Somerset Connectivity and Integrated Transport Strategy (SCITS): Early Engagement Information

April 2026

Somerset Council

Background

- Somerset Council is creating a new **Somerset Connectivity and Integrated Transport Strategy (SCITS)**.

- Building on the work already done for Local Transport Plan 4, **SCITS is about making it easier for people to get around by making different types of transport work better together**. It will look at how people travel day-to-day, how they could mix different ways of getting around (like walking, buses, cycling, or trains), and what infrastructure and services they need for access.

- Instead of planning transport projects in isolation, **SCITS will help the Council plan improvements that link up across entire corridors and areas**.

- Overall, the strategy will help Somerset Council set clear transport priorities, secure funding, and **create a strong pipeline of future transport projects** to improve connectivity across our most important transport corridors.

Early Engagement

- SCITS is still in the early stages, and **Somerset Council wants you to be involved right from the start**.
- The following slides set out **initial data-led ideas for the connectivity corridors and areas** that could be included in the SCITS.
- Somerset Council is keen to understand **whether initial ideas match what matters most to local communities and if not why not?**
- This information pack is provided to **supplement a separate online questionnaire**, which has also been issued.



Overview of Corridor / Area Idea Generation

Place Types – What roles do different places play?

Travel to Work – What are existing commuting patterns?

Key Services – Where are the key education/health facilities?

Existing Connectivity – How are places connected today?

Connectivity Corridor / Area Ideas

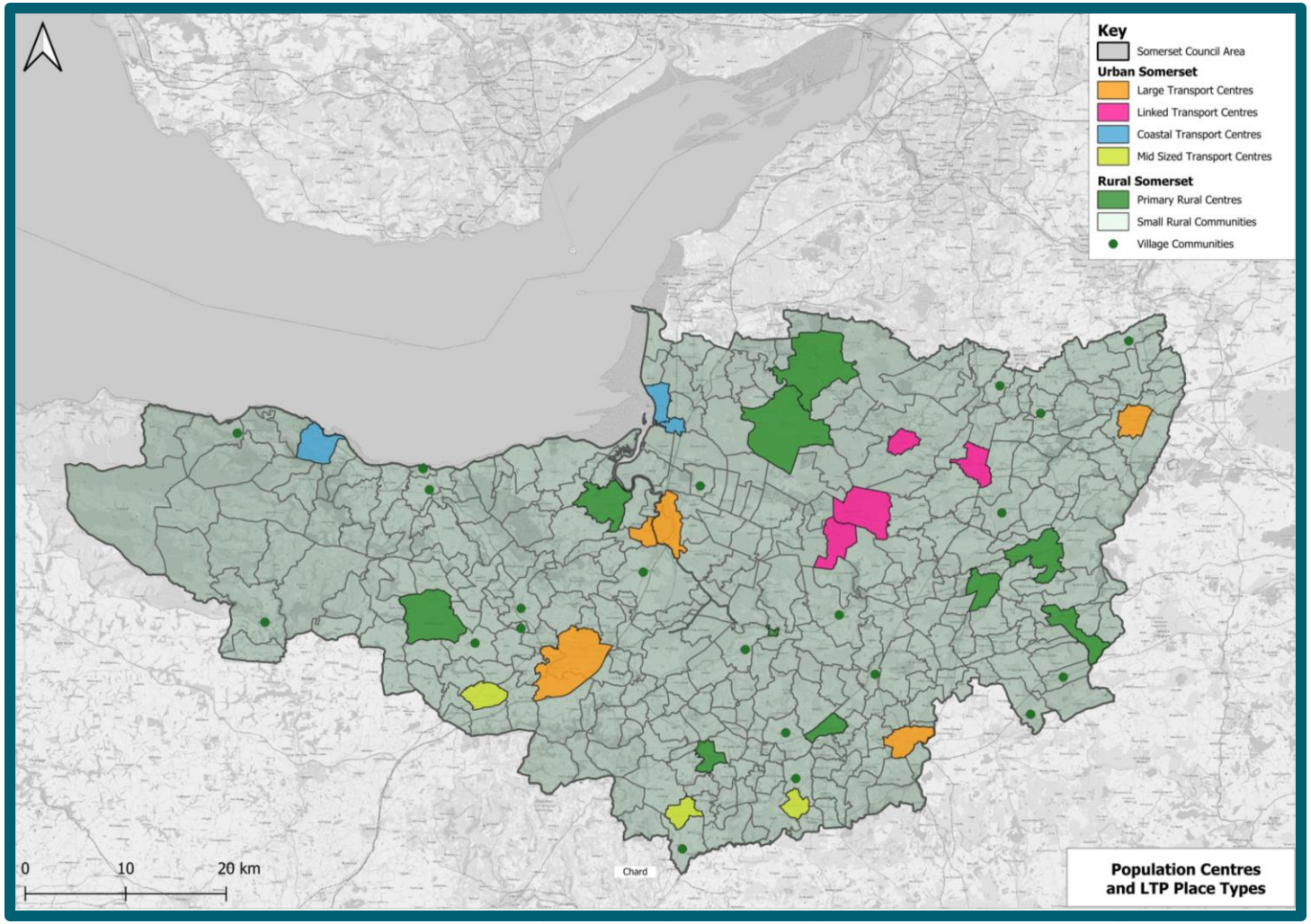
Early Engagement

Place Types – What roles do different places play?

This map shows the **different types of places** where people live in Somerset, based on the Local Transport Plan 4.

Larger transport centres, are expected to act as the **main hubs for travel around the county**. They will play an important role in connecting different parts of Somerset.

Smaller places, such as primary rural centres and village communities, will **generate fewer journeys overall**, although they play a vital role in local communities.



Travel to Work – What are existing commuting patterns?

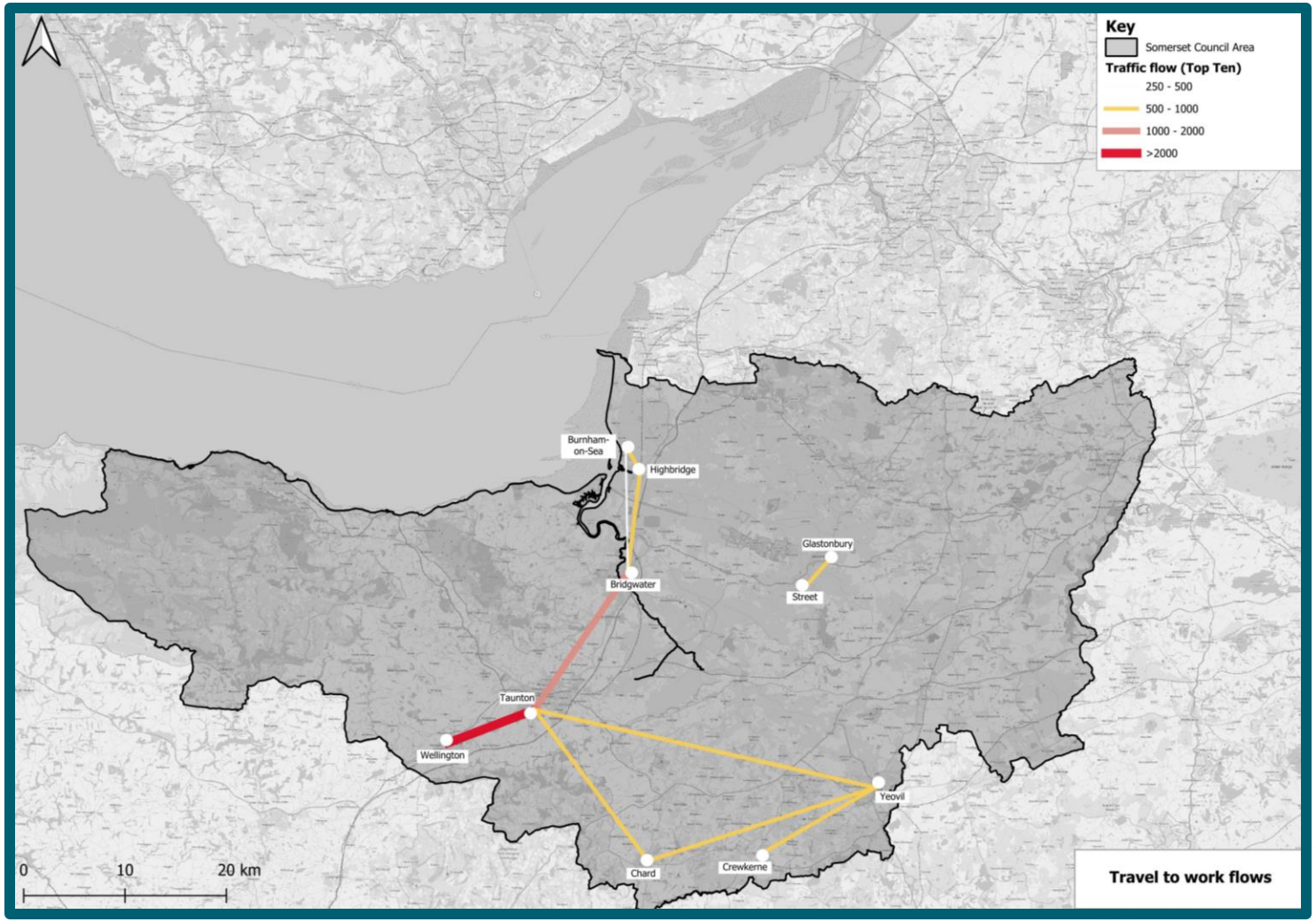
This map shows the **ten busiest commuting routes in Somerset**, based on the number of people travelling in both directions (Census data).

This matters because **travel to work makes up a large share of journeys** during the weekday peak hours.

By improving connections along these key routes, there is an opportunity to **support and boost economic growth**.

Taunton works as a key hub for travel across both west and south Somerset. Yeovil also appears frequently in the commuting data, showing its role as an important centre in the east of the county.

Movement	Two-way Daily Movements
Taunton – Wellington	3298
Bridgwater – Taunton	1880
Crewkerne – Yeovil	995
Burnham-on-Sea – Highbridge	866
Taunton – Yeovil	689
Bridgwater – Highbridge	683
Glastonbury – Street	612
Chard – Taunton	529
Chard – Yeovil	515
Bridgwater – Burnham-on-Sea	424



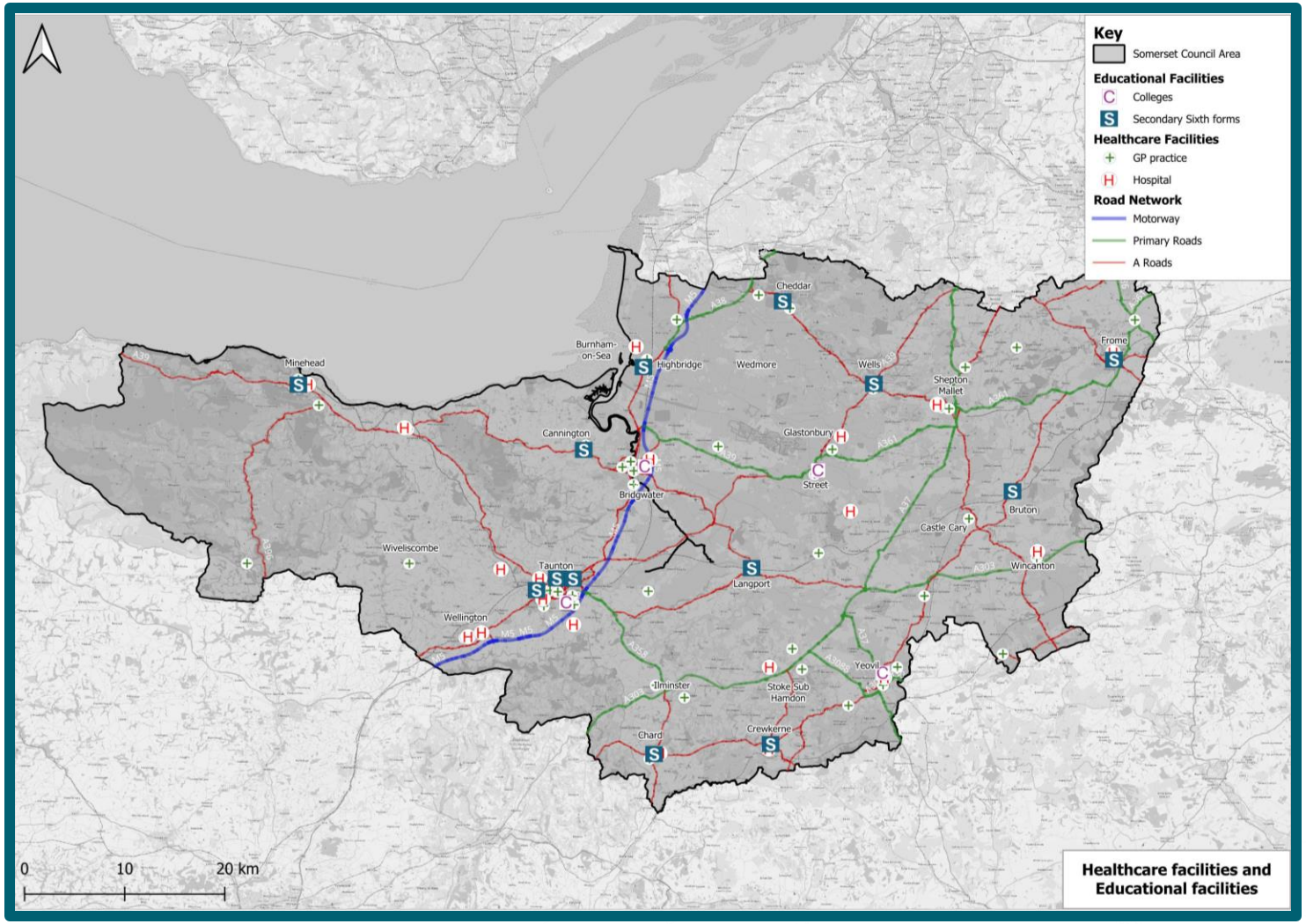
Key Services – Where are the key education/health facilities?

This map shows where education and healthcare facilities are located.

Most of these **facilities sit within the same types of places identified earlier**. However, there is a lack of major healthcare services in areas such as Exmoor and Street, meaning people often need to travel elsewhere for treatment.

For education, most local trips are made by walking or cycling, as these are the most common ways people travel to nearby schools and colleges. However, Sixth Form colleges are not provided in every town, including Glastonbury and Street.

Mode of travel to education	%
Walk	50%
Drive	30%
Cycle	15%
Bus	5%
Train	<1%

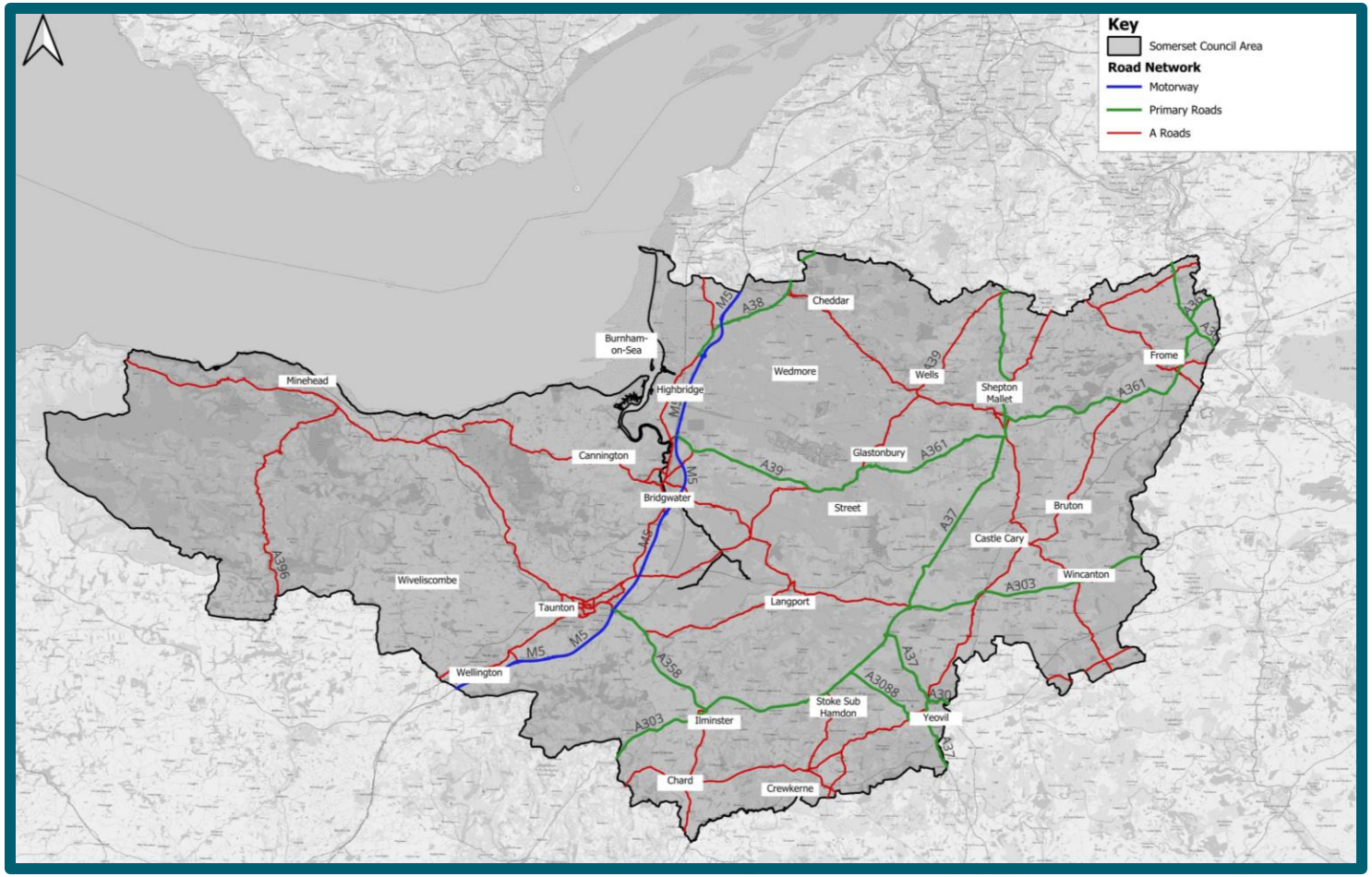


Existing Connectivity – How are places connected today?

This map shows the main roads that connect different places in Somerset today.

The M5 is the key north–south route, running from Birmingham to Exeter and linking towns such as Wellington, Taunton, Bridgwater and Highbridge/Burnham-on-Sea.

East–west travel is mainly supported by the A-road network, with additional primary roads helping to connect smaller rural communities in the eastern part of the county.

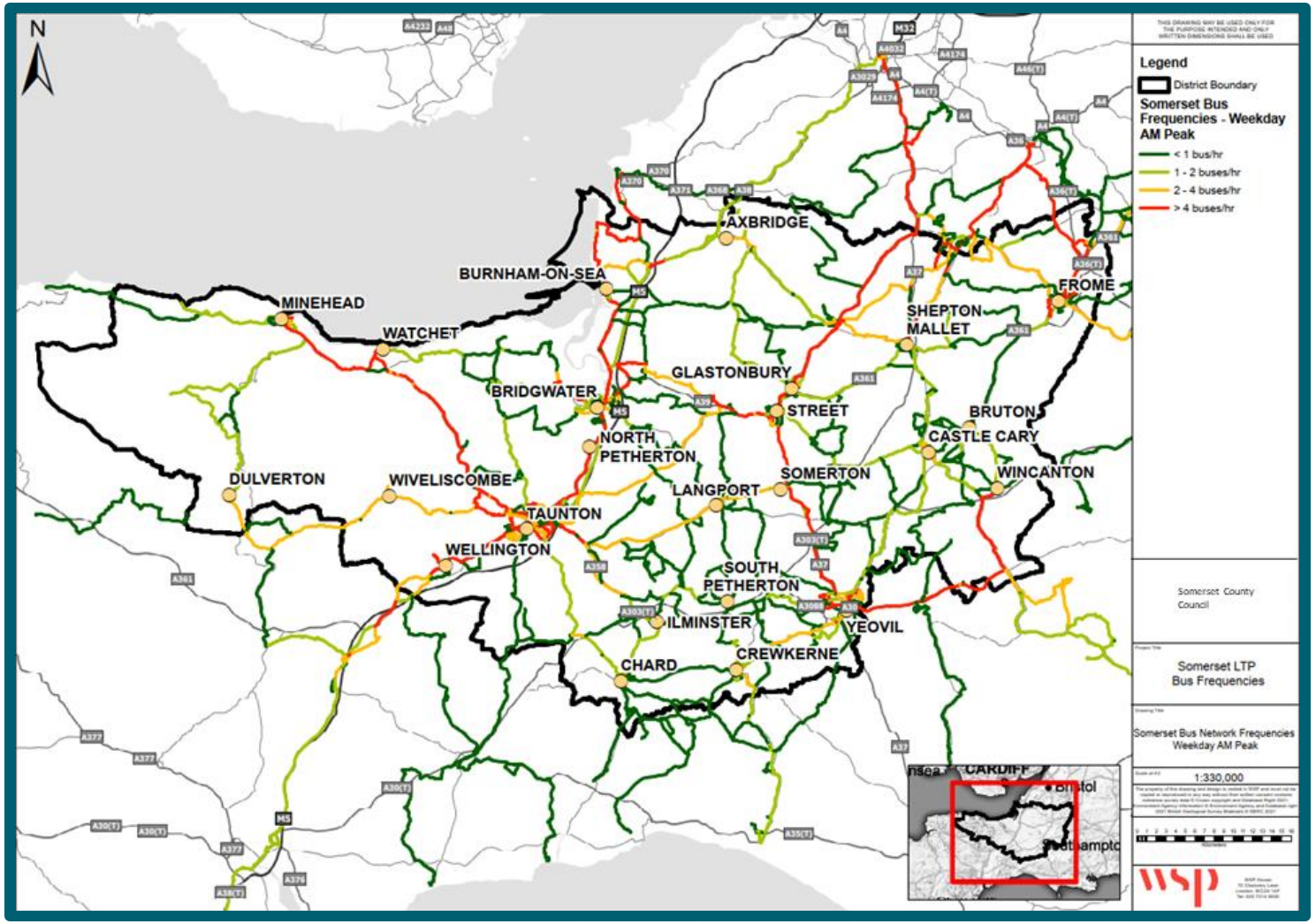


Existing Connectivity – How are places connected today?

This map shows where bus services currently operate across Somerset (2024).

More frequent services run along the M5 corridor, as well as west towards Minehead and east towards Frome and Yeovil.

In contrast, **buses serving rural villages usually run less than once an hour.**



Existing Connectivity – How are places connected today?

This map shows the current rail network in Somerset.

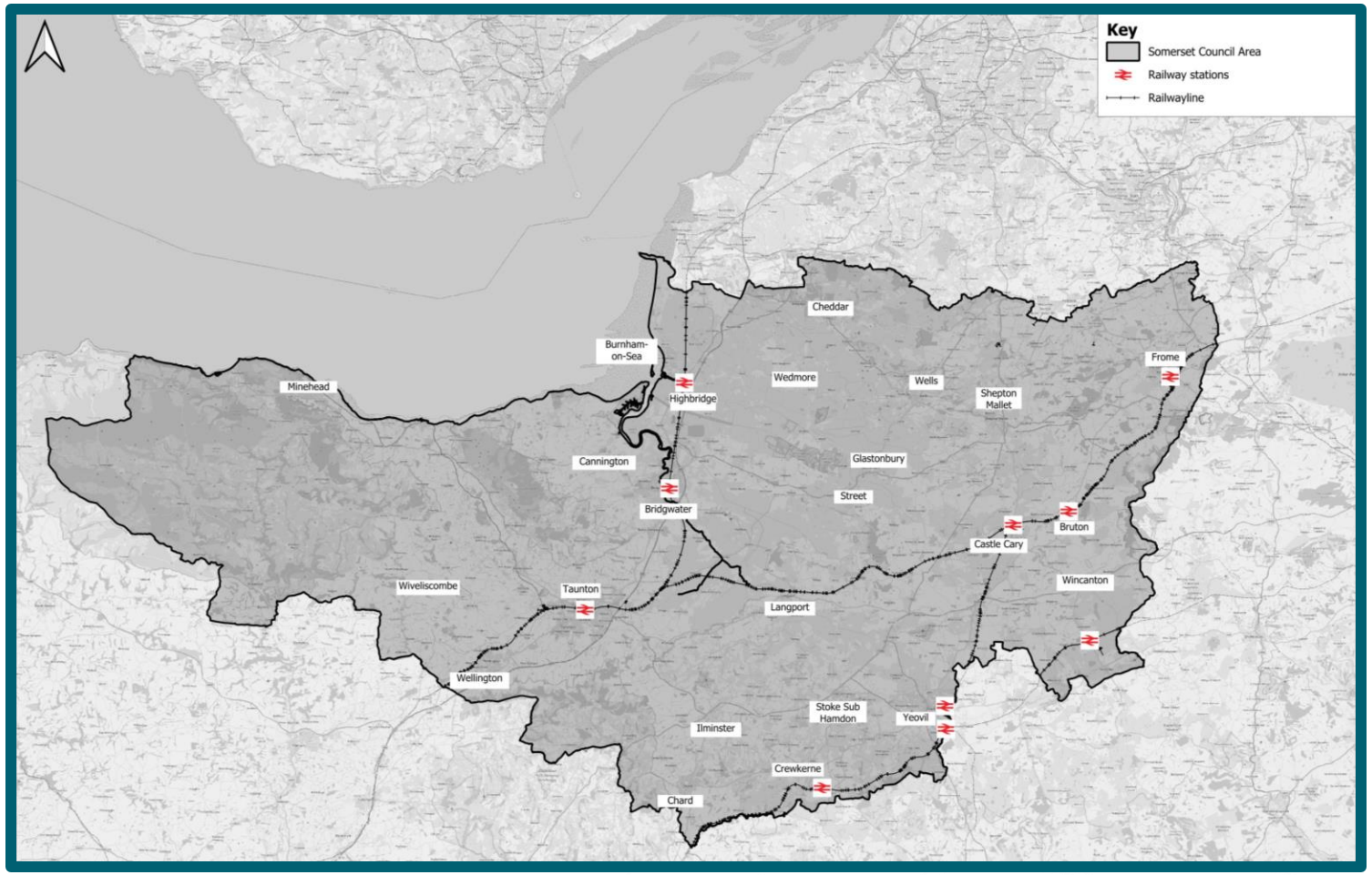
The Bristol–Exeter line links Taunton, Bridgwater and Highbridge.

The Reading–Taunton line connects Taunton with Castle Cary.

The Heart of Wessex line serves Frome, Bruton, Castle Cary and Yeovil.

The West of England main line provides services to Crewkerne and Yeovil.

Overall, **rail connectivity is not provided in the west of the county, with people needing to travel to Taunton or Bridgwater to access services.**



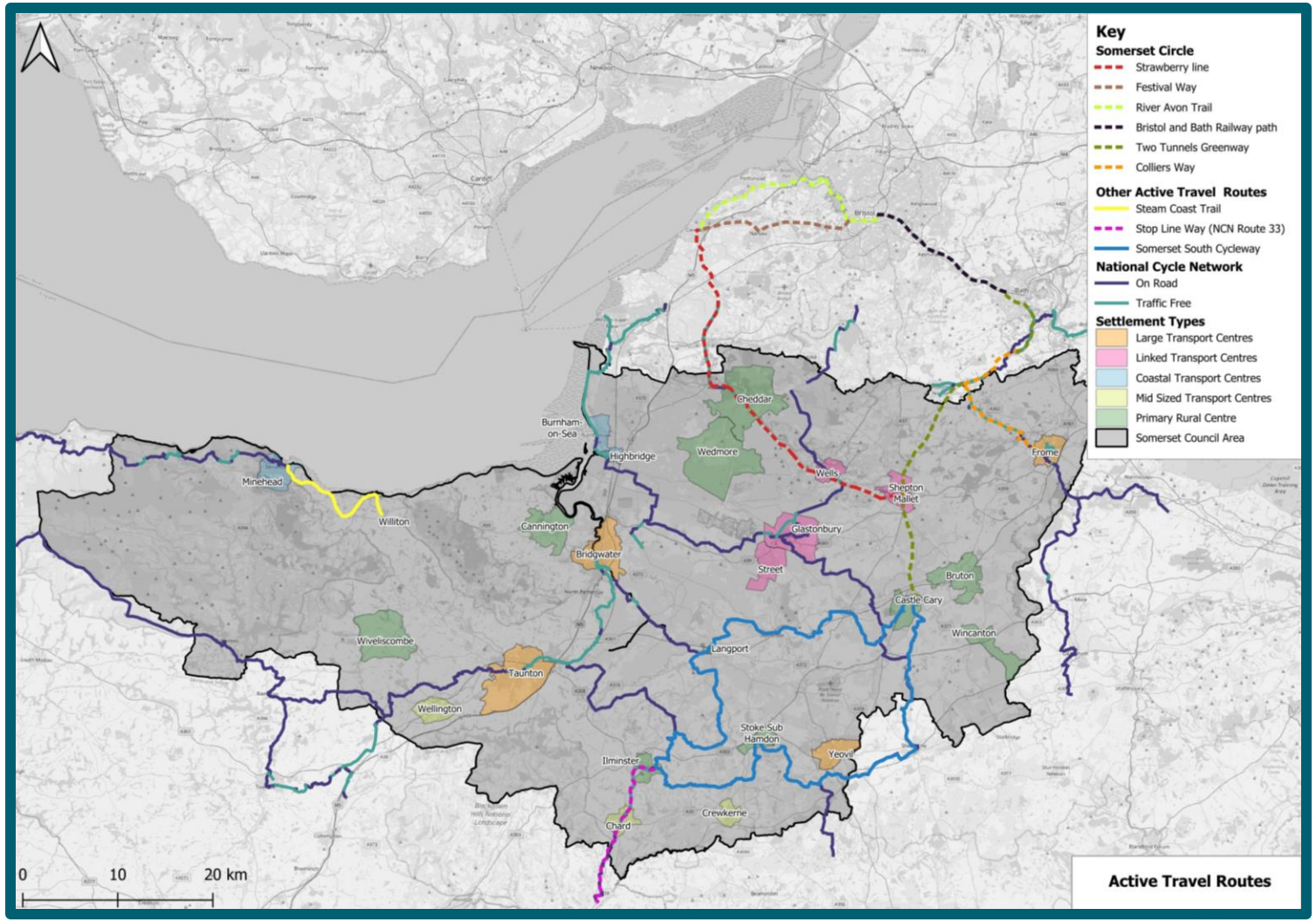
Existing Connectivity – How are places connected today?

This map shows the National Cycle Network and aspirational / planning routes.

Most of the cycle network currently uses on-road routes, with **stronger connections in the eastern part of the county.**

The Strawberry Line will help link a group of settlements in the north-east, providing a more continuous off-road route as it expands.

The Stop Line Way also connects Chard to Ilminster (and Bridgwater).



Connectivity Corridor / Area Ideas

Based on the analysis shown on the previous slides, we have identified ten initial ideas for connectivity corridors or focus areas.

Key

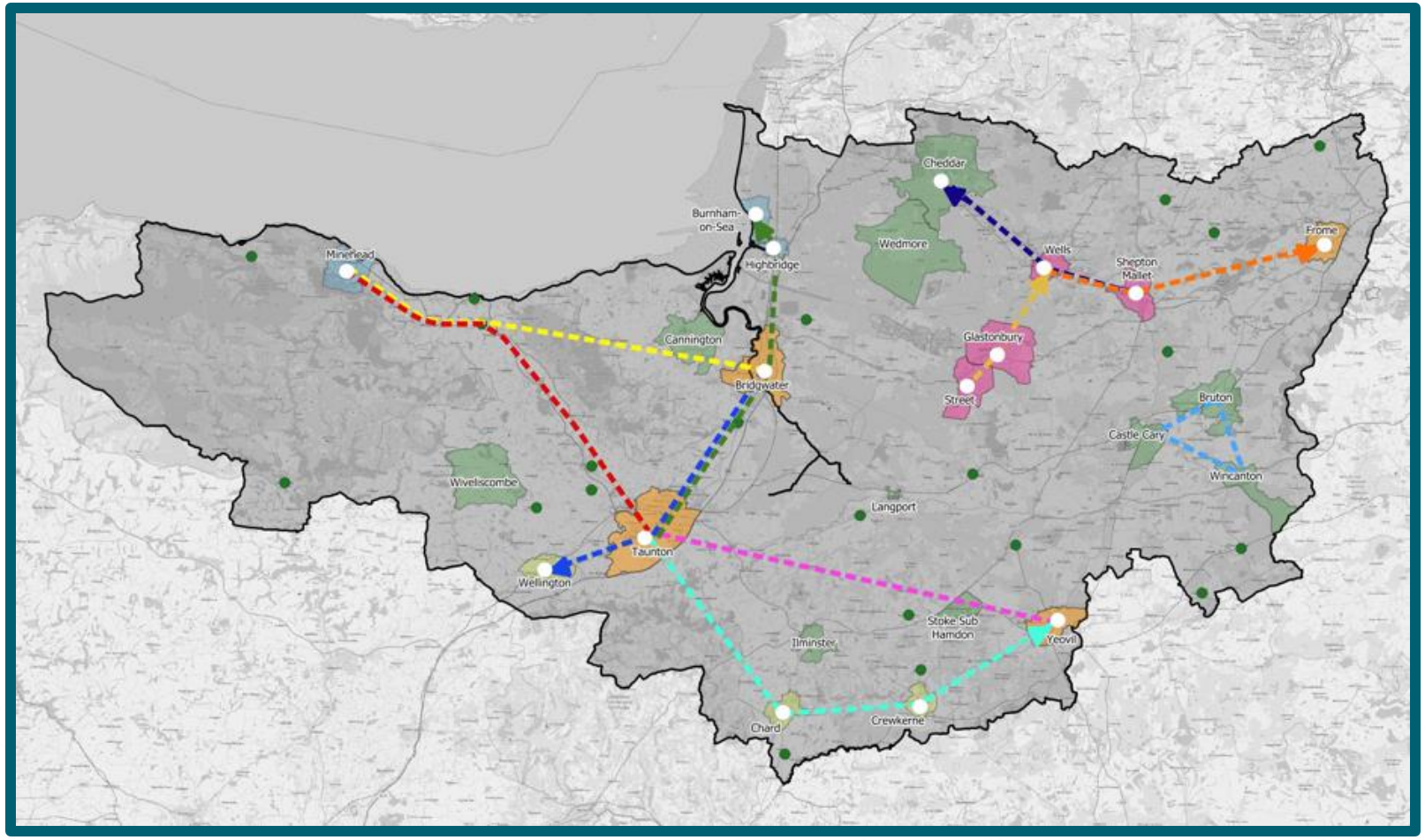
- Somerset Council Area

Settlement Types

- Large Transport Centres
- Linked Transport Centres
- Coastal Transport Centres
- Mid Sized Transport Centres
- Primary Rural Center
- Village Communities

Draft Corridors

- Yeovil - Crewkerne - Chard - Taunton
- Minehead - Taunton
- Minehead - Bridgewater
- Taunton - Bridgwater - Highbridge - Burnham-on-sea
- Wellington - Taunton - Bridgwater
- Wells - Glastonbury - Street
- Bruton - Castle Cary - Wincanton
- Wells - Shepton mallet - Frome
- Shepton Mallet - Wells - Cheddar (mostly active travel)
- Yeovil - Taunton (post-16 education)



Early Engagement

- This information pack is provided to **supplement a separate online questionnaire**, which has also been issued.
- This first questionnaire is your main opportunity to share the views of your local communities at an early stage in developing the Somerset Connectivity and Integrated Transport Strategy (SCITS). **We want to hear what matters to you.**
- The questionnaire opens on Friday 17 April and responses are **requested by Friday 22 May**.

