



Somerset Liberal Democrats
Chard South
November 2026

Somerset Council switches back to renewable electricity



From April 2027, the Council's electricity will come from a Clean Renewable tariff, sourced from wind, solar and hydro generation, covering all metered and unmetered supplies in its contract. The Council moved to a standard tariff in 2024 during its financial emergency. The switch costs an extra £53,000, less than 1% of its annual electricity spend of around £6.58 million. Cllr Liz Leyshon, Lead Member for Finance, Procurement and Performance, said: “We know the Council needs to play its part in tackling climate change, and that includes looking carefully at where the energy we use comes from. Our financial position meant we had to make some very difficult decisions, including temporarily moving away from renewable electricity. I’m really pleased that we are now in a position to restore this commitment. From next April, the electricity we buy through this contract will be sourced from wind, solar and hydro generation. It is one part of our much wider journey towards net zero, but it is an important and positive step.”

£100 Household Energy Payment for Council Tax bands A to D in January 2027



The Government has announced that households in Council Tax bands A to D will receive a new £100 Household Energy Payment in January 2027.
You don't need to contact Somerset Council about the payment at this time.
If you already pay your Council Tax by Direct Debit, the payment can be made automatically. If you don't, you can sign up now to help make sure you receive the £100 as quickly as possible.
There will also be a separate discretionary scheme for residents not eligible for the £100 payment. Further details of the discretionary scheme, and arrangements for those who do not pay by Direct Debit, are not yet confirmed but will be published nearer the time.
More information: £100 Household Energy Payment: information and Direct Debit sign-up

School placement deadlines



The deadline for secondary and upper school applications was 31 October. Families of children starting school, or transferring to a junior or middle school, in September 2027 must apply by 15 January 2027 for the best chance of a place at a preferred school.

Putting the heart back into S♡merset

Liberal Democrats

Pot Holes and Roadworks update

It's been a busy month for road repairs although we are aware that there is still much more work to be done, please report any defects that you come across via the website or get in contact with myself. Here is a brief list of repairs and works that have taken place in our area over the last month.



Henderson Drive
Hervey Road
Windsor Crescent
Mintons
Bubwith Road
School Lane (South Chard)
Watermead (South Chard)
Crewkerne Road
East Street
Summerfields Road
King Alfred Drive
High Street
Fosse Way (South Chard)
Chardstock Lane

Helping more Somerset children in care stay closer to home



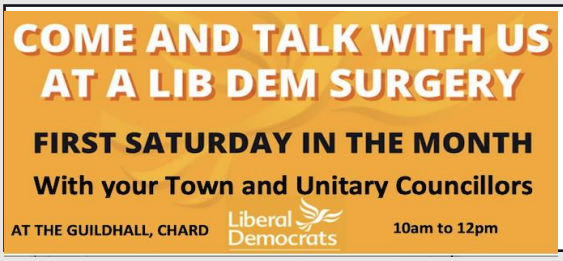
Of the 164 children currently in residential care in Somerset, 97 are placed outside the county. Proposals going to the Executive on Wednesday 4 November set out a more flexible mix of homes and support, timed with the end of the Homes and Horizons contract in November 2027.
The Council would run two short-term assessment homes for children entering care in crisis and a short-breaks home for children with disabilities, commission eight further homes from at least two providers, and bring the High Needs Fostering Service under direct council management. Partnerships with Somerset CAMHS and Horizons Therapeutic Education Trust would continue, and changes would be phased to keep stability for children in the three homes currently open.

Somerset Rough Sleepers



Somerset Council has secured £5.87 million over three years from the Government's new Rough Sleeping Programme: £1 million in 2026/27, £2.26 million in 2027/28 and £2.61 million in 2028/29. The funding will expand existing services and support new ones, including female-only accommodation and higher-support accommodation for people with complex needs. The programme asks councils to offer accommodation to everyone sleeping rough by Christmas.
Homelessness also includes sofa surfing, sleeping in cars and living in temporary accommodation. Anyone worried about becoming homeless can get advice from the Council, and if you see someone sleeping rough, alert StreetLink so outreach teams can help.

Keeping in Contact



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