

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

Have your say

A consultation on
division boundaries for Somerset
Council has begun

Have your say now via our website

Today is the start of a 10-week public consultation inviting proposals for new council divisions and division boundaries for Somerset Council.

Our consultation will close on **20 January 2025**.

After we have considered all representations made to us during this consultation, we intend to publish draft recommendations in June 2025.

We will then hold a further period of consultation on our draft recommendations. Our final recommendations are expected to be published in December 2025.

The new electoral arrangements will come into effect at the local elections in 2027.

If you represent a local organisation or community group in Somerset, please pass this message on to your members or anyone who you think might be interested in the review. You can share the message by email or through social media by using the buttons at the bottom right of the page.

What is an electoral review?

Our electoral review will recommend new electoral arrangements for Somerset Council. We will propose:

- the total number of councillors elected to the council in the future;
- the number of divisions;
- the number of councillors representing each division;
- division boundaries; and
- the names of divisions.

How to get involved

This is a public consultation and we welcome views from individuals and organisations across Somerset Council on where they think new division boundaries should be drawn.

We are minded to recommend that **96 councillors** should be elected to Somerset Council in the future.

This is **14 fewer** than the current number of councillors.

We are now inviting proposals to help us draw up a pattern of divisions to accommodate **96 councillors**.

In drawing up new electoral divisions, we must balance three legal criteria, namely:

- to deliver electoral equality: where each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the county;
- that the pattern of divisions should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities;
- that the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.

We will treat all submissions equally, and judge each case on its merits and against the legal criteria.

If you wish to put forward a view, we would also urge you to ensure that evidence supports your submission.

For example, if you wish to argue that two areas should be included in the same electoral division, make sure you tell us *why* they should be together, providing evidence about community facilities, ties, organisations, and amenities, rather than simply asserting that they belong together.

There is more advice on [our website](#) about how you can get involved in the consultation.

Our website features [technical guidance](#) that explains the process and our policies, as well as guidance on how to take part in each part of the process.

We have also set up a webpage dedicated to the review of Somerset Council, where you can find all the relevant information, access interactive maps of the current ward boundaries, and [give your views](#).

Promote the review in your area with our promotional poster

Get in touch

We welcome comments on division arrangements by **20 January 2025**. Representations should be made:

- Through our [website](#)
- By email to reviews@lgbce.org.uk
- Or in writing to Review Officer (Somerset), Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 7th Floor, 3 Bunhill Row, London, EC1Y 8YZ



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You're receiving this email because you represent an organisation that we believe will be interested in this electoral review.

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