

Taunton Charter Trustees

Thursday, 2nd July, 2020,
6.00 pm

**Somerset West
and Taunton**

Webcasting - Virtual Meeting

Members: Francesca Smith (Chair), Sue Lees (Vice-Chair), Lee Baker, Chris Booth, Simon Coles, Caroline Ellis, Marcia Hill, Richard Lees, Libby Lisgo, Derek Perry, Martin Peters, Hazel Prior-Sankey, Federica Smith-Roberts, Alan Wedderkopp, Danny Wedderkopp and Brenda Weston

Addendum

4. Unitary Proposal and its proposed impact on the Unparished Area of Taunton

(Pages 3 - 12)

Firstly, Councillor David Fothergill (Leader of Somerset County Council) to attend and present an update an overview of the One Somerset Programme.

Councillor Mike Rigby to follow and provide an overview of the District Councils views.



**JAMES HASSETT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Please note that this meeting will be recorded. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being recorded and webcast. You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. Data collected during the recording will be retained in accordance with the Council's policy. Therefore unless you are advised otherwise, by entering the Council Chamber and speaking during Public Participation you are consenting to being recorded and to the possible use of the sound recording for access via the website or for training purposes. If you have any queries regarding this please contact the officer as detailed above.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to the discussions. There is time set aside at the beginning of most meetings to allow the public to ask questions. Speaking under "Public Question Time" is limited to 3 minutes per person in an overall period of 15 minutes. The Committee Administrator will keep a close watch on the time and the Chair will be responsible for ensuring the time permitted does not overrun. The speaker will be allowed to address the Committee once only and will not be allowed to participate further in any debate. Except at meetings of Full Council, where public participation will be restricted to Public Question Time only, if a member of the public wishes to address the Committee on any matter appearing on the agenda, the Chair will normally permit this to occur when that item is reached and before the Councillors begin to debate the item.

If an item on the agenda is contentious, with a large number of people attending the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group. These arrangements do not apply to exempt (confidential) items on the agenda where any members of the press or public present will be asked to leave the Committee Room. Full Council, Executive, and Committee agendas, reports and minutes are available on our website: www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

The meeting room, including the Council Chamber at The Deane House are on the first floor and are fully accessible. Lift access to The John Meikle Room, is available from the main ground floor entrance at The Deane House. The Council Chamber at West Somerset House is on the ground floor and is fully accessible via a public entrance door. Toilet facilities, with wheelchair access, are available across both locations. An induction loop operates at both The Deane House and West Somerset House to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter. For further information about the meeting, please contact the Governance and Democracy Team via email: governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

If you would like an agenda, a report or the minutes of a meeting translated into another language or into Braille, large print, audio tape or CD, please email: governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

Somerset – the future

Progress update, June 2020

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Change is needed

- All five councils agreed that the existing arrangements could improve.
- The five councils concluded that a *single council* was *not* the right choice for Somerset.
- Our response to the coronavirus pandemic has demonstrated the power and importance of our *local* authorities.
- Our communities do not deserve the cheapest local government, they deserve the *best* local government which will drive improvement in quality of life.
- Not all communities are the same across the varied landscape of Somerset and new structures need to *reflect this diversity*.
- We *will* be submitting an alternative to the County Council's single unitary bid focused on what we *all need*, not what SCC need.

Much to celebrate in Somerset



Challenges for Somerset



Disadvantaged Children

- Social Mobility
- Poverty and Deprivation
- Troubled Families



Young People 16-24

- Higher Education
- Self Harm
- Affordable Housing



The Economy

- Low Wage/Low Skill
- Low Productivity
- Digital Connectivity
- Travel
- Affordable Housing



The Environment

- Carbon Neutral Councils
- Carbon Emissions
- Flooding



Older People

- Increase in Older People
- Quality of Health
- Isolation

What does our alternative look like?



Reduce cost



Improve efficiency



Meets statutory and organisational requirements



Reform services to improve quality and effectiveness



Collaborative and devolved approach to services to meet a variety of community needs



It will not be about doing things the same way with a different name

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Our business case will be ready soon. It will be shaped by consultation - especially the views of our communities, towns and parish councils – clear evidence and **what is in the best interests of Somerset**

What do we mean by improving quality and effectiveness?



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Starting well:

We need to address poor social mobility and deprivation



Living well:

We need to develop our skills, create job opportunities and increase productivity



Aging well:

This challenge is amplified in Somerset as a result of age profile, isolation and poor connectivity



Homes:

We need to address the affordability gap



Vulnerability to climate change:

We need to address the risks of climate change in Somerset.



Large, rural county:

We need to reflect this diversity and ensure we reap the benefits of our very different, vibrant communities while overcoming current disadvantages

And we must give local communities more control of the things that matter

Moving to solutions – Your views?

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How do we effect change?
How do we create better outcomes for our older population and the most vulnerable alongside creating better opportunities for young people?
How best to generate more inclusive and clean growth?

What role could parish and town councils play?
Which areas would you prioritise?

> **Thank you** >

