REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL Holford November 2022

For14th November 2022

Budget

The recent projection for an overspend of £22 million on this years budget. The basic budget gap for the next financial year is currently £55 million. Having consulted with the 4 Districts, the Conservative group on County have said that the ruling group need to identify more savings.

The ruling group on the County Council, has, in response to the 2023 Care Act, asked the Scurtiny for Adult and Health Services to look at the budget for Social Care. I have been informed that SCC have now decided to take on consultants to look at where savings can be made whilst providing adequate Social Services. The money to pay for the consultants is to be provided by the carry forward from Covid Grant funding; the gain to the Budget is hoped to be between 13m – 19m. Having been informed about this the Leader of the County has written to Parishes to say the lingering impact of Covid-19 on people coming into contact with care services, is impacting on the budget.

[Somerset Economic Futures](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/business-and-economy/somerset-futures/) I attended a very useful meeting regarding how we see the future of Somerset. I will update you if anything else comes as a conclusion to this, but the consultation finished on 31st October.

Local Community Networks consultation has now closed and we await the results due to be fed back on 16th November, It would be useful if the LCNs could be aligned with the NHS/Social Care boundaries which I understand give 13 Divisions to the County.

Good News is that the Somerset has been shortlisted for its work in the past 3 years in protecting the county’s homeless population by the Royal Society for Public Health in the Health Equity category..

I do understand that Vesting Day for the new Unitary Council remains as 1st April 2023, I do wonder how many of my fellow councillors understand this. I am trying to ramp up my understanding of the whole picture of how this will work, what I do understand is how hard parishes already work under the current system especially on planning which will move with everything else to the new authority.

I would like to attend your meeting on 14th November but if anyone wants me to answer questions on this report, if you get this prior to the meeting, if you want to send a question to me online at my email address rosemary.woods@somerset.gov.uk

Councillor Rosemary Woods
Watchet and Stogursey Division
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10th November 2022