

Somerset Council will be launching a Call for Sites in the new year as it prepares to develop its first Local Plan. The new Somerset Local Plan will generally supersede all existing former district council Local Plans, which will remain part of the Development Plan until they are officially replaced.

The Call for Sites is a six-week period where landowners, developers, and site promoters are invited to submit land they want to be considered for future development.

Submissions can be for various uses including housing, economic development, gypsy and traveller pitches and plots, and renewable energy installations.

You can keep up to date with the Somerset Local Plan and other planning policy news by signing up To the Plan-it Somerset Newsletter.

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/plan-it-somerset-newsletter-sign-up/>

## NEW FOSTERING CAMPAIGN

20th December saw the release of Somerset Councils latest Fostering promotional film which is being aired on ITV and SKY from 20 December 2024 until 16 February 2025.

You can watch out for the film during ad breaks - you can also view it here -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZc-vespgeE>

More foster carers are urgently needed in Somerset – can you make a difference to a child's life and help to change a child's story? - call 0800 587 9900. <https://www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk/>

The Boundary Commission has launched a consultation on new division boundaries in Somerset - <https://www.igbce.org.uk/all-reviews/somerset>

A public consultation has been launched to help shape new council divisions for Somerset Council. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England wants to hear people's views on where they live, to help make sure that the new divisions reflect the size and shape of local communities.

An electoral review is being carried out to make sure that each local councillor represents about the same number of electors, and that the divisions they represent reflect community identities.

The Local Government Boundary Commission has decided that the number of councillors in Somerset Council should be 96. This is a change from the current council, which has 110 members. This stage of the consultation last for 10 weeks and closes on 20 January

Boundary Commission Timetable:-

22 October 2024 - 20 January 2025 carry out an initial public consultation with communities

3 June 2025 - 11 August 2025 carry out a public consultation on our proposals

2 December 2025 publish our recommendations

TBC ask Parliament to approve our recommendations

2027 New arrangements apply to local election

Councillor Bob Filmer

Councillor for Brent Ward

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