Press release
For immediate release

Consultation launches on Chard transport options

People living and working in and around Chard can now share their views on future transport options in the area.

Somerset Council is launching a consultation on the future of the Eastern Relief Road proposal which has undergone significant reassessment in recent years. The Council is encouraging people to come forward and have their say to help shape the next steps.

Chard is expected to see more housing and employment growth in coming years, mainly to the east of the town centre.

The Eastern Relief Road (ERR) was proposed in the past, on the basis it could be funded by developer contributions. Somerset Council has reviewed whether the road is appropriate and affordable in the light of changing travel patterns, rapidly rising construction costs and national and local transport policies.

Different transport and infrastructure measures are being recommended to reflect these changes and help new development in Chard go ahead. The consultation responses will help shape updated requirements for new development. These requirements will then be taken forward as part of the process for preparing the development plan.

Rather than only a single major highways scheme the measures include:

- A shorter, more financially viable relief road
- Walking, wheeling and cycling routes
- Town centre traffic calming
- Hourly bus service linking Taunton, Chard and Axminster as well as better bus/rail integration
- Hourly bus service to Yeovil
- A Chard transport hub
- Tackling parking and road safety on the A358 Furnham Road

Councillor Richard Wilkins, Somerset Council's Lead Member for Highways and Transport, said: "I'd encourage local people to take part in the consultation and share their views.

"Their responses will be looked at carefully and will help us shape the next steps in delivering transport solutions for Chard."
The **consultation** runs from today (Friday 27 November) until 8 January 2027.

END

For more information, please contact the Press Office on 01823 355020 or email pressoffice@somerset.gov.uk.

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