

# Record of URGENT Decision taken by Executive Councillor

**Decision title: Submission of Stronger Somerset Proposal**

**Executive Councillor making the decision: Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts**

**Author Contact Details: Nick Bryant**

**Date of Decision: 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (following Full Council endorsement)**

## **Details of decision:**

Leader approval of the Stronger Somerset proposal following the endorsement by Full Council on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.

## **Reasons for proposed decision:**

At the Full Council meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020, the Council resolved to:

Endorse the Stronger Somerset proposal for the reform of local government including the creation of two unitary Councils within Somerset.

Noting that the decision to submit the final proposal to MHCLG is a “Key Decision” pursuant to the relevant legislation and therefore requires an executive decision to be made before final submission. It is proposed that following Full Council’s endorsement of the proposal, the Leader of the Council will make the executive decision to submit the Stronger Somerset Proposal to Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government and will make any required minor amendments to the Proposal as necessary before submission in consultation with the Chief Executive and other Somerset District Leaders and Chief Executives.

The Somerset West and Taunton Constitution allows this matter to be delegated to the Leader. Following Council endorsement the Leader has made the decision to submit the Stronger Somerset proposal to Government to ensure that Unitary Councils in Somerset are able to deliver the best possible future for Somerset, its people and its communities. A commitment that transcends political and organisational allegiances in ensuring the system of local government in place for the future of Somerset is fit for purpose and focused wholly on the needs of the residents and communities of Somerset.

## **Alternative funding options sourced:**

Funding and financial implications as set out in the Full Council report.

<b>The below has been completed:</b>	<b>Name(s)</b>	<b>Date</b>
Relevant ward councillor(s) consulted	All councillors consulted through member briefings and proposal considered by Full Council on 3	Various

	December.	
<b>The following are if appropriate / applicable: Yes/No. If yes the implications should be attached to this decision notice.</b>		
Finance implications	As set out in Stronger Somerset Full Council report	3 Dec
Legal implications	As set out in Stronger Somerset Full Council report	3 Dec
Links to corporate aims	As set out in Stronger Somerset Full Council report	3 Dec
Climate and Sustainability implications	As set out in Stronger Somerset Full Council report	3 Dec
Community Safety Implications	As set out in Stronger Somerset Full Council report	3 Dec
Equalities Impact	As set out in Stronger Somerset Full Council report	3 Dec
Safeguarding Implications	As set out in Stronger Somerset Full Council report	3 Dec
Risk management	As set out in Stronger Somerset Full Council report	3 Dec
Partnership implications	As set out in Stronger Somerset Full Council report	3 Dec


**Any conflicts of interest declared by Leader or Executive Members consulted on the proposed decision. If Yes provide confirmation from Chief Executive to grant dispensation for the Leader's / Executive Member's views to be considered.**

N/A

**Decision Maker**

**I am aware of the details of this decision(s), considered the reasons, options, representations and consultation responses and give my approval / agreement to its implementation.**

**Signed:**



**Name:** Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (following endorsement by Full Council)

Note – This decision has been taken as a Special Urgent decision as per section 16 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules within the Somerset West and Taunton Council Constitution.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020, the Council resolved to:

1. Endorse the Stronger Somerset proposal for the reform of local government including the creation of two unitary Councils within Somerset.
2. Note that the decision to submit the final proposal to MHCLG is a “Key Decision” pursuant to the relevant legislation and therefore requires an executive decision to be made before final submission. It is proposed that following Full Council’s endorsement of the proposal, the Leader of the Council will make the executive decision to submit the Stronger Somerset Proposal to Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government and will make any required minor amendments to the Proposal as necessary before submission in consultation with the Chief Executive and other Somerset District Leaders and Chief Executives

As the proposal has to be submitted to the Secretary of State by the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020, this constitutes an Urgent decision. 16.1 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules states that ‘the decision can only be taken if the Leader or Chair of an Executive Committee or decision-maker (if an individual) obtains the agreement of the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee that the taking of the decision is urgent and cannot be reasonably deferred’. Cllr Wren has confirmed that he is in agreement with this being an urgent decision.

As per the Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15.8, The decision detailed above will come into force immediately as one of Special Urgency and is not subject to call-in by the Scrutiny Committee.

**Note:** A copy should also be sent to the Governance Team – [governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](mailto:governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk)