

Ms Penny James  
West Somerset House,  
Killick Way,  
Williton,  
Taunton,  
TA4 4QA

23 October 2018

Dear Ms James,

## **ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SOMERSET WEST AND TAUNTON: FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

In May 2018, the government agreed to set up a new local authority called Somerset West and Taunton Council. Following our draft recommendations consultation from 3 July 2018 to 27 August 2018, the Commission has now finalised ward boundaries for the new authority, in time for its first elections in May 2019.

Today we have published our final recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Somerset West and Taunton Council. The report and interactive mapping of the final recommendations are available on the Commission's consultation portal: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/> and our main website: [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk). We have also arranged for hard copies of the report and map to be sent to the Council.

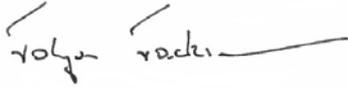
We have informed the national headquarters of the main political parties, MPs and MEPs with constituency interests in the area, all parish and town councils, the police authority, and all respondents to the consultation.

The Commission has now completed its review of Somerset West and Taunton Council. The changes proposed must now be implemented by order subject to Parliamentary scrutiny. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force the recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements for Somerset West and Taunton to be implemented at the local elections in 2019.

We would also like to invite you to participate in our online opinion survey: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/about-us/lgbce-opinion-survey>. This survey seeks feedback on the review processes and procedures, to identify improvements that can be made.

Finally, Commissioners and staff wish to join me in thanking you and your colleagues for the co-operation and assistance that has been shown throughout the review. We are very grateful and wish you all the very best in the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jolyon Jackson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Jolyon Jackson CBE**

**Chief Executive**

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