Forward Plan

for the four-month period commencing on

1st January 2026

published on 3 December 2025



This Forward Plan gives details of decision items to be presented during the forthcoming four months.

Councillors are invited to review the items and to consider whether any of them should be referred for scrutiny or discussed with the appropriate Cabinet Member.

Cabinet (9)

Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships, Finance, Digital and Corporate Services - Councillor Mike Bell:

- •Leadership and strategic partnerships: Devolution, West of England Combined Authority, Bristol Airport and Bristol Port, and regional collaboration Finance and performance: Budget setting, capital programme, risk management, data insight and performance reporting.
- Digital transformation and customer services: ICT, digital services, customer experience, revenues and benefits, and welfare provision.
- Corporate governance and people services: Legal, democratic, electoral and HR services, equality, diversity and inclusion, and corporate development •Communications and engagement: Media relations, consultation, and community engagement.

Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Families, Skills and Lifelong Learning – Councillor Catherine Gibbons: •Children's social care and safeguarding: Family Help, child protection, children in care and care leavers, fostering, and corporate parenting • Education and early years: School improvement, early years provision, Virtual School, and school admissions and capital projects • Special educational needs and inclusion: SEND services, inclusion, education welfare, and support for children out of school • Skills and lifelong learning: Skills strategy, post-16 participation, adult learning, and youth mentoring (including Junction 21) • Workforce and service quality: Workforce development, Children's Services Academy, quality assurance, and continuous improvement.

Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment – Councillor Annemieke Waite: • Climate and nature emergency: Climate adaptation, renewable energy, carbon reduction, ecological recovery, and flood resilience • Planning policy and delivery: Local Plan, development control, planning enforcement, and building control • Environmental services: Waste and recycling, street cleaning, and environmental maintenance.
•Biodiversity and green infrastructure: Strategic oversight of biodiversity and green infrastructure strategy and marine environment management •Sustainable communities: Working with local groups on community and environmental initiatives.

Cabinet Member for Homes and Health – Councillor Jenna Ho Marris: • Housing strategy and supply: Affordable housing, homelessness prevention, and private rented sector regulation • Public health and wellbeing: Health improvement programmes, mental health and wellbeing, healthy lifestyles, and reducing inequalities • Public health protection and resilience: Strategic oversight of local health protection and emergency health response in partnership with the NHS, UKHSA and North Somerset's environmental health teams • Integrated health and care: Partnerships with NHS, localities and the Integrated Care System • Community resilience: Work with voluntary and community sector partners on health and housing outcomes

Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport – Councillor Hannah Young: • Transport strategy: Active travel, sustainable transport, Bus Service Improvement Plan, and rail partnerships • Highways maintenance: Road repairs, lighting, drainage, and asset management • Traffic management: Traffic Regulation Orders, safety schemes, and congestion management • Public transport and accessibility: Community transport, home-to-school travel, and inclusive transport planning • Infrastructure delivery: Delivery of transport improvements and support for growth areas.

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services – Councillor Roger Whitfield: • Adult social care and safeguarding: Protection of vulnerable adults, safeguarding partnerships, and quality assurance • Community and locality services: Social work teams, occupational therapy, and hospital discharge coordination • Mental health and wellbeing: Mental health services, commissioning, and partnership working • Reablement and support services: Reablement, technology-enabled care, brokerage, and contracts • Service transformation: Continuous improvement and integration with health partners.

Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services, Sport and Pride in Place programme – Councillor James Clayton: • Regulatory and public protection: Food safety, environmental protection, trading standards, and emergency planning • Environmental health and protection: Delivery of local environmental health services and operational response to health protection incidents in coordination with Public Health • Licensing and compliance: Alcohol, taxi and private hire licensing, entertainment and event licences, animal welfare licensing, and enforcement of related regulations to support safe and fair business practice • Sport and leisure development: Support for sports clubs, leisure facilities, and community sport partnerships; promotion of physical activity and wellbeing through sport • Pride in Place programme: Delivery of the Pride in Place programme, including improvement of public spaces, neighbourhood appearance, and community pride initiatives.

Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places and Service Transformation – Councillor Mark Canniford: • Economic growth and regeneration: Placemaking, heritage, and development of council land for housing and employment • Improving Weston-super-Mare programme: Birnbeck Pier and town centre strategy • Property and asset management: Council property, car parks, and technical services • Service transformation and efficiency: Business transformation, digital innovation, and value for money • Commercial and partnership delivery: Driving income generation and partnership working.

Cabinet Member for Culture, Community Services and Safety – Cllr Mike Solomon: • Culture and heritage: Cultural strategy, partnerships with Arts Council England and Super Culture, and creative sector support • Community safety: CCTV, community policing liaison, Public Space Protection Orders, and safety of women and girls • Leisure and recreation: Leisure centres, sport facilities, seafront activities, and the Sport and

Leisure Facilities Strategy • Parks and open spaces: Parks management, ranger services, and ecology • Libraries and community hubs: Operation and development of libraries and community buildings.

The items and the final decision taker are indicative. Decision making is subject to the Constitution.

Copies of documents listed can be obtained by contacting the officer named in the attached schedules. Other relevant documents may be submitted to the decision maker and can be requested from the named officer as they become available or may be available on the Council's website www.n-somerset.gov.uk

January 2026
1. Council and Cabinet Items (NB No Council or Cabinet meetings scheduled for January)

Meeting Date	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/ Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Ward Member Engagement	Contact Officer for Further Details

Decision not before	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/ Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Ward Member Engagement	Contact Officer for Further Details
01/01	Delivering the Local Devolution Programme – Portishead ambition (new entry)	Cabinet decision – 10 September 2025 - Local Devolution Policy Framework approval	Cabinet Member (Leader Mike Bell)	No	Corporate, Assets, Transport and Environmental Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee was engaged on Local devolution on 3 July 2025	Ward members were engaged in the Policy/ Framework development Relevant Ward Members will be engaged at point of individual asset disposal (see Disposal	Tash Hardy, Project Manager natasha.hardy@ n- somerset.gov.uk
01/01	Decision to award Salthouse Fields full repairing and maintenance lease (previously listed November 25)		Cabinet member Culture, Leisure and Open Spaces with advice from director and s151 officer.	No	CATE Committee Chair consulted on 11/09/2025 and confirmed no further scrutiny required	Framework) Cllr Luke Smith - Clevedon West	Jasmin Williams jasmin.williams@ n- somerset.gov.uk

Decision not before	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Ward Member Engagement	Contact Officer for Further Details
01/01	Acceptance of Connect 2 Work Equity Funding and agreement to spend the funding in line with the Grant Funding Agreement with the West of England Combined Authority (new entry)	Decision - Connect to Work - Final Delivery Plan for Submission and Grant to North Bristol NHS Trust - Modern Council	Cabinet Member for Children's Services Families, Skills ad Lifelong learning Cllr. Catherine Gibbons	No	PESC all member session on 16 December 2025.	Not applicable – affects all wards	Jane Harrison, Head of Economy Jane.harrison@n -somerset.gov.uk
01/01	Bus service contracts for 5 April 2026 onwards (please note this may be presented as multiple decisions) (new entry)	BSIP update Report to the Corporate, Assets, Transport and Environmental Services Scrutiny Panel on 6 November 2025 https://n- somerset.moderngov. co.uk/documents/s79 61/9%20BSIP%20Up date.pdf	Director of Environme nt, Assets and Transport Services	No	Overview of exercise presented at 6 November 2025 CATE scrutiny panel.	Not applicable as affects all wards.	Christopher Heward Christoper.hewar d@n- somerset.gov.uk

February 2026 1. Council and Cabinet Items

Meeting Date	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/ Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Ward Member Engagement	Contact Officer for Further Details
11/02	Draft Revenue Budget for 2026-27 and MTFP Update 2026-28		Cabinet	No		Not applicable – affects all wards	Melanie Watts Melanie.watts@n -somerset.gov.uk
11/02	Three yearly review of Public Space Protection Orders – decision as to which ones to renew / revoke or implement take forward for public consultation	https://n- somerset.gov.uk/PSP O	Cabinet	No	Placemaking, Economy and Sustainable Communities Committee. 13 November 2025	Consultation scheduled November / December 2025	Dee Mawn Dee.mawn@n- somerset.gov.uk
11/02	Fees and charges		Cabinet	No		Not applicable – covers all ward areas	Melanie Watts Melanie.watts@n -somerset.gov.uk
11/02	Extension of North Somerset Environment Company (NSEC) contract	Full Council 22/9/20 Creation of Local Authority Trading Company to deliver waste services – EXEMPT PAPER	Cabinet now Director decision as for one year only	Ne	All Member Waste Scrutiny engagement 02 December 2025.	Affects all wards	Colin Russell colin.russell@n- somerset.gov.uk
11/02	Council tax support scheme policy		Cabinet	No	Policy aspects to be discussed at Scrutiny Committee (TBA)	Not applicable – covers all ward areas	Stuart Anstead Stuart.anstead@ n- somerset.gov.uk
11/02	Capital Strategy 2026-2030 & Capital Programme 2026/27	Capital Strategy report 05/02/2025	Cabinet	No	Policy aspects to be discussed at Scrutiny Committee (TBA)	Not applicable – covers all ward areas	Melanie Watts Melanie.watts@n -somerset.gov.uk

Meeting Date	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/ Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Ward Member Engagement	Contact Officer for Further Details
11/02	Treasury Management Strategy for 2026/27	Treasury Management Strategy for 2025/26	Cabinet	No	To be delivered through the Audit Committee	Not applicable – covers all ward areas	Melanie Watts Melanie.watts@n -somerset.gov.uk
11/02	Recommendations from the library service transformation consultation	Medium Term Financial Plan & Revenue Budget for 2025-26, Executive report, 4 February 2025 Libraries transformation public consultation, Cabinet report, 18 June 2025	Cabinet	No	25 April 2025, All Member Scrutiny 23 June 2025, All Member Scrutiny panel December briefing – date tba	All member briefing, 31 July 2025 Affects all wards	Emma Wellard Emma.Wellard@ n- somerset.gov.uk
11/02	Council change programme		Cabinet	No	To be confirmed – will be carried out alongside MTFP CATE panel work	Not applicable – covers all ward areas	To be confirmed
11/02	Commissioning Plan for Fleet Electric Vehicle Charging Points		Cabinet	No	January 2026 – date to be confirmed. CATE scrutiny committee.	Not applicable – covers all ward areas	Cris Fletcher Cristian- fletcher@n- somerset.gov.uk
11/02	Delivering the Local devolution Programme - approval of asset/service disposal programme for Portishead (new entry)	Cabinet - 10 September - Local Devolution Policy and Framework A further Cabinet Member report specific to Portishead has been listed for 'not before 01 January' entitled: LDP: Portishead ambition	Cabinet	No	Corporate, Assets, Transport and Environmental Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee has been requested for w/c 8 December	Relevant Ward Members will be engaged at point of individual asset disposal (see Disposal Framework)	Mickey Green, Director of EATS Mickey.Green@n somerset.gov.uk

Meeting Date	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/ Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Ward Member Engagement	Contact Officer for Further Details
11/02	Tropicana business case update (previously listed December 2025)	https://n-somerset.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s5702/10%20Commissioning%20Plan%20for%20procurement%20of%20a%20Tropicana%20operator%2020%20February%202024.pdf	Cabinet	Part	Informal member briefing will be arranged for November.	Local ward members are briefed through the Weston Placemaking Member Group.	Jenny Ford Jenny.ford@n- somerset.gov.uk
17/02	Council Tax setting report for 2026-27		Council	No		Not applicable – covers all wards	Mel Wats mel.watts@n- somerset.gov.uk
17/02	Corporate Parenting Report		Council	No	N/A	N/A	Karl Knill Karl.knill@n- somerset.gov.uk
17/02	Recommendations from the library service transformation consultation	Medium Term Financial Plan & Revenue Budget for 2025-26, Executive report, 4 February 2025 Libraries transformation public consultation, Cabinet report, 18 June 2025	Council	No	25 April 2025, All Member Scrutiny 23 June 2025, All Member Scrutiny panel December briefing – date tba	All member briefing, 31 July 2025 Affects all wards	Emma Wellard Emma.Wellard@ n- somerset.gov.uk

Meeting Date	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/ Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Ward Member Engagement	Contact Officer for Further Details
17/02	Adoption of North Somerset and Mendip Bat SAC Supplementary Planning Document (previously listed November 2025)	current SPD. Decision to consult (EAT61)	Council	No	Chair of CATE would like option of informal briefing post-consultation. Informal PESC Scrutiny Committee meeting on 8 December.	Affects all wards	Esther Coffin- Smith Esther.coffin- smith@n- somerset.gov.uk
17/02	Approval of the Transport Services Procurement Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) Commissioning Plan—will now be via a procurement plan.	Project Brief (detailing scope, outcomes, procurement route and anticipated timescales)	Council	-No	To be confirmed	Not applicable – not ward specific	Kathryn Scully Kathryn.Scully@ n- somerset.gov.uk
17/02	North Somerset SEND strategy / Pathway to adulthood strategy	SEND strategy and the Pathway to adulthood strategy are currently being co-produced - for public consultation once drafted.	Council	No	CYPS committee 2 October 2025	District wide and therefore no specific engagement needed	Anthony Webster Anthony.webster On- somerset.gov.uk
17/02	Revised Council Tax Reduction Scheme (new entry)	Council report on the new scheme, including the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)	Council	No	December briefing – date tba	All member briefing Jan 2026	Stuart Anstead Stuart.Anstead@ n- somerset.gov.uk

Meeting Date	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/ Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Ward Member Engagement	Contact Officer for Further Details
17/02	Approval of the Commissioning Plan for the design and construction of a new Voyage Learning Campus Secondary Pupil Referral Unit on land at Locking Head Drove (originally listed in November 2025)-now listed April 2026	CY086 2023/24 Approval to commission a review of sites to deliver this new provision CY098 2024/25 Approval to undertake an RFQ to appoint a multi-disciplinary team to oversee RIBA stages 0-2 for the VLC at Locking Head Drove CY173 2024/25	Council	No	Regular quarterly updates to the CYPS Policy and Scrutiny Committee – last met on 6 June 2025 and due to meet on 21 September 2025	Terry Porter and Mike Solomon (Ward Members for Hutton and Locking) Monthly updates with Cllr Gibbons and Cllr Waite	Contact: Sally Varley, Head of Strategic Place Planning and Capital Programmes Education Partnerships Email: sally.varley@n- somerset.gov.uk David Peacock, Senior Project Manager Email: david.peacock@n- somerset.gov.uk
17/02	Approval to submit A38 Major Road Network improvements scheme Full Business Case to Department for Transport (DfT) (relisted – previously listed for December 2025 Cabinet)	23/24 DP 436: Acceptance of Department for Transport Full Business Case funding grant for the A38 Major Road Networks improvement scheme DP436 FBC DfT funding v6 signed.pdf	Council	No	Scheme update given to CATES Committee in March 2025 and engagement held in July 2025 following A38 MRN DfT funding announcement. Discussion ongoing with committee lead around further engagement during development of scheme detailed design.	Ward Member engagement held in July 2025 following A38 MRN DfT funding announcement. Further ward member engagement to following during development of scheme detailed design in Autumn 2025.	Contact: Rebecca Kinnersley- Fowler Rebecca.kinnersl ey@n- somerset.gov.uk 07385 963931

Decision not before	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/ Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Ward Member Engagement	Contact Officer for Further Details
01/02	Approval of draft Wolvershill Masterplan Framework (previously listed for February, April, September 2025)	Reg 19 Local Plan (July 2024). Committee Report NSC (moderngov.co.uk)	Cabinet Member – Cllr Canniford	No	PEP (now PESC P&S Committee) Scrutiny Panel involved at all stages pf plan- making - discussion on next stages of local plan and development locations to be considered 19 November 2024.		Natalie Richards Natalie.richards @n- somerset.gov.uk
01/02	2026/27 Fees and Charges – to seek Cabinet Member approval for any key decisions for increases in charges over 5% and up to 10% or generating estimated additional income between £100,000 to £300,000	Report to Executive 12/04/16 https://n-somerset.moderngov.co.uk/Data/Executive/201604121430/Agenda/13%20Fees%20and%20Charges%202016%2017.pdf	All Cabinet members as not known at this stage which individual exec member will be required to make a decision on an increase to fees and charges in their particular portfolio	No	Engagement with scrutiny will take place as appropriate depending on the proposed increases and which panel they fall under	Affects all wards	Mark Anderston Mark.anderson@ n- somerset.gov.uk Jo Jones Jo.jones@n- somerset.gov.uk
01/02	To agree the school term dates for 2027-28 academic year	Consultation with directly affected schools (when live)	Director of Children's Services	No	Meeting of the CYPS Panel School Organisation Steering Group meeting – date tbc	Affects all wards	Contact: Janice Allen 01275 888619

Decision not before	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/ Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Ward Member Engagement	Contact Officer for Further Details
01/02	Signature of LEVI Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Inter- Authority Agreement (previously listed December 2025)	Commissioning Plan Decision Notice https://n- somerset.gov.uk/sites /default/files/2023- 09/23- 24%20DP%20204.pdf	Cabinet Member for Transport	No	TCC Panel consulted on the commissioning plan on 4/9/23 and the CATE Scrutiny Committee brief in 22 nd September 2025.	Council wide policy, not ward specific	Cris Fletcher – Principal Sustainable Travel & Road Safety Officer Cristian.fletcher @n- somerset.gov.uk
01/02	2026/27 Fees and Charges – to seek Director approval for any key decisions for increases in charges up to 5% or generating estimated additional up to £100,000	Report to Executive 12/04/16 https://nsomerset.moderngov.co.uk/Data/Executive/201604121430/Agenda/13%20Fees%20and%20Charges%202016%2017.pdf	Director of Environme nt, Assets and Transport Services	No	Engagement with scrutiny will take place as appropriate depending on the proposed increases and which panel they fall under	Affects all wards	Jo Jones. Finance Business Partner Environment, Assets and Transport Services Directorate Jo.jones@n- somerset.gov.uk
01/02	2026/27 Fees and Charges – to seek Director approval for any key decisions for increases in charges up to 5% or generating estimated additional up to £100,000	Report to Executive 12/04/16 https://nso merset.moderngov. co.uk/Data/Executive/ 201604121430/Agen da/13%20Fees%20an d%20Charges%2020 16%2017.pdf	Director of Healthy and Sustainable Communiti es	No	Engagement with scrutiny will take place as appropriate depending on the proposed increases and which panel they fall under	Affects all wards	Mark Anderson. Finance Business Partner Healthy and Sustainable Communities Directorate. Mark.anderson@ n- somerset.gov.uk

Decision not before	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/ Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Ward Member Engagement	Contact Officer for Further Details
01/02	Extension of North Somerset Environment Company (NSEC) contract for one year period only	Full Council 22/9/20 Creation of Local Authority Trading Company to deliver waste services – EXEMPT PAPER	Director of Environme nt, Assets and Transport (previously Cabinet but now for one year only)	No	All Member Waste Scrutiny engagement 02 December 2025.	Affects all wards	Colin Russell colin.russell@n-somerset.gov.uk

March 2026

1. No Cabinet or Council meeting scheduled

Meeting Date	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Ward Member Engagement	Contact Officer for Further Details

Decision not before	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Ward Member Engagement	Contact Officer for Further Details
01/03							

April 2026 1. Council and Cabinet

Meeting Date	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Ward Member Engagement	Contact Officer for Further Details
21/04	Corporate Parenting Report (new entry)		Council	No	Information only item – for completeness	Not applicable – covers all ward areas	Karl Knill Karl.knill@n- somerset.gov.uk
21/04	Approval of the Commissioning Plan for the design and construction of a new Voyage Learning Campus Secondary Pupil Referral Unit on land at Locking Head Drove (originally listed in November 2025 and February 2026)	CY086 2023/24 – Approval to commission a review of sites to deliver this new provision CY098 2024/25 – Approval to undertake an RFQ to appoint a multi-disciplinary team to oversee RIBA stages 0-2 for the VLC at Locking Head Drove CY173 2024/25 - Contract Award for the RIBA 0-2 design of the Voyage Learning Campus (11-16 year old provision) development at Locking Head Drove, Weston super Mare	Council	No	Regular quarterly updates to the CYPS Policy and Scrutiny Committee – last met on 6 June 2025 and due to meet on 21 September 2025	Terry Porter and Mike Solomon (Ward Members for Hutton and Locking) Monthly updates with Cllr Gibbons and Cllr Waite	Contact: Sally Varley, Head of Strategic Place Planning and Capital Programmes Education Partnerships Email: sally.varley@n- somerset.gov.uk David Peacock, Senior Project Manager Email: david.peacock@n- somerset.gov.uk

Meeting Date	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/ Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Ward Member Engagement	Contact Officer for Further Details
29/04	Budget Monitor 2025- 26 Month 12 Outturn and Q3 Performance Management Update (new entry)	North Somerset Corporate Plan 2024- 2028 (n- somerset.gov.uk) North Somerset Risk Management Strategy: North Somerset Council Risk Management Strategy, April 2024	Cabinet	No	This is an information item. Quarterly updates to Scrutiny Committees will follow the update to the Cabinet as per the agreed business planning and risk management framework.	Not applicable - covers all ward areas	Melanie Watts Melanie.watts@n -somerset.gov.uk Jo Belbin Jo.belbin@n- somerset.gov.uk

Decision not before	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/ Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Ward Member Engagement	Contact Officer for Further Details
01/04							