

## **BRIEFING SHEET FOR PARISH, TOWN AND CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

# **ONE SOMERSET**

([www.onesomerset.org.uk](http://www.onesomerset.org.uk))

The current two-tier system cannot react and adapt to deliver the change that is needed to provide a quality service and joined up vision for Somerset. There is no single voice delivering a clear message for Somerset on the national stage (where small voices are lost) or demanding that our county and our residents get their fair share and access to the best possible opportunities.

With five management teams (and leadership that can change through elections every two years) there is no time for strategy to be developed and implemented and it is the residents of Somerset who are missing out.

One council for One Somerset offers the best vehicle to deliver joined up services and opportunities for the residents of Somerset, with more LOCAL focus, delivery and accountability.

A council where everyone knows who is responsible, where crucial services can work in a more joined up way and where MORE, not less, is managed in the heart of our communities.

One Somerset would mean one voice, one strategy and one approach to Improving Lives and local control across our whole county at the parish, town and city level – not just in the four towns where district offices currently sit.

One Somerset means:

- Support for Somerset's residents through quality, fit-for-purpose services.
- One point of contact for LOCALLY delivered services.
- More investment in prevention and frontline services and less duplication of effort.
- Equality of democratic representation with each community having one voice for its residents.
- Reduce the bureaucracy and red tape.
- Speak with one voice as a champion for Somerset on the national stage
- Environment and climate change strategy that is joined up and accountable.
- Timely decisions that do not have to navigate five separate approvals processes.

**There is a huge saving, a huge unitary bonus for us to invest in Somerset frontline services. It is essential that the bonus is secured and that Somerset residents have a voice about where it should be spent.**