

City, Parish and Town Councils

Please ask for: David Fothergill

By Email

Email: djafothergill@somerset.gov.uk

Date: 31st July 2020

Dear All,

Business Case for One Somerset, Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

I am pleased to attach the finalised business case for One Somerset, Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Somerset which was approved by Somerset County Council on Wednesday afternoon. This recommends a single unitary council for the current two-tier area of Somerset with a number of benefits:

- It will put the people of Somerset at the heart of any new Authority
- It will create new local opportunities for residents to have a real say about their own community
- It will cut red tape and the wasting of tax payers' money, freeing up funds that can be spent on the real local issues and challenges.

The business case also describes the ambition in Somerset for change to seize the opportunities ahead as well as to address the ongoing issue of COVID-19 recovery. We are ambitious for the people, businesses and Somerset the place; now is the right time to address the structural problems in local government in the county holding back our ambition.

The case for change fits well with the Government's upcoming White Paper on Devolution and Recovery and we have ensured it addresses the intended policy statements made recently by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and local Government and the Minister of State for Regional Growth and Local Government

This has now been submitted to the Secretary of State for consideration and I will keep you informed on developments. I would also like to reassure you that formal consultation on the

proposals will be taking place later this year. We will consider all methods to enable us to engage with as many people as possible – including City, Town and Parish Councils plus residents, voluntary sector, partners and businesses.

I very much look forward to further discussions with you as part of this.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Fothergill', with a long horizontal line underneath it.

Cllr David Fothergill
Leader of Somerset County Council