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Date: Monday, 22 February 2021

**** Supplementary Dispatch**

To all Members of the Council

Dear Sir or Madam

Council – Tuesday, 23 February 2021

I refer to the agenda for the above Council meeting and attach the following item, marked 'to follow':

- 3. Petitions to be presented by Members (Standing Order No. 16)** (Pages 3 - 4)
A petition from Councillor James is attached.
- 14. Question Time (Standing Order No. 18)** (Pages 5 - 6)
Questions submitted and, where available, answers thereto are attached.
- 15. Report and matters referred from the Executive, 11 February 2021** (Pages 7 - 10)
The draft minute extracts from the Executive meeting marked 'to follow' on the agenda are attached..
- 16. Revenue Budget Update and Council Tax Setting 2021/22** (Pages 11 - 28)

An update report which includes the precept from the Police and Crime Commissioner is attached.

The Chairman will be asked to rule that the update report be considered as urgent because it is necessary to consider this information at the meeting so that the Council can approve a budget and set a council tax within the statutory timescale, and the information required from all the other precepting authorities was not available at the time of publication.

Yours faithfully

Assistant Director Governance and Monitoring Officer

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[images are purely for illustrative purposes and are not proposed designs]

Rainbow Crossing on Portishead High Street

Submitted to North Somerset Full Council on Tuesday, 23 February 2021, 6.00pm by Cllr Huw James, Portishead South

We want Portishead to be an inclusive town, where LGBTQ residents feel safe and welcome.

There's no place for hate in Portishead. This would be a meaningful visual symbol that people in Portishead stand for equality and that LGBTQ people are not alone.

The crossing will brighten people's day and be a way of celebrating diversity in Portishead and raising awareness about the issues still faced by the lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or trans+ (LGBT+) community, all over the world. We support the creation of rainbow crossings across North Somerset wherever communities could benefit from them.

We the undersigned call on North Somerset Council and Portishead Town Council to replace the crossing on Portishead High Street with a Rainbow Crossing.

570 Signatories have been received, the names and address have been shared with North Somerset Council redacted for this public document.

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Council Meeting

23 February 2021

Questions Submitted by Councillors under Question Time (agenda item 14)

1. Question from Cllr Keating to Cllr Davies, Leader of the Council

“Will members of the Council be able to see the economic impact assessment that supports North Somerset's decision to support the bid for a Bristol Freeport, particularly around the job creation numbers which have been challenged by independent experts?”

Response from Cllr Davies

“The Greater Western Freeport proposal was submitted on 5th of February following collaborative work by North Somerset, WECA and the constituent authorities and our neighbours in Sedgemoor. The proposal was supported by the West of England and Heart of South West Local Economic Partnerships. Land within the J21 Enterprise Area in Weston sits at the heart of the proposal and we hope that this could lead to substantial investment in North Somerset.

The forecast gross value added and employment growth assumptions within the Free Port area estimates the direct employment capacity of the identified sites, adjusted for the economic sectors that are promoted. The proposal also used findings from regional economic impact model developed by expert economists at University of Plymouth to estimate the additional indirect and induced economic activity from the impact on the wider supply chain.

If Ministers support the initial proposal, then it will pass through to a detailed business case phase and there will be opportunity for members to engage in more detailed economic modelling as part of this process.”

2. Question from Cllr Keating to Cllr Solomon, Executive Member for Communities, Tourism and Leisure

“What steps have been taken to ensure a viable future for Churchill Sports Centre? The Council has found funds to support Backwell Leisure Centre, and to dredge the marine lakes in the towns - is it not fair that vital sports facilities in the villages are also supported?”

Response from Cllr Solomon

“The council is currently looking at the different options for a sustainable way to re-open the sports centre in the future; any costs associated with the options will be explored.

A local working party and other interested partners are working with the council to discuss ideas and opportunities for the centre.”

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Executive

11 February 2021

Draft Extract

EXE Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22 (Agenda Item 17) **77**

Councillor Cartman presented the Council's treasury management strategy for the 2021/22 financial year which incorporates the financial planning assumptions used in the financing of the capital programme, as referenced later on the agenda.

All the finance reports were discussed together en bloc (see minute no. EXE 76 above).

Recommended to Council:

- (1) the Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22, as shown in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved, which includes the requirement to borrow up to £95.561m during the period 2020-2025 as funding for the approved capital programme;
- (2) that the Prudential Indicators for 2021/22, as shown in Appendix 2 of the report, be approved; and
- (3) that the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2021/22, as shown in Appendix 3 of the report, be approved.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

EXE 78 Capital Strategy 2021-2025 and Capital Budget 2021/22 (Agenda Item 18)

Councillor Cartman presented the Capital Strategy and budget, outlining the council's approach to capital investment over the short, medium and longer term and providing a high-level overview of how capital expenditure activity contributes to the provision of local public services within the area.

All the finance reports were discussed together en bloc (see minute no. EXE 76 above).

Recommended to Council:

(1) that the capital strategy 2021/22 to 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved;

(2) that an increase to the capital programme of £110.737m for a range of transport, housing, school and social care schemes as detailed in section 4.4 and table 3 of the report be approved, subject to confirmation of grant funding allocations; and

(3) that an increase to the capital programme of £8.810m for a range of new investment priorities as detailed in section 4.5 and Table 5 of the report be approved.

It was further

Resolved:

(1) that the borrowing impact within the capital programme of £95.561m up to 2025 be noted;

(2) that approval for the detailed highways schemes be delegated to the Executive Member for Planning, Highways and Transport; and

(3) that the amendments to the capital budget for the current year 2020/21, as detailed in Appendix 4 and summarised in table 1 of section 4.3 of the report, be approved.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

EXE 79 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and Revenue Budget 2021/22 (Agenda Item 19)

Councillor Cartman presented the report, providing an overview of proposed investments in priority areas of focus for the Executive which aimed to deliver tangible benefits to residents through improving local amenities and access to them, and also to businesses and the wider community through providing targeted support and facilitating recovery plans. The report finalises the MTFP planning assumptions and recommends a final revenue budget to Council for 2021/22 in readiness for setting the council tax charges for the year ahead.

All the finance reports were discussed together en bloc (see minute no. EXE 76 above).

Resolved:

- (1) that the updated revenue and capital budget forecasts in respect of the 2020/21 financial year, as detailed within section 3.1 of the report, be noted;
- (2) that the Equality Impact Assessment report attached at Appendix 6 of the report be noted, and members familiarise themselves with the published Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) that underpin the 2021/22 budget savings plans;
- (3) that the statement of the Chief Finance Officer on the adequacy of reserves and the robustness of the budget as detailed in section 3.10 of the report be noted;
- (4) that the required changes to staffing schedules where specific provision has been included within the MTFP growth allocations be approved; and
- (5) that a working capital loan facility be arranged with North Somerset Environment Company as detailed in section 3.12 of the report, and authority be delegated to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Director of Corporate Services, to agree the amount and terms of the loan.

It was further

Recommended to Council:

- (1) that a revenue budget for 2021/22 as detailed within the report be approved;
- (2) that a council tax increase of 1.99% for 2021/22 be approved; and
- (3) that an adult social care precept of 3% on the council tax for 2021/22 be approved.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the report and discussed above.

Alternative options considered and rejected:
As set out in the report and discussed above.

North Somerset Council

Report to the Council

Date of Meeting: 23 February 2021

Subject of Report: Revenue Budget Update and Council Tax Setting for 2021/22 – UPDATE REPORT following receipt of the precept from the Police and Crime Commissioner

Town or Parish: All

Officer/Member Presenting: Councillor Ashley Cartman, Executive Member for Finance and Performance

Key Decision: N/A

Reason: Not an Executive Decision

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Approves the 2021/22 net revenue budget for North Somerset Council services of £171.317m; and the Council Tax Requirement of £177.423m being the value including town and parish council precepts, as set out in Appendix 1.
2. Approves the directorate gross income and expenditure budget allocations as detailed in the body of the report and as set out in Appendix 1.
3. Approves the council tax charges for 2021/22 in accordance with the formal Resolution as set out in Appendix 2;
 - a. which provides for an average Band D council tax charge in respect of North Somerset Council services for 2021/22 of £1,504.03, plus special expenses, where such charges apply, giving an overall charge of £1,505.03
 - b. and provides for other major preceptors being, the Avon Fire Authority, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset and the town and parish councils

This represents an increase of 1.99% on the general level council tax, and a 3% charge in respect of an adult social care precept.

4. Approves the refreshed Pay Policy for 2021/22 in accordance with the details set out in Appendix 5.

1. Summary of Report

This report provides details of the final North Somerset Council revenue budget and sets out the framework required to report the resultant recommended level of council tax for the financial year 2021/22.

North Somerset Council is the billing authority for the North Somerset area and must therefore arrange to set a **total** council tax charge which includes the following component parts;

- Precept for North Somerset Council – as noted above
- Precepts and Special Expense charges for Local Town Councils
- Precept from Avon Fire Authority
- Precept from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset

The Police and Crime Commissioner precept was approved on 19 February and this revised report includes all relevant updates.

2. Policy

The Local Government Finance Act 1992 (Section 30) requires the North Somerset Council to set a balanced budget before the 11 March in the financial year, preceding the year-ahead. The budget must be supported by detailed estimates of its expenditure for the coming year and of the resources that will be available to meet this expenditure. The resources not only include income from rents, fees and charges and any available balances, but also external grant income and collection fund precepts.

Section 40 of the 1992 Act requires all major precepting authorities to issue a precept on the Collection Fund before 1 March in the financial year, preceding the year-ahead.

As the billing authority for the area of North Somerset, the Council is required to set a council tax for each category of dwelling in its area, for the financial year commencing on 1 April 2021.

The Localism Act 2011 made significant changes to the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and requires the billing authority to calculate a Council Tax Requirement for the year.

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 further amended The Localism Act 2011 and requires that levies are included in the calculation of the 'Relevant Basic Amount' which determines whether council tax has risen sufficiently to trigger a referendum.

3. Details

3.1 Proposed Revenue Budget for North Somerset Council 2021/22

A report on the council's draft revenue budget 2021/22 was considered by the Executive at its meeting on the 11 February 2021.

The draft revenue budget, excluding the town and parish council precepts, totalled £171.315m, and was fully financed by resources thereby presenting a balanced budget for the forthcoming financial year.

Members will recall that the resources included within the draft revenue budget reflected the council's funding allocations as detailed within the *provisional* local government finance settlement, which were released in December 2020.

The report also recommended that Council increase council tax by 1.99% in 2021/22 to help meet the increasing demand and costs of front-line council services, and also that Council approve a 3% Adult Social Care Precept for 2021/22 to contribute towards meeting the growth and increasing costs of adult social care.

3.2 Changes to the Revenue Budget

There have been no material changes to the value of the council's revenue budget for next year, although there are some minor roundings to previously estimated values, as well as some presentational changes due to the realignment of resources across council wide services.

The final revenue budget for **North Somerset Council services will be £171.317m**, and £177.423m, including the town and parish council precepts.

The allocation of this net budget sum across services areas is presented within Appendix 1, along with further information on the council's funding sources.

3.3 Final Local Government Finance Settlement

The finance settlement for local government broadly comprises of the general grants such as the Revenue Support Grant and New Homes Bonus as well as other specific grant funding allocated by the government for important service priorities such as adult social care. It is also used to confirm the council tax referendum principles for the year ahead.

An indicative or provisional settlement is usually issued in December each year, with the final settlement being released or debated by the government in January or February.

The final settlement was published on 4 February 2021 via a written statement to Parliament and these do not propose any material change from the provisional settlement in respect of the referendum principles or resource allocations.

As a result the specific grant allocations for North Somerset remain the same as those included within the budget report presented to the Executive at the meeting on 11 February.

3.4 Components of the Revenue Budget for North Somerset Council

As noted above, the total **net budget of £171.317m** for 2021/22 has been allocated to services. The council is required to gross up all of its budgets when setting its council tax for the year ahead and include these totals within the formal council tax Resolution. The allocations of the council's gross and net budgets are shown the table below.

REVENUE BUDGET			
	2021/22 Net Budget £	Gross Expend £	Gross Income £
Adult Social Services	67,904,835	105,505,061	-37,600,226
Children's Services	26,511,517	34,807,812	-8,296,295
Schools Budgets	0	52,735,647	-52,735,647
Place	29,495,750	53,850,512	-24,354,762
Corporate Services	25,729,629	82,045,395	-56,315,766
Public Health & Regulatory Services	910,726	11,718,555	-10,807,829
Capital Financing and Interest	10,674,000	14,761,840	-4,087,840
Other, including Non Service & Contingency	9,143,344	10,440,324	-1,296,980
Sub Total - North Somerset Council Services	170,369,801	365,865,146	-195,495,345
Special Expenses	79,190	187,150	-107,960
Levy - Environment Agency	293,268	293,268	0
Special Levy - Drainage Boards	575,127	575,127	0
Sub Total - Expenses and Levies	947,585	1,055,545	-107,960
Total - North Somerset Council Services	171,317,386	366,920,691	-195,603,305
Town and Parish Precepts	6,106,047	6,106,047	0
TOTAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT 2021/22	177,423,433	373,026,738	-195,603,305

3.5 Levies

The council's proposed revenue budget includes the levies of the Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Boards, the costs of which sit outside of the council's direct control.

The table below shows that there have been relatively small increases in these anticipated charges year-on-year, although the reduction in the tax base means that the average charge per Band D property arising from these changes appears larger.

Levies and Precepts (£)	2020/21		2021/22	
	Levy	Band D charge	Levy	Band D charge
Environment Agency Levy	288,410	3.64	293,268	3.72
Internal Drainage Boards	560,645	7.08	575,127	7.30
Totals	849,055	10.72	868,395	11.03
Taxbase	79,185.1		78,738.9	

The council is required to show these amounts separately because in order for the government to determine whether an authority has approved a council tax rise which necessitates the requirement for a local referendum, it includes these levy requests within its formal calculations. This calculation is known as the Relevant Basic Amount (RBA).

3.6 North Somerset Council Tax Requirement

The net revenue budget presented to Council for approval for North Somerset Council, including the precepts for town and parish councils and special expenses, totals

£177,423,433. These values form the Budget Requirement and are used in the statutory calculation of the council's precept on the Council Tax Collection Fund.

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL PRECEPT ON THE COLLECTION FUND		
	£	£
North Somerset Council's Budget Requirement		170,369,801
Special Expenses for the District		79,190
Special Levy - Environment Agency		293,268
Special Levy - Drainage Board		575,127
Parish & Town Councils Precepts		6,106,047
Sub Total - Net Expenditure incl Special Expenses and Levies		177,423,433
<u>Less:</u>		
Retained Business Rates	31,261,923	
Tariff / Top-Up	2,652,046	
Revenue Support Grant	2,179,028	
New Homes Bonus Grant	1,381,903	
S31 Business Rates Small Business Relief Grant	2,880,565	
S31 Business Rates Threshold Grant	1,767,061	
S31 Business Rates Other Grant	6,724	
Adult Social Care Support Grant	5,807,255	
Lower Tier Services Grant	212,798	
Covid Support Grant	4,974,841	
Covid Council Tax Support Grant	1,921,976	
Est Debit Balance on the Collection Fund - Council Tax	-1,045,000	
Est Debit Balance on the Collection Fund - Business Rates	-13,688,859	
Contribution from Collection Fund Smoothing Reserve	14,176,242	
Contribution to Council Tax Support Costs	-1,921,976	
Contribution from Covid Collection Fund Smoothing Reserve	245,667	
Sub total - financing resources		52,812,194
North Somerset's Precept on the Collection Fund		124,611,239
Tax Base 2021/22	78,738.9	
North Somerset and Town and Parish Precept Band D Council Tax		1,582.58
North Somerset Precept Band D Council Tax for referendum purposes (excl Parishes and Special Expenses)		1,505.03

3.7 Precepts from Other Bodies

In its role as the billing authority, the council is also required to collect the council tax requirement of other precepting authorities who use this money to fund their budgets. Further information from major preceptors on how their budgets are made up will be included within the council tax leaflet, which will be available on the council's website in March.

Information on each of the major precepting bodies is shown below:

- Appendix 3 provides a full listing of all **town and parish precepts** which total £6,106,047.14. The average Band D town and parish precept has risen from £76.27 to £77.55, an increase of 1.68% from 2020/21.

There are three town or parish councils within the listing which have percentage increases on their precepts which are greater than 10%, although none of the cash increases are considered material. These are:

- Barrow Gurney £ 10,200 £ 13,500 +£ 3,300 / + 32.4%
- Clapton-in-Gordano £ 5,900 £ 6,500 +£ 600 / + 10.2%
- Walton-in-Gordano £ 4,995 £ 5,556 +£ 561 / + 11.2%

Town and parish council precepts are currently not subject to any form of capping although this is a position which is reviewed by the government on an annual basis as part of the local government finance settlement considerations.

- The **Avon Fire Authority** approved their precept of £6,018,014 on the 10th February 2021, giving a Band D precept of £76.43, this being an increase of £1.49, or 1.99% from 2020/21.
- The **Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset** approved their precept of £18,991,823 on 19th February 2021, giving a Band D precept of £241.20, this being an increase of £13.39, or 5.88% from 2020/21.

3.8 Council Tax Proposals

The **draft** council tax charge for a Band D property is shown below; this will include the annual charge for North Somerset Council services, as well as those on behalf of other preceptors.

COUNCIL TAX COMPONENTS				
	2020/21 £	2021/22 £	Movement	
			£	%
North Somerset Council	1,296.81	1,325.03		
Adult Social Care Precept	124.97	167.98		
Special Expenses	1.00	1.00		
Levy - Environment Agency	3.64	3.72		
Special Levy - Internal Drainage Boards	7.08	7.30		
Sub-total - North Somerset Council	1,433.50	1,505.03	71.53	4.99%
Town and Parish Council Precepts	76.27	77.55	1.28	1.67%
Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon & Somerset	227.81	241.20	13.39	5.88%
Avon Fire Authority	74.94	76.43	1.49	1.99%
Total Band D Council Tax	1,812.52	1,900.21	87.68	4.84%

The table above indicates that the council's 2021/22 Band D charge, including special expenses, will be £1,505.03, the 2020/21 figure was £1,433.50. This reflects a general council tax increase of 1.99%, which is within the 2% referendum limit and also an increase of 3% in respect of the Adult Social Care Precept.

The Band D charges from other preceptors is also shown to provide a total level of charge.

Appendix 4 contains details of the draft total council tax requirement for each town and parish precept over the banding groups.. These figures may be subject to roundings, which may occur due to the number of elements that make up the figures.

3.9 Special Expenses

Special expense charges take account of functions carried out by Towns but undertaken by the District council in Town areas. To ensure that taxpayers in the district do not suffer 'double taxation', the costs of the functions are removed from the overall council budget and then allocated to the specific town areas. For 2021/22 only the areas of Clevedon and Portishead will operate special expenses.

3.10 Pay Policy 2021/22

The council understands the importance of ensuring good two-way communications and engagements with staff especially during periods of major change, whether this be through the continued transfer of schools to Academy status or opting for different service delivery models.

Given the scale of the council's financial challenge it is possible that the council's workforce may reduce in some areas over the period of the MTFP, including, in some cases, transferring services to other organisations. We remain committed to do all that we reasonably can to mitigate the need for job losses including, if possible, through redeployment and retraining. Staff and trade unions will continue to be fully informed and consulted over any budget proposals involving a workforce reduction.

The council updated and approved its Pay Policy Statement in February 2021 for the 2021/22 financial year (subject to any changes being imposed at a national level) and this provides details of the pay policies in place for the council's non-school workforce. The Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22 is attached at Appendix 5.

4. Consultation

The council tax setting report is the statutory report required to be considered by full Council following the approval of the revenue budget, and prior to the start of the financial year. The revenue budget and medium-term financial plan has been subject to ongoing consultation and scrutiny, further details are contained within previous financial reports.

5. Financial Implications

Financial implications are contained throughout the report, and other supporting reports as details under background papers below.

6. Legal Powers and Implications

The Local Government Act 1972 lays down the fundamental principle by providing that every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs, although further details and requirements are contained within related local government finance legislation including those Acts cited above. The setting of the council's budget and the resultant council tax levels for the forthcoming year is an integral part of the financial administration process.

7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

Climate and environmental related implications continue to be at the forefront of the council's thinking when considering the underlying Corporate Plan and service policies and priorities, as well as detailed investment and savings options.

Specific provision has been made within both the revenue and capital budgets for next year, details of which can be found within the relevant reports presented to the Executive at the meeting in February 2021.

8. Risk Management

In setting the revenue and capital budgets, the council takes full account of the known key financial risks that may affect its plans. The most significant financial risks are either being explicitly provided for in the base budget or are covered by either the unallocated contingency budget, the Corporate Risk Reserve or Working Balances.

The residual uncertainty of local government finance including business rate retention and the fair funding review and the current wider economic conditions attracts a high degree of risk in terms of medium-term financial planning, although clearly the ongoing impacts of the pandemic present a more immediate concern. The government has provided funding to the council for next year to address some of these issues although whether this is sufficient remains to be seen as there are still many uncertainties in this area.

Officers will continue to test the impact of varying key assumptions in the medium-term financial strategy to assess the sensitivity of the indicative budget figures. This informs decisions about the level of working balances needed to provide assurance as to the robustness of the budget estimates.

A detailed assurance statement from the council's Section 151 Officer, covering both a review on the robustness of the proposed revenue budget for 2021/22 and also an assessment on the adequacy of council's reserves, is shown in Appendix 7 of the revenue budget report, which was considered by the Executive at the meeting on 11 February 2021.

A financial risk register linked to the council's medium-term financial considerations is continually reviewed and updated, with impacts reported to the Corporate Leadership Team. The council also faces a wide range of other financial risks, for example, those linked to the capital investment programme and associated financing resources, although these are considered and reflected within the relevant risk register.

9. Equality Implications

Budget proposals included within the recommended budget have been analysed by officers for any equality implications and details of this process and the individual Equality Impact Assessments and any specific implications were published within the Medium Term Financial Plan and 2021/22 Revenue Budget report to the Executive on the 11 February 2021.

10. Corporate Implications

The Corporate Plan and MTFP are vital tools to help align effort across the organisation and ensure that services are all pulling in the same direction. With continuing financial pressures and uncertainty in terms of future funding allocations, it is essential that the councils' limited resources continue to be prioritised and allocated in line with the identified priorities.

11. Options Considered

The council is required to formally approve a revenue and capital budget for 2021/22. This could be undertaken as a stand-alone annual process however, we have adopted, and will try to maintain a multi-year funding horizon and MTFP period which sets the context in which annual budgets are set although this does recognise some of the uncertainties regarding future government funding levels.

Authors:

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Proposed Revenue Budget 2021/22

Appendix 2 Council Tax Resolution 2021/22

Appendix 3 Town and Parish Council Precepts 2021/22

Appendix 4 Band Charges per Town and Parish Council 2021/22

Appendix 5 Pay Policy Statement 2021/22

Background Papers:

1. Council Tax Base Setting 2021/22 – CSD088
2. MTFP Update and Revenue Budget 2021/22 – Executive, 11 February 2021
3. Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22 – Executive, 11 February 2021
4. Capital Strategy 2021-2025 and Capital Budget 2021/22 – Executive, 11 February 2021

APPENDIX 1

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL REVENUE BUDGET 2021/22

	MTFP Net Budget - February Executive £000	Budget Movements			2021/22 Target Budget £000	2021/22 Net Revenue Budget £000
		Levies & Precepts £000	Funding for Childrens Services £000	Other Budget Changes £000		
Adult Social Services	67,525	0	0	380	67,905	67,905
Children's Services	26,487	0	25	0	26,512	26,512
Schools Budgets	0	0	0	0	0	0
Place	29,620	-69	0	-55	29,496	29,496
Corporate Services	25,690	-10	0	49	25,730	25,730
Public Health & Regulatory Services	1,284	0	0	-374	911	911
Capital Financing and Interest	10,674	0	0	0	10,674	10,674
Other, including Non Service & Contingency	10,034	-868	-25	3	9,143	9,143
Sub Total - North Somerset Council Services	171,315	-948	0	3	170,370	170,370
Special Expenses	0	79	0	0	79	79
Levy - Environment Agency	0	293	0	0	293	293
Special Levy - Drainage Boards	0	575	0	0	575	575
Sub Total - Expenses and Levies	0	948	0	0	948	948
Total - North Somerset Council Services	171,315	0	0	3	171,317	171,317
Town and Parish Council Precepts	0	6,106	0	0	6,106	6,106
TOTAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT 2021/22	171,315	6,106	0	3	177,423	177,423

Financing Resources;						
- Govt Grant - Revenue Support Grant	-2,179	0	0	0	-2,179	-2,179
- Govt Grant - Business Rates S31 Small Bus Rate Relief	-2,881	0	0	0	-2,881	-2,881
- Govt Grant - Business Rates S31 Threshold Grant	-1,767	0	0	0	-1,767	-1,767
- Govt Grant - Business Rates S31 Other Grant	-7	0	0	0	-7	-7
- Govt Grant - Business Rates Top Up	-2,652	0	0	0	-2,652	-2,652
- Govt Grant - New Homes Bonus Grant	-1,382	0	0	0	-1,382	-1,382
- Govt Grant - Adult Social Care Support Grant	-5,807	0	0	0	-5,807	-5,807
- Govt Grant - Lower Tier Services Grant	-213	0	0	0	-213	-213
- Govt Grant - Covid Support Grant	-4,975	0	0	0	-4,975	-4,975
- Govt Grant - Covid Council Tax Support Grant	-1,922	0	0	0	-1,922	-1,922
- Contribution to Council Tax Support Costs	1,922	0	0	0	1,922	1,922
- Council Tax Income	-115,116	0	0	-2	-115,119	-115,119
- Council Tax Income - ASC Precept	-3,386	0	0	-1	-3,387	-3,387
- Business Rates Income	-31,262	0	0	0	-31,262	-31,262
- Use of other EM Reserves - 2020/21 Tax Income Guarantee	-246	0	0	0	-246	-246
- Use of EM Reserves - 2020/21 Business Rates deficit	-14,176	0	0	0	-14,176	-14,176
- Collection Fund (Surplus) / Deficit	14,734	0	0	0	14,734	14,734
Sub Total - North Somerset Council Servs	-171,315	0	0	-3	-171,317	-171,317
Town and Parish Council Precepts	0	-6,106	0	0	-6,106	-6,106
TOTAL FINANCING RESOURCES 2021/22	-171,315	-6,106	0	-3	-177,423	-177,423

COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

The Council is recommended to resolve as follows:

- 1 It be noted that on 31st January 2021 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base for 2021/22:
 - (a) for the whole Council area as **78,738.9** [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")] and ,
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached Appendix B.
- 2 Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2021/22 (excluding Parish precepts and Special Levies) is **£118,505,192**
- 3 That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2021/22 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

a	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils (<i>Gross Expenditure</i>)	373,026,738
b	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act (<i>Gross Income</i>)	248,415,499
c	Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act). (<i>North Somerset Council Tax Requirement, inc. special expenses, town and parish precepts and special levies</i>)	124,611,239
d	Being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts). (<i>Band D Council Tax for North Somerset Council including an average of special expenses and town and parish precepts</i>)	1,582.58
e	Being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix C) (<i>Area related expenditure, i.e. town and parish precepts and special expenses</i>)	Precepts 6,106,047.14 Spec Exp 79,190.00 6,185,237.14
f	Being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precepts relates. (<i>The Band "D" amount for North Somerset Council excluding "area" related expenditure, i.e. special expenses and town and parish council precepts</i>)	1,504.03
g	The amount of Special Expenses (expressed in Band D)	1.00
h	The total Relevant Basic Amount for North Somerset Council	1,505.03

4 Precepting Authorities

To note that the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area, as shown in the table below

Precepting Authority	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Police & Crime Commissioner	160.80	187.60	214.40	241.20	294.80	348.40	402.00	482.40
Fire Authority	50.95	59.45	67.94	76.43	93.41	110.40	127.38	152.86

- 5 That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table on the following page, as the amounts of Council Tax for 2021/22 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.
- 6 The Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2021/22 is not determined to be excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

LOCAL COUNCIL PRECEPTS 2021/22

2020/21 Precept £	Local Council	2021/22 Precept Requested £	Band 'D' Equivalent Properties	Local Council Tax Element per Band 'D' Property £	Local Tax 2020/21 £	% Incr / (Dec) %
30,500.00	Abbots Leigh	30,570.00	433.3	70.55	70.59	(0.05)
136,683.00	Backwell	134,035.00	1,987.0	67.46	69.33	(2.70)
93,908.00	Banwell	93,908.00	1,093.1	85.91	84.30	1.91
10,200.00	Barrow Gurney	13,500.00	226.8	59.52	44.27	34.46
42,500.00	Blagdon	42,000.00	515.2	81.52	81.95	(0.52)
50,000.00	Bleadon	50,000.00	543.5	92.00	90.48	1.68
5,000.00	Brockley	5,500.00	140.3	39.20	36.31	7.96
3,000.00	Burrington	3,000.00	258.3	11.61	11.47	1.26
3,000.00	Butcombe	3,150.00	110.7	28.46	26.69	6.61
67,578.00	Churchill	69,022.00	1,052.8	65.56	65.61	(0.08)
5,900.00	Clapton-in-Gordano	6,500.00	185.4	35.06	31.10	12.73
16,329.37	Cleeve	16,655.95	380.5	43.77	43.15	1.45
376,761.00	Clevedon	372,761.00	7,819.4	47.67	47.67	0.00
114,581.70	Congresbury	115,726.81	1,448.9	79.87	80.19	(0.40)
11,925.00	Dundry	12,160.00	398.3	30.53	29.95	1.94
26,500.00	Flax Bourton	28,904.22	359.2	80.47	73.61	9.32
92,291.00	Hutton	99,063.00	1,070.4	92.55	85.18	8.65
6,300.00	Kenn	6,000.00	195.5	30.69	31.91	(3.82)
46,000.00	Kewstoke	46,000.00	692.9	66.39	66.72	(0.50)
11,230.00	Kingston Seymour	11,320.00	183.6	61.66	61.07	0.96
106,000.00	Locking	106,000.00	1,304.7	81.24	85.78	(5.29)
188,000.00	Long Ashton	187,250.00	2,730.9	68.57	68.55	0.03
3,250.00	Loxton & Christon	3,500.00	97.0	36.08	33.47	7.81
500,038.00	Nailsea	525,040.00	6,173.0	85.05	79.94	6.40
105,310.00	Pill & Easton-in-Gordano	107,202.00	1,772.4	60.48	59.27	2.05
787,860.00	Portishead	775,290.00	10,283.0	75.40	75.40	(0.01)
28,866.50	Portbury	28,905.50	444.7	65.00	65.00	0.00
7,770.00	Puxton	8,432.00	142.4	59.21	58.25	1.65
18,165.00	St. Georges	18,165.00	1,121.2	16.20	16.00	1.26
7,730.61	Tickenham	8,503.66	459.1	18.52	16.57	11.78
4,995.00	Walton-in-Gordano	5,556.00	144.6	38.42	34.66	10.86
6,500.00	Weston-in-Gordano	6,500.00	147.4	44.10	43.19	2.10
2,567,270.00	Weston-super-Mare	2,587,982.00	25,850.6	100.11	98.37	1.77
17,000.00	Wick St. Lawrence	17,000.00	551.2	30.84	30.70	0.46
27,500.00	Winford	27,500.00	996.3	27.60	27.18	1.55
149,000.00	Winscombe & Sandford	155,000.00	2,113.6	73.33	71.86	2.05
44,631.00	Wraxall & Failand	44,631.00	1,152.9	38.71	38.34	0.97
98,000.00	Wroughton	107,000.00	1,233.0	86.78	80.31	8.06
221,563.00	Yatton	226,814.00	2,925.8	77.52	77.52	0.00
6,039,636.18		6,106,047.14	78,738.9	77.55		

LOCAL COUNCIL BANDINGS 2021/22

Town and Parish	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
Abbots Leigh	1,261.47	1,471.72	1,681.97	1,892.21	2,312.70	2,733.19	3,153.68	3,784.42
Backwell	1,259.41	1,469.32	1,679.22	1,889.12	2,308.92	2,728.72	3,148.53	3,778.24
Banwell	1,271.71	1,483.67	1,695.62	1,907.57	2,331.47	2,755.37	3,179.28	3,815.14
Barrow Gurney	1,254.12	1,463.14	1,672.17	1,881.18	2,299.22	2,717.25	3,135.30	3,762.36
Blagdon	1,268.79	1,480.25	1,691.72	1,903.18	2,326.11	2,749.03	3,171.97	3,806.36
Bleadon	1,275.77	1,488.41	1,701.04	1,913.66	2,338.91	2,764.17	3,189.43	3,827.32
Brockley	1,240.57	1,447.34	1,654.10	1,860.86	2,274.38	2,687.90	3,101.43	3,721.72
Burrington	1,222.18	1,425.88	1,629.58	1,833.27	2,240.66	2,648.05	3,055.45	3,666.54
Butcombe	1,233.41	1,438.99	1,644.56	1,850.12	2,261.25	2,672.39	3,083.53	3,700.24
Churchill	1,258.15	1,467.84	1,677.54	1,887.22	2,306.60	2,725.98	3,145.37	3,774.44
Clapton-In-Gordano	1,237.81	1,444.12	1,650.42	1,856.72	2,269.32	2,681.92	3,094.53	3,713.44
Cleeve	1,243.62	1,450.89	1,658.17	1,865.43	2,279.97	2,694.50	3,109.05	3,730.86
Clevedon	1,249.31	1,457.53	1,665.75	1,873.96	2,290.39	2,706.83	3,123.27	3,747.92
Congresbury	1,267.69	1,478.97	1,690.26	1,901.53	2,324.09	2,746.65	3,169.22	3,803.06
Dundry	1,234.79	1,440.60	1,646.40	1,852.19	2,263.78	2,675.38	3,086.98	3,704.38
Flax Bourton	1,268.09	1,479.44	1,690.79	1,902.13	2,324.82	2,747.51	3,170.22	3,804.26
Hutton	1,276.14	1,488.83	1,701.53	1,914.21	2,339.59	2,764.96	3,190.35	3,828.42
Kenn	1,234.90	1,440.72	1,646.54	1,852.35	2,263.98	2,675.61	3,087.25	3,704.70
Kewstoke	1,258.70	1,468.49	1,678.27	1,888.05	2,307.61	2,727.18	3,146.75	3,776.10
Kingston Seymour	1,255.55	1,464.81	1,674.07	1,883.32	2,301.83	2,720.34	3,138.87	3,766.64
Locking	1,268.60	1,480.04	1,691.47	1,902.90	2,325.76	2,748.63	3,171.50	3,805.80
Long Ashton	1,260.15	1,470.18	1,680.21	1,890.23	2,310.28	2,730.33	3,150.38	3,780.46
Loxton	1,238.49	1,444.91	1,651.33	1,857.74	2,270.57	2,683.40	3,096.23	3,715.48
Nailsea	1,271.14	1,483.00	1,694.86	1,906.71	2,330.42	2,754.13	3,177.85	3,813.42
Pill & Easton-In-Gordano	1,254.76	1,463.89	1,673.02	1,882.14	2,300.39	2,718.64	3,136.90	3,764.28
Portishead	1,267.50	1,478.74	1,690.00	1,901.24	2,323.74	2,746.23	3,168.74	3,802.48
Portbury	1,257.77	1,467.41	1,677.04	1,886.66	2,305.91	2,725.17	3,144.43	3,773.32
Puxton	1,253.91	1,462.90	1,671.89	1,880.87	2,298.84	2,716.81	3,134.78	3,761.74
St Georges	1,225.24	1,429.45	1,633.66	1,837.86	2,246.27	2,654.68	3,063.10	3,675.72
Tickenham	1,226.79	1,431.25	1,635.72	1,840.18	2,249.11	2,658.03	3,066.97	3,680.36
Walton-In-Gordano	1,240.05	1,446.73	1,653.41	1,860.08	2,273.43	2,686.78	3,100.13	3,720.16
Weston-In-Gordano	1,243.84	1,451.15	1,658.46	1,865.76	2,280.37	2,694.98	3,109.60	3,731.52
Weston-S-Mare	1,281.18	1,494.71	1,708.25	1,921.77	2,348.83	2,775.88	3,202.95	3,843.54
Wick St Lawrence	1,235.00	1,440.84	1,646.67	1,852.50	2,264.16	2,675.83	3,087.50	3,705.00
Winford	1,232.84	1,438.32	1,643.79	1,849.26	2,260.20	2,671.15	3,082.10	3,698.52
Winscombe	1,263.33	1,473.88	1,684.44	1,894.99	2,316.10	2,737.20	3,158.32	3,789.98
Wraxall & Failand	1,240.25	1,446.96	1,653.67	1,860.37	2,273.78	2,687.19	3,100.62	3,720.74
Wroughton	1,272.29	1,484.35	1,696.40	1,908.44	2,332.53	2,756.63	3,180.73	3,816.88
Yatton	1,266.12	1,477.14	1,688.17	1,899.18	2,321.22	2,743.25	3,165.30	3,798.36

Includes charges for;

- North Somerset Council Services (and levies and precepts),
- Adult Social Care Precept,
- Town and Parish Councils and Special Expenses,
- Avon Fire Authority,
- Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon & Somerset Police.

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2021/22

Introduction

This statement describes the council's policies that relate to the remuneration of its workforce outside of schools, excluding any centrally employed Teachers who are on teaching 'burgundy book' terms and conditions.

The statement is intended to provide clear and transparent information about North Somerset Council's pay policies to enable local tax payers to reach an informed view about local decisions on all aspects of remuneration for the council's non-school employees. The statement also meets the council's obligations under the Localism Act 2011 and the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency.

General Principles

North Somerset Council recognises that, in the context of scarce public resources, remuneration, at all levels, needs to be adequate to recruit and retain employees with the skills and motivation to deliver high quality services, and at the same time needs to demonstrate value for money and avoid unnecessary costs.

The council is committed to transparent, fair and equitable pay and grading arrangements. All employees are treated on an equal basis and senior officers are not differentiated from other employees in terms of the approach taken for appointments, remuneration, promotion or termination.

Pay Structure – Overview

The pay grade for all roles, including the council's Chief Executive and Directors are determined through job evaluation using the Hay Job Evaluation Scheme, with the exception of a small number of staff who are subject to national salary scales which determine the pay for jobs and where our evaluation scheme does not apply.

Levels of pay for senior officers have been determined by reference to benchmarking data, provided by Hay, which compares the salaries of comparable roles in a wide range of public sector organisations including other local authorities, health bodies and not for profit organisations.

The pay and grading for senior officers is the responsibility of the council's Employment Committee and an element of pay for senior officers is dependent on the postholder consistently meeting overall expectations of the job and meeting agreed targets. North Somerset Council reserves the right to reduce the level of remuneration if it determines that an individual's performance has been unsatisfactory.

Salaries for other officer roles within the council are based on median pay levels using Hay pay data and are broadly comparable with other similar local authorities.

Any cost of living pay award is determined through national pay bargaining arrangements, except for the Chief Executive, Directors and Assistant Directors where the pay award is

locally determined but generally follows the nationally negotiated pay award relevant to these staff.

The Government has recommended that authorities publish the ratio of the pay of the council's top earner to that of its median earner to support the principles of fair pay and transparency. The council's current ratio in this respect is 3:1.

Gender Pay Gap

Recent legislation requires employers of more than 250 people to measure and publish their gender pay gap. The gender pay gap calculation is any difference between the average earnings of men and women within an organisation. The mean gender pay gap is 11.95% and the median gender pay gap is 12.9% for North Somerset Council. This information is published in accordance with legislative requirements and recalculated on an annual basis, however the publication of gender pay gap data has been suspended by the Government during the coronavirus pandemic.

Pay Structure - Details

The council's pay structure currently consists of 20 grades (excluding Apprentices). Every job is evaluated using the Hay Job Evaluation Scheme which establishes the relative size of each role and the points awarded determine the appropriate grade for the job.

The council's lowest paid employees receive a salary equivalent to Grade 1 on the council's pay structure.

Starting Salaries

Employees are usually appointed to the minimum point of the grade for the role. If an employee applies for an internal job that is the same grade as their substantive role they will be permitted to move across on the same point.

For hard to fill jobs, such as Social Workers, Planners, Engineers and Occupational Therapists, it may be necessary to appoint suitably qualified and experienced applicants to a salary point within the overall grade for the role.

Relocation

Where it is appropriate to do so, newly appointed employees who need to relocate to take up an appointment may receive a contribution towards their relocation expenses.

Pay Progression

Any pay progression is based on increments. Progression up to the maximum of the grade through incremental salary points normally takes effect from the anniversary of the start date of the employee.

Increments may be withheld following an assessment of an employee's performance.

Honorarium and Acting-up Payments

Honorarium and acting-up payments are calculated using the bottom point of the grade for the post they will be covering.

Any honoraria or acting-up payments for senior officers requires prior approval of the Council's Employment Committee.

Secondments

Secondment appointments are subject to incremental progression. The starting salary will be the bottom salary point of the grade and progression will take effect from the anniversary of the start date of the secondment.

Market Supplements

The council does not normally pay market supplements in addition to salary, unless, exceptionally, it is in the council's overall interests to do so.

In service areas where it has proven difficult to recruit appropriately experienced or qualified individuals a market supplement may be considered, providing that there is evidence that paying a market supplement will help attract suitable candidates for hard to fill roles.

During the financial year 2020/21 no market supplements were agreed or paid.

Premium Payments

Employees paid up to spinal point 24 who are required to work evenings, weekends and bank holidays are currently paid additional payments to reflect their work patterns as follows:

Non-contractual overtime	Basic pay
Saturday working	Basic pay
Sunday working	Basic pay plus 25%
Bank Holiday working	Basic pay plus 50%
Evening work (8pm to 10pm)	Basic pay
Night work (10pm to 6am)	Basic pay plus 33%

Fees

The council makes a contribution of up to £45 per annum towards the membership of a professional body to support the continuous professional development of an employee.

Returning Officer fees are paid for statutory duties that are not part of the post holder's substantive role.

Pension Contributions

All staff who are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme make individual contributions to the scheme. The level of contribution is linked to salary levels and ranges from 5.5% to 12.5% of salary.

The council also makes employer contributions to the scheme and these amounts are determined externally by the pension scheme actuary.

The council's policy is not to grant augmented pension benefits to any employee under the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Pay Protection

The council has a pay protection policy where employment on less favourable terms is offered to an employee as an alternative to redundancy. In such circumstances an employee's pay is frozen at their current level for up to three years.

Pay protection may also apply in cases of re-deployment due to ill-health.

Redundancy Payments

The method of calculating redundancy payments is based on the statutory redundancy scheme as set out in the Employment Rights Act 1996 (ERA) x 2. The council has also introduced a cap on the amount of pay used to calculate redundancy payments at twice the statutory weekly earnings ceiling. The cost of redundancy should normally be recovered within an 18-month period through salary savings.

Redundancy payments may be affected by the newly introduced 'exit cap' regulations which the council is required to work within as a public sector body.

Settlement Agreements

It is the council's policy not to enter into settlement agreements, unless, exceptionally, it is in the council's overall interests to do so.

TUPE Transfers

A small number of staff remain on terms and conditions that differ from this policy due the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Undertakings) legislation that protects those individuals who transfer (for example those on NHS terms). Where there is turnover new appointments are made on council terms and conditions.

Pay Policy Review

The Council's Pay Policy will be kept under regular review and the pay policy statement will be refreshed and considered by full Council each year.

February 2021