

Key decision items not included in the Forward Plan

Where a matter that is a key decision item has not been included in the Forward Plan, that decision may only be made where –

- (1) the relevant Director has informed the Chairman of the relevant Policy/Overview and Scrutiny Panel or, if there is no such person, each Member of that Panel by notice in writing, of the matter about which the decision is to be made;
- (2) the relevant Director has made a copy of that notice publicly available at the offices of the Council and on the Council's Website. A copy of the notice should also be sent to all councillors for information;
- (3) at least five clear days have elapsed since the relevant Director complied with (1) and (2); and
- (4) if (3) cannot be complied with then the decision can only be taken if the decision taker (if an individual), or the Chairman of the body making the decision, obtains the agreement of the Chairman of the relevant Policy/Overview and Scrutiny Panel that the taking of the decision is urgent and cannot be reasonably deferred. If there is no Chairman of the relevant Policy/Overview and Scrutiny Panel or if the Chairman of each relevant Policy/Overview and Scrutiny Panel is unable to act, then the agreement of the Chairman of the Council, or in his/her absence the Vice-Chairman, will suffice.

Notice of a key decision on an item not in the Forward Plan

To Councillor Steve Bridger being the Chairman of the Corporate, Assets, Transport and Environmental Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee

A copy of this notice must be displayed at offices of the Council and published on the Council's website as soon as reasonably practicable after compliance with the above.

Take notice that it is intended that the following decision which has not been included on the forward plan will be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services:

- Acquisition of property for the Children's Sufficiency Project

Reasons why key decision was not included in the Forward Plan and why (3) above cannot be complied with:

- The Children's Sufficiency Project (which was approved in June 2025 at full Cabinet) is based on the purchase of property to bring services in-house to North Somerset Council rather than using a contracted out service and private providers.
- The council are purchasing property on the open market and such as working at pace to secure a property which meets the project requirements, has had a satisfactory condition survey completed and had an offer accepted.
- The vendors of the property will only de-list the property from the open market once the council have instructed legal to commence the purchase.
- The council need to meet challenging exchange and completion dates before Christmas 2025.
- These time frames mean that the decision cannot be included in the forward plan and also the notice periods do not allow the council to progress the purchase quickly enough.

Agreement of the Chairman of the Policy and Scrutiny Committee **is** required in accordance with (4) above

If agreement is required, the Chairman is requested to notify the Director accordingly.

I have had regard to and complied with (1) to (4) above.

If the item will also need to be considered as an urgent item, a reason for urgency will be required.

Reason for urgency (if applicable under (4) above):

- The council are purchasing property on the open market and such as working at pace to secure a property which meets the project requirements, has had a satisfactory condition survey completed and had an offer accepted.

- The vendors of the property will only de-list the property from the open market once the council have instructed legal to commence the purchase.
- The council need to meet challenging exchange and completion dates before Christmas 2025.
- These time frames mean that the decision cannot be included in the forward plan and the notice periods do not allow the council to progress the purchase quickly enough to meet the vendors timescales and the programme which aims for a 1 June 2026 opening of the new home.

Signed

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Smith', is positioned above the title 'Director of Children's Services'.

Director of Children's Services

Date: 5 November 2025

Ref. – Constitution, Access to Information Procedure Rules, ss 14, 15.