

Taunton Charter Trustees

Thursday, 2nd July, 2020,
6.00 pm



[SWT VIRTUAL MEETING WEBCAST LINK](#)

Members: Francesca Smith (Mayor), Sue Lees (Deputy Mayor), 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

Agenda

1. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive and note any declarations of disclosable pecuniary or prejudicial or personal interests in respect of any matters included on the agenda for consideration at this meeting.

(The personal interests of Councillors and Clerks of Somerset County Council, Town or Parish Councils and other Local Authorities will automatically be recorded in the minutes.)

3. Public Participation

The Chair to advise the Committee of any items on which members of the public have requested to speak and advise those members of the public present of the details of the Council's public participation scheme.

For those members of the public who have submitted any questions or statements, please note, a three minute time limit applies to each speaker and you will be asked to speak before Councillors debate the issue.

Temporary measures during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Due to the Government guidance on measures to reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), we will holding meetings in a virtual manner which will be live webcast on

our website. Members of the public will still be able to register to speak and ask questions, which will then be read out by the Governance and Democracy Case Manager during Public Question Time and will either be answered by the Chair of the Committee, or the relevant Portfolio Holder, or be followed up with a written response.

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

(Pages 5 - 22)

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

Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts to follow in her role as Leader of Somerset West and Taunton Council and provide an overview of the District Councils views.

5. Response to One Somerset Survey

(Pages 23 - 24)

The Charter Trustees will consider the Somerset County Council survey Questions and draft their response. The SCC survey closing date is Friday 3rd July.



**JAMES HASSETT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Please note that this meeting will be recorded. 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 taking part in the Council Meeting 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.

Following Government guidance on measures to reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), we will be live webcasting our committee meetings and you are welcome to view and listen to the discussion. The link to each webcast will be available on the meeting webpage, but you can also access them on the [Somerset West and Taunton webcasting](#) website.

If you would like to ask a question or speak at a meeting, you will need to submit your request to a member of the Governance Team in advance of the meeting. You can request to speak at a Council meeting by emailing your full name, the agenda item and your question to the Governance Team using governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

Any requests need to be received by 4pm on the day that provides 2 clear working days before the meeting (excluding the day of the meeting itself). For example, if the meeting is due to take place on a Tuesday, requests need to be received by 4pm on the Thursday prior to the meeting.

The Governance and Democracy Case Manager will take the details of your question or speech and will distribute them to the Committee prior to the meeting. The Chair will then invite you to speak at the beginning of the meeting under the agenda item Public Question Time, but speaking is limited to three minutes per person in an overall period of 15 minutes and you can only speak to the Committee once. If there are a group of people attending to speak about a particular item then a representative should be chosen to speak on behalf of the group.

Please see below for Temporary Measures during Coronavirus Pandemic and the changes we are making to public participation:-

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Full Council, Executive, and Committee agendas, reports and minutes are available on our website: www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

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

One Somerset Programme - Overview & Update

June 23rd, 2020 - Taunton Charter Trustees

Our Somerset Community Challenges



Disadvantaged Children

- Social Mobility
- Poverty and Deprivation
- Troubled Families

Fact: 14,000 troubled families
Fact: 529 looked after children



Young People 16-24

- Higher Education
- Self Harm
- Affordable Housing

Fact: our young people are twice as likely to end up in hospital as a result of self harm



The Economy

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

Fact: Average earnings are £2,226 less per year than the national average



The Environment

- Carbon Neutral Councils
- Carbon Emissions
- Flooding



Older People

- Increase in Older People
- Quality of Health
- Isolation

Fact: 30% increase in people aged 65-84 by 2035; 88% increase over 85s

Future of Local Government in Somerset (FoLGiS)

- FoLGiS report commissioned by all Somerset Councils in 2018
- All Somerset Councils, leaders and CEOs were part of this
- Overarching conclusion supported by all councils that maintaining the status quo is not an option
- A modern 21st century approach to local governance and service delivery is required for the county to thrive and grow

Where are we in Somerset?

- Covid-19: experience of 'virtual unitary', central / local government funding unsustainable
- MHCLG meeting with Local Government Minister of State, Simon Clarke MP
- Devolution White Paper 2020; LGR supports this. Part of COVID-19 response
- Pioneer Somerset (past collaboration between 5 councils didn't deliver)
- Heart of the South West – external partnerships are vital
- Somerset Waste Partnership (a strong example of a one service solution)

One Somerset One Council

www.onesomerset.org.uk

Why One Somerset?

- One council - to listen to the people of Somerset
- One voice – to represent Somerset’s communities, businesses and new business
- One commitment – to drive community decision making and responsibilities
- One promise – to deliver better public services, integrated service improvement and a single pathway for service users
- One back office - delivering savings that can then be invested where you live.
- One HR, One IT, One Finance, One set of directors, one CEO – why have five when you could have ONE?

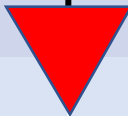
One Somerset One Council

www.onesomerset.org.uk

One Somerset - LGR Timeline

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	2020				2021				2022			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Business Case												
Implementation Phase				LCN boundaries And definition	Shadow executive in place							
Transformation Phase												



One Somerset – Business case delivery plan

Stages and Activities	Owner	April				May				June				
		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29
Governance Meetings														
SLT	Carlton													
Closed Cabinet	Faye													
Pre-Mobilisation														
Publicly Available Data Artefacts	Matt													
Base Data for FOLGIS Report	Matt													
Template for Outstanding Data Requirements	Matt / Tony													
Strategic Documentation Obtained	Tony													
Stakeholder Engagement	Carlton													
Current and Future Configuration Options														
Financial Baseline	Matt													
Geographic and Demographic Context	Matt													
Somerset Local Community Networks	Tony													
Opportunity Outcomes Reviews														
Skills and Economy	Dave M													
People Based Services	Peter													
Place Based Services	Dave M													
Bus Case Credibility Defense Strategy	Mike													
Credibility Test with Closed Cabinet	Faye													
Transition and Transformation Benefits (Incl. Finance)	Matt													
Develop Narrative for a Scaled Options Menu	Tony													
Create Cost / Benefits for all Options	Matt													
Implementation Planning	Tony													
Draft Implementation Plan and Narrative	Leon													
Review of Implementation Plan	Mike													
Options Analysis	Tony													
Quantitative Options (Ameo / LG Futures)	Matt													
Qualitative Options (Narrative)	Tony													
Review of Options	Mike													
Consolidation of Business Case	Tony													
Draft of Business Case	Tony													
Draft Bus Case Reviewed by Programme Director (15/06)	Carlton													
Adjustments to Bus Case	Tony													
Draft Bus Case Presented to Wider Audience (19/06)	Tony													
Formating of Final Business Case in Corporate Style	Carlton													

Business case democratic process timing

- Scrutiny - 10 June
- Invitation from Secretary of State to all Somerset councils
- Business case available - w/c 29 June
- Informal member briefings from July 1
- Scrutiny - 15 July
- Cabinet - 20 July
- Council – 29 July
- Secretary of State submission – end July

Engagement Plan – to assess local support

- Engagement with all SCC elected members (May-June-July)
- Engagement with some town and parish councils and partners pre-Covid
- Facilitated by an external research company, to provide an independent voice
- External supplier research engagement, final report 17 June
- Engagement sessions and communications both internally and externally, with residents, businesses and our partners
- Information sessions with SCC staff
- Town/Parishes, local businesses, voluntary community sector, residents, Your Somerset feedback
- Strategic partner support (Police, PCC, Fire, Health, others)

SALC/SLCC/Frome Parish Conference: Recommendations

1. A Charter for Somerset
2. Local ownership and devolution (assets and services)
3. Localism and solutions
4. Local governance
5. Local presence
6. Trust and partnership
7. Parishes working together

All of these recommendations will be built into the business case

One Somerset One Council

www.onesomerset.org.uk

Example Devolution Menu for Somerset's Towns and Parishes

Assets

- Cemeteries church yards and Crematoria
- Community centres
- Allotments
- Public toilets
- Local parks
- Open spaces - including greenspaces and "hard" open spaces
- Sports grounds
- Swimming pools
- Play areas
- Off and on-street car parking provision and management
- Memorials
- Volunteering (coordination; health, social care, fostering, etc.)
- Roadside verges and other small open spaces
- Leisure and arts centres

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Services

- Minor Highways functions such as minor road and footpath repairs, lining, signage
- Minor development control functions, planning applications, tree preservation orders and listed building consents (eg one or two new house developments and residential extensions, applications for smaller work spaces but not applications for residential housing estates or large industrial development)
- Grass cutting and open space maintenance (gully's, verges, drainage, closed churchyards)
- Fly tipping
- Street cleaning
- Abandoned vehicles
- Recycling management
- Health & Wellbeing - Isolation/Volunteering/Befriending
- Community libraries, premises
- Community transport
- Community safety / neighbourhood watch
- Footpath lighting
- Community grants
- Local tourism
- Local town economic development (incl. e.g. job clubs)
- Local climate change initiatives (for example local green transport schemes).
- Homelessness and social housing liaison and provision?

Monitoring and enforcement of environmental health matters

- Control of markets
- Street naming
- Licensing - taxis, event notices, street trading etc

One Somerset One Council

www.onesomerset.org.uk

Local Community Networks (LCNs)

- A fundamental part of the unitary bid (strategic **and** very local)
 - Not new; all county unitaries have these
 - Committees of cabinet with decision making powers
 - Between 4-9 local unitary members on each LCN. Community leadership
- Page 8 A **forum** for local discussion, action, oversight, listening
- 6-7 public meetings per year; working between meetings
 - Supported by a dedicated LCN senior manager for each
 - JSNA data, evidence driven; local issues; members' priorities
 - Attended by Council, Police, Health, Town & parish councils, VCS and the public

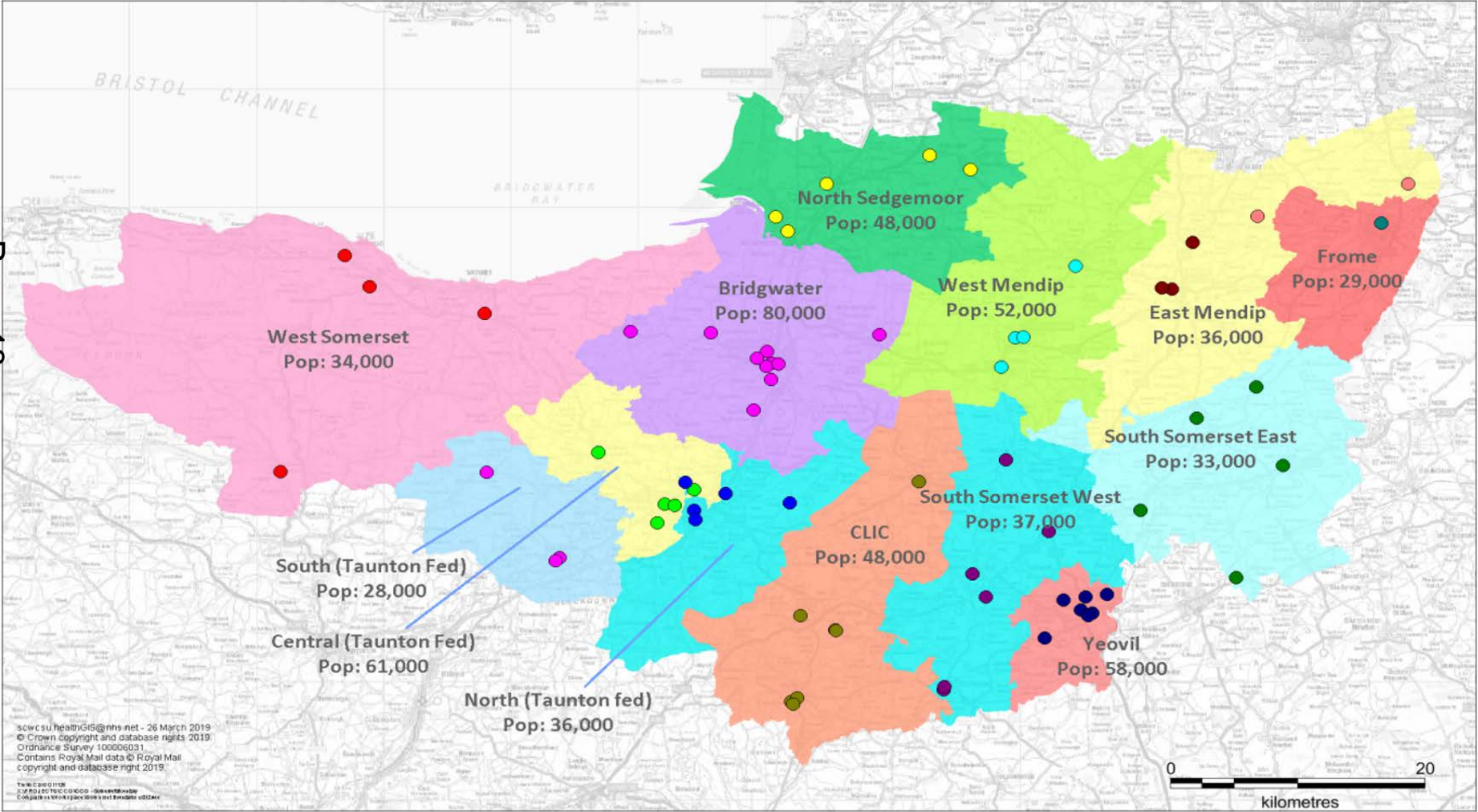
Local Community Networks (LCNs) examples of possible areas of focus

- Youth Services
- Community Transport
- Green initiatives
- Air Quality
- Conservation
- Rights of Way
- Health and Wellbeing

Proposed LCN number and boundaries. (a starting point)

(Current CCG Neighbourhoods / Primary Care Networks)

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County & District Council Service Integration Opportunities

- Planning — 1 local development plan in lieu of 5, incl. waste, minerals
- Housing — integrated with social care commissioning
- Environmental health & Trading standards — integrated with Public health (to affect the wider determinants of health and well being)
- Licensing — integrated with Public Health (to affect the wider determinants of health and well being)
- Leisure — Integrated with Public health (to affect the wider determinants of health and well being)
- Support services – single, integrated across the Council

Unitary Council Annual Savings (under development)

	Somerset Current	Bucks		Dorset	Leicestershire
Democratic	£1.3 million	£1.6 million	(-0.3)	£0.6 million	£1.3 million
Senior Management	£2.9 million	£3.0 million	(-0.1)	£10.1 million	£5.6 million
Corporate Services	£4.4 million	£4.0 million	(+0.4)		£17.4 million
IT	£1.5 million	£1.7 million	(-0.2)	£0.2 million	
Accommodation	£1 million	£1.5 million	(-0.5)	£0.2 million	
Contracts	£3.3 million	£2.8 million	(+0.5)	-	
Service Consolidation	£4.4 million	£3.76 million	(+0.6)	£2.5 million	£8.5 million
		-	-		-
Total	£18.7million	£18.2 million		£13.6 million	£30 million (-£2.8 million contingency)

Discussion and Q&A

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One Somerset Feedback Form

Q1 Are you completing this form as an individual or on behalf of your Town and Parish Council?

Q2 What is the name of the Town or Parish Council you are involved with?

Q3 Which description best described your role?

Q4 Were you aware before today of the proposal to create a single Somerset unitary authority?

Q5 What benefits do you believe could come from the proposal to create one Council for Somerset, delivering the services currently provided by the County and four District Councils?

Q6 What concerns do you have about the proposal to create one Council for Somerset, delivering the services currently provided by the County and four District Councils?

Q7 Considering the four possible outcomes below for the future of local government in Somerset, which of the following would be your preference:

- Remain 'as is'
- The existing county and four district councils (Somerset CC, Mendip DC, Sedgemoor DC, Somerset West & Taunton DC, South Somerset DC) working more closely through greater collaboration
- Creation of a new single-tier unitary council
- Unsure

Q8 Can you explain the reason for your answer?

