

Information

for County Councillors

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From:	Melanie Roberts – Service Manager Economic Policy
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Relevant SLT Director and sign-off date:	Paula Hewitt
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Date:	20 September 2022
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To:	All County Councillors
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Somerset Economic Futures – Trends and Scenarios #2

This Information Sheet follows a briefing circulated in May 2022.

The Somerset Economic Futures project, commissioned by the five local authorities, will consider what the economic future of Somerset might look like. The aim is to develop evidence based scenarios taking in account current and future trends over 5, 10 and 25 year timeframes. This will inform future policy work, such as an economic strategy and is key workstream within the Local Government Reorganisation.

We are now at the stage of widening engagement with civic organisations, community groups, businesses and residents on the kind of place they want the area to become by 2050. This is a broad-ranging exercise to imagine our future economy, taking in perspectives on business, the environment, demography and lifestyles. It is intended as a foundational piece of work to support the new unitary Somerset Council.

Research has been completed to support this exercise. It covers questions such as: what roles does Somerset play within the economy of the wider region and how might these change over time? How might our county's vulnerability to climate change affect its future economic development? How might its rural character affect how we promote social mobility? How might Somerset be impacted by social changes such as trends in homeworking?

A document has been produced to seek views from key stakeholders alongside inviting them to join a Discovery session at the end of September. The document and registrations to the workshops have been published on the website at: [Somerset Futures](#).

We have shared details across our networks and will issue wider communications in due course, however, if there are individuals and/or organisation you wish us to share this work with please provide contact details to economicstrategy@somerset.gov.uk

(This is a product in the service alignment product list for LGR).

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