

One Somerset Programme - Overview & Update

June 23rd, 2020 - Taunton Charter Trustees

Our Somerset Community Challenges



Disadvantaged Children

- Social Mobility
- Poverty and Deprivation
- Troubled Families

Fact: 14,000 troubled families
Fact: 529 looked after children



Young People 16-24

- Higher Education
- Self Harm
- Affordable Housing

Fact: our young people are twice as likely to end up in hospital as a result of self harm



The Economy

- Low Wage/Low Skill
- Low Productivity
- Digital Connectivity
- Travel
- Affordable Housing

Fact: Average earnings are £2,226 less per year than the national average



The Environment

- Carbon Neutral Councils
- Carbon Emissions
- Flooding



Older People

- Increase in Older People
- Quality of Health
- Isolation

Fact: 30% increase in people aged 65-84 by 2035; 88% increase over 85s

Future of Local Government in Somerset (FoLGiS)

- FoLGiS report commissioned by all Somerset Councils in 2018
- All Somerset Councils, leaders and CEOs were part of this
- Overarching conclusion supported by all councils that maintaining the status quo is not an option
- A modern 21st century approach to local governance and service delivery is required for the county to thrive and grow

Where are we in Somerset?

- Covid-19: experience of 'virtual unitary', central / local government funding unsustainable
- MHCLG meeting with Local Government Minister of State, Simon Clarke MP
- Devolution White Paper 2020; LGR supports this. Part of COVID-19 response
- Pioneer Somerset (past collaboration between 5 councils didn't deliver)
- Heart of the South West – external partnerships are vital
- Somerset Waste Partnership (a strong example of a one service solution)

One Somerset One Council

www.onesomerset.org.uk

Why One Somerset?

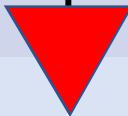
- One council - to listen to the people of Somerset
- One voice – to represent Somerset’s communities, businesses and new business
- One commitment – to drive community decision making and responsibilities
- One promise – to deliver better public services, integrated service improvement and a single pathway for service users
- One back office - delivering savings that can then be invested where you live.
- One HR, One IT, One Finance, One set of directors, one CEO – why have five when you could have ONE?

One Somerset One Council

www.onesomerset.org.uk

One Somerset - LGR Timeline

	2020				2021				2022			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Business Case	[Active]											
Implementation Phase				LCN boundaries And definition	Shadow executive in place							
Transformation Phase									[Active]			



Business case democratic process timing

- Scrutiny - 10 June
- Invitation from Secretary of State to all Somerset councils
- Business case available - w/c 29 June
- Informal member briefings from July 1
- Scrutiny - 15 July
- Cabinet - 20 July
- Council – 29 July
- Secretary of State submission – end July

Engagement Plan – to assess local support

- Engagement with all SCC elected members (May-June-July)
- Engagement with some town and parish councils and partners pre-Covid
- Facilitated by an external research company, to provide an independent voice
- External supplier research engagement, final report 17 June
- Engagement sessions and communications both internally and externally, with residents, businesses and our partners
- Information sessions with SCC staff
- Town/Parishes, local businesses, voluntary community sector, residents, Your Somerset feedback
- Strategic partner support (Police, PCC, Fire, Health, others)

One Somerset One Council

www.onesomerset.org.uk

SALC/SLCC/Frome Parish Conference: Recommendations

1. A Charter for Somerset
2. Local ownership and devolution (assets and services)
3. Localism and solutions
4. Local governance
5. Local presence
6. Trust and partnership
7. Parishes working together

All of these recommendations will be built into the business case

One Somerset One Council

www.onesomerset.org.uk

Example Devolution Menu for Somerset's Towns and Parishes

Assets

- Cemeteries church yards and Crematoria
- Community centres
- Allotments
- Public toilets
- Local parks
- Open spaces - including greenspaces and "hard" open spaces
- Sports grounds
- Swimming pools
- Play areas
- Off and on-street car parking provision and management
- Memorials
- Volunteering (coordination; health, social care, fostering, etc.)
- Roadside verges and other small open spaces
- Leisure and arts centres

Monitoring and enforcement of environmental health matters

- Control of markets
- Street naming
- Licensing - taxis, event notices, street trading etc

Services

- Minor Highways functions such as minor road and footpath repairs, lining, signage
- Minor development control functions, planning applications, tree preservation orders and listed building consents (eg one or two new house developments and residential extensions, applications for smaller work spaces but not applications for residential housing estates or large industrial development)
- Grass cutting and open space maintenance (gully's, verges, drainage, closed churchyards)
- Fly tipping
- Street cleaning
- Abandoned vehicles
- Recycling management
- Health & Wellbeing - Isolation/Volunteering/Befriending
- Community libraries, premises
- Community transport
- Community safety / neighbourhood watch
- Footpath lighting
- Community grants
- Local tourism
- Local town economic development (incl. e.g. job clubs)
- Local climate change initiatives (for example local green transport schemes).
- Homelessness and social housing liaison and provision?

One Somerset One Council

www.onesomerset.org.uk

Local Community Networks (LCNs)

- A fundamental part of the unitary bid (strategic **and** very local)
- Not new; all county unitaries have these
- Committees of cabinet with decision making powers
- Between 4-9 local unitary members on each LCN. Community leadership
- A **forum** for local discussion, action, oversight, listening
- 6-7 public meetings per year; working between meetings
- Supported by a dedicated LCN senior manager for each
- JSNA data, evidence driven; local issues; members' priorities
- Attended by Council, Police, Health, Town & parish councils, VCS and the public

Local Community Networks (LCNs) examples of possible areas of focus

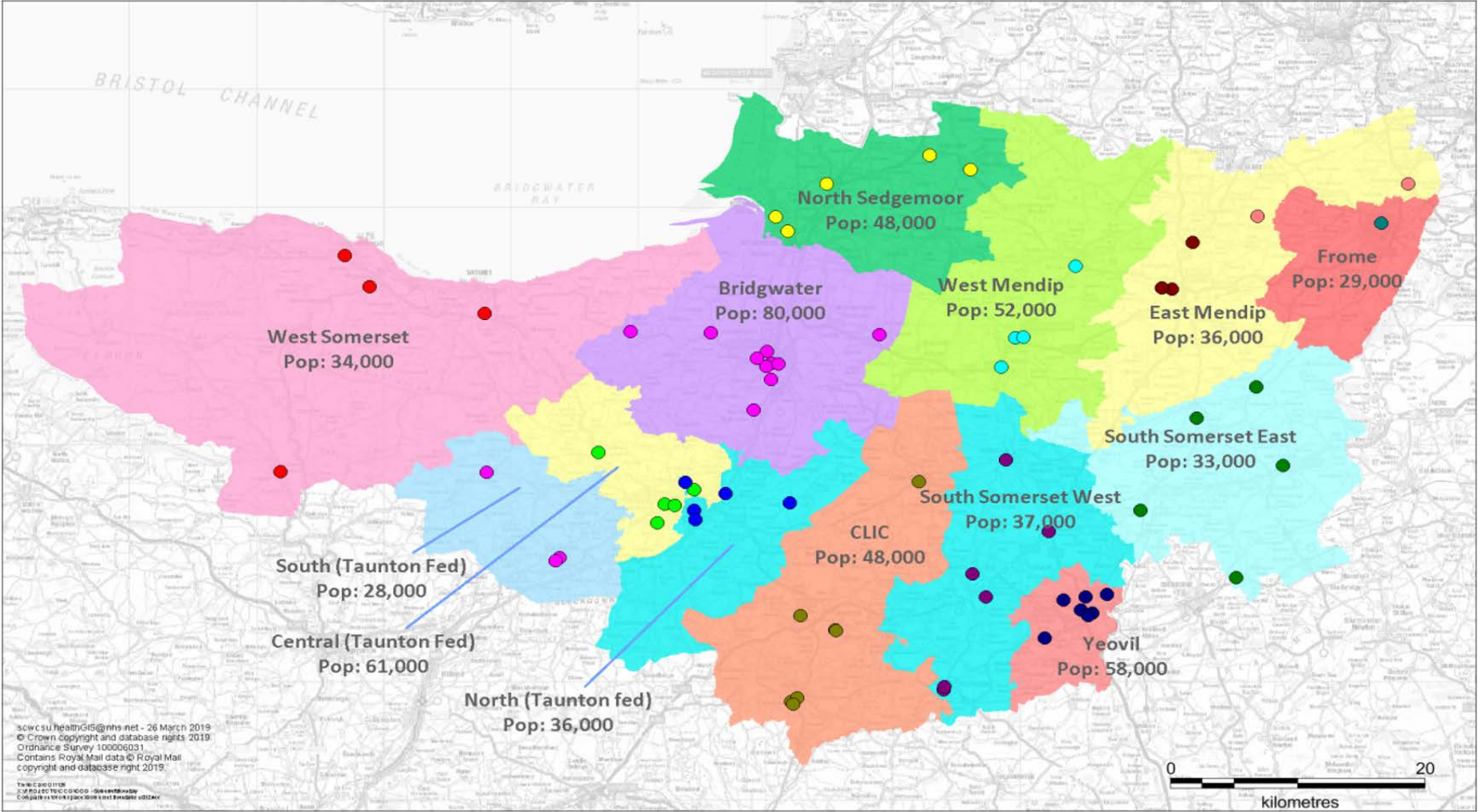
- Youth Services
- Community Transport
- Green initiatives
- Air Quality
- Conservation
- Rights of Way
- Health and Wellbeing

One Somerset One Council

www.onesomerset.org.uk

Proposed LCN number and boundaries. (a starting point)

(Current CCG Neighbourhoods / Primary Care Networks)



County & District Council Service Integration Opportunities

- Planning — 1 local development plan in lieu of 5, incl. waste, minerals
- Housing — integrated with social care commissioning
- Environmental health & Trading standards — integrated with Public health (to affect the wider determinants of health and well being)
- Licensing — integrated with Public Health (to affect the wider determinants of health and well being)
- Leisure — Integrated with Public health (to affect the wider determinants of health and well being)
- Support services – single, integrated across the Council

One Somerset One Council

www.onesomerset.org.uk

Unitary Council Annual Savings (under development)

	Somerset Current	Bucks		Dorset	Leicestershire
Democratic	£1.3 million	£1.6 million	(-0.3)	£0.6 million	£1.3 million
Senior Management	£2.9 million	£3.0 million	(-0.1)	£10.1 million	£5.6 million
Corporate Services	£4.4 million	£4.0 million	(+0.4)		£17.4 million
IT	£1.5 million	£1.7 million	(-0.2)	£0.2 million	
Accommodation	£1 million	£1.5 million	(-0.5)	£0.2 million	
Contracts	£3.3 million	£2.8 million	(+0.5)	-	
Service Consolidation	£4.4 million	£3.76 million	(+0.6)	£2.5 million	£8.5 million
		-	-		-
Total	£18.7million	£18.2 million		£13.6 million	£30 million (-£2.8 million contingency)

Discussion and Q&A