

Bath and North East Somerset Council

Full Council meeting, Thursday 12 July 2018

Liberal Democrat Motion on Somerset Councils

To be proposed by Councillor Paul Crossley

Council notes:

1. Discussions within Somerset councils to create one or more unitary councils to replace the current county and district model.
2. Media reports that the Leader of B&NES Council is 'interested in pursuing' a three-unitary model covering the area currently served by Somerset County, B&NES and North Somerset Councils.
3. That plans to replace nine councils in Dorset with two unitary authorities are now subject to a judicial review.

Council:

4. Believes it is appropriate for B&NES Council to be involved in discussions about future local government structures in Somerset.
5. Agrees that the creation of a Somerset super-unitary authority incorporating B&NES Council would be undesirable and would not benefit B&NES residents.
6. Believes that evidence would be required to show whether a unitary authority covering the areas of B&NES and Mendip District Councils would be of benefit to residents and businesses in both areas before any further steps are taken.
7. Instructs the Leader to ensure that discussions on this issue are carried out with full transparency and that no formal processes are to take place without democratic oversight by Council.