



Arms of Weston-Super-Mare Town Council, England

Blazon: Per fess or and argent, in chief to the sinister a sun issuant from the partition line gules, in base a lymphad of the last; on a quarter sable a castle of three towers of the second

Crest: On a wreath argent and sable, in front of a lighthouse on a rock, a seagull volant proper

Mantling: Sable lined argent

Supporters: On the dexter, a lion rampant guardant azure, armed and langued gules, collared or, pendant therefrom an escutcheon of the second charged with a chevron argent between three clarions of the third; on the sinister, a wolf rampant argent, collared gules, pendant therefrom an escutcheon sable charged with a fess ermine

Motto: Ever Forward

The Weston-super-Mare coat of arms features a gold (or) and silver (argent) background divided horizontally, with a red sun rising from the partition line on the sinister (left) side and a traditional three-masted ship (lymphad) in the lower section. The sun and ship symbolize the town's seaside location and maritime connection, while the division of the shield reflects the town's name, which means the "west town by the sea".

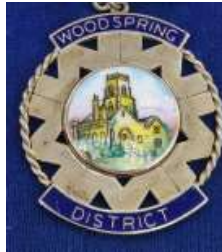
Weston-Super-Mare Borough Council

Municipal history began in 1842 when a Local Act was obtained for "paving, lighting, watching, cleansing and otherwise improving the Town of Weston-super-Mare in the County of Somerset and for establishing a Market therein" under the jurisdiction of eighteen appointed Commissioners. Town Commissioners gave way to an Urban District Council in 1894 and in 1937 the town received its Royal Charter as a municipal borough.

Following local government reorganisation in 1974, the Weston-Super-Mare Borough Council was absorbed into the newly created Woodspring District Council. Weston then had no specific council representation, but locally elected councillors became Charter Trustees, set up to maintain the continuity of a town charter or city charter after a district with the status of a borough or city had been abolished, until such time as a civil parish council or in larger settlements, a town council was established. Duties were limited to ceremonial activities such as the election of a mayor, and various other functions depending upon local customs and laws.

In 2000 the town successfully gained Parish (Town Council) Status and the Mayor once again became a Town Mayor. The council is responsible for providing the following services: allotments, bus shelters, cemeteries, dog waste bins, noticeboards, parks, play areas and green spaces, public toilets, and youth services.

Woodspring District Council (1974-1996)
now
North Somerset Council



The district was created on 1 April 1974 under the Local Government Act 1972, covering four former districts and part of a fifth, which were all abolished at the same time:

- Axbridge Rural District (part, being Steep Holm island and parishes lying generally north of the River Axe and Mendip Hills, rest split between Mendip and Sedgemoor)
- Clevedon Urban District
- Long Ashton Rural District
- Portishead Urban District
- Weston-super-Mare Municipal Borough (1937-1974)

Woodspring Priory, which gave its name to the district as created in 1974. The whole area had been part of Somerset prior to the 1974 reforms but was transferred to the new county of Avon.

The District named after Woodspring Priory, an isolated medieval church near the coast in the parish of Kewstoke, north of Weston-super-Mare.

Following the Banham Review, the county of Avon was abolished in 1996, with the area being divided into unitary authorities responsible for both district and county-level functions. Woodspring became one of the unitary authorities, and the government gave the district the new name "North West Somerset" as part of the reforms. The area was also transferred back to Somerset for the ceremonial purposes of lieutenancy and shrievalty.

In July 1995 the council resolved to change the name to "North Somerset" with effect from when the reforms came into effect on 1 April 1996. Some years later the government identified that the council's decision to rename in 1995 may not have been technically valid, and so in 2005 the council passed another resolution formally changing the name to put the matter beyond doubt.



The council is based in Weston-super-Mare, the area's largest town and also contains the towns of Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead, along with a number of villages and surrounding rural areas. Some southern parts of the district fall within the Mendip Hills, a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The district is on the coast, facing the Bristol Channel to the west. The neighbouring districts are Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset and Somerset. They provide both county-level and district-level services. The whole area is also covered by civil parishes, which form a second tier of local government.

The area comprises the parliamentary constituencies of Weston-super-Mare and North Somerset.

Settlements

The principal towns in the district are the coastal towns of Weston-super-Mare, Portishead, Clevedon and Nailsea.

- Abbots Leigh
- Backwell, Banwell, Barrow Gurney, Blagdon, Bleadon, Bourton, Brockley, Burrington, Butcombe
- Cambridge Batch, Chelvey, Christon, Churchill, Clapton in Gordano, Claverham, Cleeve, Clevedon, Congresbury
- Downside, Dundry
- East End, East Hewish, East Rolstone, Easton in Gordano
- Failand, Farleigh, Felton, Flax Bourton
- Ham Green, Hutton
- Icelton
- Kenn, Kewstoke, Kingston Seymour
- Leigh Woods, Locking, Lodway, Long Ashton, Lower Failand, Lower Langford, Loxton, Lulsgate Bottom
- Maiden Head, Milton
- Nailsea, North End, North Weston
- Pill, Portbury, Portishead, Puxton
- Redcliffe Bay, Redhill, Regil, Rickford
- Sandford, Sheepway, Sidcot, St Georges, St Mary's Grove
- Tickenham
- Uphill, Upper Town
- Walton in Gordano, West End, West Hewish, West Town, West Wick, Weston in Gordano, Weston-super-Mare, Wick St. Lawrence, Winford, Winscombe, Worle, Wraxall, Wrington
- Yatton

Places of interest

North Somerset's natural environment and coastal towns attract visitors from nearby cities. Notable geographical features include:

- Gordano Valley
- Mendip Hills – the ridgeway forms part of the district boundary
- Sand Bay and Sand Point
- Worlebury Hill
- Burrington Combe, Goblin Combe, Brockley Combe
- North Somerset Levels

Notable religious sites include Woodspring Priory.

Parishes

- Abbots Leigh Civil parish
- Long Ashton Rural District
- Backwell
- Long Ashton Rural District
- Axbridge Rural District
- Barrow Gurney
- Long Ashton Rural District

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- Bleadon
- Brockley
- Long Ashton Rural District
- Burrington
- Butcombe
- Churchill
- Clapton in Gordano
- Clevedon
- Congresbury
- Easton in Gordano
- Flax Bourton Civil parish
- Hutton Civil parish
- Kenn
- Kewstoke
- Kingston Seymour
- Locking
- Loxton Civil parish
- Portbury
- Portishead Urban District
- Puxton Civil parish
- St Georges
- Tickenham
- Walton in Gordano
- Weston in Gordano
- Weston super Mare
- Wick St Lawrence
- Winford
- Winscombe and Sandford
- Wraxall and Failand
- Yatton Civil parish