

one somerset

May 2021

Dear Somerset resident,

Your invitation to shape the future of local government in Somerset

Over the last two months the Government has been consulting on the future of local government in Somerset. We wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took the time to take part. Responding to the official Government consultation was the only guaranteed way to have your say on this matter and thousands of residents, businesses, organisations, and community groups across the county did just that.

Change is coming to Somerset, with a decision expected by Government this summer. This will mean that the current 'two-tier' arrangement of county and district councils will be replaced with either one or two unitary authorities, responsible for providing all services in the county.

The Government consulted on two possible options:

- 1** Somerset County Council's proposal – called One Somerset - that would see the four district councils and the county council replaced with a single new unitary authority in the county. So, replacing five existing councils with one new organisation.

Find out more at www.onesomerset.org.uk

- 2** A proposal by the four district councils – called Stronger Somerset – that would replace Somerset's existing five councils with two new unitary authorities in the east and west of the county, outsourced children's services to an Alternative Delivery Model, a shared services company, and a combined authority for the area. So, replacing five existing councils with five new organisations.

Find out more at www.strongersomerset.co.uk

This reorganisation will be the biggest change to the way that local government operates and supports you for nearly fifty years. It will affect everyone who lives, works, or studies in Somerset, and how they access local services and interact with their council and local councillor in the future.

Given the significance of this change, we believe that it is important that residents are fully informed about what happens next, the likely timetable and how they can get involved and continue to shape and influence future plans.