



Somerset Liberal Democrats Chard South July 2025

Transforming Social Care Challenges into Success: Somerset Council's 'My Life, My Future' Wins National Award

Somerset Council's adult social care transformation, 'My Life, My Future,' has received national recognition, winning a prestigious Local Government Chronicle (LGC) award. The programme has saved £10 million over the first two years, significantly improved support for residents across the county and will continue to make savings in future years. The need for this transformation stemmed from financial pressures, including government funding reductions and an ageing population, which increased demand for social care. Somerset's decision, under the previous Conservative-led Council, to freeze Council Tax for six years from 2010 to 2016, contributed to a steep revenue shortfall of approximately £27 million annually, impacting the council's finances. Despite these challenges, the current Lib Dem leadership has focused on enabling residents to achieve independence, leading to better outcomes and fewer costly residential placements. However, the government has avoided directly addressing these ongoing challenges, instead initiating another review that is likely to delay a clear plan until 2028. The Lib Dems at Somerset Council have been calling for immediate, urgent action to address and fix social care now. Despite these challenges in Somerset, 'My Life, My Future' has supported more people to stay at home, saving £8.6 million for older adults through improved reablement services, which help individuals regain independence after hospital stays. It has also saved £1.4 million in support for people with learning difficulties, with over 40 actively engaged in plans for greater independence.



Update on Yeovil Maternity Unit Closure: We Are Listening and Taking Action

Somerset Lib Dems at all levels are working hard to address the ongoing concerns surrounding the closure of Yeovil Maternity Unit. We are working tirelessly to champion the needs of local families and ensure their voices are heard. The planned closure of Yeovil Maternity for at least six months comes amid warnings from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) about the hospital's paediatric services, following a series of critical reports on Somerset's maternity care. We understand the anxiety this situation causes to expectant mothers and families across the region. Our leadership, including Lead Member for Public Health, Councillor Graham Oaks, and Somerset Council Leader, Councillor Bill Revan's, have met with senior hospital managers to explore options for reopening the unit as soon as possible. Councillor Oaks has called for the adoption of a Midwife-led unit, and we are actively pressing for a clear date for the reopening. We are closely monitoring developments and doing everything we can to advocate on behalf of residents.

MP Adam Dance has also been prominent in this effort, calling on the Secretary of State for Health, Wes Streeting MP, to ensure that Somerset's needs are not overlooked in the upcoming national review into maternity services. The review, initially focusing on ten of the most at-risk units, must include Yeovil and Somerset to prevent further gaps in vital maternity and paediatric care. Adam has launched an online petition <https://www.yeovil-libdems.org.uk/maternity-unit-campaign> calling on NHS Somerset and the Hospital trust to reopen the unit as soon as possible. Separately Adam has met with staff who have been impacted to hear their concerns directly which he has taken up with NHS leaders.

In a recent House of Commons debate, Adam raised serious concerns about the abrupt closure, warning that leaving a "dangerous gap in care" could result in avoidable harm. He highlighted the impact on expectant mothers who are forced to travel over an hour for care, and the pressure on neighbouring hospitals and staff.

We will continue to hold NHS leaders to account and push for immediate action to reopen Yeovil Maternity without delay. We are taking ownership of trying to solve this NHS Somerset crisis (on behalf of residents) and remain committed to securing the future of safe, accessible maternity services for all families in Somerset.



Progress on Improving Somerset's Roads: Report Potholes and Learn More about What We Are Doing to Meet the Challenge!

Did you know that every week in Somerset, we repair between 600 and 800 potholes? Thanks to our extensive preventative surface treatments program — which covered over 1 million square metres of road last summer — we've reduced the number of potholes by 4,000 compared to last year. We've made significant progress in improving the condition of local roads, but the challenge remains ongoing. We're continually investing in targeted repairs and preventative measures to ensure safer, smoother journeys for everyone.



If you notice a pothole, you can report it quickly and easily at <https://orlo.uk/wEawI>. There's no need to email or call. Your report goes directly to a team member, who will visit and assess the issue. We aim to respond within 3 working days, and depending on the size and location, repairs will be completed within 28 days — or sooner in emergencies.

We've received some questions about this, so to clarify:

We run a comprehensive resurfacing program throughout the year. Additionally, where roads are in good condition, surface dressing can significantly extend their lifespan. Find out more at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads.../surface-dressing/>. We are committed to building on this progress and ensuring Somerset's roads continue to improve. Thanks to dedicated teams and ongoing investment, we are making tangible strides toward meeting the challenge of maintaining high-quality roads for our communities.

Potholes and road damage can be reported here: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/potholes-and-road-damage/>

Lib Dem Leader Cllr Bill Revans Argues for Mandatory Solar Power on All New Homes

Cllr Bill Revan's, Leader of Somerset Council, advocates in his weekly local media article for making solar panels compulsory on all new homes. He highlights that advances in technology have made solar more efficient and affordable, helping to lower bills and reduce emissions. Currently, laws prevent councils from requiring this due to industry lobbying.



Cllr Revan's recalls that in the 1990s, he taught at Broadoak School, where MP Max Wilkinson, now in Cheltenham, introduced the 'Sunshine Bill' to mandate solar energy on new builds. The government declined support at the time, citing housing supply concerns, but recent changes represent a step forward

Have Your Say on the New Somerset Council Boundaries

Residents are invited to comment on proposed changes to Somerset Council's division boundaries as part of a 10-week consultation running until 11 August 2025. The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has proposed that Somerset Council should have 96 single-councillor divisions, with all boundaries changing to better reflect communities and balance representation.



You can view the proposals and give feedback via the [LGBCE Somerset page](#), or by email at reviews@lgbce.org.uk, or by post. Your input will help make the new divisions clear, understandable, and effective for local communities.

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



10am to 12pm

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