

**County Council (virtual meetings  
from July 2020 due to  
Coronavirus)  
Wednesday 18 November 2020  
10.00 am Virtual Meeting**



**SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA**

To: The Members of the County Council (virtual meetings from July 2020 due to Coronavirus)

We are now able to enclose the following information which was unavailable when the agenda was published:

Item 7	One Somerset - Request for Deferral of 2021 County Council Elections (Pages 3 - 4)
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Democratic Services, B3, County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY

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Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP**  
*Secretary of State for Housing,  
Communities and Local Government*

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and  
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Dear Leader,

09 October 2020

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN SOMERSET**

I have today in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 invited any principal council in Somerset to submit a proposal for unitary local government for the area. Your council therefore is invited to make such a proposal, and if it decides to do so, it may make its own proposal or make a proposal jointly with any of the other councils in Somerset. The formal invitation document has been sent to your Chief Executive and I enclose a copy.

The invitation specifies that if a council decides to make a proposal, it must submit by 9 November 2020 at least an outline proposal, and if a full proposal has not been submitted by that date, the full proposal must be submitted as soon as practicable thereafter and by no later than 9 December 2020.

I recognise that there are differing views in the area and whilst I would not implement any proposal which lacked a good deal of local support, I appreciate I may receive more than one proposal for the area reflecting the local debates.

I will consider any proposal I receive against our longstanding criteria - that a proposal, if implemented, is likely to improve local government in the area; commands a good deal of local support overall across the area; and to lead to unitary councils covering a credible geography. Subject to statutory consultation, and Parliamentary approval, I am able to implement any proposal submitted if I consider this appropriate.

I or Minister Hall would be happy to discuss this if that would be helpful.

**RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP**

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