

Unitary Report September – Cllr Nicola Clark

Thanks so much for your kindness

I just wanted to thank you all for your kindness and understanding while I've been unwell recently. I have been grateful to hear from a lot of you, and appreciative of your kindness. I'm continuing to work on casework, and I am keeping on top of local issues. Hayward has very kindly been covering whilst I have been unwell and I am very grateful to him.

I'm always at the end of the phone or an email if you need me, please do get in touch if there is anything that I can help with.

Tribute to Councillor Nick Cottle

Somerset Council mourned the sudden passing of Councillor Nick Cottle, who was remembered for his warmth and integrity. Nick dedicated many years to serving Glastonbury, representing the community at both Mendip District and Somerset Council. He held important positions, including Chair of the Planning Committee East.

At the recent Glastonbury Town Council meeting, people from all political backgrounds and the wider community came together to pay tribute. Cllr Liz Leyshon, deputy leader of Somerset Council, attended to hear these tributes. A letter of condolence from Somerset Council had been sent to his family.

Nick's funeral service will take place at St John's Church, Glastonbury, on Wednesday, 10th September at 10:30 am, followed by a private family burial. The funeral cortege will pass by Glastonbury Town Hall at 10:10 am.

Sherborne HRC – Concerns regarding access and costs

A large number of residents have contacted Hayward and I regarding the frustrating situation with access to Sherborne Recycling centre.

I have included below the detailed response from Cllr Richard Wilkins, Lead Member for Transport and Waste Services, which explains the current position and the discussions taking place with Dorset Council. You may have already seen this response, but just in case!

From Cllr Richard Wilkins:

Somerset Council continues to engage with Dorset Council regarding the impact of the new booking and charging system at Dorset's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs), particularly Sherborne and Shaftesbury, which are the nearest sites for many residents in the Blackmoor Vale division.

Dorset Council has confirmed its decision to implement a booking system at four of its ten HRCs — Sherborne, Shaftesbury, Dorchester, and Wimborne. This is intended to manage operational costs and reduce cross-border waste inputs, which Dorset estimates cost approximately £60,000 per site annually. Data from Dorset indicates that 22% of waste received at Sherborne originates from Somerset residents.

Dorset's justification for the booking system is twofold:

- To reduce the disposal, handling, and treatment costs associated with out-of-county waste*
- To achieve operational savings by discouraging non-resident (commercial) use*

In discussions between the Waste Service Officers at Somerset Council and Dorset officers, Dorset has expressed a willingness to explore options that would allow continued access for Somerset residents. These include:

- A financial contribution from Somerset to support the operation of the affected sites*

- *A reciprocal booking arrangement should Somerset Council adopt a similar system in the future*

Dorset Council also plans to introduce a booking fee for out-of-county residents using its HRCs. This fee is intended to cover the costs of waste handling, treatment, and disposal, but details are not yet confirmed, and Somerset Council has no control over its structure. A similar arrangement currently exists between Hampshire and Dorset.

However, Somerset does have a comprehensive network of recycling centres, with nearly all residential premises within a 10-mile radius of a site. For residents in Blackmoor Vale, there are Somerset-operated sites nearby that do not require pre-booking. Given this coverage and the financial pressures across our services, Somerset does not currently have the justification to provide contributions to Dorset, and without a booking system of our own, a reciprocal arrangement is not currently feasible.

Somerset Council is continuing to engage with Dorset Council, monitor the situation, and assess the operational and contractual implications of any potential contribution or system changes. Further updates will be provided as discussions progress.

Regards

Cllr Richard Wilkins

Lead Member for Transport & Waste Services

As you can see above, Somerset Council is actively engaging with Dorset Council to explore possible solutions regarding the impact of the new booking and charging system at Dorset's Household Recycling Centres, particularly Sherborne and Shaftesbury, which are the most convenient sites for many residents in the Blackmoor Vale division. As this decision rests with Dorset Council, you may also wish to contact Dorset Council (and encourage residents to do the same) directly to share your views.

<https://moderngov.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1>

Please rest assured that we will continue to follow this closely and will represent the concerns of residents in Blackmoor Vale and the surrounding area in ongoing discussions.

Scrutiny Committee Discusses Proposed Community Hospital Bed Reductions

Somerset Council's adults and health scrutiny committee met recently in Bridgwater to discuss proposals for inpatient bed reductions at several Somerset community hospitals and to ask NHS Somerset questions about their plans. NHS leaders responded that no final decisions had been made and suggested that the changes might enable a wider range of services to be offered at the local level. Numerous members of the public voiced concerns about the lack of clarity so far with local communities on the changes.

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust is considering bed reductions at community hospitals in Bridgwater, Frome, West Mendip, Burnham-on-Sea, and Crewkerne, as part of the government's health plan to deliver more care at home.

Lead member for Adults Services, Councillor Sarah Wakefield, emphasised that the best interests of patients remain a priority. She highlighted the success of the My Life, My Future programme, which aims to help people stay healthier and recover at home for longer. She stressed that losing beds does not mean loved ones will be denied proper treatment.

Councillor Claire Sully, vice-chair of the scrutiny committee, expressed concerns over the plans, stating that staff with decades of service are uncertain about their job security and the future of the hospitals.

NHS Somerset is [hosting events over the summer and autumn as part of the 'Big Conversation,'](#) providing opportunities for the community to share their views on future healthcare services.

NHS Somerset is also inviting expressions of interest to join a Stakeholder Reference Group – a space for regular discussion, co-design and feedback on future care models in Somerset. If you're interested in joining a group, please email us at: somicb.engagement@nhs.net

Somerset Council Welcomes New College Merger to Support Local Youth

Somerset Council has warmly welcomed the formation of the University College Somerset (UCS) College Group, a merger of Bridgwater and Taunton College and Strode College. The move is seen as a “powerful investment in Somerset’s people, places, and future,” according to Council Leader Cllr Bill Revans.

This collaboration aims to boost local aspirations, create more opportunities for young people, and strengthen the region’s future workforce. More details are available on the [Council’s website](#).

Somerset’s Local Community Networks Celebrate a Year of Progress

Somerset’s Local Community Networks (LCNs) marked a significant milestone with their second set of Annual General Meetings, highlighting a year of increased community collaboration and local action. Launched to bring partners together, LCNs encourages discussions on issues that matter most to residents, supporting initiatives in areas like highways, youth activities, community transport, and health.

An LCN-wide Annual Report summarises key achievements, including enhancing emergency response during recent floods and strengthening relationships with local councils and groups. As they enter their third year, LCNs aim to further empower communities to influence services and respond to local needs.

Somerset is continuing to review the LCN model and explore how it can evolve to better serve the community. For more information or to get involved, visit the [Council’s Local Community Networks page](#) or email LCN@somerset.gov.uk.

Walk for a Life: Remember, Raise Awareness, and Prevent Suicide

On Saturday 6th September, Somerset comes together for the fourth annual Walk for a Life, uniting the community to remember loved ones, raise awareness, and prevent suicide.

Starting at 10:30 am from the Quaker Meeting House in Taunton, participants will walk a gentle route through the town, stopping at the iconic “Afterlife” bench in Vivary Park to lay flowers in memory of those lost.

One person dies by suicide in England every 90 minutes and new statistics from the Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey showed that 1 in 4 people will experience thoughts of suicide at some point in their lives and 1 in 13 people will attempt to take their own lives.

Join Somerset in this important event, help break the silence around mental health, and stand together in support and remembrance.

Somerset Boosts Green Transport with £3.8 Million for Inclusive Electric Vehicle Charging Network

Somerset Council has secured nearly £3.8 million from the Government's LEVI Fund to expand local EV charging networks, with a focus on supporting rural and underserved communities. In Somerset, more than a quarter — around 27% — of properties lack off-street parking, making this funding a vital opportunity to help many more people switch from petrol and diesel vehicles to electric. The funding will support at least 1,606 low-power chargepoints, many using existing lamp column wiring to reduce disruption. The Council

will soon ask residents for suggestions on chargepoint locations via its website. Importantly, at least 25% of chargepoints will be installed in lower-demand rural areas to ensure fair and equitable access across the county. The goal is to promote a greener, more inclusive Somerset by making electric vehicle use accessible to all.

Somerset Council Imposes Banning Orders on Rogue Landlords

Two landlords in Yeovil have received Banning Orders for repeated housing standard breaches and non-compliance with enforcement notices. The Orders, issued by the Property Tribunal in May 2025, ban Mr. and Mrs. Fuller from managing or renting properties from September 2025 for six and three years, respectively.

The Orders aim to protect tenants from substandard housing and demonstrate Somerset Council's strong stance against rogue landlords. The council continues to work closely with lawful landlords to ensure safe, healthy, and appropriate homes for residents.

Somerset Coast Spotlit on Channel 5's Coastal Adventures

Channel 5's Coastal Adventures will spotlight Somerset's coast on September 2. The episode features Burnham-on-Sea's Low lighthouse and BARB Search and Rescue team, showcasing Somerset's maritime heritage. Filmed with Screen Somerset, the show visits the historic lighthouse and the rescue charity operating boats and hovercraft in the area. This exposure helps promote Somerset's coastal assets and supports local charities. The episode airs at 8 pm.

Mendip System Upgrade: Improved Services will follow Temporary Disruption

Somerset Council is upgrading its system for Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing Benefit, a very significant change following the formation of the unitary Council. This will bring improvements including easier payments and account access, and the same system will be implemented for all of Somerset by the end of this calendar year. In the former Mendip area, there will be at least 3 weeks of some service disruption starting from late August, for which we apologise. During this time, online forms and customer service processing will be affected, though online and telephone payments as well as direct debits should continue as usual. Housing Benefit payments will continue, with confirmation being sent to recipients by post.

The other areas of Somerset (former Sedgemoor, former Somerset West & Taunton, and former South Somerset) will follow for implementation of the same new system in that order. Residents are advised to stay updated via [the Council's website](#) and, as always, be cautious of scams asking for bank details. Citizens Advice will also be kept updated on the expected disruption and progress towards full implementation.

Could Your Business Land a Role in Film and TV Production?

Local businesses in Somerset are encouraged to register for film and TV opportunities through Somerset Council's Screen Somerset initiative. Last year, productions spent around £4.2m in Somerset, and the film office promotes using local services to benefit the community. Businesses

can join the free [Filming in England Supplier Directory](#), which many productions use for planning shoots, to increase their chances of employment.

From accommodation and catering to security and costume hire, many services are needed on set. Using local companies benefits the environment, boosts the economy, and encourages repeat filming in the area.

Registering takes just minutes and is free. For more information, visit [Screen Somerset](#).

The initiative supports local businesses by connecting them with film productions and promoting Somerset as a film-friendly location.

Somerset Council Trains Thousands to Improve Road Safety in 2024

Somerset Council's Road Safety Team provided training and education to nearly 38,000 people across the county, aiming to make roads safer for everyone. The initiatives targeted a wide range of road users, including young children, teenagers, and older adults.

For young pupils, programs like Bikeability offered essential cycling skills for Year 5 and 6 students, helping them learn how to ride safely on the road. Workshops for children in Reception to Year 6 focused on pedestrian and passenger safety, while presentations for Year 8 and 9 students emphasised the dangers of distractions near roads. Older students in Years 10 and 11 received advice for safer journeys, and college students learned about the serious consequences of collisions through dedicated road safety talks.

The team also ran practical courses for motorcyclists in collaboration with police and hosted special sessions for older drivers, addressing how driving habits should adapt with age. Beyond classroom sessions, the council improved road safety by installing speed cameras, upgrading signage, and implementing traffic calming measures in areas with high accident rates.

This comprehensive approach ensures that road safety education reaches all age groups and helps encourage children and young people to start cycling early.

The ongoing work of the Somerset Road Safety Team has a significant positive impact on the community, making roads safer for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike.

Upcoming Fostering Information Sessions in Somerset

Somerset Council is hosting a series of informal fostering information sessions throughout September. These relaxed events offer the chance to learn about fostering, hear from experienced carers, and ask questions about support, allowances, and the application process. Sessions are open to anyone aged 21 or over with a spare room and no prior experience is necessary. The events will take place in Somerton, Burnham-on-Sea, and Wells. To book a place and find more details, visit fosteringinsomerset.org.uk or call 0800 587 9900.

Yeovil Library Opens Room Honouring Public Health Leader

Yeovil Library has named a new wellbeing room after Louise Finnis, a dedicated Public Health leader who promoted the value of libraries for mental health. The Finnis Room supports community wellbeing activities and hosts services like NHS Health Checks and the Employment Hub, providing a private space at the heart of the community. The opening ceremony was attended by Louise's family and Council officers, celebrating her legacy of improving mental health and community support in

Somerset.

Somerset Lifeline Completes Digital Upgrade Ahead of Schedule

Somerset Lifeline has successfully completed its digital upgrade ahead of the 2025 national deadline for switching to digital-only phone lines. Over the past 13 months, more than 6,000 analogue units were replaced with digital devices, connecting users directly to a 24/7 monitoring centre. The upgrade includes tailored solutions for residents in remote areas, all at no cost to customers. The project ensures continued safety and support for vulnerable residents across Somerset before winter. For more information, visit somerseidlifeline.co.uk. Equipment can also be viewed at [Somerset Independent Living Centres \(SILCs\)](#).

Somerset Urges Food Waste Recycling to Save £1 Million

Somerset Council is encouraging residents to recycle their food waste more effectively, highlighting that doing so could save around £1 million and reduce environmental costs. Currently, 16,000 tonnes of food waste, including packaging, is thrown away each year, much of which could be recycled.

Recycling food waste is a much cheaper and greener way to dispose of it, as it avoids the costly fees associated with sending waste to Energy from Waste, the process used to recover energy from general waste.

Although 7 out of 10 households already recycle food, small actions like recycling food scraps can significantly impact.

Residents that need a new or replacement kitchen caddy or food waste bin can do via the Council's [replacement bins and recycling containers](#) page.

Grants Available for Waste Reduction and Reuse Projects in Somerset

Community groups in Somerset can apply for grants of £5,000 to £10,000 to support innovative waste reduction and reuse initiatives. The second year of the Waste Not Somerset Fund is now open, funded by Somerset Council and SUEZ Recycling.

More information and application details are available via the [Waste Not Somerset Fund page](#).

Somerset Funds Upgraded Facilities to Secure Bridgwater Carnival's Future

Somerset Council has appointed Rigg Construction to upgrade the facilities at Bristol Road, supporting the future of the renowned Bridgwater Carnival. The project involves creating five modern, well-lit workshops for local Carnival Clubs, improving access and infrastructure on almost 3 hectares of land.

The £4.9 million scheme, funded by the Town Deal, Somerset Community Foundation, and Arts Council England, aims to preserve this historic event, boost local talent, and support the economy. Work begins soon, with careful planning to avoid disrupting the annual carnival parade.

Most Food Businesses Pass Allergen Checks, but Some Require Urgent Inspection

Recent spot checks show that 79% of low-rated food businesses in Devon and Somerset meet allergen safety standards, but some still face urgent inspections. Officers from Heart of the South

West Trading Standards tested 75 independent food outlets, including cafes, bakeries, and restaurants.

Most businesses (59) passed, but 16 were found to contain allergens, primarily traces of milk. Due to legal requirements, food businesses must provide allergen information, handle allergens properly, and train staff.

Thirteen businesses that failed received immediate inspections for poor food management, with 15 more scheduled for follow-up. Trading Standards encourages all food outlets to review their allergen protocols to ensure customer safety.

For more information, visit the [HotSW TS Allergens page](#). Businesses can also seek advice via email at tradingstandards@devon.gov.uk.

Somerset VRP to Launch 140 Pop-Up Youth Hubs to Improve Safety

Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) will deliver 140-160 pop-up youth hubs across the county between July 2025 and March 2026. These community-led hubs aim to support young people, reduce violence, and provide access to trusted adults in town centres.

Building on previous successful pilots in Taunton and Bridgwater, the hubs will operate in key locations such as Taunton, Bridgwater, Chard, and Glastonbury. They will serve as accessible spaces for engagement, advice, and community conversations on safety issues like knife crime, anti-social behaviour, and exploitation.

Report it first: useful Links to share with your communities

Visit - Report a Problem on the Road: - *A list of all reporting pages to do with roads, pavements, lighting:*

[Report a problem on the road](#)

Potholes and road damage - *Somerset Council repair potholes and other road defects, and maintain our roads, for the safe access of all road users:*

[Potholes, road damage and edge loss](#)

Report a problem with a street light - *We maintain and repair street lights to national standards to provide safe access to all road users:*

[Report a problem with a street light](#)

Roads, travel and parking, road signs, markings and lighting - *Includes information about non-illuminated bollards, pedestrian crossings, requesting a village nameplate or a new road sign:*

[Road signs, bollards and road markings](#)

Speed limits - *Request information about new or existing traffic calming measures:*

[Speed limits](#)

Traffic lights - *We maintain over 200 traffic light locations throughout the County:*
[Traffic lights](#)

Street and roadworks - *We maintain the roads and pavements that are managed at public expense in Somerset:*
[Street and roadworks problems](#)

Traffic - updates and roadworks follow:
[Travel Somerset on X](#) and [Travel Somerset on Facebook](#).

All ongoing roadworks - *available on the Somerset Council website interactive map*
[Roadworks and travel information](#)

Somerset Waste - *collection days, replacement bins or recycling bags and missed collection reporting:*
[Bins, recycling and waste](#)

Travel and Tourist Information
[Travel Somerset - Art, Culture, Events, History & More](#)

Sign-up for the latest climate news from across Somerset:
[Climate newsletter sign-up](#)

Open Somerset Council Consultations - *which anyone can complete and take part in shaping the future of Somerset*
[Somerset Council - Citizen Space - Consultations](#)

SOMERSET COUNCIL TELEPHONE NO - 0300 123 2224

Cllr Nicola Clark
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My available Cllr hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday - all day
Thursday, Saturday - not available on phone.
Please text/WhatsApp or email on these days.

Hayward Burt, Somerset Councillor Blackmoor Vale. September Report

Dorset Recycling Centres

I have been approached by a number of residents in relation to the above subject, I raised the matter directly at the last Somerset Executive meeting with the Cabinet member responsible, please see his response below

I will keep chasing for updates as we are getting nearer to when Dorset plan to bring in bookings

I don't agree with Dorset arguments in relation to use of these services by residents in Somerset as there are clearly services in Somerset used by Dorset residents simply due to geographical closeness

Any thoughts or suggestions would be welcome on suggested solutions

Question 4a - The question is what progress is being made on allowing access for Somerset residents to these sites again ?

NB Dorset have 10 sites but only decided to implement this system for 4.

Response from Lead Member for Transport and Waste Services: Cllr Richard Wilkins

Somerset Council continues to engage with Dorset Council regarding the impact of the new booking and charging system at Dorset's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs), particularly Sherborne and Shaftesbury, which are the nearest sites for many residents in the Blackmoor Vale division.

Dorset Council has confirmed its decision to implement a booking system at four of its ten HRCs—Sherborne, Shaftesbury, Dorchester, and Wimborne. This move is intended to manage operational costs and reduce cross-border waste inputs, which Dorset estimates cost approximately £60,000 per site annually. Data from Dorset indicates that 22% of waste received at Sherborne originates from Somerset residents.

Dorset's justification for the booking system is twofold:

- To reduce the disposal, handling and treatment costs associated for out of county waste.
- To achieve operational savings by discouraging non-resident use (commercial use)

In discussions between the Waste Service Officers at Somerset Council and Dorset officers, Dorset has expressed a willingness to explore options that would allow continued access for Somerset residents. These include:

- A financial contribution from Somerset to support the operation of the affected sites.
- Should Somerset Council at any time in the future implement a booking system, an undertaking to consider a reciprocal booking arrangement.
- Dorset Council plans to introduce a booking fee for out-of-county residents using its Household Recycling Centres. This fee is intended to cover the costs of waste handling, treatment, and disposal, but it is not yet confirmed, and Somerset Council has no control over its structure.
- A similar arrangement exists between Hampshire and Dorset, where Hampshire operates a booking system and receives financial contributions from Dorset Council.

However, Somerset's comprehensive network of recycling centres already meets WRAP guidelines, with nearly all residential premises within a 10-mile radius of a site. This includes residents of Blackmoor Vale, who are served by proximate Somerset-operated sites without the need for pre-booking. Given our already strong coverage of Recycling Centres and the financial pressures across our services, Somerset does not have the justification to provide contributions to Dorset. Somerset currently does not operate a booking system at its own recycling centres, which limits the feasibility of a reciprocal booking arrangement.

Somerset Council is continuing to monitor the situation and assess the operational and contractual implications of any potential contribution or system changes. Further updates will be provided as discussions progress.

West of England - Reduced Timetable - Effective from Monday 11 August — Until Further Notice

South Western Railway services between London Waterloo and Exeter St Davids will run to a reduced timetable from **Monday 11 August**. Customers are advised to plan ahead and allow extra time to complete their journeys, with the following timetable changes:

- One train per hour from London Waterloo to Yeovil Junction - taking approximately 25 minutes longer than usual.
- One train every two hours from London Waterloo to Exeter St Davids - reduced from one train per hour, taking approximately one hour longer to Exeter than usual

All Council members to receive a new monthly highways works update email

This will include;

- The number and location of potholes repaired
- missing or damaged signs repaired
- Edging and kerbs repaired
- Gullies serviced
- A range of other safety defects repaired

The email will be automatically generated at the start of each month, commencing 1 September.

Planning Backlog.

You will all be aware of the changes from Monday 28th July, I have received no further updates from the council, this is proving very challenging, for residents and Parishes, when I have further updates I will share.

Fair Funding Review 2.0

In June 2025 the Government published a major and extremely technical **consultation** on the reform of local government funding. Referred to as the Fair Funding Review 2.0 (FFR2.0), it emphasises links between this and the last consultation in 2018.

The Fair Funding Review has been long overdue, with the current funding formula dating back to 2013/14. The Council has consistently advocated for reform of local government funding and therefore welcomes the proposed simplification of the funding system, the introduction of a multi-year settlement, and the update of formulae used to assess relative needs. The impact of the draft FFR2.0 is expected to be **moderately beneficial** to Somerset Council. Although numbers must be heavily caveated due to the limitations set out in this note, early modelling suggests an increase to grant funding in the region of £5.6m-£8.4m by the end of the multi-year settlement of which a third of this could be received in the first year (2026/27).

Limitations of the consultation

- **Local Council Tax Levels:** The consultation does not address the outdated Council Tax system or the significant disparities in Council Tax levels across different areas, which continue to create inequities in local funding capacity.
- **Business rates reset:** which will determine new tariff/top-up values, is not modelled, yet it could significantly affect the final allocations.
- **Short consultation period:** severe limitations in our ability to obtain a comprehensive assessment of the proposals.
- **Significant gaps:** in relation to certain aspects of proposed formulae and the weighting indicators.
- **No financial exemplifications:** this has forced the council to rely on external modelling to assess the potential impact of the proposals contained in this conclusion.

Conclusion

Given the Council's existing budget gap and the wider financial pressures faced, the resources allocated in the review are insufficient to support the scale of reform

proposed in the consultation. This is particularly concerning for councils like ours that deliver high-profile and sensitive social care services.

Somerset Landscape Sensitivity Analysis, 2025

Landscape Sensitivity Assessments of the landscape surrounding key settlements for new residential and commercial development has also been undertaken. The outputs from this assessment provide Somerset Council with a robust evidence base to inform the appropriate scale and location of future development to minimise harm to the landscape and the setting of settlements. For links and further details of the report let me know

While producing the Somerset Local Plan that will allocate land for housing and employment uses to meet the identified needs to 2045. The Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Sensitivity Assessments will be used to inform the assessment of sites for development in the Local Plan process and can also assist development management colleagues and landscape officers. The Local Plan will undergo public consultation in 2026. More details on the Local Plan timetable can be found in the Local Development Scheme.

Milestone for Electric Charging

Plans to introduce on-street electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints, and expand Somerset's overall EV charging network, have taken a significant step forward.

Somerset Council has been allocated £3,783,000 in capital funding from the Government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund to support the installation of electric vehicle chargepoints in urban and rural areas in Somerset. The Council is now in the process of appointing a contractor.

The contract will deliver a minimum of 1,606 lower-powered (up to 7kW) chargepoint sockets, ideal for overnight charging. Where feasible, the existing low-voltage lamp column cable network will be used to reduce installation costs and disruption.

To ensure community involvement, the Council plans to ask residents for suggestions on chargepoint locations via its website – details will be confirmed as soon as they are available.

Importantly, Somerset Council is committed to ensuring rural communities are not left behind. At least 25% of the chargepoints will be installed in lower-demand areas to support equitable access across the county