

Committee: FULL COUNCIL

Date: 15 November 2022

Title: Future of Local Government in Somerset

Purpose of Report

To receive updates and consider how Ilminster will look after vesting day for the new authority on 1 April 2023

Recommendation:

Members to note the report

Report:

1. Following the update at last months full Council Meeting the clerk has started to enquire about the possibility of a Highways Steward being allocated to the Ilminster Area.
2. A presentation of the pilot that is currently underway has been shared with the various Town and Parish Clerks that meet on a fortnightly basis and this has been appended as **Appendix 22A**.
3. As soon as more information has been received members will be updated.
4. Members will recall that a consultation was carried out recently into the Local Community Network shaping. As a result of this a paper was being taken to the LGR implementation board for their consideration on Monday 14 November 2022. **Appendix 22B**.
5. A decision on the make up of the Local Area Networks, for that is what it would appear at the time of writing that they will be called is likely to be put off until the early New Year.
6. At a recent meeting of Parish and Town Clerk's concerns were raised over service alignment post vesting day. Across the county there are examples where different Districts implement different charges for the delivery of the same service.
7. It would appear that some of these variations will be in place for some period of time after the vesting date. The issue of Road Closures was raised. It would appear that Sedgemoor do not charge to close roads whilst other districts

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due. This does give rise to possible inequalities over the county and how each town and parish will react to this will be awaited with some interest.

8. It is clear that there will be a need for inconsistencies to be given time to level out, but when there is a financial implication for one town and not another this may cause some discomfort during this period.
9. Members to note the report.

Mark Tredwin
Town clerk
November 2022