

<b>REPORT REFERENCE NO.</b>	<b>DSFRA/19/18</b>
<b>MEETING</b>	<b>DEVON &amp; SOMERSET FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>8 NOVEMBER 2019</b>
<b>SUBJECT OF REPORT</b>	<b>AUTHORITY BUDGET MEETING 2020 – PROPOSED CHANGE OF DATE</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>Director of Governance &amp; Digital Services</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<i><b>That the Authority approves the change in date for its 2020-21 budget meeting from Friday 21 February 2020 to 10.00hours on Tuesday 18 February 2020.</b></i>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<p>Somerset West and Taunton Council has advised that the current date for the Authority's 2020-21 budget meeting could have significant implications for the ability of that authority (along with South Somerset District Council) to issue council tax bills in sufficient time for associated Direct Debits to be taken on 1 April 2020.</p> <p>To facilitate the timely issue of council tax bills, District Councils (as billing authorities) ideally need all preceptors (including this Authority) to have determined their budgets and council tax levels and have notified the billing authorities of this prior to the billing authorities budget and tax approval meetings.</p> <p>Somerset West and Taunton Council is scheduled to hold its budget meeting on 19 February, with South Somerset District Council's meeting scheduled for 20 February 2020.</p> <p>Calendars for this Authority's constituent authorities have been checked and in light of this, changing the date of the Authority's budget setting meeting to 10.00hours on Tuesday 18 February 2020 would be viable. This change would assist District Councils in issuing council tax bills in a timely manner and on this basis the Authority is asked to consider approving a change in date of its budget meeting for 2020.</p> <p>The Authority may wish to note that, for the reasons as outlined above, Somerset County Council has already agreed to change the date of its budget meeting to 19 February 2020.</p> <p>The implication for this Authority is that any recommendations on Council Tax levels for 2020-21 made by the Resources Committee at its meeting on 13 February 2020 may need to be reported verbally to the Authority meeting on 18 February 2020 as the statutory publication date for the agenda for the Authority meeting occurs before the date of the Resources Committee meeting.</p>
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	Nil.
<b>EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS</b>	N/A

<b>(ERBA)</b>	
<b>APPENDICES</b>	Nil.
<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	Published calendars of meetings for the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority, Devon County Council, Somerset County Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council.

**MIKE PEARSON**  
**Director of Governance & Digital Services**