

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

Many thanks to those who attended the Chard and Blackdowns LCN on Monday 23rd October 2023 and to Hatch Beauchamp Village Hall for hosting our meeting. Delegates were asked to identify their top three priorities from the twelve themes identified during August's meeting.

The topics discussed included:

- An introduction to use of data, including opportunities for specific data.
- Highways services and support for a Lengthsman Scheme or similar.
- The formation of working groups.

In view of the recent letter to Town and Parish Councils from Cllr Bill Revans, the focus of our next meeting on Wednesday 17th January 2024 will be about Somerset Council's current financial position and how LCN partners might work together to continue to support our communities. We anticipate being joined by Cllr Theo Butt Phillip, Portfolio Holder for Communities, to provide an update if a further briefing has not been circulated before then for LCNs meeting in January.

Before the meeting, it would be useful for Town and Parish Councils to start thinking about assets or services they would like to support through devolution, and any opportunities to collaborate with each other in their management or ownership. One such example might be the Lengthsman scheme discussed at our meeting.

If you plan to attend our next meeting, please let us know via email at to confirm your place and help us anticipate numbers expected.

Finally, if you have or know of any accessible public venues with Wi-Fi capability that could host future LCN meetings at minimal cost, please send any suggestions to chardandblackdownslcn@somerset.gov.uk.

We hope to welcome you at our next meeting.

Best Regards,
Beth Poole, Interim LCN Link Officer

Sent on behalf of Chair Keith Read and Vice Chair Sarah