



WELLS CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL SUMMONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL, WHICH MEMBERS ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND, WILL BE HELD IN WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.00PM

Please note this meeting will be recorded for the purpose of minute-taking.

Steve Luck
Town Clerk

Town Hall, Market Place
Wells BA5 2RB
01749 673091
e-mail: townclerk@wells.gov.uk

20th October 2022

AGENDA

Wells City Council has declared a climate emergency. Each agenda item must consider the impact on any policy and decision.

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**
To receive any apologies for absence.
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12th May 2022.
- 3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 28TH JULY 2022**
To be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.
- 4 MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
Public speaking time is normally restricted to 15 minutes in total, at the discretion of the Mayor.
- 5 CITIZENS ADVICE MENDIP PRESENTATION**
Ian Byworth, Chief Executive Officer
 - Impact on the service as a result of the increase in cost of living
 - Plans for the Portway Annexe

6 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (i) The retirement of Mace Bearer, Melanie Goody.

Mayor's Diary

- (i) 29th Oct, Wells Classic Motorcycle Club AGM, Deputy Mayor attending
- (ii) 31st Oct, Arnold Wills, Choristers meeting in Town Hall
- (iii) 3rd Nov, Founders Day Service and AGM, Almshouses
- (iv) 8th Nov, Wells Floral Art Club, Little Theatre
- (v) 12th Nov, 80th Bishop of Bath and Wells, Wells Cathedral
- (vi) 12th Nov, Antony Gormley celebration with Project Factory, Wells and Mendip Museum
- (vii) 13th Nov, Remembrance Civic Sunday Service (*robing from 9.30am*)
- (viii) 18th Nov, Wells City Carnival
- (ix) 22nd Nov, City of Wells Probus Club 50th Anniversary dinner, Wells Town Hall

7 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on:

- (i) 18th August 2022 (attached by email)
- (ii) 15th September 2022, under delegated authority (attached by email)
- (iii) 20th October (to follow)

8 OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2022 and 6th October (attached).

9 FINANCE & COUNCIL MATTERS COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2022 and 13th October (attached).

10 EXTERNAL AUDIT 2021-22

To receive the External Auditor's Report (attached).

11 BRITANNIA INN

Application for the Britannia Inn to be registered as an asset of community value. Proposed by Cllr T Butt Philip.

12 COUNCILLORS MONTHLY SURGERY

To receive an update from Cllrs T Pullin and S Eden.

13 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

To receive draft diary (attached).

14 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- (i) Twinning Association update – Cllr D Orrett (attached, page 4).

15 CLIMATE EMERGENCY MOTION 2019 BY WELLS CITY COUNCIL

(attached, page 5-6)

Report to the citizens of Wells on an annual basis to demonstrate progress in making City of Wells carbon neutral by 2030.

[Climate Emergency Motion.pdf](#)

Cllr Denise Denis would like to draw attention to the Council that this commitment has not been met over the last 3 years and would like a debate on the climate emergency motion.

16 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS (LCN) CONSULTATION

To receive sub group's recommendation (attached, pages 7-19).

17 CAMPAIGN FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S ABUSE

Proposal by Cllr I Von Mensenkampff.

18 TO RECEIVE ANY WRITTEN REPORTS FROM DISTRICT OR COUNTY COUNCILLORS

To follow, if any received.

19 ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Wells City Council will be Thursday 24th November 2022, 7pm

EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Note: If it is necessary for matters to be considered in confidence, it will be proposed by the Mayor that a resolution be passed under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended.

Circulation List:

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Wells Journal & Wells Voice

Mendip District Council

District Councillors

County Councillor

Wells Chamber of Commerce

Wells Civic Society

Wells Visitor Information

The Bishop's Palace

Wells Cathedral

Wells Police Station

AGENDA ITEM 14

Report on Wells Twinning Association by Cllr Deborah Orrett, Wells City Council representative on the WTA committee.

Wells Twinning Association was established in 1988 and is currently chaired by Dawn Payne with meetings held every 6 weeks. It has always had close links with WCC and I have full voting rights as a member of the committee.

Twinning in Wells was first established in 1979 with our French counterpart Paray-le Monial in order that the two places “will enjoy strong links of friendship and gain in culture, commerce, trade, entertainment, sport and pastimes and for there to be greater understanding between the respective nations”

In 1983 a charter was signed with Bad Durkheim in Germany (which was already twinned with Paray-le Monial).

“Friendship agreements” have also been signed with Bad Berka, a small town in Germany and with Kluczbork in Poland (in 2010)

In 2012 a twinning charter was signed with Commune di Fontanellato near Parma in Italy

WTA has around 140 members who pay a small annual subscription. They also fundraise to be able to subsidise some trips to our twinned towns. They receive no outside funding although WCC has generously paid for accommodation for visiting Mayors on numerous occasions and will host drinks in the Mayor’s parlour during a visit. It is felt that WCC can only contribute to expenses of formally twinned towns and not the friendship “arrangements”.

WTA is keen to “open up” interest in twinning with young people getting involved to expand the interest from its traditional image of exchange amongst the retired.

They have established a 3 year plan so they know what visits will occur. Often a visit will coincide with the Wells carnival in November (although Kluczbork is no longer able to come over this autumn)

Stewart Cursley was due to visit Bad Durkheim last month but had to withdraw due to the death of the Queen. He had paid near to £1000 for his flight and other expenses himself.

10 members are travelling to Bad Durkheim in October. They may be accommodated in people’s homes or will otherwise pay hotels costs themselves.

Mayors in our twin towns tend to hold the position for more than one year. Stewart has written a letter of introduction to all the Mayors.

WTA are currently rebuilding their website and are keen this should be accessed via the Wells City Council website to maintain close links.

I shall continue to be involved with this enthusiastic group of people and these beautiful places to maintain healthy relationships post Brexit.

Deborah Orrett. October 2022.

AGENDA ITEM 15

Motion calling on Wells City Council to declare a Climate Emergency:

Full Council notes:

1. human activity has already caused irreversible climate change, the impact of which is felt around the world. Global temperatures have increased by over 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO₂ levels are over 406 parts per million (ppm), far exceeding the 350 ppm deemed a 'safe' level for humanity². The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2030;^{2,3}
2. the IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C published in November 2018 describes the harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause, and tells us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and regional authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities³;
3. in order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that each of us reduces our CO₂ eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes without delay;¹
4. individuals can accept responsibility for living in a more sustainable way but cannot be expected to make all changes without support. Carbon emissions result from both production and consumption, so Governments - national, regional and local - must change legislation, standards and their approach to meet the need to reduce our CO₂ eq emissions and make low carbon living easier to achieve and the new 'norm';
5. Local Authorities and Councils across the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing to address this emergency. In the South West, many Councils have already taken this step.⁴
6. the Covenant of Mayors, a free network of towns and cities around the globe who have committed to reducing carbon emissions by 2030. The network enables members to share best practice, ideas and funding, and works to create a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) every two years which enables towns and cities to track progress towards meeting their zero carbon targets.

Full Council believes that:

1. All governments have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown, and local government recognises it cannot and should not wait for national government to act.
2. It is important for the residents of the City of Wells that its Council commits to reducing CO₂ eq emissions and works towards carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;

3. Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits by way of new jobs, economic savings, market opportunities and improved well-being.

Full Council moves to:

1. Declare a 'Climate Emergency';
2. Pledge to make the City of Wells carbon neutral by 2030, working proactively with others where opportunities arise, taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3)⁶;
3. Become a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors;
4. Work with residents, organisations and community action groups across the City to deliver this new goal through all relevant plans and actions;
5. Assist the City of Wells' residents to become more resilient to the impacts of global warming;
6. Report to Full Council before the end of 2019 with the actions the Council has, and will take, to address this emergency.
7. Report to the City of Wells' residents on an annual basis to demonstrate progress in making the City of Wells carbon neutral by 2030.

References:

1. Fossil CO₂ & GHG emissions of all world countries, 2017:
<http://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/overview.php?v=CO2andGHG1970-2016&dst=GHGpc>
2. World Resources Institute:
<https://www.wri.org/blog/2018/10/8-things-you-need-know-about-ipcc-15-c-report>
3. The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C:
<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>
4. Including US cities Berkeley:
<https://www.theclimatemobilization.org/blog/2018/6/13/berkeley-unanimously-declares-climate-emergency>
and Hoboken:
<https://www.theclimatemobilization.org/blog/2018/4/25/hoboken-resolves-to-mobilize-and-the-c40-cities>
<https://www.c40.org/other/deadline-2020>
5. Scope 1, 2 and 3 of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol explained:
<https://www.carbontrust.com/resources/faqs/services/scope-3-indirect-carbon-emissions>
6. Assessing "Dangerous Climate Change": Required reduction of Carbon Emissions to protect young people, future generations and nature:
<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0081648>

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Local Community Networks – Consultation companion

The following pages present the consultation questions as they appear online to assist those who wish to make paper notes before completing the form online at this link: www.somerset.inconsult.uk/connect.ti/LCNs/consultationHome

Full paper copies are available by emailing: LCN@somerset.gov.uk or by calling Somerset County Council direct on 0300 123 2224.

We recommend you read more about LCNs before sharing your views about the Proposals. You'll find information on our website www.newsomersetcouncil.org.uk



PLEASE NOTE: The LCN Consultation closes on 17th October 2022 at 23:59 hrs. Please ensure your responses are back with us by that date.

(comp: 27th Oct)

Background

On 1st April 2023 a new unitary Somerset Council will replace Somerset County Council and the four district councils (Mendip, Sedgemoor, Somerset West and Taunton, and South Somerset).

Somerset Council will cover a large geographical area. Council Leaders are mindful that we need a model for communities where local voices are heard, partners are brought together, and decisions are taken with the benefit of local knowledge and experience. That's why all the Somerset councils support the development of Local Community Networks (LCNs).

- ✓ LCNs will be established in every part of Somerset.
- ✓ They will be Committees of the unitary Council, supported by dedicated officers and managers.
- ✓ They will have formal decision-making powers and influence.
- ✓ They will enable the Council, partners and communities to work together to address local issues and priorities, support health and wellbeing activities, and improve outcomes for residents.
- ✓ LCNs must be affordable and have the potential to develop their role alongside the new Somerset Council in the years to come.



EXAMPLE FOR NOTES – PLEASE DO NOT USE AS A FORMAL SUBMISSION

Throughout the summer we have been working on developing the LCN model. This consultation asks for your involvement in guiding the decisions on the following key aspects:

- **Function** – what roles and responsibilities the LCNs can have in the first and subsequent years of Somerset Council.
- **Form** – development of options for the LCN boundaries, using existing democratic boundaries, Local Plans and community infrastructure
- **Name** – whether 'Local Community Network' is the right name.

What happens next?

Timeline

The LCN consultation will begin on 5th September and close on 17th October 2022. Following the consultation, a formal decision paper, including a resourcing plan, will be submitted to Somerset County Council's Executive, scheduled for 16th November 2022.

In-person engagement sessions

We are holding in-person engagement events where you can join us to discuss the proposals in more detail with a member of our team.

7 th	September	10-4pm	Somerset West and Taunton Offices, Taunton
22 nd	September	10-4pm	Mendip Council Offices, Shepton Mallet
29 th	September	10-4pm	South Somerset District Council Offices, Brympton
7 th	October	10-4pm	Sedgemoor Council Offices, Bridgwater
10 th	October	10-4pm	West Somerset House, Williton

Feedback - We will publish feedback on these proposals once the consultation ends.

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Consultation questionnaire

1. The aims for LCNs are listed below. Which do you think are most important?

Circle at least 1 option.

1. Ensure the countywide unitary council remains responsive to local needs
2. Improve outcomes for residents
3. Provide a mechanism for local action
4. Promote active community decision making

Other

2. Thinking of the ongoing evolution of LCNs, how important do you consider each of the following roles to be? Tick the most applicable option in each row. You must select an option in every row.

	Very important	Important	Not sure	Not very important	Not at all important
Acting as Committees of Somerset Council, with formal influence over services to reflect what's most important to their local area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bringing together public service providers (councils, NHS, police, education and more) with voluntary organisations, community groups and local businesses to work together to deliver shared goals.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Being a forum for 'community voice', where participants discuss and promote shared ambitions for their local area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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EXAMPLE FOR NOTES – PLEASE DO NOT USE AS A FORMAL SUBMISSION

	Very important	Important	Not sure	Not very important	Not at all important
Identifying local issues and priorities using data and evidence.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Building community resilience through local activities which reduce the number of residents reaching crisis, in any form.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Administering grant funding for local initiatives.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exploring how best to support Planning and Licensing decision making.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting new technology which enables more people to engage with local democracy and council services.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing information to support Asset of Community Value panels, which consider applications to give communities rights to buy or bid for council owned assets, such as buildings or land, should they be offered for sale.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prioritising minor road maintenance and highways services at a local level.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting Parishes to work together including across LCN boundaries.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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EXAMPLE FOR NOTES – PLEASE DO NOT USE AS A FORMAL SUBMISSION

Are there other roles you want to see LCNs performing?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for handwritten notes or a formal submission. The box is currently blank.

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LCN Boundaries Proposals

In developing LCNs, we want to reflect the way in which our communities work and therefore we are keen communities and partners are involved in how they develop.

To help assess the proposals, we looked at a range of factors, to enable comparisons to be drawn. We tried to think about where people live, work, go to school and access services, including health. In all cases we kept to parish outlines as closely as possible.

The things we considered:

- **Population** – we looked at how balanced the population numbers were in each LCN, how important or not is it that they have similar numbers of residents in each area
- **Geographies** – how similar in size of area they were, and their distribution/spread across Somerset
- **Electoral Divisions** – the number of Unitary Electoral divisions, and how they split within, and across, LCN boundaries
- **Deprivation** – using indices of multiple deprivation, we looked at how the most and least deprived areas were distributed
- **Community Facilities, eg. Libraries** – we looked at where these were situated
- **Health** – we compared the ‘fit’ of Primary Care Network (PCN) boundaries to LCN boundaries
- **Secondary School Catchment Areas** – we checked how these were split in relation to LCNs, recognising schools are often at the heart of communities
- **Travel to Work Area** – we looked at their alignment to LCN areas
- **Current Local Plan Geographies** – we looked at their alignment to LCN areas

Based on analysis of this range of data and intelligence, **THREE** potential boundary proposals were identified – and we would welcome your comments on each of them.

1. Proposal A would have 18 LCNs
2. Proposal B would have 17 LCNs
3. Proposal C would have 10 LCNs

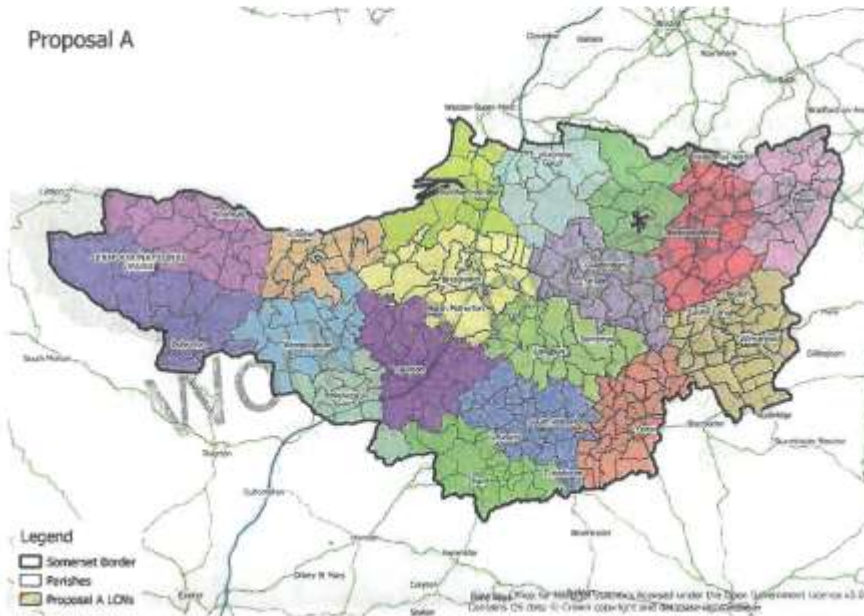
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EXAMPLE FOR NOTES – PLEASE DO NOT USE AS A FORMAL SUBMISSION

Maps detailing each proposal are included below. You can view an online interactive version by typing this link into your internet browser: <https://tinyurl.com/j7v2skwt>

Proposal A



- In this proposal, there would be 18 LCNs all a similar size in terms of area giving an even coverage across the county
- The population is not spread evenly across the county, and this results in a wide population size spread across the LCNs
- Many electoral divisions sit within one LCN with 15 sitting across 2 LCNs, 6 across 3, and 2 across 4 LCNs
- Most deprived areas sit within major population centres, and these remain similar across all proposals
- All LCNs contain at least one library with several containing 2 or more
- The majority of LCNs overlap between 2 and 4 PCNs
- The majority of LCNs overlap between 3 -5 secondary school catchment areas. 4 LCNs overlap 7 or 8 catchments areas

Matches some existing Local Plan geographies

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3. Do you support the proposed boundaries as described in Proposal A?

You must provide an answer to this question. Please tick.

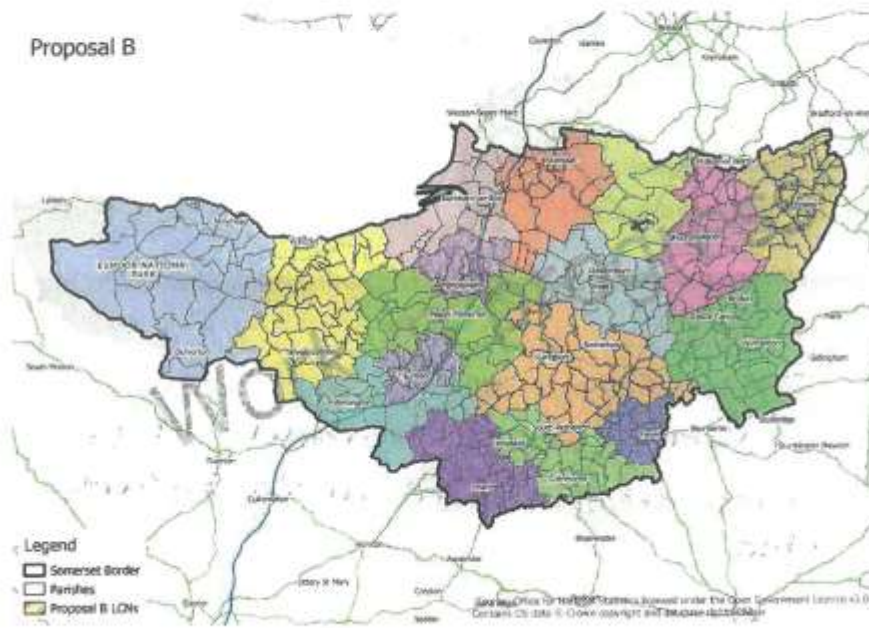
- Support
- Partially support
- Don't support

Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of this proposal:

Comparatively local
Will need finance + admin support
which may be limited as so many
areas.

EXAMPLE FOR NOTES – PLEASE DO NOT USE AS A FORMAL SUBMISSION

Proposal B



- In this proposal, there would be 17 LCN areas
- This proposal balances the population across LCNs
- The area between Taunton and Bridgwater lacks a natural community identity
- Many electoral divisions sit within one LCN with 16 sitting across 2 LCNs, 5 across 3, and 3 across 4 LCNs
- Most deprived areas sit within major population centres, and these remain similar across all proposals
- All LCNs contain at least one library with several containing 2 or more
- The majority of LCNs overlap between 2 and 4 PCNs
- Many LCNs overlap between 3-5 secondary school catchment areas
- Matches some existing Local Plan geographies

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EXAMPLE FOR NOTES – PLEASE DO NOT USE AS A FORMAL SUBMISSION

4. Do you support the proposed boundaries as described in Proposal B?

You must provide an answer to this question. Please circle.

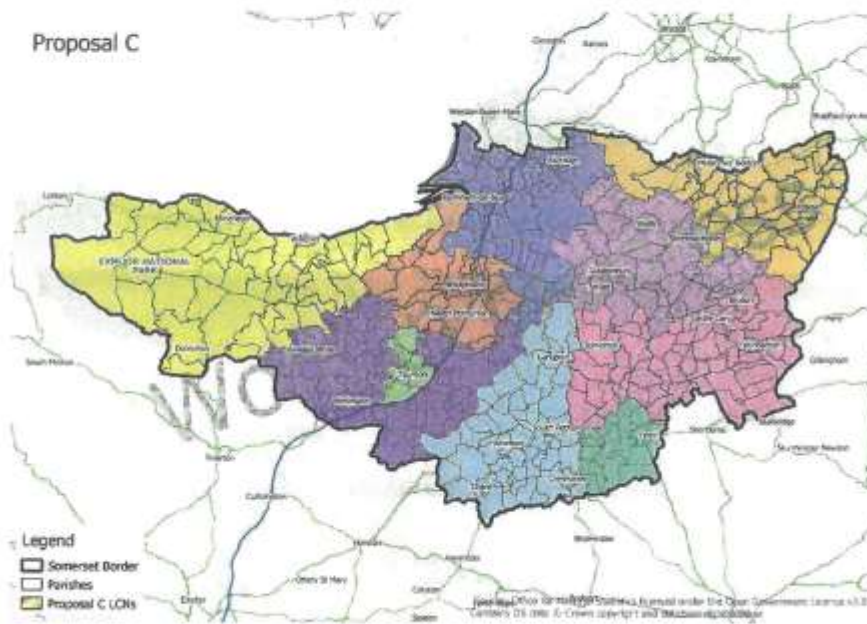
- Support
- Partially support
- Don't support

Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of this proposal:

Same reasons as A but serious concerns about viability of some other areas where parishes are split

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Proposal C



- In this proposal, there would be 10 LCNs
- Generally, a good fit maintained with parish boundaries
- Population is well balanced across 9 of the 10 LCNs, where population ranges from 50,000 to 65,000. However, area to the west of Somerset is significantly lower at 35,005
- The LCN around the largest towns of Yeovil and Taunton is smaller in terms of area
- Large single area to the west of Somerset
- Note 'horseshoe' area wrapping the south of Taunton
- Strong fit with electoral divisions
- Most deprived areas sit within major population centres, and these remain similar across all proposals
- All LCNs contain at least one library with several containing 2 or more, due to the larger geographical size in this proposal, 4 LCNs contain 4+ libraries each
- Many of the LCNs overlap between 2 and 4 PCNs

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EXAMPLE FOR NOTES – PLEASE DO NOT USE AS A FORMAL SUBMISSION

- Many LCNs overlap between 3-6 secondary school catchment areas, no LCNs in this proposal match a single catchment area
- A close match with existing Local Plan Geographies, meaning that in the short to medium term LCNs would each work only with one Local Plan

5. Do you support the proposed boundaries as described in Proposal C?

You must provide an answer to this question. Please circle.

- Support
- Partially support
- Don't support

Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of this proposal.

The strength of proposal C is the financial support to LCNs will be affected in the current economical climate + so having less LCNs will ensure County Support for administration + finance.

The weakness is that E. Horrington + Priddy are included in the Frame area whereas they are more aligned to Wells

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6. Participation in LCNs

LCNs will meet 6 to 8 times a year in their local areas. Each LCN will be delegated authority to agree their own schedule of dates, within the context of the calendar for other public meetings.

Can you foresee any barriers for organisations in participating in LCNs?

What will they be? Tick at least 1 option.

- Time
- Financial
- Other:

Additional workload on parish clerks
Town + parish councils have prescribed timetables
so ensuring decisions/proposals go to full council
will be affected by standing orders.
Financial insufficient support to make it work may
deter councils from ~~app~~ engaging.

7. What shall we call LCNs?

Local Community Networks (LCNs) has been a working name. What do you think they should be called?

You must provide an answer to this question. Circle your preference or provide an alternative.

- Local Community Networks
- Community Partnerships
- Community Boards
- Other:

Wells C.C. does not support LCN name due
to conflict with existing Wells Community Network
- a volunteering organisation

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