

Report of the Returning Officer - Return of Councillors elected

Lead Officers: Patrick Flaherty – Chief Executive and County Returning Officer and Scott Wooldridge Deputy County Returning Officer

Author: Mike Bryant – Service Manager, Democratic Services & Pippa Triffitt – Business Support, Democratic Services

Contact Details: democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk

1. Summary / Background

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to inform the County Council of the persons elected as Members (also known as Councillors) of Somerset County Council at elections held on 5 May 2022.

For the first time in Somerset County Council's history, the election saw 110 Councillors elected to 55 two member divisions. This was in accordance with the Somerset Structural Changes Order 2022 as part of the transition to the new Somerset Council. For their first year in office, elected members will be responsible for all Somerset County Council services before making the transition to become unitary members when the new Somerset Council comes into being on 1 April 2023.

Extensive planning and preparation for the elections was undertaken across the five councils over several months. Verification took place following the close of polls, with counts commencing at 10am on 6 May 2022. The Counts were undertaken at four venues across the County in Bridgwater, Shepton Mallet, Taunton and Yeovil.

The four district councils undertook the verification and counts for the City, Town and Parish Council elections that were also held on 5 May with results announced on 6 and 7 May.

- 1.2** Some key statistics from the election include:

- The Somerset electorate is 434,652.
- The overall election turnout was 37% - this can be broken down by each voting area as follows:
 - Mendip – 39%
 - Sedgemoor – 30%
 - Somerset West and Taunton – 39%
 - South Somerset – 38%
- 80,923 postal votes were issued.
- 477 polling stations were used on election day.
- 1995 people were involved in administering the polling stations on 5 May and the four voting area counts on 6 May.

2. Members Elected

2.1 The following persons were elected to the Council:

DISTRICT	DIVISION	ELECTORATE	% TURNOUT	COUNCILLORS	PARTY
Somerset West & Taunton	Bishops Hull & Taunton West	7928	43.2	Caroline Ellis	Liberal Democrat
				John Hunt	Independent
	Blackdown & Neroche	8598	40.9	Ross Henley	Liberal Democrat
				Sarah Wakefield	Liberal Democrat
	Comeytrove & Trull	7908	46.3	Habib Farbahi	Liberal Democrat
				Dawn Johnson	Liberal Democrat
	Dulverton & Exmoor	6726	48.5	Frances Nicholson	Conservative
				Steven Pugsley	Conservative
	Dunster	7097	39.5	Marcus Kravis	Liberal Democrat
				Christine Lawrence	Conservative
	Lydeard	8162	37.6	Mike Rigby	Liberal Democrat
				Andy Sully	Liberal Democrat
	Minehead	7033	39.6	Mandy Chilcott	Conservative
				Andy Hadley	Conservative
	Monkton & North Curry	9658	39.3	Norman Cavill	Conservative
				David Fothergill	Conservative
	Rowbarton & Staplegrove	7399	35.8	Dixie Darch	Liberal Democrat
				Derek Perry	Liberal Democrat
	Taunton East	8008	26.5	Simon Coles	Liberal Democrat
				Federica Smith- Roberts	Liberal Democrat
	Taunton North	7628	31.3	Lee Baker	Liberal Democrat
				Tom Deakin	Liberal Democrat
	Taunton South	8335	33.9	Hazel Prior- Sankey	Liberal Democrat
				Fran Smith	Liberal Democrat
Upper Tone	7625	44.6	Dave Mansell	Green	
			Gwil Wren	Independent	
Watchet & Stogursey	7736	39	Hugh Davies	Independent	
			Rosemary Woods	Conservative	

	Wellington	9712	37	Marcus Barr	Conservative
				Andrew Govier	Labour
Sedgemoor	Brent	7966	37.7	Bob Filmer	Conservative
				Tony Grimes	Conservative
	Bridgwater East & Bawdrip	9083	26.6	Andy Dingwall	Conservative
				Diogo Rodrigues	Conservative
	Bridgwater North & Central	6973	18.2	Hilary Bruce	Labour
				Leigh Redman	Labour
	Bridgwater South	7743	20.1	Kathryn Pearce	Labour
				Brian Smedley	Labour
	Bridgwater West	7930	26.4	Lance Duddridge	Conservative
				Gill Slocombe	Conservative
	Burnham on Sea North	8010	36.7	Peter Clayton	Conservative
				Mike Murphy	Liberal Democrat
	Cannington	7400	39.1	Brian Bolt	Conservative
				Mike Caswell	Conservative
	Cheddar	7202	39.8	Pauline Ham	Liberal Democrat
				Ben Ferguson	Liberal Democrat
	Highbridge & Burnham South	7477	27.3	John Cook-Woodman	Conservative
				Alistair Hendry	Conservative
	Huntspill	7735	32	Suria Aujla	Conservative
				Mark Healey	Conservative
Kind Alfred	8127	45	Matthew Martin	Liberal Democrat	
			Harry Munt	Liberal Democrat	
North Petherton	7468	34.6	Alan Bradford	Conservative	
			Bill Revans	Liberal Democrat	
Mendip	Frome East	9283	34.3	William Collins	Green
				Helen Kay	Green
	Frome North	7447	43.7	Adam Boyden	Liberal Democrat
				Dawn Denton	Conservative
	Frome West	8161	38.5	Martin Dimery	Green
				Michael Dunk	Green
	Glastonbury	7227	41	Nick Cottle	Liberal Democrat
				Susannah Hart	Conservative
	Mendip Central & East	7427	40.8	Barry Clarke	Conservative
				Philip Ham	Conservative
Mendip Hills	7830	38.3	Edric Hobbs	Liberal Democrat	

				Tony Robbins	Liberal Democrat
	Mendip South	7771	44	Claire Sully	Liberal Democrat
				Alex Wiltshire	Liberal Democrat
	Mendip West	8101	44.1	Heather Shearer	Liberal Democrat
				Ros Wyke	Liberal Democrat
	Shepton Mallet	8331	32.4	Bente Height	Conservative
				Martin Lovell	Liberal Democrat
	Street	9054	33.7	Liz Leyshon	Liberal Democrat
				Simon Carswell	Liberal Democrat
	Wells	8860	43.8	Tessa Munt	Liberal Democrat
				Theo Butt Philip	Liberal Democrat
South Somerset	Blackmoor Vale	7338	43.6	Nicola Clark	Liberal Democrat
				Sarah Dyke	Liberal Democrat
	Brympton	6943	28.6	Peter Seib	Liberal Democrat
				Jeny Snell	Liberal Democrat
	Castle Cary	8038	41.4	Henry Hobhouse	Liberal Democrat
				Mike Lewis	Conservative
	Chard North	8042	36.4	Martin Wale	Conservative
				Jenny Kenton	Liberal Democrat
	Chard South	6657	41.5	Jason Baker	Liberal Democrat
				Connor Payne	Conservative
	Crewkerne	7091	48.1	Mike Best	Liberal Democrat
				Steve Ashton	Conservative
	Curry Rivel & Langport	8735	31.9	Mike Stanton	Liberal Democrat
				Richard Wilkins	Liberal Democrat
	Coker	7533	38.1	Mike Hewitson	Liberal Democrat
				Oliver Patrick	Liberal Democrat
Ilminster	8331	48.2	Val Keitch	Liberal Democrat	
			Sue Osborne	Conservative	
Martock	8442	38.6	John Bailey	Liberal Democrat	

				Emily Pearlstone	Liberal Democrat
Somerton	8324	39	Tim Kerley	Liberal Democrat	
			Dean Ruddle	Liberal Democrat	
South Petherton & Islemoor	8531	44.3	Adam Dance	Liberal Democrat	
			Jo Roundell-Greene	Liberal Democrat	
Wincanton & Bruton	8746	45.4	Tom Power	Conservative	
			Lucy Trimnell	Conservative	
Yeovil Central	7281	47	Andy Kendall	Liberal Democrat	
			Dave Woan	Liberal Democrat	
Yeovil East	8115	25.4	Tony Lock	Liberal Democrat	
			Graham Oakes	Liberal Democrat	
Yeovil South	7885	26.4	Faye Purbrick	Conservative	
			Andy Soughton	Liberal Democrat	
Yeovil West	6436	37	Evie Potts-Jones	Liberal Democrat	
			Wes Read	Liberal Democrat	