

County Council - Decisions

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**COUNTY COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF DECISIONS**

5 October 2022

Item No.	Title
4.	<p>Report of the Executive – Community Governance Review of the unparished area of Taunton and eight neighbouring parishes (Taunton Community Governance Review 2022)</p>
	<p><i>DECISION</i></p> <p>The Council Resolved to:</p> <p>2.1 Confirm that it has considered and taken into account the responses received to the second stage consultation on the community governance review of the unparished area of Taunton and eight neighbouring parishes together with the considerations and recommendations of the SWTC Community Governance Review Working Group as set out in the attached report and appendices as required by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.</p> <p>2.2 Note that in the context of local government reorganisation it is the responsibility of Somerset West and Taunton Council to agree the final recommendations of the community governance review and the responsibility of Somerset County Council to make any Reorganisation Order to give effect to those recommendations.</p> <p>2.3 Note that Somerset West and Taunton Council sought Somerset County Council Executive’s agreement in principle to use a phased approach to transfer the assets and services starting with those identified in Appendix I of the report, where reasonable and practicable on 1 April 2023.</p> <p>2.4 Adopt the SWTC proposals for the final recommendations of the community governance review as follows:</p> <p>A. <i>That a new parish be created to include the currently unparished area of Taunton and that in addition:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. Comeytrowe Parish Council be dissolved, and the entire area of Comeytrowe Parish be included within the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Parish;</i> <i>ii. The Killams Green area, currently within Trull Parish Council area, be included within the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Parish;</i> <i>iii. The part of the forthcoming development in the south-west corner of Taunton that falls within Trull Parish, including the whole of the development north of Dipford Road, should be included within the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Parish;</i> <i>iv. The boundary of Trull Parish to the north-west of Cotlake Hill be altered</i>

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	<p><i>to follow the green wedge around the Sherford urban area, with the small area to the south of that boundary that is currently within the unparished area of Taunton becoming part of Trull Parish.</i></p> <p>v. <i>The urban area within the Maidenbrook Ward of Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish, including sites earmarked for housing development in the near future, be included within the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Parish.</i></p> <p>vi. <i>The urban parts of Staplegrove Parish, including the entirety of the forthcoming development in the north-west corner of Taunton, be included within the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Parish;</i></p> <p>vii. <i>The slim part of Staplegrove Parish jutting to the west of Silk Mills Lane be included within the boundary of Norton Fitzwarren Parish;</i></p> <p>viii. <i>The remaining area of the existing Staplegrove Parish be included within the boundary of Kingston St. Mary Parish;</i></p> <p>ix. <i>Staplegrove Parish Council be dissolved.</i></p> <p>x. <i>A small southern portion of the Kingston St Mary Parish area, representing that part of the proposed Staplegrove East development that falls within the parish, be included within the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Parish.</i></p> <p>xi. <i>With the exception of the River Tone flood plain to the east of Silk Mills Road at Longrun Meadow, Galmington Trading Estate and a small section south of the A38 near Rumwell, no part of Bishops Hull Parish be included within the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Parish;</i></p> <p>xii. <i>The small triangular residential area at the cross-section with Wellington Road, currently within the unparished area, be included within the boundary of Bishops Hull Parish;</i></p> <p>xiii. <i>The boundary between Norton Fitzwarren Parish and Bishops Hull Parish, just north of Mill Cottages, be amended to follow the route of the railway line;</i></p> <p>xiv. <i>The Hankridge Retail Park, Creech Castle and the associated Toneway Road, currently within West Monkton Parish, be included within the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Parish, which should run along the railway to the M5;</i></p> <p>xv. <i>With the exception of the above, no part of the existing area of West Monkton Parish be included in the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Parish;</i></p> <p>xvi. <i>No part of the existing area of Norton Fitzwarren Parish be included within the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Parish;</i></p> <p>xvii. <i>the boundary between West Monkton and Cheddon Fitzpaine parishes between Maidenbrook and Yallands Hill south of the Country Park be amended to following the A3259 and new relief road westwards to Maidenbrook Lane.</i></p> <p>And the Council Resolved:</p> <p>B. <i>That the new parish be named 'Taunton Parish' and that a parish/town council be established to serve the new parish with effect from 1 April 2023.</i></p>

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	<p>C. <i>That the first elections to the proposed new parish/town council for Taunton should be held on the ordinary day of elections (the first Thursday in May) in 2023.</i></p> <p>D. <i>That the proposed new Taunton Parish be divided into wards for the purposes of electing parish/town councillors.</i></p> <p>E. <i>That the total number of councillors to be elected to the proposed Taunton Parish/Town Council be 20 and the warding arrangements for the council and the number of councillors to be elected to represent each ward, be as set out at section 9.19 of the SWTC report (Appendix 2).</i></p> <p>F. <i>That the electoral arrangements of certain other parish councils in the area under review be amended as set out at section 9.20 of the SWTC report (Appendix 2).</i></p> <p>G. <i>That save as set out at A to F above, the existing parishes in the review area and the names, boundaries, council size and other parish governance arrangements in respect of those parishes remain unchanged.</i></p> <p>H. <i>That the budget requirement for the new Taunton Parish/Town Council for the financial year 2023/24 be set at £2.114m.</i></p> <p>I. <i>That temporary parish/town councillors as listed at section 11.20 of the attached SWTC report (Appendix 2) be appointed to serve as members of the new Taunton Parish/Town Council from 1 April 2023 until the councillors elected on 4 May 2023 take up office.</i></p> <p>J. <i>That the Local Government Boundary Commission for England be requested to make changes to the boundaries of the relevant Somerset Council electoral divisions as necessary to ensure consistency between those boundaries and the revised Parish and Parish Ward boundaries made in this Community Governance Review.</i></p> <p>2.5 <i>That accordingly the Council should make the Somerset (Somerset West and Taunton) (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2022 as attached in draft form at Appendix 'A' to give effect to the above recommendations.</i></p> <p>2.6 <i>That a Shadow Taunton Town Council be established with effect from 14 October 2022 and with membership as set out at section 13.6 of the attached SWTC report (Appendix 2), to lead and oversee the work to establish on 1 April 2023 the new Taunton Parish/Town Council.</i></p> <p>2.7 <i>That the Community Governance Review Working Group be wound up once the Reorganisation Order has been made, concluding the review.</i></p>

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	<p><i>2.8 That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer and Monitoring Officer or Deputy, after consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Shadow Taunton Town Council (if any), to take any action necessary to conclude the community governance review in accordance with legislation and statutory guidance and to secure the implementation of the final recommendations of the review as set out in the Reorganisation Order.</i></p> <p><i>2.9 Agree that the S151 Officer will notify the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities of the request Alternative Notional Amount for Council Tax purposes, reflecting the transfer of costs from current district council budget to the budget of the new parish/town council.</i></p> <p><i>2.10 Note that the Executive agreed to the use of a phased approach to transfer the assets and services to the proposed new Taunton parish/town council starting with those identified in Appendix I, where reasonably practicable on 1 April 2023 and that officers from the County Council and Somerset West and Taunton Council work collaboratively ahead of vesting day to finalise the proposed assets and services to transfer for consideration and approval by the Executive.</i></p>
5.	Report of the Constitution and Governance Committee
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Council resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. That the existing DBS policy for Councillors be extended to provide an extension of the current mandatory requirement to have Enhanced DBS checks without barred list checks to all Members of the Council and co-opted members; b. That all DBS checks required above will be carried out by the Council immediately following each Council election to ensure that such checks are renewed halfway through this election period, approximately May 2025. This is relevant as DBS checks are effectively only valid on the day they are issued and this current election period is unusually long; c. That the Monitoring Officer maintains a register of approved applications.
6.	Report of the Health and Wellbeing Board – Proposed future Health and Wellbeing Board & Integrated Care Partnership Arrangements
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Council resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the proposals and approve the approach to align the Health and Wellbeing Board and the ICP and approved the direction of travel to develop the Somerset Board from April 2023.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the transition arrangements for the period October 2022 – March 2023, including the appointment to the Board of additional members and revised quorum arrangements. • Approve the Draft Terms of Reference for the transitional period October 2022 – March 2023.
7.	Report of the Appointments Committee and Monitoring Officer
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Council resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accept the recommendation of the Appointments Committee to appoint Mrs Claire Winter as the Acting Director of Children’s Services from 1st November 2022. 2. Appoint on a spot salary for the post of £140,000 with all other terms and conditions remaining the same as current.

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