 145 KB
- [Appendix E - HRA Proposed Capital Budgets for 2024-25 and Capital Financing per Scheme , item 9.](#)  PDF 129 KB
- [Appendix F - Equality Impact Assessment 2024-25 , item 9.](#)  PDF 152 KB

### **2024/25 Treasury Management Strategy** PDF 6 MB

- [View the background to item 10.](#)

To consider the report.

### **2024/25 Capital Strategy** PDF 8 MB





- [View the background to item 11.](#)

### **2024/25 General Fund Capital Budget** PDF 3 MB

- [View the background to item 12.](#)

To consider the report.

#### **Additional documents:**

- [Capital Budget \(General Fund\) Appendix A , item 12.](#)  PDF 206 KB
- [Capital Budget \(General Fund\) Appendix B , item 12.](#)  PDF 94 KB
- [Capital Budget \(General Fund\) Appendix C , item 12.](#)  PDF 106 KB
- [General Exception Notice 30.1.24 , item 12.](#)  PDF 227 KB

### **2024/25 General Fund Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan** PDF 7 MB





- [View the background to item 13.](#)

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](#)

#### **Additional documents:**

- [Appendix 1 - MTFP Forecast , item 13.](#)  PDF 89 KB

**February  
2024 Cont'd**

- [Appendix 2 - Changes to Budgets 2023-24 to 2024-25 , item 13.](#)  PDF 111 KB
- [Appendix 3 - Provisional Finance Settlement , item 13.](#)  PDF 114 KB
- [Appendix 4 - Council Tax Trends , item 13.](#)  PDF 93 KB
- [Appendix 5 - Special Expenses , item 13.](#)  PDF 106 KB