

## South Somerset District Council

### Decisions taken by the South Somerset District Council on Friday 30 April 2021

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
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#### Part A – Items considered in public

A5	Local Referendum on the Future of Local Government in Somerset	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That Council agreed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. to hold a local authority poll (local referendum) of all residents of South Somerset on the Electoral Register at 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 who are eligible to vote in local elections, on the two options for the future of local government in Somerset;</li><li>b. to conduct the local authority poll as a postal and online referendum and appoint Civica Electoral Services to conduct the poll;</li><li>c. the poll be held commencing on Tuesday 18th May 2021 and closing at 5.00PM on Friday 4th June 2021;</li><li>d. to hold the local authority poll jointly with such other Somerset Councils that agree and to share the costs of the poll with those councils;</li><li>e. the poll will follow the single non-transferable vote system and the question to be asked will be:  <i>“Which of the two options for change in local government in Somerset to replace the existing five councils do you support (select one only):</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. <b>One council for Somerset</b> (“One Somerset” - the plan</li></ul></li></ul>
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Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p align="right"><i>for a single council proposed by Somerset County Council)</i></p> <p align="right"><i>ii. <b>Two councils for Somerset: Eastern Somerset and Western Somerset</b> (“Stronger Somerset” the plan for two councils for Somerset – an Eastern and a Western Somerset council –proposed by the South Somerset District Council and the other district councils of Somerset)</i></p> <p>f. to delegate the role of Counting Officer to Civica Electoral Services;</p> <p>g. to make such resources, including staff resources, as necessary to the Counting Officer to enable the referendum to be conducted;</p> <p>h. to delegate to the Chief Executive, the authority to take any further action necessary in relation to this matter;</p> <p>i. to write to the Secretary of State to inform him of the referendum and its dates and ask that the result of the referendum be properly considered as part of the decision making process on the future of local government in Somerset;</p> <p><b>Reason:</b> To agree to hold a local poll (referendum) to give residents a voice in the debate and help the Secretary of State in understanding and determining the level of support amongst residents for each of the options for the future of local government in Somerset.</p> <p align="right"><i>(Voting: 35 in favour, 11 against, 0 abstentions)</i></p>

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<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Decision</b>
<b>A1</b>		
<b>A2</b>		