


The Cornwall unitary story – the largest unitary in the country (Somerset would be the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest if One Somerset goes ahead) which is now thought of very highly after a bumpy start, largely as a result of dissenters.

<https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/cornwall-councils-first-10-years-2697087>

## ONE SOMERSET BRIEFING

Ros Wyke, from Mendip, started to yawn during this presentation and otherwise showed a lack of interest.


## Somerset's challenges

 The Environment

 Young People 16-24

 Disadvantaged Children

 Older People

 The Economy



## One Somerset's solutions

- To unite Somerset and deliver recovery and service improvement across the county by bringing together resources and partners to support our communities, residents and businesses
- To invest in:
  - Reducing inequalities
  - Addressing climate change
  - Develop skills and improve education and training
  - Support vulnerable people
  - Generate jobs and apprenticeships
  - Improve transport links
  - Build the homes that people need
  - Enable economic growth
- Funded by the 'unitary bonus' delivered

## One Somerset vision



Give local residents more say over decisions that impact them and their communities



End confusion over which council does what for our residents



Develop better services



Invest in Somerset



Deliver better value for money for our taxpayers (that's all of us)



Reduce duplication and waste



Cut red tape and bureaucracy



Create a strategic and powerful voice to speak up for our county

## What this means for you:

- This is about change – old ways and shortcomings will be gone
- Puts you at the heart of key services and spending
- Opportunity to influence and, where wanted, to control
- Greater connection to local people
- Chance to excite and expand memberships to new, relevant audiences

# Community is key

## One Somerset is committed to the SALC and SLCC recommendations

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|--|--|
| <b>1. A Charter for Somerset</b>           | We will work together to develop and deliver this.   |
| <b>2. Local ownership &amp; devolution</b> | Parish and town councils will be integral in determining the methodology of devolution.  |
| <b>3. Localism and solutions</b>           | Jointly commission a "Somerset guide to Localism", including good examples, outcomes and meaningful partnerships.                  |
| <b>4. Local governance</b>                 | Town and parishes involved in determining LCN boundaries, brief, representation and policies.                                      |
| <b>5. Local presence</b>                   | Local Community Network dedicated staff and senior presence locally. Parish and town councils involved in selection.               |
| <b>6. Trust and partnership</b>            | Jointly design a five year organisation development / culture programme, for staff and members across Somerset.                    |
| <b>7. Parishes working together</b>        | Parish and town council collaboration to ensure their voices are heard during consultation, implementation and subsequent working. |

## Service and Asset Devolution Approach

Town and Parish Councils (T&PCs) are key in shaping the vision, ambition and objectives for their local communities.

In a unitary Somerset we want you to shape decisions and have a greater role\*

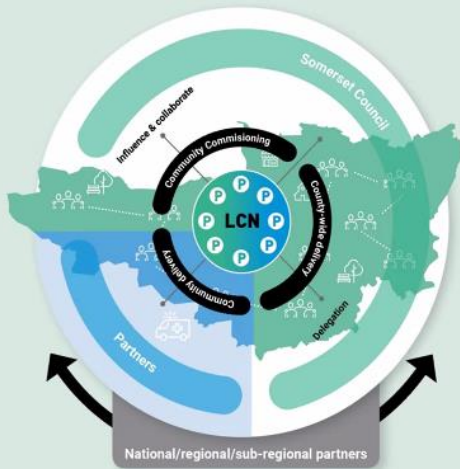
### How?

- As equal partners in determining the selection and approach behind the devolution of assets and services.
- With devolution being broadly cost neutral to both the local and unitary council.
- Through a level of devolution that suits you, e.g.:
  1. Influencing and Monitoring
  2. Joint / Enhanced Delivery
  3. Agency Agreements
  4. Delegated Authority
  5. Full (legal) transfer of services or assets



# Local Community Networks (LCNs)

Designed and shaped by Communities, Town, Parish and City Councillors, partners and the Unitary Council shadow/implementation executive.



**“Putting our communities at the heart of everything we do – thinking strategically and acting locally”**

- Constituted committees of cabinet with real decision making powers.
- Between four and nine unitary councillors on each LCN joined by local councils, police, health, education and other partners.
- A community forum to define local vision and ambition, local discussion, action, oversight, listening.
- Local data and community evidence driven - addressing local issues and priorities.
- The model through which One Somerset will deliver all services.

## How can we work together to define LCNs?

- Our opening questions will be...what works for you, what doesn't, your thoughts on improving? You will be at the heart of the design
- Clear opportunities to build a new approach – grouping some councils together – from single voice to added oomph!
- More involvement from key partners like Police, health, specialist teams like highways and planning - sustainable approach encouraging regular attendance
- Encourage direct sharing of experience between parishes to help those interested in running local services and assets
- Bringing together areas that are compatible and reflect our natural communities
- Two LCN and devolution pilots running by the end 2021

# Why One Somerset?

One Council meeting all the needs of Somerset's residents, communities, businesses and visitors



One council listening to the needs and concerns of residents, parishes and businesses, providing clear accountability to the public.



A stronger voice for Somerset on a regional, national and international stage.



Consistent leadership with key partners to better influence local service delivery.



Sustainable delivery of outstanding public services to improve the quality of life of all our residents and businesses.



Reduce duplication and provide better value across the entire county.



Empower communities and embed delivery at local level to increase community resilience and the ability respond to local challenges

## Stronger Somerset is the local choice

Two local councils will deliver a Stronger Somerset

Keeping your council local will mean better services for you



Your future is stronger with a Stronger Somerset

**Stronger  
Somerset**

## Two local councils will deliver a Stronger Somerset

Two councils that understand and can respond to your local community will deliver the change we need

- These new councils will be small enough, to think and act locally, but big enough to be effective and economic
- They will invest in their local communities and work with them and each other for the benefit of the whole county
- This is the right solution for a county the size of Somerset

**Stronger  
Somerset**

## Just the two

*Two councils determining their own support from:*

Shared service arrangements, where these make sense, like the waste partnership

A new social enterprise, jointly owned and accountable to the new councils, commissioned to focus solely on the crucial area of Children's Services

If a devolution deal can be achieved, we will create a combined authority with other councils in the historic county, to deliver it

*These are **tools** of good local government, not tiers*



**Stronger  
Somerset**

## Keeping your council local will mean better services for you

Localism is at the heart of Stronger Somerset

We want to enable positive choices about what city, towns and parishes do and who they work with

We will invest in a new community and devolution team to help this happen and will:

- co-develop a charter to set out a vision for towns, parishes and communities
- make available at cost support services that localities may struggle to fund on their own, eg HR, finance, IT
- offer Locality Agreements, with appropriate financing, to help local councils and community groups develop the things that will improve their local areas
- co-develop Community Networks, to enhance the capacity and capability of our communities, honouring and supporting the natural clusters that exist

We have fantastic examples of joint working, making places more inclusive and active to reduce demand on high cost, high dependency services

**Stronger  
Somerset**

# Your future is stronger with a Stronger Somerset

Two councils that understand your local economy will create better opportunities for your future

Working together to deliver a step change in digital connectivity across the county

Two councils best reflect the geography and economies of Somerset:

- Western Somerset – maximise the opportunities from Hinkley Point, alternative energy and coastal tourism
- Eastern Somerset – make the area a hub for aerospace and high-tech manufacturing around Yeovil and developing agri-tech and the visitor economy

**Stronger  
Somerset**

## In summary – our vision

Two local councils will deliver a Stronger Somerset

- *Two councils that understand and can respond to your local community will deliver the change we need*

Keeping your council local will mean better services for you

- *Giving more power and control to local communities will deliver better services for all with no one left behind*

Your future is stronger with a Stronger Somerset

- *Two councils that understand your local economy will create better opportunities for your future*

**Stronger  
Somerset**