

District Councillor Report to East Chinnock PC, Sept 2020

District Council Update

- There was a full council in mid-July, and another mid-August. In July's meeting, a majority of councillors (42 for; 12 against) could not support SCC's business case (One Somerset). The 4 District Councils (Sedgemoor, Somerset West & Taunton, Mendip and South Somerset) are all working on an alternative business plan.
- The list of objections to SCC's business case is long but, in summary, SSDC's position is that:
 - The One Somerset business case is based on examples of nearby local government reorganisation that have not yet proven they can deliver the savings or services they promised, or are in serious difficulty:
 - Dorset Council formed a unitary in 2019
 - Wiltshire Council formed a unitary in 2009, but has a £30-50 million black hole in its finances
 - A single Somerset unitary is too big for effective local democracy
 - It is not clear how sufficient income will be generated following the One Somerset plan to sell-off each district council's commercial investments

Coronavirus response

- There is still one Somerset-wide contact number for covid enquiries: **0300 790 6275**
- Cases have been low in Somerset, but with schools reopening this month we are asking everyone to remain vigilant so that we can avoid a local lock down

Planning

- SSDC's Area West Committee held meetings in July and August via Zoom. An application to build 94 houses on the outskirts of Chard was approved (as part of the Chard Regeneration plan). A Section 106 on this development will raise £529,294 for the building of a new primary school in Chard; a further £348,054 will go to Holyrood Academy expand; and a further £327,774 for sport and play areas including youth facilities.

Casework relevant to East Chinnock

- There is currently nothing new re: EC in my inbox.

Upcoming Events

- Thursday 3rd September - District Executive
- Wednesday 16th September - Area West Committee
- Thursday 17th Sept - Full Council



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