

Online Questionnaire for the Local Community Networks

Below are the questions from the online consultation in regard to the LCNs that Somerset County Council would like answered.

Local Community Networks

1 The aims for LCNs are listed below. Which do you think are most important?

Select at least one option

- Ensure the countrywide unitary council remains responsive to local needs
- Improve outcomes for residents
- Provide a mechanism for local action
- Promote active community decision making

Other

2 Thinking of the ongoing evolution of LCNs, how important do you consider each of the following roles to be?

Select the most application option in each row. You must select an option in every row.

	Very Important	Important	Not Sure	Not very important	Not at all important
Acting as Committees of Somerset Council, with formal influence over services to reflect what's most important to their local area					
Bringing together public service providers (councils, NHS, police, education and more) with voluntary organisations, community groups and local businesses to work together to deliver shared goals					
Being a forum for 'community voice' where participants discuss and promote shared ambitions for their local area					
Identifying local issues and priorities using data and evidence					
Building community resilience through local activities which reduce the number of residents reaching crisis, in any form					
Administering grant funding for local initiatives					
Exploring how best to support Planning and Licensing decision making					
Supporting new technology which enables more people to engage with local democracy and council services					
Supporting new technology which enables more people to engage with local democracy and council services					

Providing information to support Asset of Community Value panels, which consider applications to give communities rights to buy or bid for council owned assets, such as buildings or land, should they be offered for sale					
Prioritising minor road maintenance and highways services at a local level					
Support Parishes to work together including across LCN boundaries					

Are there other roles you want to see LCNs performing?

LCN Boundaries Proposals

In developing LCNs, we want to reflect the way in which our communities work and therefore we are keen communities and partners are involved in how they develop.

To help assess the proposals, we looked at a range of factors, to enable comparisons to be drawn. We tried to think about where people live, work, go to school and access services, including health. In all cases we kept to parish outlines as closely as possible.

The things we considered:

- **Population** – we looked at how balanced the population numbers were in each LCN, how important or not is it that they have similar numbers of residents in each area
- **Geographies** – how similar in size of area they were, and their distribution/spread across Somerset
- **Electoral Divisions** – the number of Unitary Electoral divisions, and how they split within, and across, LCN boundaries
- **Deprivation** – using indices of multiple deprivation, we looked at how the most and least deprived areas were distributed
- **Community Facilities, e.g. Libraries** – we looked at where these were situated
- **Health** – we compared the ‘fit’ of Primary Care Network (PCN) boundaries to LCN boundaries
- **Secondary School Catchment Areas** – we checked how these were split in relation to LCNs, recognising schools are often at the heart of communities
- **Travel to Work Area** – we looked at their alignment to LCN areas
- **Current Local Plan Geographies** – we looked at their alignment to LCN areas
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Based on analysis of this range of data and intelligence, THREE potential boundary proposals were identified – and we would welcome your comments on each of them.

Proposal A would have 18 LCNs

Proposal B would have 17 LCNs

Proposal C would have 10 LCNs

[Link to the various proposals](#)

Proposal A

- In this proposal, there would be 18 LCNs all of a similar size in terms of area giving an even coverage across the county
- The population is not spread evenly across the county, and this results in a wide population size spread across the LCNs
- Many electoral divisions sit within one LCN with 15 sitting across 2 LCNs, 6 across 3, and 2 across 4 LCNs
- Most deprived areas sit within major population centres, and these remain similar across all proposals
- All LCNs contain at least one library with several containing 2 or more
- The majority of LCNs overlap between 2 and 4 PCNs
- The majority of LCNs overlap between 3 -5 secondary school catchment areas. 4 LCNs overlap 7 or 8 catchments areas
- Matches some existing Local Plan geographies

Proposal B

- In this proposal, there would be 17 LCN areas
- This proposal balances the population across LCNs
- The area between Taunton and Bridgwater lacks a natural community identity
- Many electoral divisions sit within one LCN with 16 sitting across 2 LCNs, 5 across 3, and 3 across 4 LCNs
- Most deprived areas sit within major population centres, and these remain similar across all proposals
- All LCNs contain at least one library with several containing 2 or more
- The majority of LCNs overlap between 2 and 4 PCNs
- Many LCNs overlap between 3-5 secondary school catchment areas
- Matches some existing Local Plan geographies

Proposal C

- In this proposal, there would be 10 LCNs
- Generally, a good fit maintained with parish boundaries
- Population is well balanced across 9 of the 10 LCNs, where population ranges from 50,000 to 65,000. However, area to the west of Somerset is significantly lower at 35,005
- The LCN around the largest towns of Yeovil and Taunton is smaller in terms of area
- Large single area to the west of Somerset
- Note 'horseshoe' area wrapping the south of Taunton
- Strong fit with electoral divisions
- Most deprived areas sit within major population centres, and these remain similar across all proposals
- All LCNs contain at least one library with several containing 2 or more, due to the larger geographical size in this proposal, 4 LCNs contain 4+ libraries each
- Many of the LCNs overlap between 2 and 4 PCNs
- Many LCNs overlap between 3-6 secondary school catchment areas, no LCNs in this proposal match a single catchment area
- A close match with existing Local Plan Geographies, meaning that in the short to medium term LCNs would each work only with one Local Plan

3 Do you support the proposed boundaries as described in Proposal A?

You must provide an answer to this question

- Support
- Partially support
- Don't support

Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of this proposal

4 Do you support the proposed boundaries as described in Proposal B?

You must provide an answer to this question

- Support
- Partially support
- Don't support

Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of this proposal

5 Do you support the proposed boundaries as described in Proposal B?

You must provide an answer to this question

- Support
- Partially support
- Don't support

Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of this proposal

6 **Participation in LCNs**

LCNs will meet 6 to 8 times a year in their local areas. Each LCN will be delegated authority to agree their own schedule of dates, within the context of the calendar for other public meetings.

Can you foresee any barriers for organisation in participating in LCNs?

What will they be?

Select at least one option

- Time
- Financial
- Other (please comment below)

7 **What shall we call LCNs?**

Local Community Networks (LCNs) has been a working name. What do you think they should be called?

You must provide an answer to this question

- Local Community Networks
- Community Partnerships
- Community Boards
- Other

8 **Is there anything else you would like to add?**

There are three other questions but they are just asking for the name of the organisation / council / resident.