

**Committee: Full Council**

**Date: 25 April 2023**

**Title: Future of Local Government in Somerset**

**Purpose of Report**

For members to receive updates and consider how they see Ilminster post-unification of the District Councils and Somerset County Council.

**Recommendation:**

To note the report and resolve any resolutions emanating from the discussions of matters relating to this report

**Report:**

1. The clerk has been attending on line meeting on a regular basis over how the implementation of a unified council will affect both towns and parishes in Somerset.
2. As has already been referred to elsewhere in this meeting concerns were raised by the Town Clerk over how S106 and CIL money will be allocated in the coming months following a recent email from the localities officer.
3. Officers are genuinely concerned that any delay in the consideration of these applications will have an impact on the overall cost of the projects for which funds are being applied for. This issue has been raised with the LGR team and they are looking into it and have promised to come back to us.
4. Interviews are currently taking place for the various Tier 4 appointments at the new council, but in the interim all departments should be operating in the same way that they were before vesting day. The LGR team are keen to hear of any issues that people may be having with connecting to any departments within Somerset council. They will look to do their best to ensure that any concerns are looked into and rectified.
5. The town clerk has also had conversations with regards the forthcoming LCN meetings and whilst unable at this point to confirm when this meeting will take place, he does believe it may be in June at a location yet to be confirmed.

6. As members may recall concern was raised over how decision making might take place at these meetings and it is clear that early meetings will initially be looking at seeking consensus over what the overriding concerns are for those people in the LCN area. The identification of these concerns it is hoped will be arrived at through a consensus of opinion and may involve such things as provision of children services, adult care, and other matters currently the responsibility off the County Council.
7. In order for the objectives to be arrived at subjectively, it will require attendees at the meeting to have a clear understanding of what their communities' opinions really are. There is a danger that individual opinions from attendees may in fact not be reflective of what the community genuinely is.
8. It is for this reason that where opinions differ members of a council may well be asked to canvas the opinions of people in the community that they know. It is hoped that the work that is currently being done on the community consultation conducted by Ilminster town council over the past four months will help with this.
9. As more information becomes available with regards the LCNs it will be forward it to members for their consideration.
10. Going forward over the next 12 months there will be more information made available with regards the opportunity for this town council to acquire assets and services. Members may wish at future meetings to bring thoughts as to what they would like to see the town council responsible for.

Mark Tredwin  
Town clerk  
April 2023