

District Councillor Report June 2021

Outcome of poll on the future of local government in Somerset

The Leaders of Somerset's four District Councils have written to Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, in the wake of the Local Poll which showed strong support for Stronger Somerset.

More than 111,000 people took part in ballot, producing a turnout of 25.6 per cent. Some 65.3% voted for Stronger Somerset (i.e. two Unitaries) and 34.7% for the alternative 'One Somerset' put forward by Somerset County Council which proposes a new single unitary council for whole of Somerset.

The decision of the Local Government Secretary on the future of local government in Somerset is due before the summer Parliamentary recess on 22 July.

Update from Somerset Waste Partnership

Somerset Waste Partnership would like to apologise for the disruption to waste collections in parts of the Somerset in recent weeks.

An escalating national driver shortage is making it very difficult for their contractor, SUEZ, to recruit drivers. Although temporary extra staff have been brought in from elsewhere in the company, there is no quick fix.

If you know anyone who is a qualified Large Goods Vehicle (LGV) driver, including anyone recently retired, please point them in the direction of current vacancies in Bridgwater, Evercreech, Taunton, Williton and Yeovil.

Recycling collection crew staff are also much needed. Details of vacancies can be found here careers.suez.co.uk/vacancies or email careers.uk@suez.com

Covid-19 has delayed training and testing, and EU drivers leaving the UK have worsened the picture – as has the demand coming from the recent reopening of non-essential retail.

SWP thank residents for their patience.