



Somerset Liberal Democrats Chard South December 2025

Consultation on Somerset Council's Electoral Boundaries Reopened

Somerset residents now have another opportunity to provide their input on new electoral boundaries for Somerset Council, as the Local Government Boundary Commission has reopened its consultation on draft recommendations. The consultation will run from now to January 14, 2026. The decision to reopen the consultation follows the Commission's misunderstanding of Somerset Council's preference for predominantly single-councillor divisions, which was incorrectly interpreted as a formal request for a uniform pattern. This led to concerns that multi-councillor divisions may not receive adequate consideration, prompting the Commission to ensure a fair and transparent review process.



Cllr Bill Revans commented on the situation, stating, "While it is accepted that mistakes happen, all the submissions to the consultation included multi-member divisions. The chances of anyone being put off commenting by the LGBCE's misunderstanding are infinitesimal. The cost of a new consultation and the delay in publishing the final boundaries makes this a frustrating and strange decision." Residents are encouraged to participate by sharing their views, including support for multi-member divisions, as the Commission aims to consider all perspectives. Final recommendations are expected to be published in March 2026, with new arrangements set to take effect in May 2027, pending parliamentary approval. For further details on the boundaries proposals, visit the Commission's website at www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/somerset. Feedback can also be submitted via email at reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by post to the Review Officer (Somerset), LGBCE, 7th Floor, 3 Bunhill Row, London, EC1Y 8YZ. .

Teamwork Delivers Vital Drainage and Gas Mains Upgrade in Chard

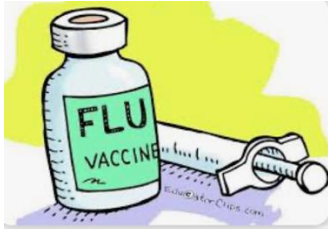
Somerset Council, Wessex Water, and Wales and West Utilities have successfully completed a £1.7 million infrastructure project in Chard, improving drainage and upgrading gas mains on Victoria Avenue, Furnham Road, and Glynswood. The project, which began in January, involved phased road closures to minimise disruption while addressing sewer flooding and enhancing gas service reliability. Glynswood has now reopened to traffic, and construction has been completed on schedule.



Somerset Council, along with Wessex Water and Wales and West expressed gratitude to residents and businesses for their support throughout the essential upgrades, which will ensure a robust infrastructure for the future.

Don't Miss Your Chance: Get Your Flu Vaccination

Somerset Council urges eligible residents to get their flu vaccination, as cases are already rising this season. Vaccination is crucial to prevent serious health complications, especially for those with underlying conditions. Eligible groups include pregnant individuals, children aged 2-3, school-aged children, those aged 65 and over, and frontline health workers. To learn more and book your appointment, visit the [NHS Flu Vaccine page](#) or contact your GP practice. Stay protected this flu season!



Council Approves Pupil Referral Unit Merger to Enhance Outcomes

At a recent meeting of Somerset Council's Executive, members approved a major reorganisation of Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) aimed at improving the quality and consistency of alternative provision for children and young people in the county. The council decided to consolidate the management of the four existing PRUs to streamline governance and standardise approaches, particularly addressing gaps in provision in Frome and West Somerset. Tor School will expand to include the South Somerset Partnership School, while The Bridge School will incorporate sites from Taunton Deane Partnership College. A new Partnership Agreement will define the support and challenges needed for ongoing improvements. All existing facilities will remain open, ensuring that current students continue at their respective sites without needing to change schools or facing longer journeys. The decision focuses on improving management structures to create a fairer system where every child receives high-quality education support, regardless of location. The changes will take effect on April 1, 2026.



New Digital Slinky Transport Service Tops 10,000 Journeys

Somerset Council's on-demand transport service, Digital Slinky, has reached a significant milestone by completing its 10,000th journey within just 18 months of operation. The service covers Somerton, Langport, and surrounding villages, providing a flexible transportation option funded by the Government's Bus Service Improvement Grant (BSIP). Launched in May 2024 as a trial, Digital Slinky is designed to be easily accessible for residents, who can book rides online or through a mobile app available on Google Play and the App Store. The service uses existing bus stops and landmarks as pick-up points, enabling users to reach local shops, work, appointments, and social events. New digital services have recently been rolled out to other areas including Bridgwater, Burnham, Taunton, and Wellington, further enhancing demand-responsive transport options in the county. With the ability to arrange pick-ups directly from home for individuals facing mobility challenges, the service can be booked up to an hour before travel or up to two weeks in advance.




Keeping in Contact

**COME AND TALK WITH US
AT A LIB DEM SURGERY**

FIRST SATURDAY IN THE MONTH

With your Town and Unitary Councillors

AT THE GUILDHALL, CHARD

 **Liberal
Democrats**

10am to 12pm

You can meet with me to discuss any concerns or for help dropping into our monthly surgery or I can arrange an appointment on a day and time that suits you feel free to give me a call on 07736 310805 or email Jason.baker@somerset.gov.uk