

Record of URGENT Decision taken by Executive Councillor

Decision title: Submission of Stronger Somerset Proposal consultation feedback

Executive Councillor making the decision: Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts

Author Contact Details: Amy Tregellas

Date of Decision: 14 April 2021 (following Full Council endorsement)

Details of decision:

Leader approval of the Stronger Somerset proposal consultation feedback following the endorsement by Full Council on the 13 April 2021.

Reasons for proposed decision:

At the Full Council meeting on the 13 April 2021, the Council resolved to:

1. Endorse the submission of the response to the consultation, including the PA Consultancy professional experts critique attached as Appendix A and the Ipsos Mori Poll at Appendix B, on proposals for reform of local government in Somerset, specifically in respect of the One Somerset proposal.
2. Note that the decision to submit the consultation response requires an Executive decision to be made before final submission. Whilst this is legally an Executive decision, it is felt important that this is debated by Full Council to ensure transparency and openness. It is proposed that following Full Council's decision on whether or not to endorse the submission of the consultation response, the Leader of the Council will make the Executive decision to submit the consultation response to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government by the deadline of 19 April 2021.

Alternative funding options sourced:

Funding and financial implications as set out in the Full Council report.

The below has been completed:	Name(s)	Date
Relevant ward councillor(s) consulted	All councillors consulted through member briefing on 8 April and proposal considered by Full Council on 13 April 2021.	Various
The following are if appropriate / applicable: Yes/No. If yes the implications should be attached to this decision notice.		
Finance implications	As set out in Stronger	13 April

	Somerset Full Council report	2021
Legal implications	As set out in Stronger Somerset Full Council report	13 April 2021
Links to corporate aims	As set out in Stronger Somerset Full Council report	13 April 2021
Climate and Sustainability implications	As set out in Stronger Somerset Full Council report	13 April 2021
Community Safety Implications	As set out in Stronger Somerset Full Council report	13 April 2021
Equalities Impact	As set out in Stronger Somerset Full Council report	13 April 2021
Safeguarding Implications	As set out in Stronger Somerset Full Council report	13 April 2021
Risk management	As set out in Stronger Somerset Full Council report	13 April 2021
Partnership implications	As set out in Stronger Somerset Full Council report	13 April 2021

Any conflicts of interest declared by Leader or Executive Members consulted on the proposed decision. If Yes provide confirmation from Chief Executive to grant dispensation for the Leader's / Executive Member's views to be considered.

N/A

Decision Maker

I am aware of the details of this decision(s), considered the reasons, options, representations and consultation responses and give my approval / agreement to its implementation.

Signed:



Name: Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts

Date: 14 April 2021 (following endorsement by Full Council)

Note – This decision has been taken as a Special Urgent decision as per section 16 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules within the Somerset West and Taunton Council Constitution.

On the 13 April 2021, the Council resolved to:

1. Endorse the submission of the response to the consultation, including the PA Consultancy professional experts critique attached as Appendix A and Ipsos Mori Poll at Appendix B, on proposals for reform of local government in Somerset, specifically in respect of the One Somerset proposal.
2. Note that the decision to submit the consultation response requires an Executive decision to be made before final submission. Whilst this is legally an Executive decision, it is felt important that this is debated by Full Council to ensure transparency and openness. It is proposed that following Full Council's decision on whether or not to endorse the submission of the consultation response, the Leader of the Council will make the Executive decision to submit the consultation response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government by the deadline of 19 April 2021.

As the consultation response has to be submitted to the Secretary of State by the 19 April 2021, this constitutes an Urgent decision. 16.1 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules states that 'the decision can only be taken if the Leader or Chair of an Executive Committee or decision-maker (if an individual) obtains the agreement of the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee that the taking of the decision is urgent and cannot be reasonably deferred'. Cllr Wren has confirmed that he is in agreement with this being an urgent decision.

As per the Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15.8, The decision detailed above will come into force immediately as one of Special Urgency and is not subject to call-in by the Scrutiny Committee.

Note: A copy should also be sent to the Governance Team – governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk