

## MEMBERS' BRIEFING MAY 27, 2022



Here is your fortnightly update on South Somerset District Council news, including meetings, Coronavirus Support, Local Government Reorganisation, and more from the past 14 days.

You can also keep up to date on news with our website [www.southsomerset.gov.uk](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk) or click the button below. If you would like a PDF version of this newsletter or a URL link, please email [communications@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:communications@southsomerset.gov.uk)

Visit our Website



Whispering Willows is a non-verbal piece of theatre produced by Wassail Theatre. It uses music and puppetry and is for all ages, telling an original story through the eyes of a Somerset willow farming family, against the backdrop of World War II. Having already been performed at venues across Somerset, it will be performed at Yeovil Country Park at 11am on Tuesday 31 May. For more, visit [www.wassailtheatre.co.uk/whispering-willows](http://www.wassailtheatre.co.uk/whispering-willows)

### Upcoming Meetings

[Scrutiny \(Informal\) - Tuesday 7 June - 10.30am](#)

[Standards - Tuesday 7 June - 2pm](#)

[District Executive - Thursday 9 June - 9.30am](#)

[Previous meetings can be viewed on our Youtube channel.](#)

## Coronavirus Support

The Coronavirus Support section on the Government website is a valuable resource to help you support your community, give health advice and keep you updated on COVID-19 news.

[Find out more here](#)



## Featured News



### SSDC concludes purchase of Huish Park

South Somerset District Council has completed the purchase and leaseback transaction of Huish Park and associated land of Yeovil Town Football Club. SSDC's District Executive committee approved the purchase as part of a proposal to not only ease...

[Read more](#)

[www.southsomerset.gov.uk](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk)



## New Leader and Executive confirmed at SCC

A new Leader and Executive have been announced at Somerset County Council's Annual General Meeting - the first since May's elections. Liberal Democrat Councillor Bill Revans was confirmed as Leader of the Council and announced that Cllr Liz...

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somersetnewsroom.com



## Update on actions taken to address weaknesses in governance

An update on the wide range of actions taken by South Somerset District Council in the wake of an investigation into breaches of our Code of Conduct has been provided. A report will be considered by the council's Audit committee which outlines...

[Read more](#)

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## Monkeypox cases confirmed in England - latest updates

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has detected 8 additional cases of monkeypox in England. The latest cases, as of 25 May, bring the total number confirmed in England since 7 May to 85. There are 3 confirmed cases in Scotland, one in Wales...

[Read more](#)  
[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

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## Further support and news

### Weekly update: Public health

You can continue to keep track of Covid-19 infections in Somerset using the Dashboard [which can be found here](#) and [the latest news here](#). Infection rates have continued to show a significant decrease across Somerset.

With regard to Monkeypox, the Government is releasing [updates and advice here](#). The latest cases, as of 25 May, bring the total number confirmed in England since 7 May to 85.

The risk to the UK population remains low, but the Government is asking people to be alert to any new rashes or lesions on any part of their body.

### Update: Local Government Reorganisation

Updates and the latest news can be found both on the [New Somerset Council website](#) including guides to the election and Local Community Networks.

A new Leader and Executive were announced at Somerset County Council's Annual General Meeting this week.

Liberal Democrat Councillor Bill Revans was confirmed as Leader of the Council and announced that Cllr Liz Leyshon will take on the role of Deputy Leader.

Cllr Mike Best was elected to the post of Chair of the Council and Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey to the Vice-Chair role. Cllr Val Keitch has the portfolio for Local Government Reorganisation and Prosperity. The appointments were proposed



by the Liberal Democrat Group and unanimously supported by councillors at the meeting.

The new Executive Lead Members and their areas of responsibility are as follows:

Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Member on Finance and Human Resources – Cllr Liz Leyshon  
Lead Member for Children and Families – Cllr Tessa Munt  
Lead Member for Adult Social Care – Cllr Heather Shearer  
Lead Member for Transport and Digital – Cllr Mike Rigby  
Lead Member for Public Health, Equalities and Diversity – Cllr Adam Dance  
Lead Member for Local Government Reorganisation and Prosperity – Cllr Val Keitch  
Lead Member for Environment and Climate Change – Cllr Sarah Dyke  
Lead Member for Development and Assets – Cllr Ros Wyke  
Lead Member for Communities – Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts

Associate Lead Members (previously known as Junior Cabinet Members):

Associate Lead Member for Governance and Communications – Cllr Derek Perry  
Associate Lead Member for Finance – Cllr Peter Seib  
Associate Lead Member for Education – Cllr Caroline Ellis  
Associate Lead Member for Adults – Cllr Mike Stanton  
Associate Lead Member for Transport & Digital – Cllr Mike Hewitson  
Associate Lead Member for Public Health – Cllr Ross Henley  
Associate Lead Member for Economic Development & Inward Investment – Cllr David Woan  
Associate Lead Member for Environment & Climate Change – Cllr Dixie Darch  
Associate Lead Member for Development & Assets – Cllr Sarah Wakefield  
Associate Lead Member for Communities – Cllr Nicola Clark

The Executive will be responsible for all County Council services and oversee the Local Government Reorganisation programme to establish the new single unitary council on 1 April next year. Then from 1 April 2023, they will be responsible for all services that are currently delivered by the county and four district councils, ranging from adults' and children's social care to highways and housing, and from libraries to planning and licensing.

### **Local Community Network News**

The South East Somerset (SES) Pilot LCN launched on Thursday 19 May. It was a key stakeholder and partner event, with a focus on wellbeing and finding solutions to the issue of rural isolation in the local area through four themes; transport, youth outreach, older people and mental health.

The launch aims were to get everyone together in one room to identify what services are out there currently, build on that existing provision, and to encourage and support closer working relationships.

Around 50 people attended the two-and-a-half hour session at Wincanton Memorial Hall, which featured guest spots and break-out sessions. Speakers included representatives from SPARK, Rail to Trail, CAT Bus, The Balsam Centre and Youth Connect.

Also in attendance were Brue Valley Rotary, Camelot Area U3A, Caryford Hall, King Arthurs School, Friends of Wincanton Community Hospital, Mendip District Council LGR team, South Somerset District Council officers, plus newly elected county council/unitary, South Somerset District councillors, Somerset Skills and Learning, Wincanton Health Centre and the Wincanton Patient Participation Group.

Following the huge success of the launch, the Steering Group responsible for driving forward the LCN pilot are planning their first 'themed meeting' at the end June.

LGR comms will keep you up-to-date on progress with regards this pilot, and its outcomes. And the pilots underway in the Frome area and in Exmoor too. Watch this space!

Who's involved?

If you'd like to find out more about the South East Somerset LCN, these are the key members of staff involved in the project:

Sara Skirton, joint CCP Workstream Lead, Mendip District Council, [sara.skirton@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:sara.skirton@mendip.gov.uk)

Tim Cook, Locality Team Manager, SES LCN Steering Group, South Somerset District Council, [tim.cook@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:tim.cook@southsomerset.gov.uk)

Ally Laing, LCN Comms Lead, SES LCN Steering Group, Mendip District Council, [ally.laing@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:ally.laing@mendip.gov.uk)

### **CEO recruitment**

The closing date for application for the CEO role for the new Somerset Council is June 9. The aim is for an appointment to be made in July. You can find [the recruitment site here](#).

### **Member Training**

All SSDC councillors now have access to SSDC Academy.

<https://myacademy.southsomerset.gov.uk/>

Please use the above link from your council device, you will be signed in automatically.

We recommend that you bookmark this page in your browser, so that you don't need to find this email for the link each time.

From the home screen click on My Learning, and then Certifications to view all of the courses you are required to complete.

- 1) Equality, diversity and Inclusion for councillors
- 2) Health and Safety at work for councillors
- 3) Cyber Security for councillors
- 4) GDPR for Councillors

For any questions please contact the Scrutiny and Member Development Specialist Stephanie Gold - [Stephanie.gold@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:Stephanie.gold@southsomerset.gov.uk)

### **South Somerset: Get Connected**

South Somerset District Council has produced a directory of internet service providers in the area. Since the Covid-19 pandemic our broadband connections have continued to be a priority in our lives and are incredibly important to our local communities.

We want to offer communities and individuals the opportunity to be aware of the different types of broadband providers and how to take advantage of national programmes of support.

The Broadband Directory includes information on:

Providers delivering broadband solutions within the area

Gigabit Broadband Vouchers – financial support for communities looking to get connected

Universal Service Obligation - your right to legally request a decent and affordable connection

Connecting Devon and Somerset – a local partnership to support the delivery of broadband

Mobile Boost Scheme - financial support to improve your mobile signal coverage

We would appreciate your help on mapping the quality of the connection in your parish and supporting us with the promotion of the [Broadband Directory](#) to your residents. If your parish is suffering with poor broadband please contact us at [econdev@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:econdev@southsomerset.gov.uk)

### **EV Charging Network installation update**

SSDC has been progressing the installation of an EV Charging Station Network across a number of the SSDC public car parks with Scottish Power, who will operate the Charging Network. Work is now starting, although there are several steps in the installation process before the charging network will be up and running, so we appreciate your patience. Each charging station will have two 22kW sockets for any EV to use with their compatible charging cable, and will be powered by energy generated by wind.

The following car parks will have initial groundworks installed starting in May and on-going over the summer. We will update you when they are fully operational later this year.

#### **The confirmed car parks include:**

- Fore Street and Bath Street, Chard
- West Street and South Street and LIDL, Crewkerne
- Millbrook Gardens , Castle Cary
- Goldcroft, Petters Way, Brunswick St, South Street Market, Petters Way, Brympton Way, Yeovil Recreation Ground, Court Ash park, Fairfield, Salthouse Lane, Huish, Stars Lane, Yeovil
- Prigg Lane South Petherton
- Stoke Sub Hamdon

- Tolbury Mill, Bruton
- Wharf Lane, Ilminster

and a few more car park locations to follow once confirmed.

Yeovil Innovation Centre will be added to the list soon once lease is completed and Westlands and Martock Car landlords are being engaged in the process of agreeing the sublease.

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### **Guidance to support local communities with Brexit**

A page which brings together guidance and information from across Government to help councils is available.

You can check what else you or your organisation may need to do to prepare by answering a few questions on the Brexit checker.

Brexit checker: <https://www.gov.uk/brexit>

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