
DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2018 No.

**The Somerset West and Taunton (Local
Government Changes) Order 2018**

PART 4

Electoral matters

Election to Somerset West and Taunton Council in 2019 and subsequent years

20.—(1) A whole council election of councillors of Somerset West and Taunton Council is to be held on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2019 and in every fourth year thereafter.

(2) For the purposes of elections of councillors of Somerset West and Taunton Council—

- (a) Somerset West and Taunton is to be divided into wards;
- (b) the names of the new wards are those indicated in column 1 of the Table set out in the Schedule to this Order;
- (c) the area of each new ward is to be the same as that of the electoral division of Somerset of the same name, as that electoral division existed on 31st March 2019 (as indicated in column 2 of that Table);
- (d) each new ward is to return the number of councillors indicated in column 3 of that Table.

(3) At the 2019 election the returning officer shall be the proper officer appointed by the District Councils (“the Somerset West and Taunton Council returning officer”).

(4) The Somerset West and Taunton Council returning officer must take such steps as are necessary or appropriate to prepare for the 2019 election, including the making of all necessary alterations in the electoral register.

(5) The total of the expenditure properly incurred by the Somerset West and Taunton Council returning officer before 1st April 2019 in relation to the holding of the 2019 election is to be divided among, and paid by, the District Councils in such proportion as may be agreed between them; but, where the returning officer notifies the Secretary of State that there is not such agreement, the Secretary of State may—

- (a) determine the proportion; or
- (b) appoint an arbitrator for that purpose.

(6) The total of the expenditure properly incurred by the Somerset West and Taunton Council returning officer on and after 1st April 2019 in relation to the holding of the 2019 election is to be paid by the Somerset West and Taunton Council.

(7) In relation to the 2019 election, “the appropriate officer” in Parts 1 and 2 of the Representation of the People Act 1983⁽¹⁾ does not have the meaning given by section 67(7) of that Act but means the Somerset West and Taunton Council returning officer.

(1) 1983 c. 2.

(8) All councillors elected in 2019 or any later year are to retire on the fourth day after the ordinary day of elections of councillors in the year of retirement and the newly-elected councillors are to come into office on the day on which their predecessors retire.