

Public Document Pack

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Date: 28 February 2023

Dear Sir or Madam

The Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel – Wednesday, 8 March 2023, 2.00 pm – New Council Chamber - Town Hall

A meeting of the Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel will take place as indicated above.

The agenda is set out overleaf.

Yours faithfully

Assistant Director Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer

To: Members of the Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Councillors:

John Crockford-Hawley (Chairman), Peter Crew (Vice-Chairman), Mike Bird, Gill Bute, John Cato, James Clayton, Sarah Codling, Mark Crosby, Patrick Keating, Phil Neve, James Tonkin and Richard Westwood.

This document and associated papers can be made available in a different format on request.

Agenda

1. **Public Discussion (Standing Order SSO9)**

To receive and hear any person who wishes to address the Panel on matters which affect the District and fall within the remit of the Panel. The Chairman will select the order of the matters to be heard. Members of the Panel may ask questions of the member of the public and a dialogue between the parties can be undertaken. Requests to speak must be submitted in writing to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, or the officer mentioned at the top of this agenda letter, by noon on the day before.

2. **Apologies for absence and notification of substitutes**

3. **Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Standing Order 37)**

A Member must declare any disclosable pecuniary interest where it relates to any matter being considered at the meeting. A declaration of a disclosable pecuniary interest should indicate the interest and the agenda item to which it relates. A Member is not permitted to participate in this agenda item by law and should immediately leave the meeting before the start of any debate. If the Member leaves the Chamber in respect of a declaration, he or she should ensure that the Chairman is aware of this before he or she leaves to enable their exit from the meeting to be recorded in the minutes in accordance with Standing Order 37.

4. **Minutes** (Pages 5 - 10)

Minutes of the Panel meeting held on 23 November 2022 – to approve as a correct record.

5. **Matters referred by Council, the Executive, other Committees and Panels (if any)**

6. **Levelling Up Fund update** (Pages 11 - 16)

The report of the Head of Placemaking and Development.

7. **Proposal to implement a pilot scheme for delivering Biodiversity Net Gain, required from development, on North Somerset Council's open space** (Pages 17 - 28)

Report of the Head of Open Space, Natural Environment and Leisure.

8. **Ash Dieback Update** (Pages 29 - 38)

Report of the Natural Environment Manager.

9. **Recycling and Waste Strategy Annual Update** (Pages 39 - 44)

Report of the Head of Environmental Services and Safer Communities.

10. **WESTlink Demand Responsive Transport (DRT)** (Pages 45 - 54)
Report of the Head of Transport Planning.
11. **Q3 performance and risk update for 2022 to 2023** (Pages 55 - 72)
Report of the Head of Business Insight, Policy and Partnerships.
12. **Place Finance Update** (Pages 73 - 82)
Report of the Finance Business Partner (Place).
13. **Place Panel Work Plan - March 2023** (Pages 83 - 88)
Report of the Policy and Scrutiny Senior Officer.

Exempt Items

Should the Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel wish to consider a matter as an Exempt Item, the following resolution should be passed -

“(1) That the press, public, and officers not required by the Members, the Chief Executive or the Director, to remain during the exempt session, be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the ground that its consideration will involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972.”

Also, if appropriate, the following resolution should be passed –

“(2) That members of the Council who are not members of the Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel be invited to remain.”

Mobile phones and other mobile devices

All persons attending the meeting are requested to ensure that these devices are switched to silent mode. The chairman may approve an exception to this request in special circumstances.

Filming and recording of meetings

The proceedings of this meeting may be recorded for broadcasting purposes.

Anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings may do so unless the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting or there is good reason not to do so, as directed by the Chairman. Any filming must be done as unobtrusively as possible from a single fixed position without the use of any additional lighting, focusing only on those actively participating in the meeting and having regard to the wishes of any members of the public present who may not wish to be filmed. As a matter of courtesy, anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chairman or the Assistant Director Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer's

representative before the start of the meeting so that all those present may be made aware that it is happening.

Members of the public may also use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings at this meeting.

Emergency Evacuation Procedure

On hearing the alarm – (a continuous two tone siren)

Leave the room by the nearest exit door. Ensure that windows are closed.

Last person out to close the door.

Do not stop to collect personal belongings.

Do not use the lifts.

Follow the green and white exit signs and make your way to the assembly point.

Do not re-enter the building until authorised to do so by the Fire Authority.

Go to Assembly Point C – Outside the offices formerly occupied by Stephen & Co



Minutes

of the Meeting of the

Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Wednesday, 23 November 2022

held at the Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare.

Meeting Commenced: 14:00 Meeting Concluded: 16:18

Councillors:

P John Crockford-Hawley (Chairman)

P Peter Crew

P Mike Bird

A Gill Bute

P John Cato

A James Clayton

A Sarah Codling

A Mark Crosby

P Patrick Keating

Phil Neve

A James Tonkin

P Richard Westwood

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

Other Councillors in attendance: Steve Bridger; Mark Canniford; Caroline Cherry; Karin Haverson; Huw James; Richard Tucker

Officers in attendance: Gemma Dando; Jenny Ford; Jo Jones (Place); Emma Diakou; Philippa Penney (Corporate Services)

PLA Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

12

Apologies received from Cllrs Gill Bute, James Clayton, Sarah Codling, Mark Crosby and James Tonkin.

PLA Public Discussion (Standing Order SSO9)

13

None

PLA 14 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

14

None.

PLA 15 Minutes

15

Minutes of the Place Panel Meeting held on 13 July 2022, to approve as a formal record.

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting of 13 July 2022 be approved as a correct record.

PLA 16 Matters referred by Council, the Executive, other Committees and Panels (if any)

16

None.

PLA 17 Placemaking Strategies: Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead

17

The Head of Placemaking and Development presented the report, which provided Members with a summary of engagement with stakeholders and communities in Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead to develop Placemaking Strategies for key areas of those towns.

Particular attention was drawn to the partnership documents, realisable only through strong collaborative working to support delivery of action when needed. Members endorsed the extensive amount of interactive partnership working which had been conducted largely by stakeholder group consultation. However, it was also recognised that not all opportunities had enlisted as complete a public response and agreed that it would be helpful to understand the reasons behind this for future learning.

Members discussed each of the three geographical areas in further detail.

The consultation work in Clevedon had been led by Design West, inviting headline views rather than focusing on finer detail. It demonstrated a marking point in a continuing process to provide a vision of what could be achieved collectively. Individual projects would require various approvals along the way. Members noted that agreement for the strategy itself did not prejudice any future decisions regarding development at any specific site.

Nailsea's response had been similar. It was felt that the more general and high-level approach hadn't generated as much interaction, and it was hoped that more specific proposals and project ideas would be put forward.

The effort at Portishead had been based on a tri-partite group that had demonstrated a clear example of public consultation, communication, and engagement. It remained key to the project that it was not solely concerning residential led development but also that of commercial and employment.

Members expressed concern on the geographical reach of the strategy. Officers suggested that it wasn't appropriate or possible to have placemaking strategies for the whole town, but that other issues and concerns could be picked up through Neighbourhood Plans.

Concluded: that the report be received, and comments sent to officers in the form of minutes.

PLA 18 Weston placemaking funding applications and investments

The Head of Placemaking and Development presented the update report which provided Members with information on funding applications to the Levelling Up (LUF) and Cultural Development Funds and the background on the intended use of funding.

Weston had been agreed as the bid focus as was best fit for the criteria most likely to succeed. Specific projects included Birnbeck Pier the Tropicana, Marine Lake, the Sovereign Centre, wayfinding improvements across the town, and Grove Park. The general aim was to make facilities financially and culturally viable and fun.

It was hoped that the decision for the LUF should be known in December, whilst that of the Arts Council was expected in March.

Members discussed the bids in further detail. There was frustration in the bid funding process that relied on chasing the government for grants, but that it provided a good opportunity nevertheless to see ambition for the area unlocked.

Concluded: that the report be received, and comments sent to officers in the form of minutes.

PLA 19 Your Neighbourhood update

The Assistant Director for Neighbourhoods presented the report which outlined the progress made against the adopted Libraries and Leisure Strategies.

The Libraries Strategy had four key objectives: post-Covid recovery; use as digital access points, bringing services into communities, and; being accessible for all. The focus for the next twelve months was to bring in more funding by working with partners and community partnerships.

Members discussed the wide variety of benefits and use of libraries which was supported by our amazingly proactive library officers

Members asked for the next update to include local studies and heritage.

In discussing specific leisure services provision, it was acknowledged that some locations required more future planning and a greater understanding of the usage requirements and carbon implications.

Concluded: that the report be received, and comments sent to officers in the form of minutes.

PLA 20 **Bus Service and BSIP update**

The Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods and Transport presented the report which considered the one-year anniversary of the BSIP bidding document and the recent commercial and supported bus changes as the local bus market adjusts to a post covid operating environment.

Officers had received notice of a positive indicative settlement for the network and revenue funding shared with WECA to invest in bus services but were still awaiting final confirmation.

The negative impacts on the service had been largely due to a shortage of drivers and poor commercial viability for some of the routes. Opportunities within the BSIP funding would be explored to assist in bridging the gap. Members discussed options for a demand responsive service mapped by zones, although it was recognised that this approach had not really been tested in the UK so BSIP could prove fundamental in testing this.

Other issues discussed included the transfer of drivers across the routes and areas, more generic driver training for a wider range of transport modes, problems with passenger confidence and adverse effect on usage of the service.

Members agreed re recommendation to host a meeting to further understand what actions were being taken to reduce lost mileage with the local First Bus and Stagecoach operating companies. This should not just look at rescuing existing services but also review what future service provision should look like. The aim must be to persuade those not currently using the bus to start doing so to generate further usage and provide redress for the climate emergency challenge.

Concluded: that the report be received with comments sent to officers in the form of minutes, and that a scrutiny session should be convened with the local DVSA representative to understand what actions are being taken to reduce lost mileage with the local First Bus and Stagecoach operating companies.

Change to agenda order

PLA 21 **Quarter 1 performance and risk update for 2022/23**

The Head of Business Insight, Policy and Partnerships presented the report on progress against the organisational-wide commitments, the Key Corporate Performance Indicators that are reported to the scrutiny panel, and the Strategic Risk Register as of the end of Q1.

Discussion included issues regarding staff recruitment both locally and nationally, and the work undertaken to improve our recruitment offer

considering some of the attractions of the private sector. Members were referred to the link in the report to the online dashboard which provided more detail on performance and risk in areas across the panel's remit.

Concluded: that the report be received, and comments sent to officers in the form of minutes.

PLA 22 **Place Finance Update**

The Finance Business Partner (Place) presented the report which detailed the current forecast against budget for the directorate. Focus was currently on the in-year position and the main material challenges including: inflation on contracts; home to school transport budgets due to SEND demand and market conditions; and income shortfalls.

Members noted that whilst progress was positive the situation remained extremely challenging with no obvious short-term improvement on pressures. Members thanked officers for managing successful funding bids and income streams, particularly given that there was no centralised team to support this work.

Concluded: that the report be received, and comments sent to officers in the form of minutes.

PLA 23 **Place Panel Work Plan – November 2022**

The Head of Democratic and Electoral Services presented the Panel's Work Plan and informed Members that it would be updated considering discussion and agreement at this meeting.

Concluded: that the work plan be updated, picking up actions and discussion outcomes from the meeting.

Chairman

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North Somerset Council

Report to the Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Date of meeting: 8th March 2023

Subject of report: Levelling Up Fund update

Town or Parish: Weston-super-Mare

Officer presenting: Jenny Ford, Head of Development & Placemaking

Key Decision: No

Reason:

Report is for information and scrutiny

Recommendations

- That the Panel note the contents of this report.
- That the Panel confirm that they wish for progress reports to be brought to the committee on a six-monthly basis.

1. Summary of report

This report provides an update on the Levelling Up Fund programme for Weston, following the government announcement in Jan 2023 that the council's bid to the fund had been successful.

2. Policy

The funding and activities referenced in this report will support delivery of the Corporate Plan priority of creating a Thriving and Sustainable Place and delivery of the vision and objectives set out in the SuperWeston Placemaking Strategy adopted in September 2020.

3. Details

- 3.1 In January 2023, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced that the council had been successful in a bid to the Levelling Up Fund, awarding £19,979,570 for a programme of works across Weston.
- 3.2 This funding is matched by £3.04m from NSC, comprising £0.64m spend already incurred at the Sovereign Centre (backdated expenditure within the existing financial year can be included as match-funding), and £2.4m within the council's Capital Programme relating to placemaking improvements. The total programme value is £23,019,797. Formal approval for the addition of the expenditure to the Council's Capital Programme was agreed as part of budget reports in February 2023.
- 3.3 The themes and purpose of the bid and its delivery are to:

- Boost the visitor economy by investing in much-loved but deteriorating heritage assets to create national visitor attractions and creative hubs.
- Reinventing and diversifying Weston town centre, supporting the creative economy, independent retailers and food & drink innovators.
- Delivering wayfinding and quick win public realm improvements to increase footfall and spend and boost local pride in the quality of our environment.

3.4 In delivering the bid, it is hoped to bring further momentum to already changing perceptions of Weston, attracting further investment, and creating a positive cycle of ongoing change and reinvention. Residents will benefit from more diverse and higher quality employment; employers from a town that attracts and retains talent; and visitors from a year-round offer. Linking also with other activities such as those funded by UKSPF, the programme will seek to help make progress on long-term issues of deprivation relating to employment, health & well-being, quality of life, and crime.

3.5 The bid and its projects emerged from the consultations and partnerships involved in the creation of the Weston Placemaking Strategy, adopted by NSC in 2020. A report to Council in July 2021 agreed the focus as the basis for Levelling Up bids.

3.6 Specific projects to be delivered are as follows:

(i) Project 1: a year-round destination:

- Tropicana: creating a fit-for-purpose, future-proofed events facility, increasing the capacity from 3,000 to 8,000 and making the arena area more 'ready to go' for operators and events. An additional bid has been made to the Cultural Development Fund which if successful would allow complementary investments to the internal areas (decision expected March 2023).
- Birnbeck Pier: further to the emergency repairs and decking to be carried out using other funds, LUF will restore a number of buildings at the pier, allowing them to be used as entry booths, visitor centre, café etc.
- Marine Lake: following on from the Council's previous investments, completing restoration of walkways, steps and ramps, installing additional seating, service points for food trucks, and potentially small-scale changing facilities.

(ii) Project 2: reinventing the Town Centre:

LUF funding will support the refurbishment of vacant high street units within the Sovereign Centre ownership, as well as some additional external improvements. Photos of the existing condition of some of the units in question are provided below:



The works to shop units will tie in with wider efforts to revitalise the high street through the Economy Team and programmes such as UKSPF, including supporting small independent traders and Meanwhile Uses.

(iii) Wayfinding and Grove Park:

Improvements to wayfinding across the town centre and seafront, linking in particular with the forthcoming opening of new coastal routes. The project also includes investments to improve the entrance area to Grove Park.

- 3.7 In addition to the capital spend, it is important that the LUF bid achieves the wider objectives of the programme relating to tackling deprivation in Weston, specifically in South and Central Wards which include neighbourhoods within the 2% most deprived nationally. The programme will include close working with colleagues such as those from Procurement, the Economy Team and others involved in the UKSPF programme to maximise the outcomes both in terms of contractual social value, and in linking into other responsibilities and activities of the council to align wherever possible in addressing issues such as unemployment and health and well-being. Partners including Weston College, the Business Improvement District and Town Council will also be critical here.
- 3.8 Steps have been taken to establish robust programme governance and management. A Programme Coordination Group and Programme Steering Group have been set up, including representatives from CLT, and will meet monthly, supported by working groups for each of the different projects. The Steering Group as the senior grouping will in turn report into the Council's capital and asset governance structures. Project/Programme documentation is being compiled, including a Programme Management Plan and updates to the Quantified Risk Assessment submitted with the bid. Reports will be brought to the Executive and Council as part of normal financial monitoring, and it is proposed that more detailed update reports are brought to the Place Scrutiny Panel on a six-monthly basis.
- 3.9 The timeline for delivery is rapid: all expenditure is to be completed by 31st March 2025. Projects will therefore be mobilised as soon as possible.
- 3.10 The programme total of £23m includes allowances for fees, overheads, contingency, inflation and Optimism Bias in line with in line with specialist advice and government funding guidance. This helps protect the deliverability of the projects.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 The projects in this bid emerged from extensive consultation carried out in creating the Weston Placemaking Strategy.
- 4.2 Project delivery will involve further consultation, both with members and wider stakeholders; this will focus on key delivery issues and how we maximise the benefits of the investments (for example at the Tropicana we will seek industry input into arena improvements). However there is limited, if any, scope to change the focus of the projects, as these have been agreed with government through the funding bid. Additional/alternative projects cannot be added in at this stage.
- 4.3 Many of the projects will require planning consent, which will include statutory consultation processes.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1 The total programme value is £23m, of which £19,979,570 is sourced from Levelling Up grant and £3,040,227 from NSC match-funding. This has been reported and approved as part of the Council's Capital Programme and Medium-Term Financial Plan.

6. Legal powers and implications

- 6.1 The Council is required to enter into a Funding Agreement with government. This sets terms and conditions as to the expenditure of the funding, including requirements relating to timescales, outputs and monitoring.
- 6.2 Legal advice has been secured on Subsidy Control implications of the projects to ensure no improper subsidy or economic activity on the part of the council.

7. Climate Change and environmental implications

- 7.1 Mitigating and adapting to climate change are seen as an important part of this programme. More detail will be confirmed as the detail of projects are finalised, but is expected to include:

- Works to be delivered to a high environmental standard.
- Tropicana investments to be aligned with wider energy efficiency and decarbonisation initiatives.
- Encouraging active travel and sustainable tourism through wayfinding measures, esp. linking to new coastal routes.

8. Risk management

- 8.1 A detailed, quantified risk assessment was prepared as part of bid documentation. This will be a 'live' document to be kept updated and regularly reviewed throughout the delivery period.
- 8.2 Key risks include:
- Delivering within the required timeline, particularly given delays from government in confirming funding: programme and project managers have been identified from within the council's Capital Projects Team to allow for rapid mobilisation and commissioning of preparatory work. Budget approvals have been secured, and a degree of additional authority delegated to the Section 151 officer to be able to progress procurement approvals during the election period. Officers will liaise with government contacts on a regular basis to update them on progress and if necessary to discuss whether any extension to the funding period is possible.
 - Funding is inadequate to deliver projects, either due to unexpected delivery issues or continued high levels of inflation: the bid includes allowances for contingency and inflation in line with specialist advice and government guidance. In the event that these were inadequate, officers would review how best to reduce costs without compromising outcomes; this would be subject to separate reports and decisions.

- Investment in capital works does not lead to deliver of wider Levelling Up outcomes: stakeholder and community engagement will be an important part of the programme. Procurement activity will seek to maximise Social Value contributions. The delivery team will work closely with colleagues across the council and with external partners to maximise opportunities for alignment with other initiatives such as UKSPF.

9. Equality implications

9.1 An initial Equalities Impact Assessment was carried out in support of NSC's Levelling Up bid. This identified significant positive benefits for people from groups with one or more protected characteristics and/or other individuals facing disadvantage, including those detailed below:

- Improved access to facilities and across the town for people with disabilities, or other people with mobility issues.
- Improved signage for those with visibility impairments.
- Improved economic opportunities and support (jobs and training) for those on a low income, and/or for individuals from groups with protected characteristics that statistically are likely to have a low income.
- Improved health and wellbeing benefits, including mental health benefits, through encouraging access to the open air and facilities of Weston seafront and town centre.

9.2 These benefits are particularly significant in the context of the data showing high levels of deprivation and disadvantage in Weston, specifically issues in relation to health and employment. Opportunities arising from the scheme – such as employment and training opportunities – will seek to target groups known to be disadvantaged or otherwise unable to easily access the employment market.

9.3 Further assessments will be carried out as part of programme / project delivery to ensure that benefits are maximised and any negative impacts are considered and addressed.

10. Corporate implications

10.1 Programme delivery will require significant input from a wide range of teams from across the council including placemaking, seafronts, capital projects, procurement, finance, legal, planning and property teams.

10.2 Governance and reporting structures have been put in place to ensure coordination of these teams and the project/programme activities.

11. Options considered

11.1 To accept LUF funding and deliver associated projects: this is the agreed option as it will bring much-needed regeneration and placemaking investment in Weston.

11.2 To reject LUF funding: this has been rejected as there are limited opportunities for government funding of placemaking investments, and the projects are in line with the agreed priorities of the Weston Placemaking Strategy.

11.3 To seek a change in the amount or terms of LUF funding: this would be unacceptable to government, who have been clear that funding agreements will be based on the content of bids. Minor changes to the detail of delivery may be possible at a later stage and subject to government approval, however any changes must be minimal and not impact on the overall objectives and outcomes.

Author:

Jenny Ford, Head of Development & Placemaking

Appendices:

N/a

Background papers:

The Levelling Up bid will be added to the council's public website in the next few weeks.

North Somerset Council

Report to the Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Date of Meeting: 8 March 2023

Subject of Report: Proposal to implement a pilot scheme for delivering Biodiversity Net Gain, required from development, on North Somerset Council's open space.

Town or Parish: All

Officer/Member Presenting: John Flannigan, Head of Open Spaces, Natural Environment and Leisure

Key Decision: No

Reason:

The value of this decision is less than £500,000 and this decision will not have a significant impact on two or more wards in North Somerset

Recommendations

To note the proposal to implement a pilot scheme to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) on North Somerset Council open spaces created through offsetting from development.

1. Summary of Report

1.1. North Somerset Council is taking the issues of nature seriously and declared a nature emergency in November 2020 following a Council motion to rewild as much of its land as possible. In response to this, the council is committed through the Green Infrastructure Strategy and other initiatives to improve and increase biodiversity in North Somerset. Rewilding initiatives over the last three years have resulted in some significant improvements to habitats and species in North Somerset, with 25,000 trees planted and tall grass management regime introduced to 40 hectares of open space. It has been found through work with Avon Wildlife Trust and the Rewilding Champions that there is about a twofold increase in plant species and insects in rewilded areas. Biodiversity Net Gain is another complementary opportunity to improve biodiversity in North Somerset using council land and without significant additional cost to the council.

1.2. Biodiversity Net Gain policy set out under the Environment Act 2021 due to come into force in Autumn 2023 enables councils to 'bank' habitats to generate and income which can in turn be used to re-invest in environmental returns such as improvements to habitats, as well as enhanced access for people and to finance the delivery of BNG.

- 1.3. Habitat banking is a form of green finance which would allow the Council to finance habitat restoration and creation. This report sets out the opportunities and options available to the Council and outlines a pilot approach that is proposed to enable the council to start exploring and realising this opportunity.
- 1.4. The pilot scheme will enable the council to work through the issues relating to the provision of BNG on council open space and the associated commercial considerations prior to potentially expanding the scheme more widely, as well as understanding the wider BNG issues that will arise when the legislation is finalised in the autumn.
- 1.5. Appendix A identifies the small number of North Somerset Council owned sites to be set aside for the pilot project, for a minimum period of 30 years. This is for the specific purpose of land being used to mitigate for offsite BNG that must be provided by Developers.
- 1.6. The outcomes of implementing this pilot project are expected to be as follows
- improving biodiversity on North Somerset Council land;
 - generating income to better manage biodiversity and contribute to the maintenance and management of parks and open spaces;
 - enabling developers to access a straightforward approach to delivering their BNG requirements;
 - and creating capacity for the Council to process BNG in future planning applications.

2. Policy

2.1 Managing BNG contributes to North Somerset being a great place for people to live, work and visit and directly enables the Council to meet its nature emergency and rewilding objectives.

2.2 Supports the actions of the 2021 Green infrastructure strategy.

2.3 Supports the Full Council motions on rewilding as much Council land as possible (2019) and the nature emergency (2020).

3. Details

3.1. There are opportunities available to the Council in relation to Biodiversity Net Gain policy set out under the Environment Act 2021 due to come into force in Autumn 2023.

3.2. Planning applications will be required to measure biodiversity gains using a biodiversity metric, which has been produced by DEFRA. This biodiversity metric can be used to calculate how a development will change the biodiversity value of a site. The metric allows us to assess the biodiversity unit value of an area of land, demonstrate biodiversity net gains or losses in a consistent way, measure and account for direct impacts on biodiversity and to compare proposals for a site - such as creating or enhancing habitat on-site or off-site

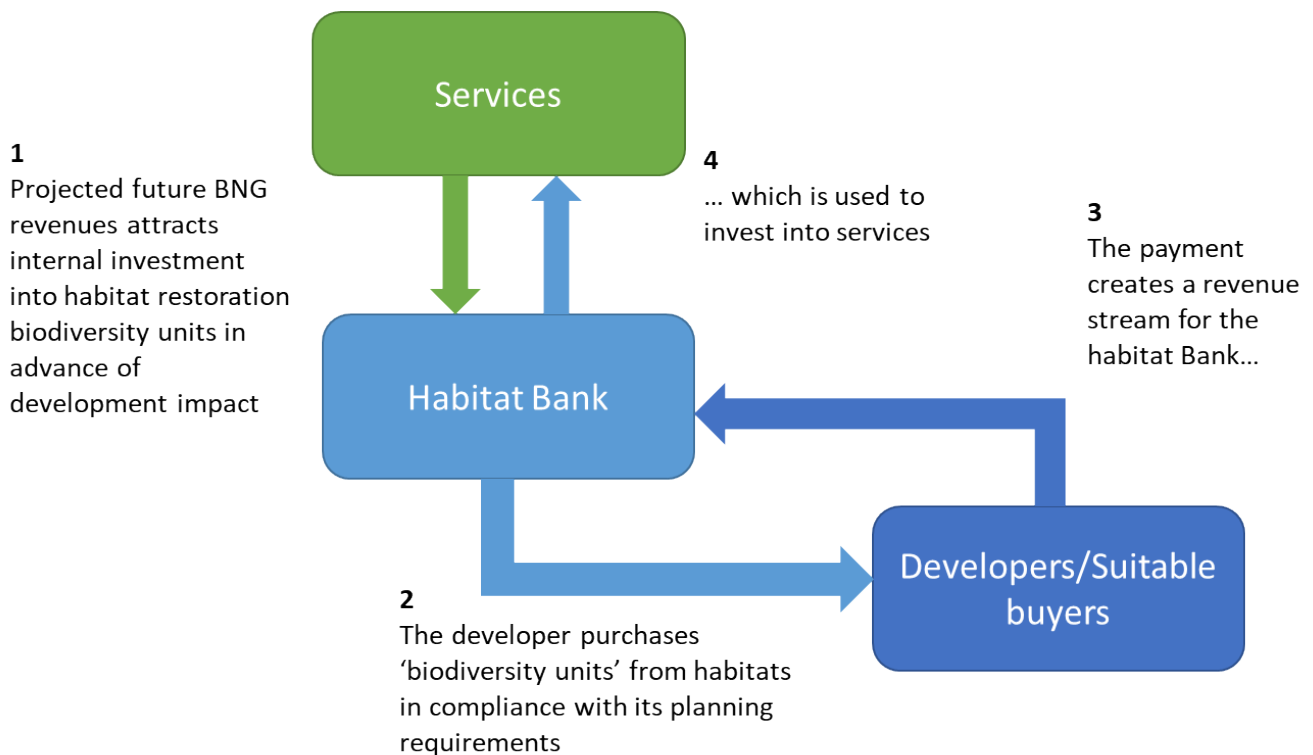
3.3. The metric calculates the values as 'biodiversity units'. Biodiversity units are calculated using the size of the habitat, its quality and location.

- 3.4. This report sets out the opportunities around BNG provision which include stimulating a sustainable revenue stream, which the Council can establish through internal investment, to enhance and maintain the Council's green spaces for people and wildlife.
- 3.5. The approach has several benefits including generating an income; enhancing biodiversity across North Somerset Council's open spaces; enabling developers to access a straightforward approach to delivering their BNG requirements; and to seek to create capacity for the Council to process BNG.
- 3.6. It is proposed to establish a pilot BNG Delivery Programme (BNGDP) that will enable NSC to set aside land (habitat banking) to achieve these benefits, at lowest risk.
- 3.7. The pilot scheme will also enable us to work through issues relating to the provision of BNG on council open space and the associated commercial considerations. The scheme will also provide a valuable insight into our role in processing BNG through the planning system when it becomes a mandatory requirement later in 2023.
- 3.8. Appendix A identifies the small number of North Somerset Council owned land proposed to be set aside for this pilot project, for a minimum period of 30 years. This pilot is for the specific purpose of land being used to mitigate for offsite BNG that must be provided by Developers. These six locations have a total area of 76 hectares and have been identified for both grassland management and tree planting and have the potential to generate a total of 252 biodiversity units. Before any of these sites are progressed, they will undergo further, more detailed investigation, to ensure their suitability.

Proposed Habitat Banking

- 3.9. Habitat banking is a form of green finance which allows the Council to finance habitat restoration, and in advance, through investment and "bank" the resulting biodiversity units. These units can then be purchased by developers seeking to comply with the mandatory 10% net gain. The Council then receives its original investment returned to invest in environmental returns, such as improvements to habitats such as woodlands and meadows as well as enhanced access for people and to finance the processing of BNG in planning applications.
- 3.10. The sale of biodiversity units therefore provides a revenue stream for us to maintain the newly restored or created habitat for a minimum of 30 years through the creation of a commuted sum.
- 3.11. The basics of how habitat banking will function is shown in figure 1.

Figure 1 – Proposed Habitat Banking model



3.12. Key points for consideration:

- This approach is modelled against pilot delivery at 6 sites (76 hectares) owned by North Somerset Council and all figures quoted are relative to that. Other sites may be added for future phases.
- There is a likely demand for approximately 170 biodiversity units from sites allocated in the current local plan (where BNG cannot be achieved within the development sites themselves)
- Work to date and to point of establishment of the BNGDP has been funded through transformation funding
- The BNGDP project will report to the Place Scrutiny Panel thereby ensuring strong internal oversight of the pilot.
- BNG units will be sold at market rates which are likely to fluctuate depending on wider economic forces.
- If all 170 units of available BNG units are sold it is estimated that the Council will have generated c £400k of excess revenue to invest as required.
- The BNGDP option is preferred because this provides the opportunity for the Council to control the provision of land and make maximum benefit from income.
- If we do not find a new approach to habitat banking we put at risk an opportunity to raise income and losing control over where the habitat enhancements are delivered (it could be anywhere in the country).
- North Somerset Council will benefit from significantly improved biodiversity on its land at no cost

3.13. In summary the North Somerset Council BNG Delivery Programme will:

- Invest to fund nature restoration across 6 pilot sites

- Provide new sources of short and long-term revenue for NSC.
- Deliver high-quality biodiversity offsets across North Somerset that provide maximum social value.
- Deliver an investable, credible and cost effective solution for local developments to meet their obligations through the Local Plan and the Environment Act.
- Ensure that NSC retains strategic control over the emerging market for biodiversity net gain in a local context.
- Ensure that the new biodiversity duties do not result in nature and associated benefits being lost from North Somerset by market led schemes that could deliver net gain elsewhere in the region
- Facilitate joined up, landscape-scale planning, enabling NSC to proactively deliver on its Local Plan policies and green infrastructure strategy ahead of development.
- Provide greater financial sustainability for the long-term maintenance of nature-rich green infrastructure across North Somerset.
- Assist North Somerset's standing as a leader in climate adaptation and nature conservation while securing a first mover advantage locally.

Forecasted annual sale of units

3.14. It is estimated that there will be 10 units sold to developers per year from two separate developments requiring 5 units of offsite mitigation each. This forecast is dependent on a wide range of economic factors that affect house building and so is a conservative estimate. This number of sold units will enable the Council to resource the delivery of BNG and deliver MTFP savings. Current estimates indicate the Council has a potential for 170 units from the six identified sites meaning there is a pipeline for the next 17 years.

Outcomes and Benefits

Financial

3.15. Based on a financial assessment and modelling of selling 10 units per year, the following financial outputs are possible:

- The BNGDP is forecast to provide a new ongoing income stream to the Open Spaces, Natural Environment and Leisure service for the maintenance of high-quality habitats, off-set existing costs and delivering MTFP savings.
- This is forecast to generate sufficient income to cover the cost of staff to process BNG (£40k) and deliver £25k pa of savings.
- It is proposed that any surpluses generated will be used for the delivery of priority green infrastructure projects.

Non-financial

- Delivery of Council priorities around re-wilding and the nature emergency
- Delivery of site enhancements as part of North Somerset Council's green infrastructure strategy.
- Creation of principles and approach for biodiversity offsetting and net gain delivery that also provides maximum social value.
- Delivery of an effective offsetting solution for local development projects.
- Safeguarding of public access to high quality nature within North Somerset.

- North Somerset Council seen as a leader in adaptation to emerging natural capital markets and climate change.
- Proof-of-concept for further financially sustainable natural environment investment models.

Timetable for delivery

- 3.16. The Government have provided an approximate period of Autumn 2023 for when BNG will become mandatory. In the meantime developers are seeking offsite BNG units so it is proposed to introduce the pilot before the formal requirement.

3. Consultation

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Services

The Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel

The BNGDP proposal has been developed through work carried out with consultants and in discussion with Natural England and the West of England green infrastructure working group.

The opportunities from habitat banking are also addressed in the North Somerset Council's green infrastructure strategy where it is recognised that planning and development can contribute positively to the strategic GI network

The proposal was identified in the NSC 2023/24 MTFP budget.

4. Financial Implications

Income will be generated from selling BNG units to developers.

Currently, one BNG unit sells for c. £22,000 which must cover the cost of adapting the land in readiness for biodiversity improvements, ongoing management for the statutory period of 30 years and all legal agreements between the Council and the developer.

The developer will be required to pay for each BNG unit in full before the Council will discharge the relevant planning condition to enable development to commence.

Costs

Costs associated with the pilot project include

1. Setting up the legal and operational frameworks to deliver the scheme
2. Introducing new management activities to the identified land to enable BNG to be delivered

The financial modelling (Table 1) relates to ten units being sold per year. This is estimated to be two developments each requiring 5 units for offsite mitigation and is considered a reasonable forecast of future transactions.

Activity	10 units*	Notes
Upfront management	£30,000	This expenditure is required to adapt the site at the start of the project to ensure that the BNG can be delivered. This will create the 'bank' of habitat necessary to continue delivering the scheme.
Maintenance	£120,000	This is for a period of 30 years @ £400 per year per unit
Processing BNG Planning Applications	£40,000	This refers to staffing costs related to processing the BNG component of planning applications
Processing legal agreements with developers	£5,000	This includes all legal costs required to process the s106 agreement with the developer.
MTFP savings	£25,000	This component is the return on the investment required to deliver the BNGDP
Total costs for delivering 10 BNG units	£220,000	It will be necessary to sell a minimum of 10 units per year to developers to meet the costs required to process BNG.
Income from selling 10 units at £22k per unit	£220,000	Current market rates are £22,000 per unit

* These are approximate costs that will be refined once sites have been confirmed to proceed

Table 1 – annual costs and income related to delivering 10 units of BNG

Based on this level of units sold the exercise will be cost neutral.

Funding

Funding for the scheme is described below.

1. Setting up the legal and operational framework to deliver the scheme

This is being funded by the Transformation programme budget for £40k and a DEFRA grant of £20k

2. Income from selling BNG units will offset the management costs and ongoing maintenance requirements as well as supporting MTFP savings as illustrated in Table 1 above.

5. Legal Powers and Implications

The Environment Act 2021 makes BNG a mandatory requirement for new development.

6. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

The provision of BNG on North Somerset Council's open space will support wider objectives to increase rewilding and to address the nature emergency. A more resilient network of open space will also be more able to adapt to the climate emergency.

7. Risk Management

Risks have been identified for this scheme.

An industry wide issue relates to Council's having enough capacity to carry out the technical evaluations. Our mitigation centres on employing staff from the large pool of graduates in this field because this is considered a good entry point into ecology related jobs.

The significant commercial risk relates to insufficient demand for biodiversity units from development. The pilot approach means we are committed to create only a small number of units in year one to meet estimated demand.

There are also potential reputational risks for the Council in adopting this approach. For example, open space used for this purpose has to guarantee BNG management for a period of 30 years, thereby potentially conflicting with other uses. However, two of the proposed sites do not have public access and the other four sites will be managed to enable public access to continue alongside the biodiversity improvements, which is happening generally across North Somerset Council's open space through our rewilding programme.

It may also be perceived that by providing land for developers to deliver BNG the Council is providing pre-emptive support for development. However, planning permission is granted based on far more factors than BNG, and if the Council did not provide the land for BNG others would.

It is important to note that the costs associated with delivering BNG might be considered a risk to the viability of development subsequently impacting vulnerable areas such as social housing.

The Environment Act makes BNG a statutory requirement and it will have to be delivered to achieve Planning permission. How the developer chooses to deliver this will determine the cost of BNG. For example, developers can avoid the need to supply BNG offsite, and thus the associated cost, by following best practice (e.g. the Building with Nature scheme) and providing the BNG on site. Developers will therefore have to weigh up, in terms of cost and improving nature, the best way for them to deliver BNG.

8. Equality Implications

[Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? Yes/No

Yes

9. Corporate Implications

The project will require support from Legal Services to ensure that the contractual relationships between us and other parties such as developers are robust.

Financial services will also be required to develop systems to process income and expenditure related to this project.

Transformation Programme funding has been made available to provide capacity to deliver these requirements.

10. Options Considered

To not set land aside for offsetting BNG needs for developers. This was rejected because this scheme offers the opportunity to generate income whilst creating more biodiverse open space.

Offsetting land in this way also covers the costs of providing the expertise to assess BNG in planning applications that would not be possible to achieve with the current capacity in both Planning and the Natural Environment team.

Author:

John Flannigan
Head of Open Space, Natural Environment and Leisure

Appendices:

Appendix A – North Somerset Council sites suitable for the BNG pilot programme
Appendix B - Options for delivering BNG in North Somerset

Background Papers:

DEFRA - Biodiversity metric - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-metric-calculate-the-biodiversity-net-gain-of-a-project-or-development>

Appendix A – North Somerset Council sites suitable for the BNG pilot programme

It is proposed that in order to realise BNG offsetting benefits and to deal with the challenges, especially the financial component of delivering this project, a small proportion of North Somerset Council owned land is set aside as a pilot project, for a minimum period of 30 years. This is for the specific purpose of land being used to mitigate for offsite BNG that must be provided by Developers.

The pilot scheme will also enable us to work through all the issues relating to the provision of BNG on council open space and the associated commercial considerations.

Consultants have undertaken site surveys and assessments of six sites owned and managed by North Somerset Council for the potential to act as a biodiversity offset for development in North Somerset (see Table 2). The site investigations involved a habitat survey and condition assessment for each site, as well as an assessment of the enhancement potential for each site.

These six sites were chosen as they have an area greater than one hectare and are in or very close to the West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) Nature Recovery Network (NRN). These six locations have a total area of 76 hectares and have been identified for both grassland management and tree planting and have the potential to generate a total of 252 biodiversity units. Before any of these sites are progressed, they will undergo further, more detailed investigation, to ensure their suitability.

BNG is measured in units using a DEFRA approved methodology (see background paper – Biodiversity metric: calculate the biodiversity net gain of a project or development).

Site	Area (ha)	BNG units available*
Locking Head Farm, WSM	13	85
Avoncrest site off Herluin Way, WSM	49	124
Portishead golf course	4	13
Kilkenny Fields, Portishead	5	13
Merlin Park, Portishead	2	6
Marshalls Field, Clevedon	3	11
Total	76	252

* These units are indicative and will require further investigation before final unit availability is known.

Table 2 – proposed NSC sites for BNG mitigation

This scheme is particularly about matching North Somerset Council land availability with developers' BNG needs to generate income which will be used for a number of reasons including helping to provide capacity to process BNG through the planning application phase and supporting rewilding of open space.

This solution is proposed because developers are unlikely to have sufficient land to deliver all their BNG requirements, and North Somerset Council has land available to be rewilded and for addressing the nature emergency.

Analysis was also undertaken from the list of allocated sites in the Local Plan to calculate the demand for biodiversity offsets for proposed development land. This analysis concluded that about two thirds could deliver BNG on site, but this still left a projected requirement of 170 units.

This exercise has therefore identified a need for developers to access additional BNG units, which North Somerset Council has the capacity to provide at the sites identified above.

Appendix B - Options for delivering BNG in North Somerset

This option analysis considers the options available to the Council in relation to delivering Biodiversity Net Gain policy, as set out under the Environment Act 2021, due to come into force in Autumn 2023.

The Act requires all development schemes in England to deliver a mandatory 10% biodiversity net gain to be maintained for a period of at least 30 years. The concept seeks measurable improvements for biodiversity by creating or enhancing habitats in association with development. Development proposals must “leave biodiversity in a better state than before”.

BNG means developers and landowners in England must ensure their projects deliver biodiversity improvements to meet the required 10% increase. They must determine and evidence a project’s final BNG value using the specified Defra biodiversity metric for their plans to move through the planning process.

To achieve biodiversity net gain, proposals must follow the ‘mitigation hierarchy’ which primarily aims to avoid harm, then mitigate or, finally, compensate for any losses on-site, off-site or both. These measures will be required in planning conditions.

The Act will therefore inevitably lead to developers requiring offsite mitigation and this report identifies how this could be delivered in North Somerset.

There are considered two options for developers to provide offsite BNG:

1. The developer uses land that they have control over
2. The developer uses a third party’s land (which could include land owned by North Somerset Council)

Both of these options are acceptable to the Council provided the ecological advice is carefully followed and the BNG requirements can be proven to be deliverable.

It is therefore considered appropriate that the Council creates a ‘bank’ of BNG on its land to offer to developers who are unable to deliver the offsite BNG requirements themselves.

A BNG Delivery Programme will be created to enable this to happen.

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North Somerset Council

Report to the Place Policy & Scrutiny Panel

Date of Meeting: 8/3/23

Subject of Report: Ash Dieback Update

Town or Parish: All

Officer/Member Presenting: Esther Coffin-Smith, Natural Environment Manager

Key Decision: N/A

Reason:

For information only.

Recommendations

For the panel to consider the latest update on ADB (Appendix A).

1. Summary of Report

Update on the NSC Ash Dieback programme.

2. Policy

Ash Dieback Action Plan 2022.

3. Details

Appendix A provides details on our ash dieback programme during 2022-23 and the proposals for 2023-24.

4. Consultation

We consulted on our approach to dealing with ash dieback as part of producing our Ash Dieback Action Plan in 2022.

5. Financial Implications

An update on the current financial position is included in Appendix A.

6. Legal Powers and Implications

The Council has an obligation to manage the risk from trees on its land.

7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

Where possible we will mitigate the loss of the ash trees through both replanting and natural regeneration. Where it is safe to do so, infected trees will be left in situ where they can continue to provide habitat for wildlife. We will also seek advice prior to the removal of trees to identify any risks to nesting birds and bats

8. Risk Management

The Ash Dieback Action Plan addresses the risks associated with ash dieback.

9. Equality Implications

No, this update is for information only.

10. Corporate Implications

The Council has a legal responsibility to reduce risk to the public and property from diseased ash trees and this update explains how we have been achieving this.

11. Options Considered

N/A

Author:

Esther Coffin-Smith, Natural Environment Manager

Appendices:

Appendix A: Ash Dieback Update

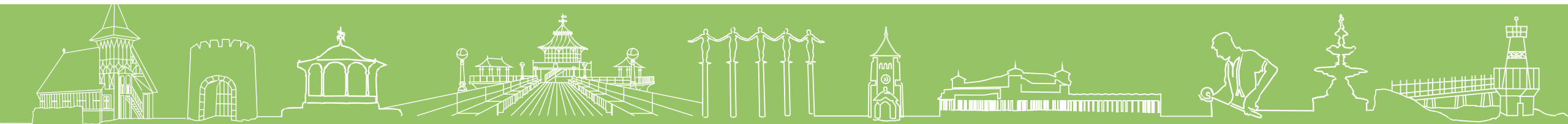
Background Papers:

Ash Dieback Action Plan: [North Somerset Council Ash Dieback Action Plan \(north-somerset.gov.uk\)](http://north-somerset.gov.uk)

Place Policy & Scrutiny Panel

Page 31

Appendix A: Ash Dieback Update – 8th March 2023



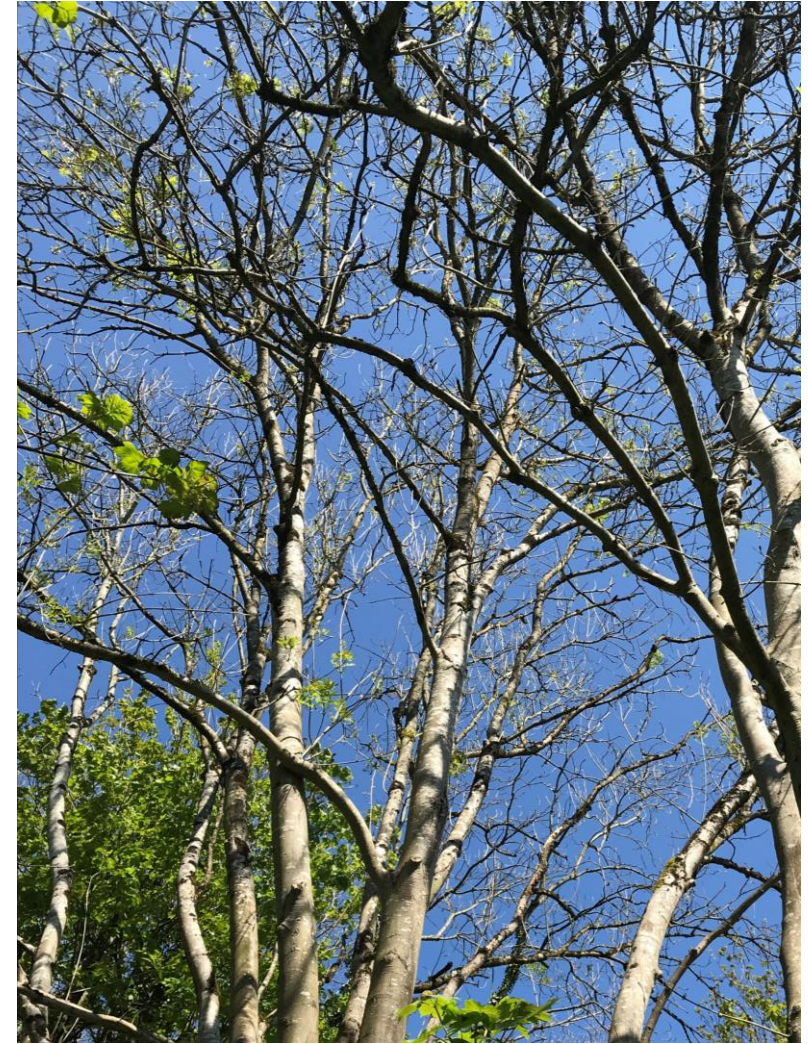
Context



Ash Dieback (ADB) is highly destructive disease caused by a fungus that causes ~90% of infected trees to die.

The symptoms are really only visible in summer when the trees are in leaf.

This is the time to survey to update our understanding of the rate of disease progression.



Credit: Forest Research

Recap on Ash Dieback

Category % of healthy crown remaining at time of inspection	Number of Trees based on proactive survey information in TRMP and Highways
Class 1 – 100-76% healthy crown remaining.	Approx. 7000
Class 2 – 75-51% healthy crown remaining	Approx. 2000
Class 3 – 50-26% healthy crown remaining	Approx. 500
Class 4 – 25-0% healthy crown remaining	Approx. 300



Finances

Year	Investment	Achievements
2021-22	£100K	Survey and removal of earliest infected trees
2022-23	£250K	Introduction of a dedicated, 5-day-a-week Ash Dieback team
2022-23	£115K	Additional funding to cover increased numbers of diseased trees, particularly along the high speed roads where greater traffic management and machinery costs
2023-24	£620K	Increased funding in recognition of the increased incidence of diseased trees
2024-25	£TBC	This will be dependent on the progression of the disease



Ash Dieback in 2023-24

- For 2023/24 we predict that the disease will advance more quickly than anticipated, further causing potentially a rapid decline in our ash trees
- Based on the costs for 2022-23 we estimated a requirement of £620K
- We will re-survey from May 2023
- At the moment we are planning for 20 schemes in 2023-24. These are still in the planning phase and will be dependent on the findings of the summer survey which may prioritise new locations
- Predicting what will happen in 2024-25 will not be possible until after the results of the new survey
- Generally the public have been receptive and accepting of the need to fell the trees





Highlights from 2022-23



Any questions?



North Somerset Council

Report to the Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Date of Meeting: 8 March 2023

Subject of Report: Recycling and Waste Strategy Annual Update

Town or Parish: All

Officer/Member Presenting: Colin Russell

Recommendations

To note the progress made in year 1 towards the targets within the recycling and waste strategy 2021-2030 and provide comments on the targets for the next year.

To amend target three of the recycling and waste strategy so that it remains a target with a revised achievable date.

1. Summary of Report

1.1 The recycling and waste strategy 2021- 2030 was agreed by Executive in February 2022. This report provides an overview and the key performance indicators of the progress made in the first year towards the eight targets in the strategy. It invites member comments and discussion.

2. Policy

2.1 The recycling and waste strategy directly contributes to the Council's ambitions to:

- be a great place for people to live, work and visit,
- have welcoming, safe and clean neighbourhoods
- be a carbon neutral council and area by 2030
- collaborate with partners to deliver the best outcomes of being greener.

3. Details

3.1 **Target 1:** A reduction in residual waste (waste that is not recycled or reused) of 15% the level of 2019/20 by 2030.

The table below shows the changes in residual (non-recyclable) waste tonnages from the pre-pandemic baseline figure, rising significantly during lockdown and tonnages beginning to reduce in 2021-22.

Waste Minimisation events in person were stopped during lockdown but resumed last year with six reusable nappy talks in 2022 to promote switching to reusable nappies and wipes to avoid disposables and 13 other events in 2022 promoting waste reduction, recycling and reuse including The North Somerset Show.

Measures of success towards targets	April 2019 – March 2020 baseline year	April 2020 – March 2021	April 2021 – March 2022
Total amount of residual waste	38,695.38 tonnes	39,866.21 tonnes	39,843.16 tonnes
Household residual waste	399.66kg per household	406.83 kg per household	405.83 kg per household

3.2 Target 2: A recycling rate of 70% by 2030.

The table below shows progress towards the second target in the recycling and waste strategy has not taken place yet. This is mainly due to the reduction in tonnages of garden waste collected from the introduction of the chargeable garden waste service in April 2021.

Measures of success towards targets	April 2019 – March 2020 baseline year	April 2020 – March 2021	April 2021 – March 2022
Percentage recycling rate	60.6%	60.4%	59.5%
Position in recycling league table of local authorities in England	9th	7th	12 th TBC
Tonnage of food waste collected for recycling	6,980.04 tonnes	7,908.44 tonnes	7,411.43 tonnes

3.3 Target 3: Divert all non-recyclable, kerbside collected household waste away from landfill by end of 2022. This was not achieved. The table below shows the tonnages sent to landfill. It shows a reduction year on year but not zero. Part of the reason for this is due to the Energy from Waste plant, where this waste is delivered, having planned maintenance shutdowns each year for a period of up to 4 weeks. During this time waste can be diverted to landfill.

Recommendation: This target be updated and revised to ‘maximise diversion of all non-recyclable, kerbside collected household waste away from landfill and showing year on year improvements’

Measures of success towards targets	April 2019 – March 2020 baseline year	April 2020 – March 2021	April 2021 – March 2022
Total tonnage of non-recyclable waste sent to Landfill	21,720.25 tonnes	11,714.76 tonnes	11,694.98 tonnes

Kerbside collected household waste sent to Landfill	9,830.77 tonnes	6,436.36 tonnes	6,291.12 tonnes
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3.4 Target 4: Review and update recycling facilities at all flat blocks and continue to introduce food waste collections in phases, in line with the Environment Act 2021, by 2023.

We have visited every flat block with the collection crew, updating stickers at bin stores as we go round and making a note of containers. Changes to improve efficiency of collections by swapping lots of smaller bins for bigger bins is taking place. Route optimisation will also take place for 2023.

Food waste recycling has now been introduced to 1,457 flats with an additional 3,810 flats to complete this year.

Phase 1 (trial, 2018)- 175 properties

Phase 2 (further W-s-M roll out, 2022)- 221 properties

Phase 3 (Locking Parklands, 2022)- 183 properties

Phase 4 (Portishead, Feb 2023)- 878 properties

3.5 Target 5: Expand the commercial waste service to serve more businesses, schools and events in North Somerset each year.

The table below shows we are achieving this target, with the exception of events, and this was due primarily to the pandemic.

Measures of success towards targets	April 2019 – March 2020 baseline year	April 2020 – March 2021	April 2021 – March 2022
• No. of customers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44 new customers • 213 total customers at end of year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 new customers • 257 total customers at end of year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 69 new customers • 302 total customers at end of year
• No. of commercial food waste collections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 x 140L new FW collections • 9 total customers at end of year (including 23L caddies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 x 140L new FW collections • 13 total customers at end of year (including 23L caddies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 x 140L new FW collections • 18 total customers at end of year (including 23L caddies)
• No. of events using the commercial waste service	10	1	3

3.6 Target 6: Tackle incidents of litter and fly-tipping in North Somerset through improved reporting, increasing education and enforcement activities.

To make progress with this target the enforcement team set up a contract with a private company to focus on anti-social issues of littering and dog fouling. The initial 12-month contract with Local Authority Support began in May 2021 and has subsequently been extended.

The table below shows the fixed penalty notices that were issued for various littering offences. It demonstrates the step forwards in enforcement activities working towards this target.

Measures of success towards targets	April 2019 – March 2020 baseline year	April 2020 – March 2021	April 2021 – March 2022
PSPO Litter	None	889	1464
PSPO Dog Fouling	None	5	5
Failing to provide a poo bag	None	None	1

In 2021 the enforcement team also began work to tackle business who did not have a commercial waste collection in place. This helps to reduce incidents of commercial waste being deposited in residential bins leading to overflowing bins, and reduces incidents of fly-tipping of commercial waste. In 2021-2022 seven fixed penalty notices for breaches of Duty of Care were issued.

3.7 Target 7: Improved appearance of our streets and open spaces

As part of this target, officers have been working to grow our Adopt-a-street volunteer litter picker scheme. The table below shows the growth in the number of volunteers. Volunteers are supported through online training, safety information and are each provided with gloves, litter picker and bags

Measures of success towards targets	April 2019 – March 2020 baseline year	April 2020 – March 2021	April 2021 – March 2022
● No. of new Adopt a Street litter pickers	25	17	118

The pictures below also show before and after work by Glendale tidying up our streets.



3.8 Target 8: Progress towards a circular economy where waste is treated as a valuable resource rather than disposed of.

Composting at home for just one year can save greenhouse gases equivalent to all the carbon dioxide your kettle produces annually.

Our focus on this target in the past year has been to promote composting, providing discounted home compost bins and increase home composting education of residents. provides on-going composting support. The table below shows the success of the programme so far.

Measures of success towards targets	April 2019 – March 2020 baseline year	April 2020 – March 2021	April 2021 – March 2022
• No. of compost bins sold	255	3102	1328
• No. of people completing composting education training	N/A Course released in March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 191 unique users for online course • 154 attendees trained at 4 x online intro to home composting course held in March 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 126 unique users for online course • 100 attendees trained at 1 x online intro to home compost course held on 24.03.22

The next phase of the composting project was to secure a Master composter programme which began training volunteers in 2022. A total of 20 volunteers have now been trained. With an additional volunteer training date set for March 2023.

4. Consultation

The recycling and waste strategy went out to public consultation in 2021 was approved by the Executive in February 2022.

Place Scrutiny group and Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Services are kept up to date on projects within the strategy and consulted on if decisions and any changes are required.

5. Financial Implications

N/A

Costs

N/A

Funding

Funding is from existing budgets

6. Legal Powers and Implications

There is no legal requirement to produce a recycling and waste strategy, but this is considered best practice and is line with the government’s recent legislation including:

- Environment Act 2021
- Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England (2018)
- 25-Year Environment Plan (2018)

7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

The recycling and waste strategy, refers to the positive contribution it will make to the Climate Emergency declared by North Somerset Council in 2019.

8. Risk Management

There are no risk management considerations for this draft strategy. Any future changes to services will be subject to further appraisal

9. Equality Implications

A full EIA will be carried out prior to the implementation of any service changes

10. Corporate Implications

N/A

11. Options Considered

N/A

Author:

Colin Russell, Head of Environment and Community Services
Lizzie Shepherd, Waste Minimisation Team Leader

Appendices:

[Click here to enter Appendices]

Background Papers:

[recycling and waste strategy 2021 - 2030](#)

WESTlink Demand Responsive Transport (DRT)

Page 45



2023



Agenda Item 10

Agenda



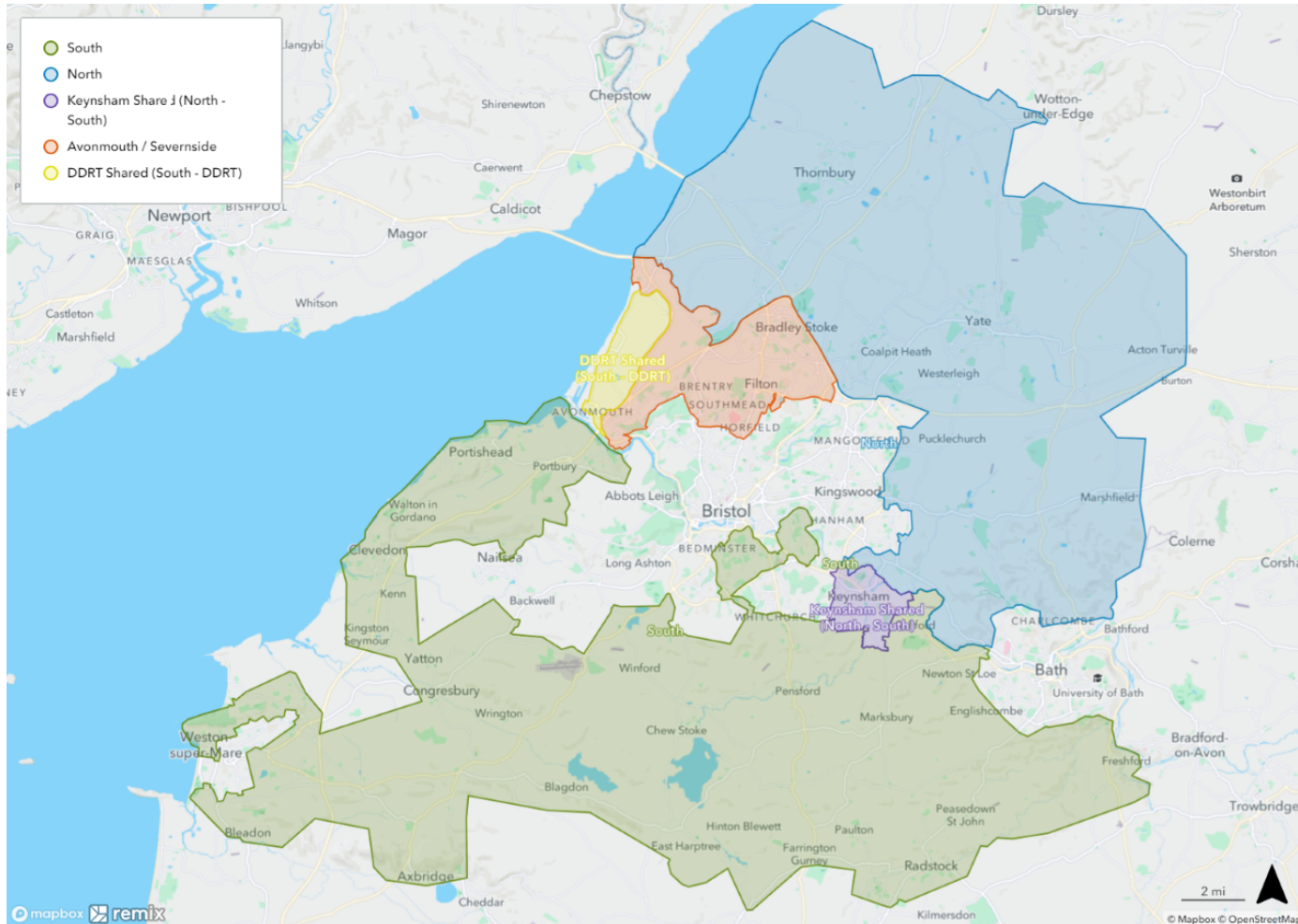
1. What is WESTlink?
2. Where will it operate?
3. How will it operate?
4. How much will it cost?
5. How will it work?

What is



- WESTlink is a demand responsive transport service (DRT)
- Public bus service - no fixed route; no fixed timetable
- Travels anywhere within the operating zone
- Not door-to-door but uses bus stops and other designated points
- Can link to existing rail routes and bus services
- Can replace car travel and provide a service where buses are not available
- WESTlink only runs when booked

Where will it operate?



- 2 zones in the West of England
 - Northern Zone (Blue)
 - Southern Zone (Green)
- Future Transport Zone (FTZ) Pilot (orange)
- Shared Zones (Yellow, Purple)

How will it operate?

How?

- App based journey booking - free to download or via website (phone option to call-centre)
- 'On demand' or up to up to 24 hours in advance
- Maximum wait expected for an 'on demand' trip is 60 mins
- Smart technology will match your journey with other customers
- Up to 30 accessible 16-seater mini-buses running across all 3 zones

When?

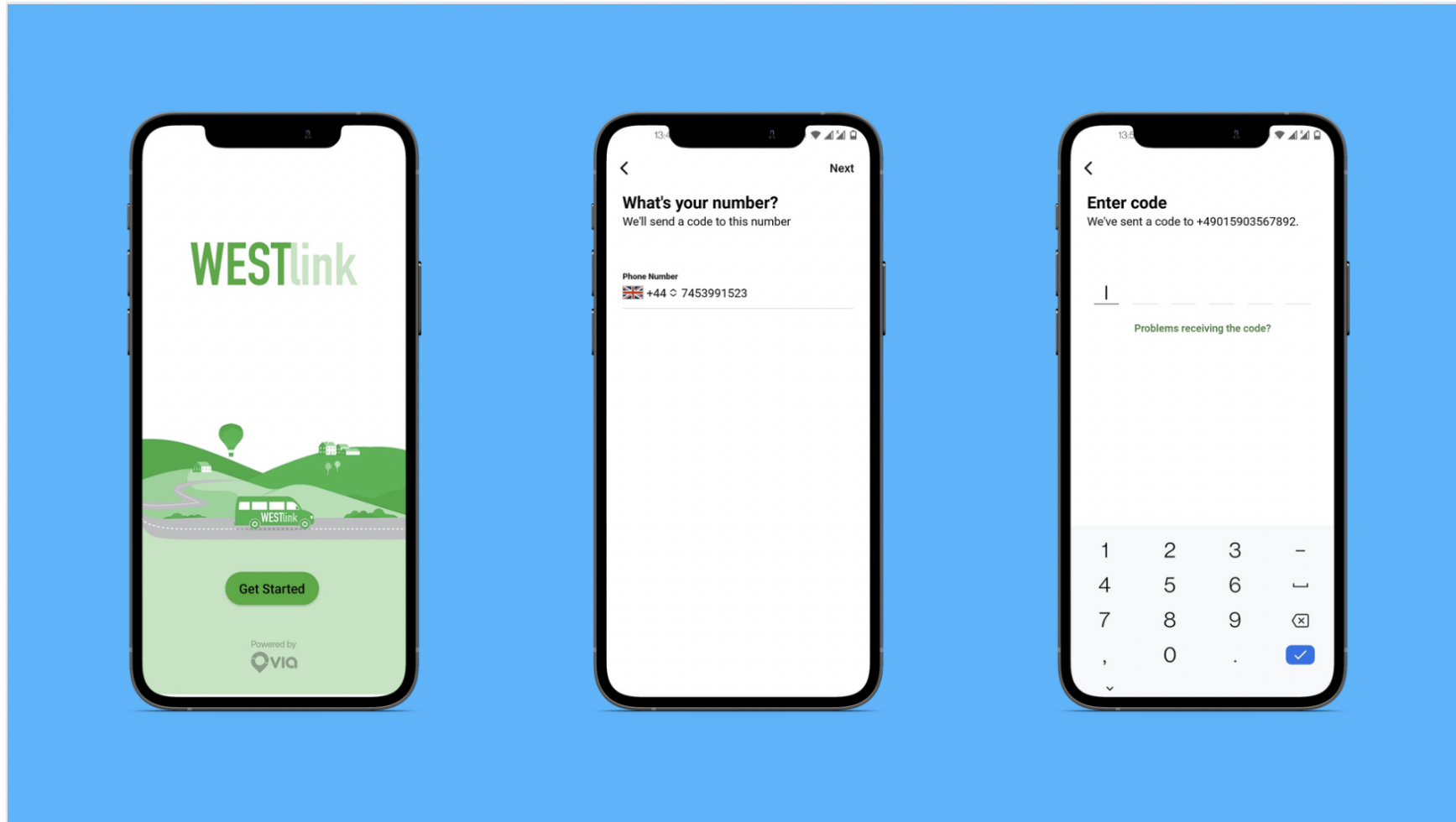
- WESTlink will launch operations on Monday 3rd April
- North & South zones - Monday-Saturday 0700-1900, no Sunday service
- FTZ pilot zone - Monday- Saturday 0530-2130, Sunday 0900-1800

How much will it cost?

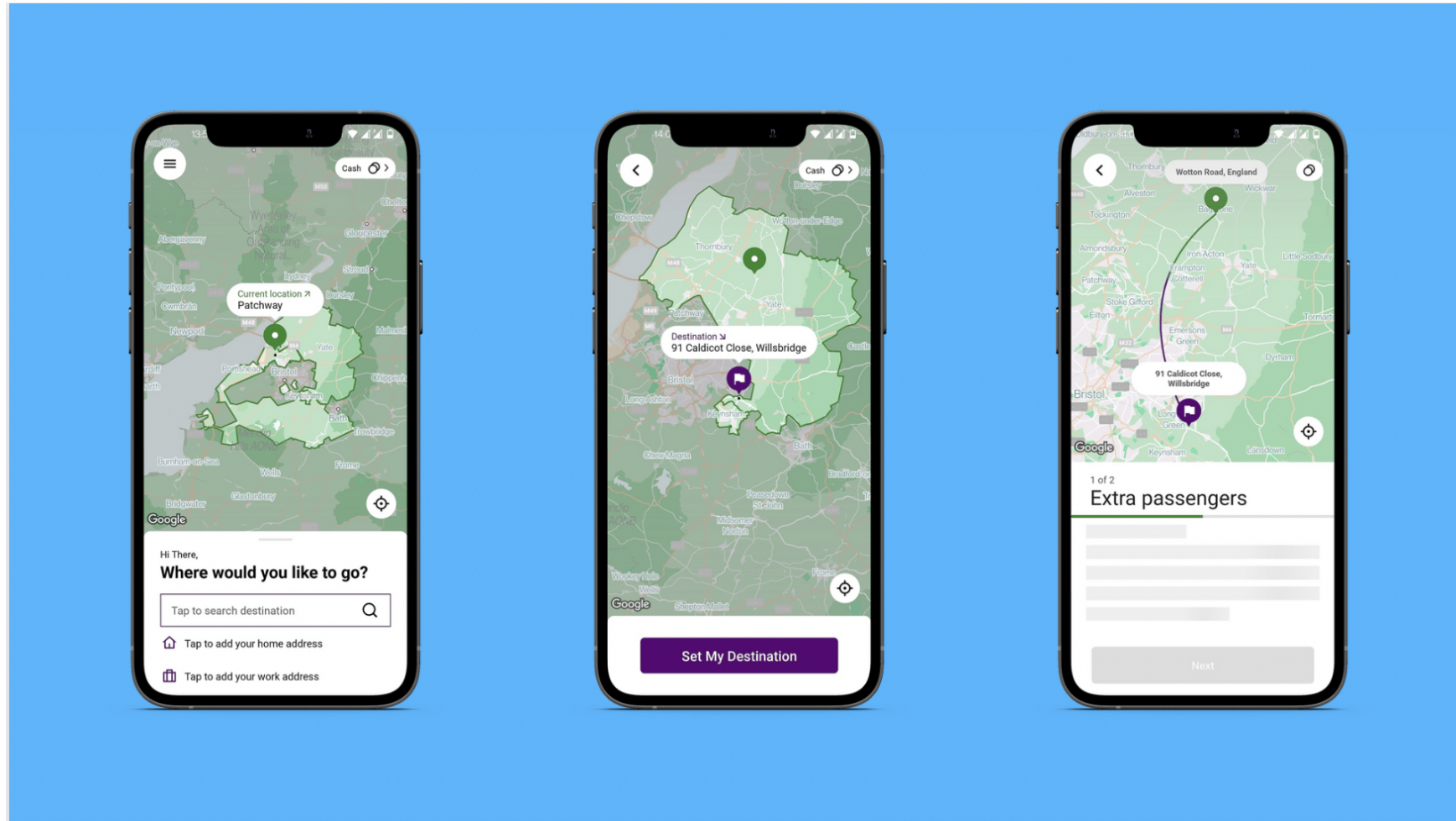


- Single fare for any journey length within an operating zone will be £2 adults, £1 child
- All concessionary and older person's bus passes will be accepted
- Customers, whether booking by app, web or phone, can pay via a credit or debit card attached to their account or elect to pay the driver with cash
- In future we plan to add to the ticket offering with:
 - A day fare
 - Through-ticketing with other operators (standard bus/rail services)

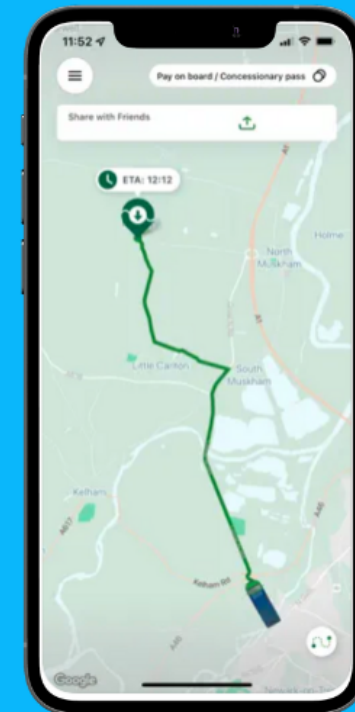
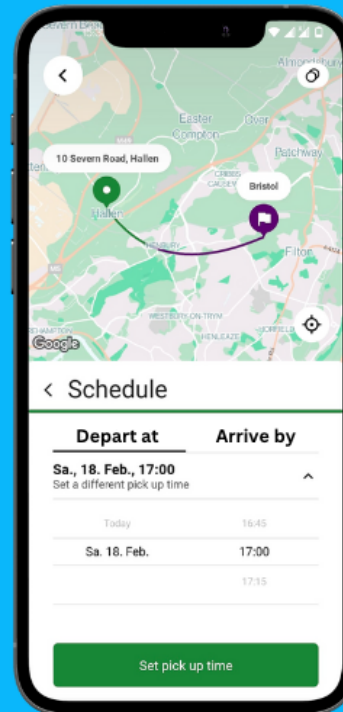
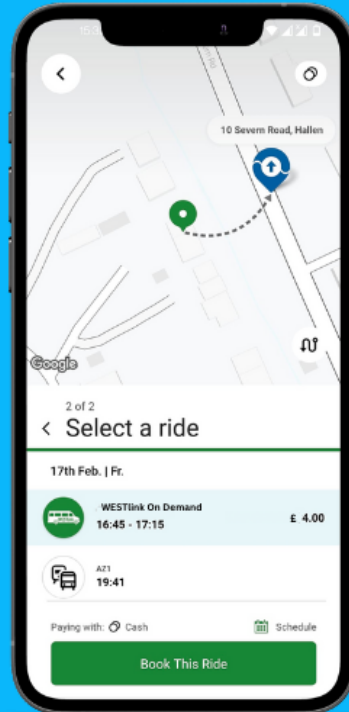
How will it work?



How will it work?



How will it work?



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North Somerset Council

Report to the Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Date of Meeting: 8 March 2023

Subject of Report: Q3 performance and risk update for 2022/23

Town or Parish: ALL

Officer/Member Presenting: Emma Diakou, Head of Business Insight, Policy and Partnerships

Key Decision: NO

Reason:

This is an information item.

Recommendations

That the panel note the Q3 updates to the 2022/23 performance management framework and strategic risk register included in this report.

1. Summary of Report

Our Business Planning and Performance Management Framework is designed to monitor progress against our Corporate Plan priorities and against our vision for an *open, fairer, greener* North Somerset.

We do this on an annual basis by developing and implementing Annual Directorate Statements. These are the business plans for the five council directorates (Adults, Children's Services, Corporate Services, Place, and Public Health and Regulatory Services) and give the key strategic commitments for the year ahead. These commitments are directorate specific or organisational wide. Progress against these commitments is monitored by key projects and their milestones. We also monitor a number of Key Corporate Performance Indicators (KCPIs) which give an overview of activity, pace and outcomes.

Alongside these commitments, directorate risk registers are developed, these include any risks which might challenge achievement of our priorities. These risk registers are reviewed to develop an over-arching Strategic Risk Register, where high level risks are escalated and held.

This paper gives an update on progress against the organisational-wide commitments, the KCPIs that are reported to our Scrutiny Panels, and the Strategic Risk Register as of end Q3. This paper also provides links to published data sets which give additional context and/or oversight against our performance including directorate commitments.

The panel is asked to note this Q3 performance update using the following frameworks:

Annual Directorate Statement commitments:

Fig 1.1: commitment RAG rating framework

GREEN	Successful delivery of this commitment is highly likely. There are no major outstanding issues that at this stage appear to threaten delivery
GREEN/AMBER	Successful delivery of this commitment is likely but there are some minor outstanding issues that need to be resolved to ensure delivery.
AMBER	Successful delivery of this commitment appears feasible, but issues already exist requiring management attention. These appear resolvable at this stage and if addressed promptly should not present further problems.
AMBER/RED	Successful delivery of this commitment may be unachievable. Issues already exist requiring immediate management attention to ensure delivery.
RED	Successful delivery of this commitment appears to be unachievable. There are major issues which at this stage do not appear to be manageable or resolvable.

Key Corporate Performance Indicators:

- GREEN: On track.
- AMBER: Not on track but likely to be brought back on track by end year.
- RED: Not on track and unlikely to be so by end year.

Strategic Risk Register:

The panel is asked to note the Q3 risk register status using the following risk scoring matrix. This matrix is applied to all risks before (inherent) and after (residual) mitigating actions are applied. Risks scores reported in this report are residual scores.

Fig 1.2: risk scoring matrix

		← Likelihood →				
		Rare	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Almost certain
Impact	Critical	LOW/MED	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
	High	LOW	MEDIUM	MED/HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
	Medium	LOW	LOW/MED	MEDIUM	MED/HIGH	HIGH
	Low	LOW	LOW/MED	LOW/MED	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
	Negligible	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW/MED	LOW/MED

2. Policy

The Corporate Plan is the council’s overarching strategic document. It is the only plan which covers the full range of the council’s responsibilities and is an important tool to help focus our effort and resources on the right things. By prioritising a clear set of commitments, the Corporate Plan also helps residents to hold the council to account for its performance and challenge it to improve.

The risk registers detail the risks faced by North Somerset Council in relation to achieving our aims and priorities as defined in the Corporate Plan. The risk registers also note mitigating actions being taken where possible to control those risks.

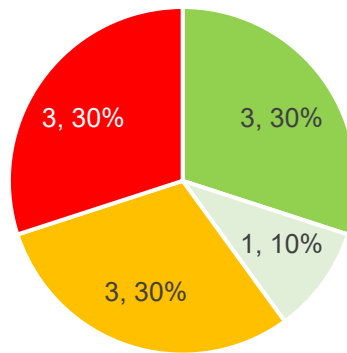
3. Details

Annual Directorate Statement commitments:

There are 10 organisational wide commitments which all council directorates help to contribute towards. As of end Q3, 3 commitments were GREEN, 1 was GREEN/AMBER, 3 were AMBER, and 3 were RED (fig 1.3).

Fig 1.3 ADS organisational wide commitments as of end Q3

■ GREEN ■ GREENAMBER ■ AMBER ■ AMBERRED ■ RED



RED commitments requiring immediate management attention were:

- We will develop the directorate transformation programmes for 2022/23 linked in to Medium-term Financial Planning.
- We will deliver the actions in the Accommodation Strategy for 2022/23 and embed new ways of working across the organisation.
- We will deliver the Digital Strategy action plan for 2022/23.

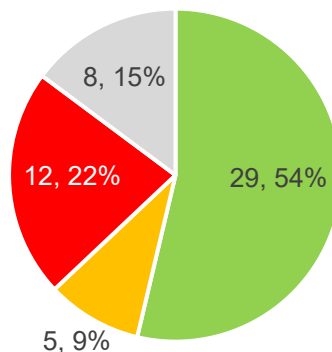
For the full list of organisational wide commitments per the framework in fig 1.1, please see appendix 1. For the full list of all directorate transformation commitments (updated quarterly) please see the published interactive [Corporate Plan performance dashboard](#).

Key Corporate Performance Indicators:

There were 54 reportable KCPIs as of end Q3, 8 were contextual (not targeted), 29 were GREEN, 5 were AMBER, 12 were RED (fig 1.4).

Fig 1.4 Key Corporate Performance Indicators: RAG rating as end Q3

■ GREEN ■ AMBER ■ RED ■ Not targeted



RED KCPIs requiring immediate management attention were:

- Self-reported wellbeing - people with a high anxiety score.
- Self-reported wellbeing - people with a low happiness score.

- The number of level 2 complaints (excluding social care complaints).
- The percentage of adults in contact with secondary mental health services living independently or without support (ASCOF).
- Average length of stay in temporary accommodation (weeks).
- The number of anti-social behaviour incidents overall in North Somerset.
- The percentage of assessment complete within 45 working days (children social care).
- The percentage of child protection plans started that were a second or subsequent plan.
- The percentage of children in care with three or more placement moves - rolling 12 month period.
- The percentage of care leavers (19-21 year olds) in suitable accommodation.
- The percentage of schools and settings rated 'Good' or better by Ofsted (all phases).
- The percentage of employees who are accredited as carbon literate.

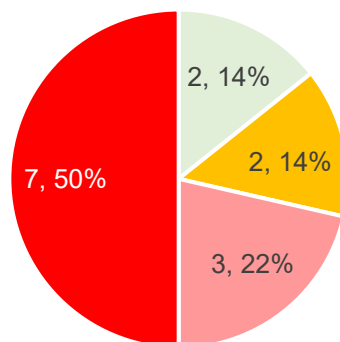
For the full list of KCPIs including targets and benchmarking please see appendix 2.

Strategic Risk Register:

There are 14 risks in the strategic risk register. After mitigating actions were applied in Q3, 7 risks remained HIGH (fig 1.5):

Fig 1.5 strategic risk register: residual risk score as end Q3

■ LOW ■ LOWMED ■ MED ■ MEDHIGH ■ HIGH



High scoring risks were:

- Risk that we are unable to deliver the priorities of the council by not planning to meet the Medium Term Financial challenge and delivering a balanced budget.
- Risk that we do not deliver sustainable change in children's services at the right pace of the improvement journey.
- Risk that we do not manage the demand for children's social care and SEND placements within available resources.
- Risk that despite protecting the council's systems and essential data from cyber-attacks, malicious attempts to damage critical services within the council could be disruptive.
- Risks aligned to the deteriorating condition of some of our assets.
- Risks aligned to any delay to the Local Plan process exposing council to risk of speculative development and unplanned growth through appeal.
- Risks to achieving a net zero position by 2030 given current resources and sphere of influence.

For the full list of strategic risks including their inherent and residual risk rating as per the matrix in fig 1.2, please see appendix 3.

4. Consultation

As part of the Business Planning and Performance Management Framework all tier three managers and above contribute to their Annual Directorate Statement. These are then agreed by Directorate Leadership teams and Corporate Leadership Team.

The views of residents, staff and other stakeholders all helped to shape the development of the Corporate Plan on which the Annual Directorate Statements are based.

5. Financial Implications

The Annual Directorate Statements are developed alongside the Medium-term Financial Plan to ensure that the commitments made are within the resource envelope for the year ahead. Monitoring the effectiveness of our financial management is then embedded within the Annual Directorate Statements. All statements include a commitment as follows: *Ensure effective financial management across the directorates including a balanced budget at year end and delivery of MTFP savings.* Risks are then aligned to that commitment as needed and reported quarterly.

There are no specific financial implications to this report.

Costs

N/A

Funding

N/A

6. Legal Powers and Implications

Business planning and performance reporting are part of the good governance of the council.

7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

The Business Planning and Performance Management Framework contributes to the council’s vision to be open, fair and green. As part of this, all Annual Directorate Statements for 2022/23 include the following commitment for all directorates: *Deliver the directorate climate emergency action plan and deliver to timescales.* A commitment is also included to refresh the over-arching Climate Emergency Strategy and action plan. Progress against this is monitored quarterly.

8. Risk Management

This report considers performance and risk management across the organisation aligned to the Corporate Plan and Annual Directorate Statements. There would be a negative impact on corporate governance if this information was not provided on a regular basis. The inherent score for this is HIGH. Once mitigating actions are applied (provision of this report) the risk drops to LOW.

Fig 1.6: risk management score

	Inherent risk score (likelihood)	Inherent risk score (impact)	Inherent risk score	Mitigations	Residual risk score (likelihood)	Residual risk score (impact)	Residual risk score
Negative impact on corporate governance if performance and risk information is not provided.	5 (almost certain)	4 (high impact on legal duty to provide robust corporate governance)	HIGH	Information provided on a quarterly basis.	1 (rare)	1 (negligible impact on legal duty to provide robust corporate governance)	LOW

9. Equality Implications

The Business Planning and Performance Management Framework identifies which commitments are 'equality commitments' and these are updated and reported quarterly. All statements also include a commitment as follows: *Ensure we are an inclusive organisation, meeting our equalities duties, and exemplifying our values to act with integrity, respect each other, innovate, care and collaborate.*

10. Corporate Implications

It is a requirement as part of the Business Planning and Performance Management Framework for all directorates to set their business plan annually and to develop an aligned risk register. These must then be considered at least quarterly by their Directorate Leadership Team, by Corporate Leadership Team, by Executive members, by Scrutiny Panels and by Audit Committee.

11. Options Considered

Business planning and performance reporting are part of the good governance of the council.

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Appendices:

- Appendix one: Annual Directorate Statement commitments (organisational wide only)
- Appendix two: Key Corporate Performance Indicators
- Appendix two: Strategic Risk Register

Background Papers:

- North Somerset Corporate Plan: [North Somerset Corporate Plan 2020-2024 \(n-somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/north-somerset-corporate-plan-2020-2024)
- Corporate Plan action plan and strategic risk register: [Microsoft Power BI](#)
- North Somerset Insight: data and statistics: [North Somerset Insight: data and statistics | North Somerset Council \(n-somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/north-somerset-insight-data-and-statistics)
- Adults Annual Directorate Statement 2022/23
- Corporate Services Annual Directorate Statement 2022/23
- Children's Annual Directorate Statement 2022/23
- Place Annual Directorate Statement 2022/23
- Public Health and Regulatory Services Annual Directorate Statement 2022/23

Appendix one: organisational wide Annual Directorate Statement commitments (as of end Q3 2022/23)

ADS commitment	Commitment type	Q1 progress	Q2 progress	Q3 progress	Q2 to Q3 direction of travel
Deliver the Empowering Communities and Reducing Inequalities action plan for 2022/23.	Organisational wide commitment	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	STABLE
Improve the customer journey across all channels by ensuring we have the right tools in place and that residents are well informed and engaged.	Organisational wide commitment	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	STABLE
Deliver the Climate Emergency Strategy and contribute via directorate action plans.	Organisational wide commitment	AMBER	GREEN/AMBER	GREEN	POSITIVE
Ensure effective financial management across the directorates including a balanced budget at year end and delivery of MTFP savings.	Organisational wide commitment	AMBER/RED	AMBER	GREEN/AMBER	POSITIVE
Deliver the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy action plan for 2022/23.	Organisational wide commitment	GREEN/AMBER	AMBER	AMBER	STABLE
Ensure we are an inclusive organisation, meeting our equalities duties, and exemplifying our values to act with integrity, respect each other, innovate, care and collaborate.	Organisational wide commitment	GREEN/AMBER	AMBER	AMBER	STABLE
Deliver the People Strategy action plan for 2022/23.	Organisational wide commitment	GREEN/AMBER	AMBER	AMBER	STABLE
Deliver the actions in the Accommodation Strategy for 2022/23 and embed new ways of working across the organisation.	Organisational wide commitment	GREEN/AMBER	RED	RED	STABLE
Develop the directorate transformation programmes for 2022/23 linked in to MTFP planning.	Organisational wide commitment	AMBER	RED	RED	STABLE
Deliver the Digital Strategy delivery plan for 2022/23.	Organisational wide commitment	AMBER/RED	RED	RED	STABLE

Appendix two: Key Corporate Performance Indicators (as of end Q3 2022/23)

National benchmarking data is intended to provide a comparison of local data against the latest national data wherever possible. Where the data has not yet been published the latest available data has been given. Local measures cannot be benchmarked. Contextual measures do not have a target. Year-end status is predicted based on data available for Q1, Q2 and Q3 and could change in Q4.

Scrutiny Panel					Measure	Year End 2021/22	2022/23				Year-End Target	Year-End Status	Number	National benchmarking England (Eng) South West (SW)
ASH	CYPS	PCOM	PLACE	Health			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
A thriving and sustainable place														
✓					The number of homes where a significant hazard was removed / repaired through local authority intervention	107	14	33	58		100 homes <i>Higher is better</i>	AMBER	n/a	Local measure
✓			✓		The number of affordable houses through working in partnership	189	146	253	301		200 houses <i>Higher is better</i>	GREEN	n/a	Local measure
			✓		The percentage of vacant retail premises in WsM town centre (inc. Sovereign Centre)	20.7%	19.87%	-	20.2%		Contextual (not targeted)	n/a	127 / 629	Local measure
			✓		The percentage of vacant retail premises in Clevedon town centre	10.6%	7.95%	-	7.20%			n/a	11 / 152	Local measure
			✓		The percentage of vacant retail premises in Nailsea town centre	13.3%	13.33%	-	15.20%			n/a	25 / 165	Local measure
			✓		The percentage of vacant retail premises in Portishead town centre	6.7%	6.67%	-	5.20%			n/a	7 / 134	Local measure
			✓		The percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill	11.49%	11.09%	9.57%	8.42%		<10% <i>Lower is better</i>	GREEN	6,087kg / 72,342kg	Eng 8.11% SW 5.97% (2021/22)

Scrutiny Panel					Measure	Year End 2021/22	2022/23				Year-End Target	Year-End Status	Number	National benchmarking <i>England (Eng)</i> <i>South West (SW)</i>
ASH	CYPS	PCOM	PLACE	Health			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
			✓		Residual household waste sent to landfill (per household) (kgs)	405.1 kg	98.92 kgs	197.64 kgs	283.8 kgs		<400kg <i>Lower is better</i>	GREEN	27,898kg / 98,280 households	Eng 545.9kgs SW 489.1kgs (2021/22)
			✓		The percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling, or composting	59.50%	61.77%	60.4%	60.0%		60% <i>Higher is better</i>	GREEN	41,865kg / 69,765kg	Eng 42.48% SW 48.92% (2021/22)
		✓	✓		The number of crimes overall in North Somerset	13,600 crimes	3,592 crimes	7,166 crimes	10,568 crimes		<13,642 <i>Lower is better</i>	AMBER	n/a	Local measure
		✓	✓		The number of anti-social behaviour incidents overall in North Somerset	2,663 incidents	688 incidents	1,674 incidents	2,412 incidents		<2691 <i>Lower is better</i>	RED	n/a	Local measure
			✓		Percentage of pot holes repaired within 28 days	95.0%	-	99.0%	99.0%		95% <i>Higher is better</i>	GREEN	252 / 255	Local measure
			✓		The percentage of major planning applications determined within 13 weeks or agreed time limit	65.9%	-	78.0%	88.8%		>70% <i>Higher is better</i>	GREEN	8 / 9	Eng 89% SW 83% (2020/21)
			✓		The percentage of minor planning applications determined within 8 weeks or agreed time limit	87.3%	-	89.0%	83.9%		>75% <i>Higher is better</i>	GREEN	68 / 81	Eng 85% SW 83% (2020/21)
			✓		Principal roads where maintenance should be considered	1%	-	-	2%	-	Better than England average <i>Lower is better</i>	GREEN		Eng 4% SW 2% (2021/22)
			✓		Non principal roads where maintenance should be considered	6%	-	-	5%	-		GREEN		Eng 6% SW 7% (2021/22)

Scrutiny Panel					Measure	Year End 2021/22	2022/23				Year-End Target	Year-End Status	Number	National benchmarking England (Eng) South West (SW)
ASH	CYPS	PCOM	PLACE	Health			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
A council which empowers and cares about people														
✓					Social care-related quality of life score (Adult Social Care Survey)	19.6	19.5	-	-	-	Better than England average <i>Higher is better</i>	GREEN	Sampled survey	Eng 19.1 SW 19.3 (2021/22)
✓					Overall satisfaction of people who use services with their care and support (Adult Social Care Survey)	69.4%	67.1%	-	-	-		GREEN	Sampled survey	Eng 64.2% SW 66.9% (2021/22)
✓					The % of adults with a learning disability who live at home or with family	66.4%	63.0%	-	-	-	68% <i>Higher is better</i>	AMBER	318 / 501	Eng 78.3% SW 77.7% (2020/21)
✓					The % of adults in contact with secondary mental health services living independently or without support	50.0%	47.3%	46.6%	45.6%	-	65% <i>Higher is better</i>	RED	210 / 461	Eng 58.0% SW 53.0% (2020/21)
✓					The % of adults with a learning disability who are in paid employment	8.2%	-	7.7%	-	-	Better than SW average <i>Higher is better</i>	GREEN	36 / 463	Eng 4.8% SW 5.1% (2021/22)
✓					The % of adults in contact with secondary mental health services who are in paid employment	13.0%	-	11.2%	-	-		GREEN	55 / 489	Eng 6.0% SW 6.0% (2021/22)
✓					The number of households living in temporary accommodation	88 house holds	83 house holds	94 house holds	84 house holds		<85 <i>Lower is better</i>	GREEN	n/a	Per (000s) households NSC 0.89 Eng 2.66 SW 1.16 (Q3 2021/22)

Scrutiny Panel					Measure	Year End 2021/22	2022/23				Year-End Target	Year-End Status	Number	National benchmarking England (Eng) South West (SW)
ASH	CYPS	PCOM	PLACE	Health			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
✓					Average length of stay in temporary accommodation	16.9 weeks	16.4 weeks	16 weeks	15.9 weeks		<14 weeks <i>Lower is better</i>	RED	n/a	Local measure
✓					More homeless, (or threatened with homeless) households prevented from being homeless	51.8%	54.9%	57.0%	57.9%		60.0% <i>Higher is better</i>	AMBER	256 / 442	Local measure
✓					The number of people in permanent care home placements age 65+	738	750	740	769		Decreasing trend against 5yr avg. <i>Lower is better</i>	GREEN	n/a	Local measure
✓					The number of people in permanent care home placements age 18 - 64	181	186	178	185			GREEN	n/a	Local measure
				✓	The percentage of physically active adults (aged 19+)	61.9%	-	-	71.2%		Increasing trend <i>Higher is better</i>	GREEN	Sampled survey	Eng 65.9% SW 70.5% (2020/21)
				✓	Self-reported wellbeing - people with a high anxiety score	23.5%	-	-	22.9%		Better than SW average <i>Lower is better</i>	RED	n/a	Eng 22.6% SW 22.0% (2020/21)
				✓	Self-reported wellbeing - people with a low happiness score	11.1%	-	-	8.6%			RED	n/a	Eng 8.4% SW 8.1% (2020/21)
			✓		Claimant count for those on out of work benefits in North Somerset (aged 16-64 yrs)	2.8%	2.4%	2.4%	2.3%		<3% <i>Lower is better</i>	GREEN	2,915	Eng 3.6% SW 2.5% (Q3 2022/23)
			✓		Claimant count for those on out of work benefits in North Somerset (aged 18-24 yrs)	4.7%	3.9%	4.0%	3.8%		<5% <i>Lower is better</i>	GREEN	515	Eng 4.7% SW 3.1% (Q3 2022/23)

Scrutiny Panel					Measure	Year End 2021/22	2022/23				Year-End Target	Year-End Status	Number	National benchmarking England (Eng) South West (SW)
ASH	CYPS	PCOM	PLACE	Health			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
	✓				The percentage of 16-17 year olds who are not in education, employment and/or training	2.7%	2.9%	1.6%	2.6%		Decreasing trend <i>Lower is better</i>	GREEN	TBC	Eng 2.9% SW 2.6% (2021)
	✓			✓	Percentage of children living in poverty (after housing costs, estimate)	21.7%	-	-	20.9%		Decreasing trend <i>Lower is better</i>	GREEN	7,997	Eng 29% SW 25% (2020/21)
	✓				The percentage of assessment of completing within 45 working days (children social care only)	93.0%	84.9%	84.0%	64.6%		Increasing trend <i>Higher is better</i>	RED	n/a	Eng 87.6% SW, 86.8% (2020/21)
	✓				The percentage of re-referrals to children social care within 12 months of the previous referral	17.7%	13.2%	19.0%	15.5%		Decreasing trend <i>Lower is better</i>	GREEN	n/a	Eng 22.7% SW 22.7% (2020/21)
	✓				Rate of children on a child protection plan (rate per 10k)	21.2 per 10,000	23.05 per 10,000	22.36 per 10,000	24.3 per 10,000		Contextual (not targeted)	n/a	n/a	Eng 40.7 per 10k SW 41.4 per 10k
	✓				Rate of children in care (rate per 10k)	45 per 10,000	51.9 per 10,000	46.33 per 10,000	49.7 per 10,000			n/a	n/a	Eng 59.2 per 10k SW 67 per 10k
	✓				The percentage of child protection plans started that were a second or subsequent plan	35.3%	30.4%	21.74%	45.0%		Decreasing trend <i>Lower is better</i>	RED	n/a	Eng 25.2% SW 22.1%
	✓				The percentage of children in care with three or more placement moves - rolling 12 month period	13.0%	13.6%	16.0%	19.2%		Decreasing trend <i>Lower is better</i>	RED	n/a	Eng 9.0% SW 10.7%

Scrutiny Panel					Measure	Year End 2021/22	2022/23				Year-End Target	Year-End Status	Number	National benchmarking England (Eng) South West (SW)
ASH	CYPS	PCOM	PLACE	Health			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
	✓				The percentage of children in care in long-term placement stability	71.0%	70.1%	72.0%	70.0%		Increasing trend <i>Higher is better</i>	AMBER	n/a	Eng 70.0% SW 70.0%
	✓				The percentage of care leavers (19-21 year olds) in suitable accommodation	94.8%	88.2%	94.0%	90.2%		Increasing trend <i>Higher is better</i>	RED	n/a	Eng 88.0% SW 89.0%
	✓				The percentage of care leavers (19-21 year olds) in education, employment and/or training	58.2%	45.1%	44.0%	50.4%			GREEN	n/a	Eng 52.0% SW 52.0%
	✓				Number of children with Education Health & Care Plans at quarter end	1,629 plans	1,646 plans	1759 plans	1,819 plans		Contextual (not targeted)	n/a	n/a	Local measure
	✓				Number of children in Elective Home Education at month end	397	367	353	401			n/a	n/a	Local measure
	✓				The percentage of schools and settings rated 'Good' or better by Ofsted (all phases)	83.5%	87.0%	86.0%	82.5%		Increasing trend <i>Higher is better</i>	RED	n/a	Data not yet available
An open and enabling organisation														
		✓			The percentage of customer satisfaction via telephone	99.0%	99.0%	99.0%	99.4%		90.0% <i>Higher is better</i>	GREEN	TBC	Local measure
		✓			The number of level 2 complaints (excluding social care complaints)	99	24	46	81		<67	RED	n/a	Local measure
		✓			The percentage of upheld Ombudsman complaints (including social care)	55.0%	50%	60.0%	44.0%		<63%	GREEN	4 / 9	Local measure

Scrutiny Panel					Measure	Year End 2021/22	2022/23				Year-End Target	Year-End Status	Number	National benchmarking England (Eng) South West (SW)
ASH	CYPS	PCOM	PLACE	Health			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
		✓			The percentage of staff satisfied working for the council remains high (staff survey)	80.0%	79.0%	-	-	-	Above 5 year average <i>Higher is better</i>	GREEN	n/a	Local measure
		✓			The percentage of staff satisfied with the way the council is run remains high (staff survey)	76.0%	71.0%	-	-	-		GREEN	n/a	Local measure
		✓			The net business rates physically received within North Somerset	£52,7m	£22,9m	£37,6m	£51,8m		£54,303m <i>Higher is better</i>	GREEN	n/a	Local measure
		✓			The net council tax physically received within North Somerset	£148,3m	£48,6m	£92,6m	£136,9m		£148,076m <i>Higher is better</i>	GREEN	n/a	Local measure
			✓		The percentage of employees who are accredited as carbon literate	16.0%	16.0%	17.0%	17.0%		25.0% <i>Higher is better</i>	RED	TBC	Local measure

Appendix three: Strategic Risk Register (as of end Q3 2022/23)

Risk	Risk ref	Q1 residual score	Q2 residual score	Q3 inherent score	Q3 mitigating actions	Q3 residual score	Q2 to Q3 direction of travel	Risk treatment
Risk that we are unable to deliver the priorities of the council by not planning to meet the medium-term financial challenge and delivering a balanced budget.	S-RISK1	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	Collaborative working with Corporate Leadership Team and the Executive mean that the council has a draft balanced budget for 2023/24.	HIGH	STABLE	ACCEPT
Risk that we are unable to reduce or mitigate inflationary pressures (such as energy prices), resulting in impacts on our services.	S-RISK2	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	There remain budget gaps in future years of the medium-term financial plan however the council recognises the uncertainties surrounding funding levels across this period which means that it is not possible to forecast with confidence at this point.	MEDHIGH	POSITIVE	ACCEPT
Risk that we are unable to deliver capital projects within the approved resource envelope either due to lack of governance or unmanageable cost increases.	S-RISK3	MEDHIGH	MEDHIGH	HIGH	There is monthly oversight of detailed financial analysis and forecasting by Corporate Leadership Team, along with strategic planning measures and decision making.	MEDHIGH	STABLE	ACCEPT
Risks to our overall organisational operational effectiveness due to the impacts of COVID-19.	S-RISK4	MED	MED	MED	There is continued monitoring of data and close work with UKHSA to share new guidance and manage risks appropriately. We will look to scale back the Public Health resource due to the reduced risk and end of identified budget.	LOWMED	POSITIVE	ACCEPT
Risk that we have rolling blackouts over the winter period affecting the council, partners, businesses, and residents.	S-RISK14	N/A	MEDHIGH	MED	All directorates have been asked to assess the risk against their services and provide an overview of the impacts and any mitigation required/in place. This work is ongoing.	MED	POSITIVE	ACCEPT
Risks of ineffective recruitment across the organisation leading to capacity issues in key areas.	S-RISK5	HIGH	MEDHIGH	HIGH	This risk has reduced slightly as a new centralised system is being implemented. But this will take time to embed.	MEDHIGH	STABLE	ACCEPT

Risk	Risk ref	Q1 residual score	Q2 residual score	Q3 inherent score	Q3 mitigating actions	Q3 residual score	Q2 to Q3 direction of travel	Risk treatment
Risk that we do not manage the increased demands on social care or market demands within available financial or staffing resources for adult social care.	S-RISK6	MEDHIGH	HIGH	LOWMED	Market Sustainability Plan and Fair Price for Care exercises completed. Lack of guidance from central government.	LOWMED	POSITIVE	ACCEPT
Risk that we don't have the financial resources and capacity to deliver care reforms	S-RISK13	N/A	MED	LOWMED	The cap on care costs has been delayed by government.	LOWMED	POSITIVE	ACCEPT
Risk that we do not deliver sustainable change in Children's Services at the right pace of the improvement journey.	S-RISK7	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	Plan of action in place and pace is beginning to increase. Plan in place for the leadership team to support them to lead change effectively and with the confidence and trust of the service.	HIGH	STABLE	ACCEPT
Risk that we do not manage the demand for children's social care and SEND placements within available resources.	S-RISK8	HIGH	MED	HIGH	Ongoing fostering recruitment campaign to recruit local inhouse carers and work to secure sufficient placements for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children. Ongoing work with our capital projects team and with schools to ensure sufficient placements for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.	HIGH	NEGATIVE	ACCEPT
Risks aligned to the deteriorating condition of some of our assets	S-RISK9	MED	MED	HIGH	New systems and process are being implemented and a revised structure for Projects and Property now agreed and being recruited to. Feasibility funding has been identified to develop investment plans for key priority assets.	HIGH	NEGATIVE	ACCEPT
Risks aligned to any delay to the Local Plan process exposing council to risk of speculative development and unplanned growth through appeal.	S-RISK10	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	Unfortunately, a number of appeal decisions have determined that the council does not have a 5 year housing land supply and that the council does not have an up to date Local Plan. A slowdown is expected in the housing market which may translate into fewer appeals, but this requires monitoring.	HIGH	STABLE	ACCEPT

Risk	Risk ref	Q1 residual score	Q2 residual score	Q3 inherent score	Q3 mitigating actions	Q3 residual score	Q2 to Q3 direction of travel	Risk treatment
Risk that despite protecting the council's systems and essential data from cyber-attacks, malicious attempts to damage critical services within the council could be disruptive.	S-RISK11	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	Ongoing area of risk which has increased given the Ukraine situation.	HIGH	STABLE	ACCEPT
Risks to achieving a net zero position by 2030 given current resources and sphere of influence.	S-RISK12	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	There is a broad programme of activity across workstreams of our property, retrofitting, communications, transport decarbonisation and renewable energy. These activities will help to reduce the Scope 1 and 2 emissions of the organisation, but Scope 3 emissions will continue to be challenging. Emissions for North Somerset as an area are reducing, but significant transport decarbonisation is required. Making the step change of progress required will require massive levels of investment (including public funding) and mass behavioural change even to meet the government's stated aim of zero carbon by 2050.	HIGH	STABLE	ACCEPT

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North Somerset Council

Report to the Place Panel

Date of Meeting: 8 March 2023

Subject of Report: Place Finance Update

Town or Parish: All

Officer/Member Presenting: N/A Report for Information only

Key Decision: No

Recommendations

That the Panel notes the current forecast against budget for Place.

1. Summary of Report

- 1.1 This report summarises and discusses the current forecast against budget for Place, highlighting key variances. It builds on the information received by the Executive at its meeting on 8 February 2023.
- 1.2 The overall projected year end position for Place, as at the end of month 9, is a **£1.358m** overspend on a net budget of £31.230m.
- 1.3 There are a number of material issues that are contributing towards the large overspend this year, these include inflation on contracts, pressures on home to school transport budgets and income shortfalls.
- 1.4 These material issues have been factored into the Revenue Budget for 2023/24 which was also presented at the Executive meeting on 8 February 2023.
- 1.5 The 2022/23 net budget includes savings of £1.275m to be achieved in the financial year, good progress is being made against these savings, with the majority on track to be achieved by the end of the financial year.
- 1.6 An additional £2.808m of savings have been proposed in the 2023/24 revenue budget for the Place Directorate.

2. Policy

The council's budget monitoring is an integral feature of its overall financial processes, ensuring that resources are planned, aligned and managed effectively to achieve successful delivery of its aims and objectives.

3. Details

3.1 Budget Monitor

The overall forecast for the Place directorate is a net over spend of £1.358m.

The table below shows the net projected variance by service within the directorate:

PLACE DIRECTORATE	NET	NET	NET
	BUDGET	PROJECTED	PROJECTED
	£	OUT-TURN	VARIANCE
	£	£	£
Environment and Safer Communities	11,967,192	11,770,604	(196,587)
Highway & Parking Operations	3,777,431	3,657,262	(120,169)
Highway Technical Services	(23,851)	(72,815)	(48,963)
Libraries & Community	2,196,774	2,345,485	148,711
Open Space, Natural Environment & Leisure	3,613,955	3,790,208	176,252
Regulatory Services	(554,440)	(616,624)	(62,184)
Transport Planning	7,895,326	9,247,818	1,352,493
Neighbourhoods & Transport	28,872,387	30,121,939	1,249,552
Property Asset & Projects	75,973	248,489	172,516
Economy	414,163	382,701	(31,462)
Major Projects	(165,348)	(160,031)	5,317
Placemaking & Development	791,802	779,349	(12,453)
Planning Service	430,523	392,048	(38,475)
Placemaking & Growth	1,547,113	1,642,555	95,442
Place Directorate Management	558,748	570,458	11,711
Place Central Recharges	182,000	183,125	1,125
Directorate Overheads	740,748	753,583	12,836
Special Expenses	69,410	69,410	0
PLACE DIRECTORATE TOTAL	31,229,657	32,587,487	1,357,830

The main areas of pressures are:

- Home to Schools Transport demand and market costs £1,579k
- Contract inflation pressures £867k
- Shortfall of Libraries & Community Buildings income £195k
- Other income shortfalls £264k

These are offset by:

- Surplus recycling materials income £701k
- One-off reduction in composting scheme costs in 22/23 £200k
- Concessionary fares underspend due to patronage £260k
- Road closure income £158k

Areas of particular note are explained in more detail below.

3.1.1 Home to school transport costs

There continues to be significant pressure within the Home to School Transport service as a result of a growth in demand specifically for SEND transport and market factors driving increases in contract prices.

Whilst the service continues to do everything possible to contain the costs, ultimately providing the transport is a statutory service.

This area will continue to be monitored and work is underway to determine whether any transformation will improve the financial situation. The proposed revenue budget for 2023/24 includes £2.3m of growth to ensure a robust budget is in place next financial year to prevent this level of pressure going forward.

3.1.2 Contract inflation pressures

There are a number of large contracts within Place which the council is contractually obliged to pay inflation based on a range of indices that are relevant to the specific area.

Contract inflation is funded through the medium term financial plan however due to the current economic situation the actual inflation being incurred significantly outweighs the amount provided for within the 2022/23 budget.

One example of this is fuel inflation on the waste contract, the budget was based on fuel inflation at 7%, the actual contractual inflation for fuel for 2022/23 is 21% due to the fuel prices in February & March 2022.

These pressures have been factored into the 2023/24 revenue budget to ensure a robust budget is in place for these contracts from 1st April 2023. It should however be noted that inflation is still high and could present further financial pressures in future years if it does not reduce over the coming months.

3.2 Risks

The directorate continues to face financial risks which are being monitored as part of a MTFP risk register.

The most significant risks for the Place Directorate are a continuation from this years financial pressures being the sustained high level of inflation and the demand on the Home to School Transport service budget.

Where possible these have been mitigated in the proposed budget for 2023/24 but these risks will need to be continually monitored moving into the new financial year.

3.3 Medium Term Financial Plan Savings 2022/23 & 2023/24

The 2022/23 budget approved by Full Council on 15 February 2022 included £1.275m of savings to be achieved in the current financial year.

Positive progress is being made and a number of the savings have now been delivered or are on track to be delivered by the end of the financial year.

The savings approved as part of the 2022/23 budget are detailed in appendix two along with the delivery progress.

A further £2.808m of savings have been proposed within the medium term financial plan for 2023/24. The primary focus continues to be to retain and protect front-line services and their customers wherever possible, and to introduce savings plans which generate viable and targeted income streams, deliver transformation change within services which can reduce costs, and to ensure best value is achieved through contracts.

A full list of the budget savings proposed to Executive on the 8 February has been included in appendix three.

4. Consultation

Not applicable.

5. Financial Implications

Financial implications are contained throughout the report.

6. Legal Powers and Implications

The Local Government Act 1972 lays down the fundamental principle by providing that every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs, although further details and requirements are contained within related legislation. The setting of the council's budget for the forthcoming year, and the ongoing arrangements for monitoring all aspects of this, is an integral part of the financial administration process.

7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

There are no direct or specific climate change and environmental implications associated with the recommendations within this report although they remain an important factor in many areas of the council's revenue and capital budgets and are considered and integrated where appropriate.

8. Risk Management

See paragraph 3.2.

9. Equality Implications

There are no specific equality implications with regard to the recommendations contained within this report.

Individual savings proposals incorporated into the revenue budget are supported by an Equality Impact Assessment.

10. Corporate Implications

With continuing financial pressures and demands for services, it is essential that the councils' limited resources continue to be prioritised and allocated in line with the identified priorities.

11. Options Considered

Not applicable

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Financial Overview Place Directorate

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF THE PLACE DIRECTORATE AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022					
Directorate Summary					
	Original Budget 2022/23	Virements	Revised Budget 2022/23	Forecast Out-turn 2022/23	Projected Out-turn Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
- Gross Expenditure	56,727	8,019	64,746	67,925	3,180
- Income	(23,124)	(5,030)	(28,154)	(28,118)	36
- Transfers to / from Reserves	(3,614)	(1,749)	(5,363)	(7,220)	(1,858)
= Directorate Totals	29,989	1,240	31,230	32,587	1,358
				Forecast Out-turn Variance	4.35%
- Neighbourhoods & Transport	27,909	964	28,872	30,122	1,250
- Placemaking & Growth	1,433	115	1,547	1,643	95
- Directorate Overheads	578	162	741	754	13
- Special Expenses	69	0	69	69	0
= Directorate Totals	29,989	1,240	31,230	32,587	1,358
				Forecast Out-turn Variance	4.35%
Extract showing material variances compared to the revised budget					
Service area and projected budget variance			Revised Budget 2022/23	Forecast Out-turn 2022/23	Projected Out-turn Variance
			£000	£000	£000
Environment and Safer Communities					
Environmental Services & Enforcement:					
NSEC - Surplus on recycling materials (income)			(1,599)	(2,300)	(701)
NSEC - Main contract (expenditure) - Inflationary increase			10,327	10,798	471
NSEC - Waste Receptacles			142	249	107
Waste Disposal Contract (net) - inflationary & tonnage increases			6,292	6,498	206
Garden Waste Charging Scheme (income) - shortfall on income target			(2,195)	(1,809)	386
Garden Waste Charging Scheme - use of compensation reserve			0	(350)	(350)
Garden Waste Charging Scheme - reduction in scheme costs			197	286	89
Use of Waste Strategy Implementation Reserve to fund Garden Waste ICT costs			0	(85)	(85)
Commercial Waste (net) increased income projections			(89)	(174)	(85)
Waste Contract Procurement and Mobilisation costs			0	69	69
Waste Contract Procurement and Mobilisation costs - use of Implementation Reserve			0	(69)	(69)
Litter enforcement - short-fall in contract income			(30)	(5)	25
Safer Community Services: - CCTV					
Use of Town Council receipt			266	319	53
			0	(40)	(40)
Highway & Parking Operations					
Highway Electrical & ITS - Inflationary increases on new contracts 'materials' costs			1,690	1,679	(11)
Highway Network & Traffic Management - Road closures income above target			(82)	(240)	(158)
Materials testing Lab - expected shortfall on fee income			(321)	(186)	135
Local Transport Plan (stage 6 & 7)			0	107	107
Funded by Strategic Projects (Local Plan) reserve			0	(107)	(107)
Open Space, Natural Environment & Leisure					
Leisure:					
Loss of income - Profit share on Leisure Contracts			(439)	(349)	90
Agreed mitigation: planned use of reserves			0	(90)	(90)
Financial support for Leisure Providers (DP189)			175	175	0
Funded by Covid Reserve			(175)	(175)	0
Parks & Seafront:					
Bay Cafe:					
Income losses (some operations moved during SEE Monster - incl underlying pressure)			(418)	(12)	406
Forecast turnover share from temporary operator			0	(22)	(22)
Saving on expenditure budgets relating to mainly catering provisions & equipment			280	62	(218)
Saving on staffing costs whilst outsourced			199	34	(165)

Extract showing material variances compared to the revised budget (contd)			
Service area and projected budget variance	Revised Budget 2022/23 £000	Forecast Out-turn 2022/23 £000	Projected Out-turn Variance £000
The Bay & Seafront Events (limited events due to SEE Monster):			
Gross expenditure budget (excluding staffing)	139	144	5
Income budget	(312)	(164)	148
Saving on staffing costs whilst events not running	85	44	(41)
Mitigated by loss of income compensation from new Substance	0	(71)	(71)
Parks & Street Scene Contract:			
Glendale contract - Inflationary pressure on extended contract	2,246	2,328	82
S106 funding draw-down shortfall	(345)	(236)	109
Transport Planning			
<u>Home to Schools Transport (HTST):</u>			
Home to School Transport - Baseline position re increased demand and costs	4,763	6,755	1,992
Draw down of S106 funding	(150)	(350)	(200)
Extended Rights to Free Travel Grant 2022/23	(97)	(210)	(113)
Home to School Transport - Q Routes software	0	24	24
Use of Corporate risk reserve to fund new inflationary pressures	0	(286)	(286)
<u>Public Transport</u>			
Concessionary fares scheme - reduced cost due to lower patronage	1,560	1,300	(260)
Ticketing income under-achieved as a result of lower patronage levels	(308)	(173)	135
Bus Service Support Grant (extended to 31/03/2023)	(67)	(132)	(65)
Bus Lane Enforcement PCN income	(51)	(138)	(87)
<u>Bus Services</u>			
Bus Services Improvement Plan - Staffing revenue pressure	143	172	29
Funded by reserves (residual 2021/22 grant funding)	0	(25)	(25)
Libraries & Community			
Campus expenditure budgets	532	554	22
Shortfall in Campus income	(359)	(263)	96
Somerset Hall expenditure budgets	97	123	26
Shortfall in Somerset Hall income	(121)	(69)	52
Placemaking & Development			
Economy Team staffing - Employer of Choice / Graduate posts	75	211	136
Funded by use of ear-marked reserves	(75)	(211)	(136)
Weston Business Quarter consultancy costs	0	223	223
Weston Quarry consultancy costs	0	12	12
New Weston Town Centre Development sites	70	196	126
Place making - Portishead	0	73	73
Funded by Driving Growth reserves	(70)	(504)	(434)
Birnbeck Pier - consultancy commissioned to date	0	140	140
Funding due from Historic England	0	(140)	(140)
Planning & Building Control salary costs - savings due to vacancies	2,311	2,083	(228)
Planning Income (Applications and advice, net of refunds)	(1,561)	(1,441)	120
Building Control Income - short-fall in fees	(470)	(378)	92
Planning - Planning Appeal consultancy and barrister costs to date	0	82	82
Funded by Major Planning Appeal Reserve	0	(82)	(82)
Planned mitigations to improve directorate position			
Budgeted contribution to Strategic Projects reserve - agreed hold in 2022/23	103	0	(103)
Maximise use of Enabling fee income against Housing development team cost	0	(40)	(40)
Garden Waste Charging Scheme - reduction in composting scheme costs	235	35	(200)
Capital Delivery Team (excl BSIP)			
Capital projects delivery team salary costs - savings due to vacant posts	2,921	2,253	(668)
Shortfall on salary recharges to the capital programme (partially mitigated by vacancies v	(3,000)	(2,191)	809
Sub total - material budget variances			1,396
Other minor variations to the budget			(38)
= Directorate Total			1,358

Appendix 2 – MTFP Savings 2022/23 – Progress update

MTFP SAVINGS PROPOSALS REFLECTED WITHIN THE 2022/23 REVENUE BUDGET

Dir Ref	Dir	MTFP Savings Proposals	2022/23 Budgeted £000	RAG Rating	Notes / Comments
PD S1	Place	Increase of recycling materials income	-500	G	Sale of recycling materials forecast to exceed income budget
PD S2	Place	Re-base garden waste income budget to align to actual levels	-230	G	Shortfall on income after using Waste compensation reserve - mitigated by the reduction in scheme costs
PD S4	Place	Use income from Permit Scheme to fund existing staff	-50	A	Work underway to identify staff time that can be legitimately charged to the scheme
PD S7	Place	Revisit safe Home To Schools Transport routes	-100	R	Recruitment challenges in Design team slowing implementation
PD S8	Place	Safer roads initiatives (additional sites meeting relevant criteria)	-30	G	Bus Lane enforcement - income target already exceeded
PD S9	Place	Events programme to become cost neutral or minimal support	-65	G	Air festival - current year event funded by reserves
PD S10	Place	Introduce break-even policy for Building Control	-20	G	Balanced budget on target to be achieved
PD S13	Place	Parking income	-150	A	Income levels to end of September on target, currently forecast will achieve budget
PD S14	Place	Reduction in Concessionary Fares costs - aligned to lower levels of demand for the service	-50	G	Reflected in the WECA transport Levy
PD S15	Place	Reduction in staff travel costs - to reflect the new ways of working	-25	A	Mostly achieved based on car allowances paid to date, possibly small overpend
PD S16	Place	Reduction in street lighting energy costs - aligned to roll-out of LED investment programme	-40	G	Prior year programme roll-out have given significant energy usage however the savings will be not realised due to inflation
PD S17	Place	Increase in income levels, e.g. public conveniences	-15	G	On track to achieve income target
DIRECTORATE TOTAL			-1,275		

Appendix 3 – Proposed MTFP Savings 2023/24

Ref	Description	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total Proposals
PD1	Increase recycling materials income target	900	0	0	900
PD2	Review recycling provision and initiatives across the district	0	200	0	200
PD3	Garden Waste inflationary increase	150	0	0	150
PD4	Garden waste optimisation of rounds (Garden Waste collected on a different day to other collections)	50	100	0	150
PD5	Find efficiency savings within the Waste Contract - This could include campaigns to improve the sorting of recycling by residents	150	150	0	300
PD6	Refresh and embed a policy to minimise replacement/additional bins/containers	50	50	0	100
PD7	Campaigns to increase recycling and reduce disposal costs	50	0	0	50
PD9	Income from public surveillance cameras & private CCTV monitoring	10	0	0	10
PD10	Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) revenue for Anti-Social-Behaviour & CCTV used to issue FPNs for Highways and Public Protection Order and review funding models for Community Response	50	85	0	135
PD11	Realign income budgets for leisure centres to current usage levels	15	0	0	15
PD12	Make permanent the existing closure of Churchill Sports Centre	117	0	0	117
PD13	Seafront staff review	40	0	0	40
PD14	Review the commercial model for the following buildings: Somerset Hall Playhouse Theatre Tropicana The Bay Cafe	248	0	0	248
PD15	Realign the budget for Curatorial Service	5	0	0	5
PD17	Establishment of a single, council-wide transport function and improved commissioning	50	0	0	50
PD18	Revisit safe walking routes to school	100	0	0	100
PD20	Moving traffic violations - Adopt new powers available to Highways Authorities to improve safety and reduce congestion by enforcing traffic contraventions	100	100	0	200
PD21	Bus lane enforcement	100	0	0	100
PD22	Realign budget for structure repairs to reflect actual spending	25	0	0	25
PD23	Reduce external spend and increase internal spend on the Capital Programme	200	0	0	200

Ref	Description	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total Proposals
PD24	Realign budget for affordable housing income	28	0	0	28
PD25	Deletion of vacant officer post within Development Team	36	0	0	36
PD26	Estimated increase in national planning application fees	16	0	0	16
PD27	Delete vacant Access Officer post	19	0	0	19
PD28	Economy team additional income	16	0	0	16
PD30	Expand commercial waste service	0	50	0	50
PD32	Review residents parking zones	0	50	50	100
PD33	Biodiversity Net Gain	0	25	0	25
PD34	Progress the libraries strategy by investigating alternative funding opportunities, models and partnerships	0	135	0	135
PD35	Review Placemaking & Growth services	0	93	0	93
PD36	Annual uplift to fees and charges to cover inflationary cost of services - Place	124	122	122	368
PD37	Increase scope of LED rollout programme to include Port Marine lanterns and Non-LED zebra floodlights to reduce energy consumption	70	0	0	70
PD38	Realign income budget for Land Charges & Street Numbering to reflect an increase in fees to offset the cost of providing the service	19	0	0	19
PD39	Increase the vacancy management target within Place staffing budgets	70	0	0	70

Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel Work programme March 2023

(to be updated following each Panel meeting)

The Panel will consider issues of significant public concern, areas of poor performance and areas where Members think the Council could provide better value for money. This is a “live” document and is subject to change as priorities or circumstances change.

SECTION ONE – ACTIVE & SCHEDULED panel Projects as identified in the overarching Strategic Work Plan.

Topic	Reason for scrutiny	Method of scrutiny and reporting process	Timeline	Progress	Lead
Local Plan	To enable Member engagement with Local Plan (LP) development. Providing meaningful engagement with, and hence assurance around, the development of the Plan	<p>Informal SPEDR-led panel meetings (including the wider Council Membership as required)</p> <p>Meetings synchronised with key stages in the Local Plan development process</p> <p>To feed views and recommendations to officers and/or decision maker(s) at key stages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27/01 Challenges and Choices: • 16/02 Preferred spatial Strategy • 13/05 Airport and Port • 11/10 Emerging allocation thinking <p>Draft Local Plan for consultation in late 2021</p>	<p>Preferred spatial strategy: reported to Exec on 28th April.</p> <p>Consultation on Draft Local Plan date 16/07/21, 16/08/21, 13/09/21, 11/10/21; Post-consultation meeting 07/10/22</p>	Michael Reep
Cladding and other fire safety issues in the district (following Grenfell outcomes)	Reference from Council: requesting Panel to establish policy recommendations on a series of specific points raised	<p>Joint Task and Finish group established with ASH Panel</p> <p>To report to a future meeting of the Council “in all urgency”.</p>	To report back to Council at the earliest opportunity	WG mtgs: 08/04/20; 30/11/21 Progress delayed due to passage of legislation. Further meeting tba	Howard Evans
Directorate Statement 2022/23	Members to engage with officers on development of the 2023/24 Directorate Statement	Task & Finish working group	TBA in early 2023		Emma Diakou/ Lucy Shomali

SECTION TWO – proposed projects (listed in priority order). These must be agreed at Panel and will be referred for discussion at Chairs and Vice Chairs – for potential inclusion within the Strategic Work Plan:-

Topic	Reason for scrutiny	Proposed method of scrutiny and reporting process	Timeline	Lead

SECTION THREE planned briefings, workshops, and informal Panel meetings. Outcomes may, with Chairman's agreement, generate Panel agenda items (for inclusion in S4 below) or, with Panel agreement, escalation to S2 above:-

Topic	Reason for scrutiny	Date	Outcome	Progress	Lead
Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF)	Briefing	26/07/20, then at roughly 6-week intervals	Agreed ongoing Panel engagement	Series of briefings	Maduabuchi Ani
Highways Service: future delivery model	Briefing/engagement	02/03/22; 01/07/22; 11/10/22	Agreed ongoing Panel engagement	ongoing	Gemma Dando
Waste Scrutiny Steering Group	Updating and seeking feedback on the development of the waste strategy	10/11/21	Agreed ongoing Panel engagement	ongoing	Gemma Dando
Ash dieback Action Strategy	Briefing / Engagement	01/04/22	Agreed ongoing Panel engagement	Ongoing	John Flannigan
Joint briefing with PCOM: Castlewood Redevelopment	Briefing / Engagement	17/11/22	Members briefed	Ongoing	Jenny Ford
Winterstoke Rd Bridge Replacement	Briefing / Engagement	28/11/22	Panel briefed	Ongoing	Jason Reading
Local List Nominations	Briefing / Engagement	11/01/23	Panel agreed with officer recommendations	Complete	Kate Hudson-McAulay
BSIP and Bus Services Update	Briefing / Engagement	17/01/23	Agreed ongoing Panel engagement	Ongoing	Carl Nicholson
UKSPF year 2 Budget Approval	Briefing / Engagement	24/01/23	Panel briefed	Complete	Jane Harrison
EV Strategy	Briefing / Engagement	31/01/23	All Members briefed	Ongoing	Cristian Fletcher
Flood Risk Management Strategy Update	Briefing / Engagement	14/02/23	All Members briefed	Ongoing	Simon Bunn
Active Travel Action Plans 2023-30 update	Briefing / Engagement	15/02/23	Feedback given to officers	ongoing	Ruby Tobin

SECTION FOUR - agenda reports to the Panel meetings as agreed by the Chairman. This section provides for the forward planning of agendas for the coming year and a record of recent panel meeting activity. Item outcomes may include proposing further work such as additional briefings or potential projects for inclusion on the STRATEGIC WORK PLAN (S2 above).

Panel Meeting 13 July 2022

Place Annual Directorate Statement 2022/23	That the Panel note the Place Annual Directorate Statement for 2022/23 and the commitments made both organisational wide and directorate wide for the year ahead.	Panel feedback noted
Development Programme Updates	To note the update on current development sites.	Panel feedback noted
Local Plan 2038 update following consultation on Preferred Options	To note the consultation response to the Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation, and to consider the main themes and issues to be addressed in the next stage of the Local Plan 2038.	Panel feedback noted
Transport Decarbonisation: Action Plan	To note and feed back on the Transport Decarbonisation Action Plan	Panel feedback noted

Panel Meeting 23 November 2022

Portishead, Nailsea and Clevedon Placemaking Strategies	to note and discuss the draft Nailsea, Clevedon and Portishead Placemaking Strategies	Panel feedback noted
Placemaking, cultural investments and funding	to note the updates on funding bids and provide comment on potential investments.	Panel feedback noted
Neighbourhoods Update (Libraries and Leisure Strategy)	to note the progress made against the Libraries Strategy adopted by the council in February 2021 and the Leisure Strategy adopted by the council in December 2020.	Panel feedback noted
Bus Services update	That the Panel requests a scrutiny session with the local DVSA representative to understand what actions are being taken to reduce lost mileage with the local First Bus and Stagecoach operating companies.	Panel feedback noted
Place Budget Monitor	To note the current forecast against budget for Place.	Panel feedback noted

Performance and Risk update	To note the Q1 updates to the 2022/23 performance management framework and strategic risk register, and to note the additional published data available via the interactive dashboards on the council's website.	Panel feedback noted
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Panel Meeting 23 November 2022

Levelling Up fund update	That the Panel note the contents of this report, and that the Panel confirm that they wish for progress reports to be brought to the committee on a six-monthly basis.	
Biodiversity Net Gain Implementation	To note the proposal to implement a pilot scheme to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain.	
Ash dieback update	For the panel to consider the latest update on ash dieback.	
Recycling and Waste Strategy Annual Update	To note the progress made in year 1 towards the targets within the recycling and waste strategy 2021-2030 and provide comments on the targets for the next year; To amend target three of the recycling and waste strategy so that it remains a target with a revised achievable date.	
WESTlink Demand Responsive Transport	To update the Panel	
Q3 performance and risk update for 2022/23	That the panel note the Q3 updates to the 2022/23 performance management framework and strategic risk register	
Place Finance update	To note the current forecast against budget for Place.	

SECTION 5 - Recommendations - Response from Executive Member

Area for investigation/ Recommendations	When were the recommendations to the Executive agreed?	Expect answer by (first panel meeting after recommendations were submitted)

SECTION 6 - Progress and follow-up on implementing Panel recommendations

Panel Recommendation	Date of Response	Actions – implementation progress