

Public Document Pack

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Date: Wednesday, 28 February 2024

Dear Sir or Madam

The Transport, Climate and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Panel – Thursday, 7 March 2024, 2.00 pm – New Council Chamber - Town Hall

A meeting of the Transport, Climate and Communities 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 Transport, Climate and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Councillors:

Steve Bridger (Chairperson), Mike Bird, Peter Burden, Ciaran Cronnelly, Nicola Holland, Sue Mason, Stuart McQuillan (Vice Chairperson), Tom Nicholson, Robert Payne, Terry Porter, Michael Pryke and Luke Smith.

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 Chairperson 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 Notifications for 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 Chairperson 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 Transport, Climate and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Panel (TCC) held on 30 November 2023 – to approve as a correct record

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

6. **Flood Risk in North Somerset** (Pages 11 - 36)

Report of the Flood Risk Manager

7. **Climate Emergency Action Plan update and progress report** (Pages 37 - 78)

Report of the Climate Emergency Project Manager

8. **The Panel's Work Plan** (Pages 79 - 84)

Exempt Items

Should the Transport, Climate and Communities 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 Transport, Climate and Communities 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 Transport, Climate and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Thursday, 30 November 2023

New Council Chamber - Town Hall

Meeting Commenced: 2.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 4.30 pm

Councillors:

Steve Bridger (Chair)
Peter Burden
Ciaran Cronnelly
Nicola Holland
Sue Mason
Robert Payne
Terry Porter
Michael Pryke
Luke Smith
Dan Thomas (substitute for Stuart McQuillan)
Joe Tristram (substitute for Tom Nicholson)

Apologies: Councillors: Stuart McQuillan (Vice-Chairperson), Tom Nicholson

Officers in attendance: Esther Coffin-Smith, Gemma Dando, John Flannigan, Jenny Ford, Rebecca Kinnersley, Stephen Matthews, Philippa Penney, Jason Reading, Leo Taylor .

TCC 8 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Standing Order 37)

None.

TCC 9 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the Transport, Climate and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Panel held on 20 July 2023 be approved as a correct record.

TCC 10 Strategic Asset Management Plan updates, including Development Programme

The Interim Assistant Director (Placemaking and Growth) presented the report which set out a progress update on the actions of the Projects and Property team with regards the delivery of the ten-year SAMP programme, with a commitment to rationalising, developing, and maintaining the Council's asset portfolio through the actions described. The report also included an update on the Council's

Development Programme for the delivery of homes and jobs on land that it owned.

Members sought and received clarification/assurance on the following:

- Account taken in the assessment process of environmental and social value (as well as income).
- Resourcing of the Asset team.
- Leisure centre business cases progress - Members noted that work had been commissioned to get a complete picture (see conclusions below).
- Estate management plan progress – decarbonisation surveys and the prioritisation of North Somerset offsetting schemes where decarbonisation may not be possible. Members noted that this was still under development (see conclusions below).
- Development Plan progress – Members noted that the Placemaking, Economy and Planning Policy and Scrutiny Panel would be leading on scrutiny engagement with the Plan.
- Consideration of a procurement partnership with a local authority owned company (eg Aequus) - officers clarified that this would not be a “joint venture” in that the company would merely be commissioned to deliver work specified by North Somerset Council.
- Green field sites and scope for lease holdings if development were not forthcoming.
- The (“red book valuation”) process for valuing land.

Concluded:

- (1) that the report be received and the Panel’s feedback provided to officers in the form of the minutes;
- (2) that officers confirm at the earliest opportunity timescales for the development of Leisure Centre business cases so that corresponding engagement with the Panel on options can be arranged; and
- (3) that the Panel be updated on the Estate Carbon Management Plan in due course.

TCC Rights Of Way Improvement Plan

11

The Natural Environment Manager presented the report updating Members on the delivery of the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan including prioritisation of the £100k capital allocation spend.

Members sought and received clarification/assurance on the following:

- The time of year that paths were cleared of overgrowth (there had been complaints from walkers in the Portishead area, particularly on the coastal path).
- The rationale for installing movable electronic counters on paths – this was for the purpose of evaluation but also provided useful asset management data, particularly “before and after” footfall following interventions/maintenance.
- How the plan was funded (in addition to the Shared Prosperity Fund

allocation) - the Council had a source of funding for longer distance routes from the Hinkley development and could provide some top-up resource where required.

- Funding for the safe route to Churchill Academy.

Concluded:

- (1) that the report be received and the Panel's feedback provided to officers in the form of the minutes; and
- (2) that the Panel review progress on the delivery of the ROWIP annually going forward.

TCC 12 Green Infrastructure Strategy update

The Natural Environment Manager presented the report updating Members on progress in the delivery of the Green Infrastructure Strategy Action Plan.

Members sought and received clarification/assurance on the following:

- the basis for the "biodiversity unit" used in Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessments – this metric was based on Government guidance and calculated using a prescribed tool.
- Further clarification of the Council's plans to establish biodiversity unit trading and the corresponding creation of a first "nature park".
- Would the trading scheme require developers to purchase units within the development locality? No, there could be geographical separation between developments and corresponding biodiversity units. Natural England was supportive of using schemes for strategic protection.
- Rewilding outcomes – officers confirmed that a report had demonstrated biodiversity improvements (e.g. between mown and unmown verges) following the introduction of the policy.
- Officers confirmed that, subject to capacity, progress was being made on developing support for community-based biodiversity schemes. The Rewilding Champion was seeking to build links with local community leaders.
- Further clarification on the Clevedon boat slipway (in the context of the Great Lakes project).
- Engagement with landowners on tree planning and the support available – new information was available on the Council's website.
- the annual cost of ash dieback and clarification on the different approaches taken to addressing dieback.

In concluding the discussion, the Panel agreed that there were many elements to the strategy and action plan and that it could be very useful for local residents and businesses if these could be pulled together into an annual "state of nature" report, providing a practical framework for communities and businesses to build on.

Concluded:

- (1) that the report be received and the Panel's feedback provided in the form of the minutes;
- (2) that the Panel review progress on the delivery of the GI Strategy annually; and

- (3) that officers consider and respond to the Panel's proposal that an annual "state of nature" report be produced as outlined above.

TCC 13 A38 MRN progress update

The Senior Project Manager presented the report outlining progress on the delivery of the scheme and engagement with key stakeholders and the market ahead of the delivery of the Final Business Case (FBC).

Members sought and received further clarification/assurance on the funding of the scheme, noting that some elements were being delivered using BSIP or S.106 funding together with speculation that additional funding may be available following the cancellation of northern section of the national HS2 project.

Although officers gave assurance that the core scheme was being funded by the Department of Transport, Members remained concerned about potential risks including around current pressures on the Council's capital budget, a perceived lack of clarity around funding sources and the complicated joint arrangements with neighbouring local authorities (noting Somerset Council's current financial position). It was agreed that further engagement and careful scrutiny would be required going forward with the involvement of the relevant local Members.

Concluded:

- (1) that the report be received and the Panel's feedback provided in the form of the minutes; and
- (2) that the Chair meet with officers as soon as practicable to agree an approach to ensuring effective scrutiny of the project going forward (noting that there would be a statutory consultation on the FBC).

TCC 14 The Panel's Work Plan

In considering the work plan, it was:-

Concluded: that the following additions to the work plan be agreed:

- **Flood Risk** - following concerns raised at the 14 November 2023 Council (Council minute COU 86 refers) about a lack of routine maintenance on structures by the Environment Agency.
- **Clevedon Seafront review** – it was agreed that this be considered by the Panel prior to a decision by the Executive and placed on the agenda for the next full meeting in March 2024
- **One Front Door** (new multi-agency approach to domestic abuse)

Chairman

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North Somerset Council

Report to the Transport, Climate and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Date of Meeting: 7 March 2024

Subject of Report: Flood Risk in North Somerset

Town or Parish:

Officer/Member Presenting: Simon Bunn

Key Decision: No

Reason:

The decision will not result in NSC incurring expenditure of £500,000 or more.

Recommendations

To scrutinise the progress of delivering actions against the adopted Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (including maintenance of assets) and the interaction and recent correspondence between North Somerset Council and the Environment Agency.

1. Summary of Report

This report explains the progress in delivering the action plan associated with the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS). It includes an explanation of the recent correspondence between North Somerset Council and the Environment Agency following the motion at Full Council meeting on 14 November 2023 regarding routine maintenance and future upgrades to the coastal flood defences.

The Flood Risk Team is delivering the actions of the LFRMS, and this report summarises key areas of the ongoing work.

2. Policy

- 2.1 North Somerset Council is a Lead Local Flood Authority under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and this function, amongst others, is delivered by the Flood Risk Team. Details of the role of the Flood Risk Team can be found in Appendix A.
- 2.2 A Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) is a statutory requirement under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The strategy was adopted in June 2023 after approval at the 21 June 2023 Executive meeting following a public consultation period. The strategy has an action plan, which is included in Appendix B.

3. Details

3.1 The top-tier actions included with the North Somerset Local Flood Risk Management Strategy are:

- Action A1 – Appropriately maintaining assets.
- Action A2 – Inputting on planning.
- Action A3 - Regulating surface water activities.
- Action A4 – Making North Somerset Flood Resilient.
- Action A5 – Investigating surface water flooding and assets.
- Action A6 – Using natural flood management.
- Action A7 – Scheme opportunities assessment.

3.2 Action A1 Maintenance of assets

Maintenance responsibilities and activity

Asset maintenance is the responsibility of the asset's owner and/or operator (if that asset is a constructed asset). Natural assets, such as rivers, rhynes and ditches, are again the responsibility of the landowner (or riparian owner) to maintain. However, statutory bodies such as the Environment Agency, the Internal Drainage Board and North Somerset Council can use their powers under various Acts of Parliament to maintain that asset instead of the landowner. This is known as exercising permissive powers. Each authority does this based on the available budget and the flood risk of the asset. Each authority maintains:

- Environment Agency (EA) – main rivers (those rivers and watercourses considered to be the highest risk) ([Link to EA Main River Maps](#))
- Internal Drainage Board (IDB) – viewed rhynes (rhynes considered to be of strategic importance in the IDB) ([Link to IDB Viewed Rhynes Map](#))
- North Somerset Council (NSC) – has the power to maintain ordinary watercourses (all the other watercourses and ditches in North Somerset) but only undertakes riparian maintenance when needed. There is currently no proactive programme of maintenance.

Funding for maintenance

Funding for maintenance comes from different sources depending on the organisation:

- EA funding comes from Government. A bid for funding is made, and there is a funding settlement where the Government indicates the amount awarded. The indicative allocation for Wessex is £8,495,000 against a bid of £17,700,000. This is 48% of what was bid for.
- IDB funding comes from those living within the IDB District via a special levy on North Somerset Council and rates paid by agricultural landowners in the District. The total IDB operational budget for North Somerset Levels IDB in 23/24 was £547,094, of which £140,000 is spent on the annual watercourse maintenance contract, £25,000 is spent on repairs and remedial works, and £193,000 is spent on other works. Running costs for the IDB are £190k.
- NSC spends around £500,000 per annum on highway drainage maintenance, including gully emptying and jetting, and a further £800,000 on highway drainage capital schemes.

- NSC does not have a revenue maintenance budget for works on watercourses or sea defences and does not receive maintenance funding from Government as the EA does. However, NSC has been using capital funding for the following projects:
 - Victorian sea wall enhancement - £400,000 on:
 - Weston-super-Mare Phase 1 – rebuild of storm Eunice damaged buttress at Anchor Head.
 - Weston-super-Mare Phase 2 – crack stitching and stone and mortar replacement.
 - Clevedon Phase 1 (The Beach) – slipway/wall toe rebuild following storm damage.
 - Clevedon Phase 2 (Marine Lake) – wall rebuild, void filling and stone replacement.
 - Clevedon Phase 3 (Marine Lake outer wall) – to be started in April, void filling and wall protection replacement.
 - Further Weston and Clevedon phases will be based on further survey work planned.

Photos of the Victorian sea wall works are in Appendix C.

The Haywood Reservoir (superpond) falls under the Reservoir Act 1975, and works are ongoing to meet the requirements of the Act and to satisfy statutory directions and recommendations of the government-appointed engineer overseeing the reservoir's management. So far, an existing embankment has been reprofiled and re-seeded, and parking restrictions using yellow lines have been introduced on the adjoining road to reduce the impact of car parking on the spillway. Further works are required, and a consultant has been employed to undertake the design.

Following the motion at the Full Council meeting on 14 November 2023, a letter was written to the Environment Agency expressing concern regarding routine maintenance across North Somerset. The response provided reassurance that maintenance works are continuing. Further clarity will be sought on some elements of the response. The letter also provided a reminder of the need to upgrade the flood defences along the North Somerset Coast in the future and the vital role that NSC will need to take in leading the work and obtaining the funding where NSC owns the assets.

3.3 Action A2 – Inputting on planning

The emerging Local Plan emphasises the strategic priority of safeguarding areas at risk of flooding. Policy SP3: Spatial Strategy aims to minimise residential development in such areas outside towns while considering all forms of flooding and their evolution over time. This aligns with the national priority of adopting a sequential approach to development, prioritising lower-risk areas. Despite this, the plan allows for significant residential development within towns, even on lands prone to flooding, like tidal areas in Wyndham Way, Portishead, and mixed-use regeneration sites in Weston-super-Mare town centre, highlighting the sustainability benefits of urban development near amenities and the reuse of brownfield sites. Small-scale residential projects in main towns may use high-risk lands to meet housing needs, provided they ensure long-term safety and do not exacerbate flood risks. Commercial developments, categorised as less vulnerable to flood risks, are also proposed in higher-risk areas but must address and mitigate flood risks. Supporting these initiatives, the Local Plan includes an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) outlining necessary flood risk management and resilience infrastructure to support these development proposals. This pragmatic approach has been adopted to

balance the extensive flood risk, green belt and housing need across North Somerset.

The flood risk team provides the technical support and evidence to support the approach taken by planning policy colleagues. It is currently working on an update to the Level 1 and Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessments, including refined climate change tidal modelling.

The EA are a statutory consultee on planning applications and will comment on applications at risk of flooding from rivers and the sea.

NSC's flood risk team are a statutory consultee for planning applications with surface water drainage. In 2023, the team commented on 168 planning applications and 56 discharge of conditions. This also includes many pre-application advice meetings with developers, on-site meetings with developers to resolve issues, and technical support to planning colleagues when preparing the local plan. Comments that are made promote the use of sustainable drainage systems within new developments.

The IDB also provide comments on planning applications when it may impact their District. They are not a statutory consultee.

3.4 Action A3 – Regulating surface water activities.

The EA, NSC and the IDB all consent works on watercourses and discuss issues that may impact the other authority.

Obtaining land drainage consent under the Land Drainage Act 1991 is vital for managing flood risks, complying with legal requirements, protecting communities and properties, supporting sustainable development, facilitating effective water management planning, and safeguarding public health.

3.5 Action A4 – Making North Somerset Flood Resilient.

The Environment Agency's National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England defines resilience as "the capacity of people and places to plan for, better protect, respond to, and recover from flooding and coastal change.". This includes making the best land use and development choices, protecting people and places where possible, and responding to and recovering from flooding and coastal change whilst all the time adapting to climate change.

Understanding your flood risk is the first step in becoming flood resilience. Defra has chosen Weston-super-Mare (and one other location) to be the focus of a flood awareness campaign. The campaign is a pilot to understand whether a hyperlocal approach is more effective than a national one. The campaign at Weston used a combination of methods, including in-person events, advertising, and social media posts. Pre and post-campaign surveys have been undertaken to see if the campaign has been effective; when writing this report, the results are unavailable. The material used for the campaign will be used for future North Somerset wide specific campaigns.

The EA also has a specific Flood Resilience Engagement Advisor and would lead in supporting flood action groups where residents need and desire to form one.

Part E of the LFRMS provides locally specific information that would help residents to help themselves become more flood resilient.

The Flood Risk Team also has a workstream to provide residents with property-level flood resilience measures, such as flood doors and automatically closing air bricks. So far, 14 properties have been surveyed, and progress is being made towards appointing a contractor to install the products. Subject to funding being available, installation will happen later this year.

3.6 Action A5 – Investigating surface water flooding and assets.

North Somerset Council records flooding incidents that affect property. Since 2012, over 1500 properties have been impacted by flooding. Over 20 properties are thought to have been flooded internally within the last year. There are many active investigations into the source of flooding to determine if any risk management authority is not undertaking its duties (and thereby causing the flooding) and then to understand what mitigation may be possible. The current investigations that involve the most properties are:

- Portishead, Lipgate Place
- Churchill/Lower Langford
- Abbots Leigh
- Locking
- Flax Bourton

Community-wide investigations are time-consuming and expensive. Topographical surveys, CCTV surveys of culverts and pipework (when known) and hydraulic modelling are required. Funding and resources are not always available to fund the necessary work. Flood investigations are a duty of the LLFA under the Flood and Water Management Act and, therefore, are not eligible for external funding.

Other recent investigations into single property issues include:

- Nailsea (2 locations)
- Uphill
- Loxton
- Clevedon
- Portbury

Flood investigations are very resource intensive, and understandably, residents demand that action be taken as soon as possible. However, available resources limit the extent and speed of the investigation, which is always required before a solution can be found. None of the above relates to highway flooding, which is led by highway operations.

3.7 Action A6 – Using natural flood management.

Natural flood management (NFM) uses natural features in the landscape to store and slow the flow of water. This can be measures such as dams within streams or the construction of ponds and tree planting in the right location. The works are most beneficial in the upper catchment to provide downstream benefits. NSC has undertaken two feasibility reports, one at Burrington Coombe and the other at Goblin Coombe. In each location, a range of NFM measures have been identified and are

now being implemented by the landowner (Avon Wildlife Trust) at Goblin Coombe and the Mendip Hill National Landscape at Burrington Coombe. Further measures are planned in each location; however, gaining support from the landowner and associated regulatory bodies is challenging and time consuming. Further reports will follow as the projects progress.

3.8 Action A7 – Scheme opportunities assessment.

The Scheme Opportunity Assessment is intended to be a high-level surface water flood risk assessment of 25 of the highest risk communities across North Somerset (excluding areas where extensive modelling is required, such as Weston-super-Mare) and then to identify potential options for mitigation, cost them and assess the cost-benefit ratio for each mitigation option. The funding needed to deliver each scheme will be calculated using the partnership funding calculator, with potential funding options identified. Works will only proceed where capital funding is available, including significant grant contributions from Government, in a scheme administered by the Environment Agency. It is unlikely that any schemes will be eligible for 100% grant funding from this scheme, and therefore, funding will be required from other sources for any schemes to proceed.

Opportunities for all potential schemes, nature-based solutions or property level resilience will be compared and the best option for any mitigation will be taken forward.

Benefits & Outcomes

The study will enable the prioritisation of managing surface water flood risk across North Somerset. Where schemes are financially viable, they will be progressed with a greater level of analysis, modelling, and design. Areas where schemes are not viable will be progressed, where funding is available with a combination of natural flood management and property-level flood resilience. Current funding and resources mean that only one scheme can be delivered every two years. Other benefits of the scheme are:

- Assessing the numbers of properties at risk in each location both now and with climate change.
- Adding to an evidence base for future strategies and works.
- Identifying areas that should be safeguarded for potential future schemes during location plan creation.
- Identifying a list of projects that could be developed if opportunities through development became apparent.
- Identifying projects that could synergise with other non-flood risk-related schemes, such as those being delivered through biodiversity net gain and North Somerset nature parks.
- Having the evidence base allows us to add schemes to the EA pipeline or bid for funding as and when opportunities arise.

A consultant has been appointed, and the work will be commencing soon. Areas that have experienced recent flooding are also included within this list.

4. Consultation

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has been subject to extensive consultation both externally and publicly. All the individual workstreams involve some form of consultation with those immediately affected and the wider community.

5. Financial Implications

Costs and funding

The revenue budget to support the work of the flood risk team and delivery of the action plan associated with the LFRMS is £50,000. This is supplemented where possible by obtaining external funding for specific pieces of work. For example, £60,000 has been obtained from the Environment Agency's Local Levy fund with conditional £20,000 match funding from NSC for the scheme opportunities assessment described above.

The Victorian walls improvement project is capital funded by NSC, and the possibility of obtaining central government funding for part of the works is being explored with the Environment Agency.

6. Legal Powers and Implications

Appendix A provides a list of legal powers that NSC has to be able to undertake the programme of work.

7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

The works are part of North Somerset Council's (NSC) climate change mitigation and the adopted Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, a statutory requirement under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. As the planet warms, we are experiencing more frequent and intense rainfall events, leading to increased flood risks in urban and rural areas. This exacerbates the challenges of managing surface water, groundwater, and fluvial flooding, necessitating robust and forward-looking flood risk management strategies.

Furthermore, addressing the climate change implications of flooding aligns with broader sustainability and environmental protection goals. It encourages the use of green infrastructure, which helps manage flood water and contributes to carbon sequestration, biodiversity enhancement, and the provision of recreational spaces for communities. All the schemes contribute to increasing biodiversity, improving public access, and reducing flood risk in North Somerset.

By recognising the interconnections between climate change and flooding, NSC's approach to flood risk management becomes more holistic, resilient, and sustainable. This proactive stance is essential for protecting communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems from the adverse effects of flooding in a changing climate, ensuring that measures are in place to adapt to future conditions while minimising environmental impact.

8. Risk Management

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy provides the framework for managing local flood risk in North Somerset. Local flood risk means flood risk from surface water and groundwater. The Environment Agency takes the lead in managing the risk of flooding from rivers and the sea. Cllr Waite is on the Wessex Regional Flood

and Coastal Committee, and RFCC members influence the decisions made about flooding and coastal erosion risk management in their local community.

Site-specific risk assessments will cover all physical works, reflecting standard proportionate project risk management practices designed to identify, assess, and mitigate potential risks throughout the project lifecycle. These practices include implementing a robust risk management approach that encompasses a range of strategies tailored to the project's specific needs and complexities.

Key components of this approach include:

Task Specific Risk Assessments: Conduct ongoing risk assessments at various stages of the project to identify new risks as the project evolves and to reassess the level of existing risks. This ensures that all potential hazards related to site conditions, environmental factors, and logistical challenges are identified and managed proactively. The supplier provides these.

Risk Mitigation Strategies: Developing and implementing targeted strategies to mitigate identified risks, such as scheduling works during periods of low environmental impact when there are low levels of vegetation, employing experienced contractors, and ensuring that all necessary safety measures are in place. These strategies are designed to minimise the likelihood of incidents that could lead to cost overruns, delays, or safety concerns.

Contingency Planning: Establishing contingency plans for critical risks that could impact the project timeline or budget. This includes setting aside a contingency budget to cover unexpected costs and developing action plans to address potential scenarios that could disrupt the project. There is a sufficient contingency budget for modest cost overruns.

Stakeholder Engagement: Engaging with stakeholders, including local communities, regulatory bodies, and project partners, to ensure all potential risks are considered and addressed. This collaborative approach helps identify potential opposition or concerns early in the process, allowing for the development of acceptable mitigation strategies for all parties.

Monitoring and Reporting: Implementing a structured process for monitoring risks and reporting on risk management activities to project stakeholders. This ensures transparency and accountability, enabling timely decision-making and adjustments to risk management strategies as required.

By integrating these standard proportionate project risk management practices into the workstream project framework, the likelihood of cost overruns can be further minimised. This comprehensive approach ensures that risks are managed efficiently and effectively, supporting the successful completion of the works within the anticipated budget and timeframe.

9. Equality Implications

Yes, for individual work streams.

There are no adverse equality implications associated with works to reduce flood risk.

10. Corporate Implications

None

11. Options Considered

Individual workstreams consider all potential options as standard, including a 'do nothing' option.

Author:

Simon Bunn - Flood Risk Manager

Appendices:

Appendix A – Flood Risk Team Overview

Appendix B – Environment Agency letter

Appendix C – Photographs of recent Victorian sea wall improvement projects

Background Papers:

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy [Link to Local Flood Risk Management Strategy](#).

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Flood and Water Management Team

Team purpose:

To deliver the statutory functions of the Council associated with Flood and the Water Environment and provide the necessary technical support and input as required to protect the Council's interests and support the Council's vision and priorities.

Team Capacity:

The team consist of two full time and one part time officers. One full time position is currently vacant.

Statutory Duties:

Must = indicates a statutory duty that North Somerset Council are required to fulfil. Powers and general responsibilities not shown for clarity.

Flood and Water Management Act 2010

- Must develop, maintain and apply a local flood risk management strategy for local flood risk (surface water runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses).
- Must co-operate with other risk management authorities.
- Must establish and maintain a register of structures or features that are likely to have a significant effect on a flood risk in its area. Record information including ownership and state of repair.
- Must investigate significant flooding.
- Future duty to approve, adopt and maintain sustainable drainage in new developments.

Flood Risk Regulations 2009

- Must (a) determine whether, in its opinion, there is a significant flood risk in its area, and (b) identify the part of the area affected by the risk (the "flood risk area").
- A lead local flood authority must prepare a flood risk management plan in relation to each relevant flood risk area (this must be completed every 6 years).
- The revised flood risk management plan must—
(a) take account of the likely impact of climate change on the occurrence of floods,



(b) include an assessment of the progress made towards implementing the measures under previous flood risk management plans), and
(c) if any measures proposed in the previous flood risk management plan have not been implemented, include a statement of the reasons why those measures have not been implemented.

Land Drainage Act 1991

- Must consent works for obstructions within a watercourse.
- Duty to further the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and the conservation of flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest, when exercising any function of the Act.
- Duty to have regard to the desirability of protecting and conserving buildings, sites and objects of archaeological, architectural or historic interest.
- Duty to take into account any effect which the proposals would have on the beauty or amenity of any rural or urban area or on any such flora, fauna, features, buildings, sites or objects.
- Duty to have regard to the desirability of preserving for the public any freedom of access to areas of woodland, mountains, moor, heath, down, cliff or foreshore and other places of natural beauty.
- Duty to have regard to the desirability of maintaining the availability to the public of any facility for visiting or inspecting any building, site or object of archaeological, architectural or historic interest.
- Duty to take into account any effect which the proposals would have on any such freedom of access or on the availability of any such facility.
- Duty to consult with NE if undertaking any works that may affect a SSSI.

Coast protection Act 1949

- Must consent coast protection work other than maintenance or repair (flood defences consented by EA).
- Notice must be given to coast protection authorities of work undertaken by any organisation that does not require consent.
- Must enforce the prohibition of excavations of material on or under the seashore.
- Must attend coastal group meetings.

Reservoir Act 1975

- Must appoint panel engineer for construction and supervision of reservoirs for reservoirs greater than 25,000 cubic metres. This applies to the Haywood Reservoir (superpond) and potentially other locations due to proposed change in legislation.
- Must create, test and update onsite flood plan.

- Must undertake monthly recorded inspections of the reservoir and quarterly inspections of the control structures.
- Must undertake daily inspections of the reservoir if water flows over intake weir.

The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

- Lead Local Flood Authority is a statutory consultee on major developments with surface water drainage.
- Local plans must take account of advice from the Lead Local Flood Authority.
- Lead Local Flood Authority is Statutory consultee on development consent orders.
- Must provide advice and support at appeals.

Water Industry Act 1991

- Must have the sewerage undertakers maps available for inspection by the public free of charge.

Common Law, NSC Risk Management and internal service provision

- Ensure that NSC fulfils its watercourse riparian responsibilities and duties under common law and ensuring compliance with Land Drainage Act 1991.
- Inspect, record, and manage NSC's coastal flood risk management assets.
- Inspect, record and manage NSC's flood risk assets.
- Provide advice and support to the Emergency Management Unit.
- Provide advice and support the Highway Authority.
- Provide advice and support to the seafront team about sand movements, coastal erosion, flood risk and emergency planning.
- Provide advice and respond to consultations related to water resources.

Resilience

- Must provide help and advice regarding property level resilience to businesses and residents as part of the Lead Local Flood Authority Role.

Partnerships and groups attended by Team Members

North Somerset Flood Risk Management Partnership (statutory)

- Essential for the delivery of a partnership approach to flood risk management. Requirement of Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (statutory)

- The Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) is a committee established by the Environment Agency under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010

that brings together members appointed by Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) and independent members with relevant experience for 3 purposes:

- to ensure there are coherent plans for identifying, communicating and managing flood and coastal erosion risks across catchments and shorelines.
- to encourage efficient, targeted and risk-based investment in flood and coastal erosion risk management that represents value for money and benefits local communities.
- to provide a link between the Environment Agency, LLFAs, other risk management authorities, and other relevant bodies to build understanding of flood and coastal erosion risks in its area.

Severn Estuary Coastal Group (part statutory)

- Brings together a region's key partners in flood defence and coastal management – principally the coastal managers from maritime Local Authorities, Port Authorities and the Environment Agency. Other interested organisations, such as Natural England, English Heritage, landowners and Defra, will also be members.
- Creates, manages and maintains Shoreline Management Plans (SMP) that define the policy for coastal management over the next 100 years.
- Covers the NSC Coast down to Anchor Head.

South West Coastal Group (part statutory)

- As above but from Anchor Head south.

Severn Estuary Partnership

- An independent initiative, hosted by Cardiff University, to work with local stakeholders in promoting a sustainable approach to the planning, management, and development of the estuary.

Association of Severn Estuary Relevant Authorities (part statutory)

- Develop and maintain a single management scheme with an action plan for the Severn Estuary European Marine Site (EMS). ASERA has produced good practice guidance for responsible use of the estuary.
- Competent and Relevant Authorities bordering the Estuary have a statutory duty to manage their activities within the Severn Estuary EMS to minimise impacts and the associated deterioration of the European protected features. ASERA facilitates these Authorities to discharge their statutory duties in the most efficient and cost effective way possible.

Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (statutory)

- The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MaCAA) introduced a new framework for managing the marine environment and providing greater access to it.
- The Full Authority is comprised of 30 members drawn from relevant Local Authorities (Councillors), General Members (appointed to the Authority by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Statutory Appointees representing the MMO, the Environment Agency (EA) and Natural England (NE). D&S IFCA is funded via several different funding Authorities (councils) with an additional contribution from central government.

North Somerset Levels and Moors Partnership

- Partnership formed by Avon Wildlife Trust and includes the Environment Agency, Natural England, Wessex Water, North Somerset Council, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) and the Internal Drainage Board.
- Objective is to work with landowners to improve habitat management for wildlife and to promote soil management to help mitigate flooding, improve water quality, and increase habitat for wetland birds.

Bristol and Avon Catchment Partnership

- The Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership (BACP) comprises a range of organisations, groups, authorities and individuals dedicated to working together to improve the water environment and provide wider benefits for people and nature at a catchment scale – known as a Catchment Based Approach (CaBA).
- Formed in 2012 with support of central government, the partnership has produced a catchment plan to work towards achieving a better water environment for all.

South West Flood Risk Managers Group

- LLFA meeting of the Wessex Area plus Devon and Cornwall which meets to discuss the LLFA role, future strategies, resources and funding for LLFA's, group has links to National groups ADEPT, TAG, LGA and with DEFRA with opportunities to influence national policy.

Association of SuDs Authorities

- Formal association supporting the delivery of sustainable drainage.
- ASA is a member organisation whose aim is to promote and develop the use of sustainable drainage within all new developments.

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Our ref: EC20203

Your ref:

Date: 5 February 2024

Dear Cllr Waite,

Thank you for your letter dated 18 December 2023, where you outlined your concerns regarding ongoing maintenance of flood defences and flood risk infrastructure within North Somerset. We are committed to undertaking routine maintenance across North Somerset. We recognise the important role that both the Environment Agency and North Somerset Council has in ensuring flood risk is managed appropriately so communities and infrastructure are resilient to the impacts of sea level rise and climate change.

I will respond to your points in the order they were written.

Routine Maintenance and Inspections

As you are aware, the Environment Agency carries out annual routine maintenance to deliver Flood Risk Management along the Main Rivers across North Somerset, using our permissive powers. It is the responsibility of all riparian landowners to carry out watercourse maintenance work. Therefore, only where the Environment Agency are a riparian landowner are we obligated to carry out maintenance work.

Due to the permissive nature of our powers, we are unable to carry out maintenance for non-flood defence reasons, such as removal of rubbish from watercourses.

Major flood defence structures across North Somerset are attended on a weekly basis and coastal embankments are mowed annually. Asset inspections take place annually between Portishead to Sand Bay and biennially between Weston Bay and the tidal Axe embankments.

The Main River watercourses within North Somerset are:

Lox Yeo, Uphill Great Rhyne, Cross Rhyne, Banwell, Congresbury Yeo, Kenn, Black Ditch, Clevedon Boundary Rhyne, Tickenham Boundary Rhyne, Yearlings Ditch, Blind Yeo, Land Yeo, Portbury Ditch, Walton Brook, Weston Brook, Clapton Brook, Sperrings Rhyne, Sandy Rhyne, and Drove Rhyne.

Maintenance funding is allocated on an annually from a national revenue allocation and distributed on flood risk benefit verses costs basis. It is therefore subject to annual change caused by national allocation levels.

All capital maintenance interventions bid for funding separately and the solution must demonstrate it is economically viable.

We attach in Appendix A details of our current maintenance schedules for the locations in North Somerset in your letter.

Coastal Flood Defences

We welcome your concern about coastal flood risk to the North Somerset Council area. There are currently more than of 30,000 properties within the tidal flood risk area in North Somerset, which is substantially more than any other local authority in the Southwest. There is an extensive network of flood defence embankments, walls and outfalls which provide protection to communities and infrastructure in North Somerset. The potential impact of sea level rise combined with the ageing of defences will further increase that risk in the future.

The long-term policies for managing the coast are set out in the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). There are two SMPs that cover the North Somerset Coastline, the North Devon and Somerset SMP covers Weston-super Mare and westwards, whereas the Severn Estuary SMP covers the area to the East of Weston super Mare. The SMP is owned by the coastal groups and the SMPs have both been formally adopted by North Somerset Council along with the other local authorities in the area they cover. There are also Beach Management Plans (BMP) for Sand Bay and Weston-super-Mare to Uphill which look in more detail at the activities required to maintain the sea defences as well as options, costs and timing of future interventions.

The SMP and its policies should be a material consideration in the local planning process as well as informing communities of the policies. Consequently, the local plan should reflect the SMP policies and ensure that development can only be permitted where it can be demonstrated as being safe for the duration of its expected lifetime as set out by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Where those conditions cannot be met and/or where there is a need to allow specific and appropriate types of development a Coastal Change Management Area (CCMA) can be designated to ensure that inappropriate development is avoided. We understand that North Somerset Council has not yet designated any area as a CCMA, but are seeking to designate CCMA's as part of their emerging Local Plan.

Whilst the Environment Agency have the powers to address tidal flood risk under the Water Resources Act, North Somerset Council have responsibility for coastal protection under the 1949 Coast Protection Act. North Somerset Council are also the owner of many coastal assets such as the sea walls at Clevedon.

Woodspring Bay and Sand Bay form part of the defences that protect a large area from Weston-super-Mare to Clevedon including the M5 and mainline railway. For Sand Bay, the SMP policy states Hold the Line throughout the next 100 years. The SMP recognises that the sand dunes and beach are critical to this and will require various management interventions to achieve that goal over the next century. Marshall's Bank, Salthouse Fields and Woodspring Bay are all in the same SMP policy unit which states Managed Realignment for the next 100 years. It does not clarify which sections should be realigned, when, or to what extent as this needs to be defined in future through studies and negotiations with individual landowners. For the Marshall's Bank area it would be impractical to realign the defences, so any future upgrades are likely to be carried out on the existing alignment. In line with the

policy, we constructed about 300m of new set back bank on the Congresbury Yeo in 2016, creating a higher, more robust defence as well as a valuable intertidal area widely utilised as a high tide roost. The Environment Agency has commissioned an Adaptive Pathways study for the Clevedon to Sand Bay area. Work is currently ongoing, but when completed it will provide updated modelling of the flood risks and will consider the requirements for the flood defences into the future. The report will set out options, costs and timescales that will inform discussions with the local community that we expect will form the basis of a community engagement programme. Ultimately, the project will enable us to create a prioritised programme of future capital works along the coastline.

Weston-super-Mare seafront has a policy of Hold the Line throughout the next 100 years. The sea defences including the flood walls and gates at Weston-super-Mare are in the council's ownership and were constructed by North Somerset Council a little over a decade ago. The intention set out by the council when the scheme was approved for Grant in Aid funding was that they would require raising in the future to ensure that adequate flood protection is maintained. North Somerset Council have recently undertaken work to update the Beach Management Plan for Weston-super-Mare. This plan sets out the maintenance need for the defences, including the beach re-profiling that the council undertakes annually to ensure adequate beach material remains across the frontage. It also sets out the requirement for future upgrades to the defences. As the asset owner and Maritime Local Authority, as defined by the 1949 Coast Protection Act, it is the responsibility of North Somerset Council to determine what maintenance and upgrades are required for the defences here and develop a business case, approvals, design and funding package to deliver those works.

The proposals to upgrade the defences at Pill are being led by Bristol City Council. We note and agree with your comments about the need for careful public engagement with the community there and we have made Bristol City Council aware of that. We will also make the council aware of your kind offer of support in that process.

Funding for Flood and Coastal Risk Management schemes is available to all Risk Management Authorities through Flood Defence Grant in Aid. This is allocated through an annual process that is administered by the Environment Agency which allocates funding on a nationally prioritised basis. Funding levels for qualifying schemes are determined through completion of a Partnership Funding Calculator which uses the benefits derived from the proposed scheme such as properties protected from flooding, economic benefits or the amount of habitat created to calculate the amount of Flood Defence Grant in Aid available. It is very rare that a scheme can be 100% funded from Flood Defence Grant in Aid alone, and the expectation is that Partnership Funding will be required from beneficiaries to make up the shortfall and pay for enhancements to the proposed scheme. For example, where we are the promoter of the scheme we would work with the local council amongst others to identify potential partnership funding sources as it is the promoter of the scheme who is responsible for identification of the required funding before approval for the scheme can be granted. As NSC is the asset owner and Maritime Local Authority, we would expect NSC to promote these coastal schemes and lead upon attracting partnership funding for future projects.

We would welcome a meeting with North Somerset Council to discuss ongoing maintenance and ways to work together to manage the flood risk in North Somerset. If you have any questions in the meantime, please speak to Sam Archer, Flood &

Coastal Risk Management, Partnership and Strategic Overview Advisor
sam.archer@environment-agency.gov.uk, or Ben Evans, Asset Performance Officer
ben.evans1@environment-agency.gov.uk for routine maintenance queries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Lockington', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ED LOCKINGTON
Acting Area Director, Wessex

Appendix A

Routine Maintenance Locations

Portbury Ditch at Portishead, particularly around Brampton Way.

Routine vegetation maintenance is planned on an annual basis in the autumn to the specifications outlined below. The work is carried out from the right-hand bank from Bristol Road to Harbour Road. From Harbour Road to the outfall screen work is carried out from the left-hand bank. Housing development on the left-hand bank has inhibited access to the watercourse to carry out work from both banks.

- M4 specification consists of cutting bankside vegetation to a height of 75mm-100mm up to the water's edge. This cut is carried out along the working bank.
- W1 specification consists of removing all in channel vegetation to the channel bed across the whole width of the watercourse.

Land Yeo at Clevedon.

Routine vegetation maintenance is planned on an annual basis, usually in late summer/autumn.

Vegetation management along the Land Yeo in Clevedon is to the specifications outlined below. The work is mostly carried out from the left-hand bank, some sections are carried out along both banks. Low hanging tree limbs and other access issues are restricting access to the watercourse. Some of this is on land owned by North Somerset Council.

- M3 specification consists of cutting bankside vegetation to a height of 75mm-100mm leaving a 1m margin uncut from the water's edge. This work is carried out along the working bank.
- W6 specification consists of removing all in channel vegetation to the channel bed, leaving the aquatic margins left uncut.

Uphill Great Rhyne at Uphill.

Routine vegetation maintenance is planned on an annual basis, usually earlier in the summer. Health and safety concerns limit our maintenance between Douglas Court and Beaumont Close.

Vegetation management along the Uphill Great Rhyne in Weston-Super-Mare is to the specifications outlined below. The work is mostly carried out from the left-hand bank, some sections are carried out along both banks. Work is carried out along both banks of the river for the full extent of the river within the Uphill area.

- M4 specification consists of cutting bankside vegetation to a height of 75mm-100mm up to the water's edge. This cut is carried out along the working bank.
- W1 specification consists of removing all in channel vegetation to the channel bed across the whole width of the watercourse.

We experience access issues in this location due to the lack of vegetation management from riparian landowners in the area. We would appreciate your support and wish to work with you to help us improve access issues in this location. We require help from North Somerset Council in the removal of fly tipped waste from the riverbanks once maintenance has been undertaken by the Environment Agency.

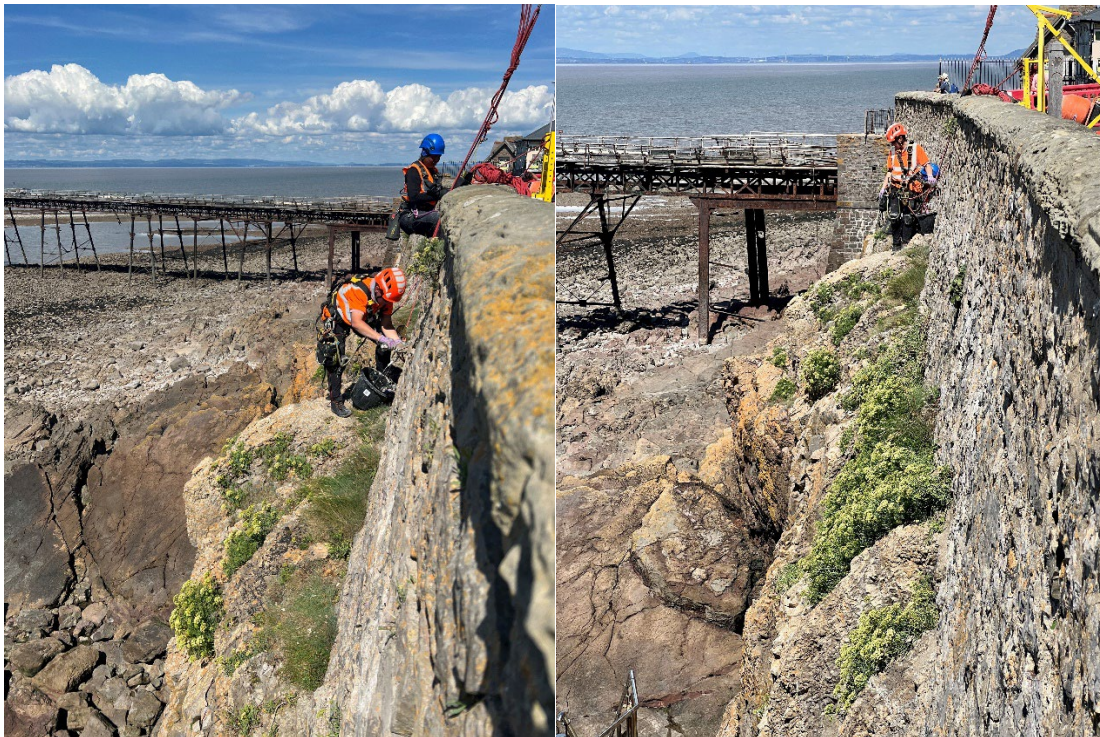
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Appendix C

Weston Phase 1 before and after



Weston Phase 2



Clevedon Phase 1 before and after



Clevedon Phase 2



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North Somerset Council

Report to the Transport, Climate and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Date of Meeting: 7 March 2024

Subject of Report: Climate Emergency Action Plan update and progress report

Town or Parish: All

Officer/Member Presenting: Victoria Barvenova, Climate Emergency Project Manager

Key Decision: No

Reason: The recommendations within this report are not decisions of the Executive.

Recommendations

Members of the Transport, Climate and Community Policy Scrutiny panel to:

- Support the adoption of Climate Adaptation Strategy
- Support the development of Net Zero Pathway
- Note the Action Plan information on carbon emissions of council own estate.

Note the progress on existing projects to tackle climate change, which are also summarised in this report

1. Summary of Report

The report sets out progress update on the actions of Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan. The report provides the overview of Climate Adaptation Strategy and requests the panel to support the adoption of the strategy. The report outlines the development of Net Zero Pathway for council's emissions and requests the panel to support its development.

2. Policy

In 2019 NSC declared a climate emergency with ambition of becoming Net Zero council and area by 2030. In November 2022 council adopted a refreshed Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) that identifies priority areas aimed at decarbonisation:

1. Become a net zero carbon council
2. Decarbonise transport
3. Decarbonise the built environment

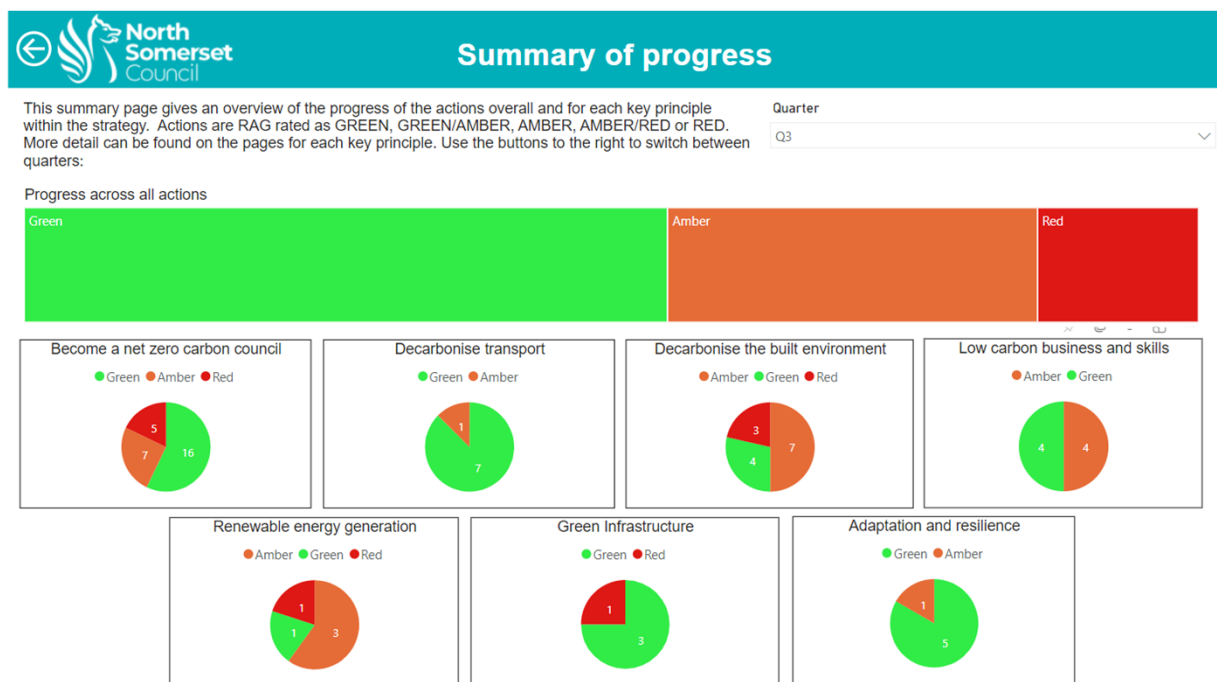
4. Low carbon business and skills
5. Renewable energy generation
6. Resources and waste
7. Adaptation and resilience
8. Replenish our carbon stores

3. Details

The Progress against Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP)

The progress on CEAP is monitored on the quarterly basis and is part of corporate performance framework. The progress against actions is publicly available and can be found on council website¹. Figure 3 provides an overview of current progress across all eight priorities of the CEAP.

Figure 1. Summary of progress.



Whilst the overall progress against actions in the CEAP is on track, it's visible that there are areas of concerns around our own estate and fleet, built environment and renewable energy generation. These are discussed below.

The latest progress report to full council from 19th September provides the update on council's and area's annual emissions and shows that the lack of progress against 2030 target². Meaning, it is necessary for the council to address the risks and areas of concern.

Projects and provision update

¹ [Our plans to tackle climate change | North Somerset Council \(n-somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk)

² [Committee Report NSC \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk)

Become a net zero carbon council

Carbon Literacy

The carbon literacy numbers are improving, in particular, following the success of Carbon Literacy Action Day (CLAD) on 4th December. Almost 200 individuals from different organisations attended the event and received their accreditations. The event was acknowledged by the Carbon Literacy Project and NSC was awarded a CLAD Catalyst award.

Own Estate

- The delivery of the Salix Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) on the Campus is on track. The successful implementation of the project will reduce council's emissions by 120 tCO₂e.
- The Salix PSDS application for Hutton Moor has been submitted and is being reviewed by Salix. If successful, the project will secure £2.4m and reduce council's footprint by 400 tCO₂e.
- The accommodation strategy is supporting the delivery of the hybrid working implementation to incorporate energy savings within council buildings.
- An Energy Manager has been appointed and started at NSC in January. This will allow the council to develop energy management plans for its own assets, support with emissions reduction, and develop proposals for renewables.
- Net Zero Pathway for council's emissions is being developed and is addressed in the section below – much of this will relate to NSC's estate.

Own Fleet

- 3-weekly residual waste collection is going for consultation this year, the reduction in journeys made by NSEC will reduce emissions from own fleet.
- The EV salary sacrifice scheme uptake is seeing a gradual increase.

Behaviour change and engagement

- WECA led climate engagement campaign is being developed in partnership with 4 UAs. The campaign is based on the segmentation work available through Britain Talks Climate³.
- The segmentation of NS based on the Britain Talks Climate Toolkit has been completed.

Areas for improvement:

- Limited progress has been made on staff travel although the Accommodation Strategy concentration of staff in Weston is expected to reduce staff commuting overall including the EV charging points.

Transport

- Delivery of Bus Service Improvement Plan
- Positive progress made on delivery of the Pier to Pier Way, expected to be complete by end March

³ [Britain Talks Climate: a toolkit for engaging the British public on climate change - Climate Outreach](#)

- Construction phase for liveable neighbourhoods in Weston-super-Mare Central has been agreed.
- Electric Vehicle charging strategy has been adopted.

Built environment

- Bright Green Homes scheme is being delivered to support the decarbonisation of the 87 low income off gas properties.
- The partnership funding bid to Innovate UK with Bristol City Council was successful for £3.5m. The programme is being delivered and will allow to develop the Local Area Energy Plans for the WoE region.
- Thermal Imaging Cameras project launched in partnership with libraries. We have seen 60 reservations for the service that is now fully booked until next autumn.

Areas for improvement:

- Work delayed on targeting Private Rented Sector for home improvement.
- Development of the regional domestic retrofit strategy is delayed.
- Overall delays in progress on energy efficiency improvements of the NS housing stock.

Business and skills

- Through UKSPF funding, we have been able to deliver a Net Zero Business grants programme. The first round has seen 8 local organisations receive a grant to help decarbonise their buildings which when all completed will save 50 tonnes CO₂e each year. Outcomes of the grant so far include Squarebird who installed mechanical ventilation to improve temperature regulation in their offices, Bradley's Juices who had Solar PV installed and Mendip Activity Centre who upgraded their insulation and had Solar PV installed. The second round of the grant has commenced with successful applicants receiving a free carbon survey from Future Leap. The second round of the capital grants will open for applicants in a few months.
- The SME's Net Zero Support Guide and a dedicated business support page have been developed and is available online⁴.
- The partnership funding bid to Innovate UK with WECA was successful for £600k to deliver the Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan for the Avonmouth Cluster.

Natural Environment

- £140k through Avon Climate Tree Fund continues to support the increase of tree canopies in the region.
- The Biodiversity Net Gain business case has been developed and is pending the legislation confirmation from the central government.

Renewables

- Solar Together Round 2 has been successful with NS's highest number of registrations in the West of England. The Solar PV installations are taking place over the next months with 320 planned across WoE.

⁴ [Net zero business support | North Somerset Council \(n-somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/net-zero-business-support/)

- The new Energy Manager is reviewing previous work to assess the potential for renewables on NSC buildings and land and will prepare recommendations on investments.

Areas for improvement:

- Opportunities for council owned renewables need to be identified as well as projects to support community energy.

Adaptation Strategy

Following the initial work that we detailed in our [previous report](#) to the council, we have made progress towards completing a draft of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

The development of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy follows the UK government's Climate Change Act 2008⁵, which created a framework for building the UK's ability to adapt to climate change, including:

- A UK-wide climate change risk assessment that must take place every five years.
- A national adaptation programme which must be in place and reviewed every five years to address the most pressing climate change risks to the UK.

Adaptation has been identified as a key action in NSC's Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Climate change adaptation refers to the process of adjusting our ways of living to cope with the current or expected impacts of climate change⁶.

In North Somerset, we are already experiencing and are expecting to see more impacts of climate change including:

- Warmer and drier summers likely to break temperature records⁷
- Wetter and warmer winters
- More extreme weather events including devastating flooding⁸
- Sea level rise

The purpose of climate change adaptation is to help ensure that we can respond to and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

The North Somerset Adaptation Strategy considers:

- Climate projections
- Flood risks
- Heat Vulnerability
- Economic Impacts

⁵ [Climate Change Act 2008 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

⁶ [IPCC AR6 WGII Annex-II.pdf](#)

⁷ [Record breaking 2022 indicative of future UK climate - Met Office](#)

⁸ [Climate change insights, health and well-being, UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

The strategy includes the assessment of the key climate-related risks for North Somerset in line with the Third National Adaptation Framework⁹ and UK Climate Risk Assessment¹⁰, as well as a detailed action plan. Whilst developing the adaptation strategy, several themes were identified, and the actions have been organised around these ideas:

1. Governance

The theme sets out actions for North Somerset Council to deliver and monitor the Climate Adaptation Strategy, as well as setting out policies to support adaptation implementation. The section underlines the importance of council's partnership working and engagement.

2. Infrastructure, Transport and Assets

The actions include adaptation measures to improve the local highways network, to reduce the region's vulnerability to flooding and overheating, and set out commitments to improve vulnerability of transport and own assets.

3. Natural Environment

The principle includes set of actions the council can deliver or act as an enabler to, to support nature recovery, reduce flood and heat risks through delivery of council's Green Infrastructure Strategy.

4. Health, Communities and the Built Environment

The theme is exploring actions the council could take or enable that can support wider outcomes of North Somerset Residents including climate justice, improving health and wellbeing and adapting the housing stock.

5. Business and Industry

Actions include understanding the evidence behind business and industry vulnerabilities to climate change, as well as, setting out initiatives to engage local businesses in adapting to climate change impacts.

The draft adaptation strategy is in Appendix 1.

Net Zero Pathway

Work is progressing well on a Net Zero Pathway, which will map out the council's emissions and use this intelligence to create a prioritised programme of actions to bring us to Net Zero. It is anticipated that the work will conclude in the Spring.

The section below sets out emissions and progress to date.

The Council aspires to reach net zero for at least Scopes 1 and 2 at an earlier date than 2030 if possible. Good progress has been made over the years since

⁹ [The Third National Adaptation Programme \(NAP3\) and the Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

¹⁰ [UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

2018/2019, however the data from 2022/23 financial year has seen an increase in the council's emissions as seen at Table 2.

Table 2. Emissions associated with Council's activities.

		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Change since base year
	Scope 1						
Scope 1	Own buildings	1,158	1,044	1,182	1,210	894	-23%
	Own transport	2,018	2,083	1,958	1,974	1,673	-17%
	Leased buildings	1,408	1,164	710	1,188	1,147	-19%
	Total Scope 1	4,584	4,291	3,850	4,372	3,714	-19%
	Scope 2 (Purchased Electricity)						
Scope 2	Own buildings	1,429	1,314	1,025	1,051	952	-33%
	Leased buildings	758	705	265	422	514	-32%
	Streetlights, traffic control, other buildings, miscellaneous	2,001	1,791	1,064	733	608	-70%
	Owned electric vehicles	22	22	14	20	20	-8%
	Total Scope 2	4,209	3,831	2,368	2,226	2,095	-50%
	Total Scope 1 and 2	8,793	8,122	6,218	6,598	5,809	-34%
	Scope 3						
Scope 3	Buildings	4,214	4,283	3,802	3,835	3,058	-27%
	Transmission & distribution	288	260	176	155	151	-47%
	Business travel	138	162	150	225	217	57%
	Outsourced activities	770	768	673	770	990	29%
	Employee commuting	733	699	174	421	556	-24%
	Water	57	53	34	15	13	-78%
	Total Scope 3	6,200	6,226	5,009	5,421	4,985	-20%
	Total Gross Emissions	14,993	14,348	11,227	12,019	10,794	-28%

Based on the Greenhouse Gas protocol¹¹ and recommendations provided by CCC in the progress report to UK Parliament, officers are pursuing a series of actions to help put in place the right leadership and actions to accelerate delivery. Net Zero Pathway will seek to quantify and address the most significant sources of the council's emissions and to prioritise the most effective actions and resources within the Climate Emergency Action plan to address them. Each workstream and action will be assessed as to their level of impact on the reduction in emissions. The pathway will allow a more robust monitoring of progress and provide opportunities for the Council to take action and prioritise decisions.

Net Zero Pathway will consider the measurable actions the council can take to reduce its Scope 1 and 2, and will suggest options for Scope 3 reduction in line with the 2030 target.

The key principles of the pathways will include:

- Asset prioritization in line with the Strategic Asset Management Plan and Planned and Preventative Maintenance Programme.
- Energy Strategy
- Alignment of funding
- Reduction in mileage for own fleet
- Electrification of own fleet
- Reduction in staff business travel and commuting (and/or reduction in emissions created by that travel)
- Carbon offsetting.

The pathway will assign ownership to multiple services across NSC to maximise the external funding opportunities and rationalise energy use.

4. Consultation

The report was developed in consultation with the Climate Emergency Project Officer group.

5. Financial Implications

The recommendations of this report do not in themselves have direct financial implications. The Action Plan includes a section on financial considerations and existing and potential funding support for initiatives.

To deliver net zero carbon and to transition to a low emissions area, additional funding will be required. Where this requires funding from council budgets, proposals will be subject to normal financial governance and decision-making, including the preparation of costed business cases. The business cases will also need to consider the potential costs of inactivity on climate change, including lost revenue and impact to life.

Costs

There are no costs associated with this report.

¹¹ [ghg-protocol-revised.pdf \(ghgprotocol.org\)](https://ghgprotocol.org)

Funding

The report doesn't identify any costs or funding.

6. Legal Powers and Implications

The recommendations of this report do not in themselves have legal implications. As initiatives within the Action Plan are further developed, there may be legal implications for the council. These will be considered through formal governance arrangements and decisions as required by the council's constitution.

7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

The aim of this report is to address the Climate Emergency and deliver a net zero council and area by 2030.

8. Risk Management

The Climate Emergency is recognised as a key corporate risk which the Strategy and Action Plan will help to address.

9. Equality Implications

No specific Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for this progress update. Individual projects will be subject to EIAs as required.

10. Corporate Implications

The climate emergency is a cross-cutting issue and a corporate priority; all services will be required to assist in delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan. Directorate Action Plans for the Climate Emergency are in place across all services.

11. Options Considered

The report is for information only.

Author:

Victoria Barvenova, Climate Emergency Project Manager

Appendices:

Draft Climate Adaptation Strategy

Background Papers:

Climate Emergency Action Plan [n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-03/31208 Climate Emergency Action Plan ACC.pdf](https://n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-03/31208_Climate_Emergency_Action_Plan_ACC.pdf).

Climate Emergency Progress Update to full council [Committee Report NSC \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://moderngov.co.uk).

12. Appendix 1. Draft Climate Adaptation Strategy

Introduction

In 2019 North Somerset Council declared a climate emergency with the aim to become a carbon neutral council and area by 2030. The same year the council adopted a Climate Emergency Strategy¹² followed by a refreshed Climate Emergency Action Plan¹³ in November 2022. Climate change adaptation has been identified as one of the key priorities as part of the council's response to tackle climate change.

The development of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy follows the UK government's Climate Change Act 2008¹⁴, which created a framework for building the UK's ability to adapt to climate change, including:

- A UK-wide climate change risk assessment that must take place every five years.
- A national adaptation programme which must be in place and reviewed every five years to address the most pressing climate change risks to the UK.

The strategy includes the assessment of the key climate-related risks for North Somerset in line with the Third National Adaptation Framework¹⁵ and UK Climate Risk Assessment¹⁶, as well as a detailed action plan with the following key principles:

1. Governance

The theme sets out actions for North Somerset Council to deliver and monitor the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, as well as setting out policies that could be implemented to support climate adaptation implementation. The section underlines the importance of council's partnership working and engagement.

2. Infrastructure, Transport and Assets

The actions include climate change adaptation measures to improve the local highways network including strategic active travel routes, to reduce the region's vulnerability to flooding and overheating, and set out commitments to improve vulnerability of transport and own assets.

3. Natural Environment

The principle includes set of actions the council can deliver or act as an enabler to, to support nature recovery, reduce flood and heat risks through delivery of council's Green Infrastructure Strategy.

4. Health, Communities and the Built Environment

The theme is exploring actions the council could take or enable that can support wider outcomes of North Somerset Residents including climate justice, improving health and wellbeing and embedding climate change adaptations into the housing stock.

¹² [North Somerset climate emergency strategy 2019.pdf \(n-somerset.gov.uk\)](#)

¹³ [North Somerset Council Climate Emergency Action Plan \(n-somerset.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁴ [Climate Change Act 2008 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁵ [The Third National Adaptation Programme \(NAP3\) and the Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁶ [UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

5. Business and Industry

Actions include understanding the evidence behind business and industry vulnerabilities to climate change, as well as, setting out initiatives to engage local businesses in adapting to climate change impacts.

The climate change adaptation strategy takes in consideration the data available through the North Somerset Joint strategic needs assessment¹⁷ and supports with council's strategic vision by aligning with:

- North Somerset Council Corporate Plan
- Climate Emergency Action Plan
- Health and Wellbeing strategy¹⁸
- Flood Risk Management Strategy
- Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Local Plan¹⁹
- Waste Management Strategy

What is climate change adaptation?

Climate change adaptation refers to the process of adjusting our ways of living to cope with the current or expected impacts of climate change²⁰.

In North Somerset, we are already experiencing and are expecting to see more impacts of climate change including:

- Warmer and drier summers likely to break temperature records²¹
- Wetter and warmer winters
- More extreme weather events, including devastating flooding²²
- Sea level rise

The purpose of climate change adaptation is to help ensure that we can respond to and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Why we need climate change adaptation?

Adaptation has been identified as a key action in NSC's Climate Emergency Action Plan. The Climate Emergency Action Plan outlines that as well as more regular flooding, higher temperatures, and more regular instances of extreme weather over the coming years, climate change is also likely to increase water insecurity and worsen air quality in North Somerset.

North Somerset Council's response to the climate emergency is not just about reducing emissions but also about preparing our businesses and communities to be more resilient to a changing climate. Successful climate change adaptation coexists alongside climate change mitigation to minimise the future effects of climate change whilst ensuring we can manage the impacts and seize the opportunities from the changes that have already occurred. We need to embed climate change adaptation

¹⁷ [Joint strategic needs assessment - overview | North Somerset Council \(n-somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/joint-strategic-needs-assessment-overview/)

¹⁸ [Health and wellbeing strategy 2021-24 | North Somerset Council \(n-somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing-strategy-2021-24/)

¹⁹ [Our Local Plan | North Somerset Council \(n-somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/our-local-plan/)

²⁰ [PCC_AR6_WGII_Annex-II.pdf](#)

²¹ [Record breaking 2022 indicative of future UK climate - Met Office](#)

²² [Climate change insights, health and well-being, UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

within North Somerset as without action, the impacts of climate change are expected to pass costs to households, businesses and government.²³

13. National and Global Context

The urgency of the changing climate has been recognised by governments internationally for many years, with a key turning point being the Paris Agreement signed in 2015. In December 2015, the climate change summit in Paris saw a deal being made between nearly 200 countries which agreed to cut emissions to attempt to limit the rise in global temperatures to less than 2°C. The deal united all the world's nations in a single agreement on tackling climate change for the first time in history. In October 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) produced a special report on the projected impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways. This aimed to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty. In Summer 2021, the IPCC published a subsequent report indicating that we are due to reach 1.5 degrees by 2040 revealing that it's happening faster than we expected and it is going to affect the whole world. Since even the adjusted targets, we have seen record breaking temperatures, catastrophic weather events and 2023's average temperature proved to be 1.5 degrees above the baseline temperature²⁴. This is due to the El Nino²⁵ that rises the temperatures in the Pacific Ocean and has direct impact on global weather. Following the Climate Change Act 2008, the UK government set its own target for cutting emissions and tackling the climate crisis. In 2019, over two thirds of local authorities have set a net zero target, and across the country, the lexicon of the climate crisis is embedded in people's everyday lives. This all goes to show how entwined and complex the relationship is between the international position on climate change and our response on a local level.

In addition, there is strong evidence of direct links between climate impacts and public health²⁶. Extreme weather events will create additional pressure on local health services including increase in hospital admissions and mental health care²⁷. The Climate Change Committee's Climate risks assessment²⁸ estimated some of the economic and social impacts of extreme weather events in the last 10 years as seen in Table 3.

Table 3. CCC's examples from extreme weather events in the UK.

	Economic Damages	Deaths	Other environmental impacts
Summer Heatwaves	£770 million- total estimated productivity loss in 2010 heatwave	2500+ heat-related deaths were recorded during the summer of	Localised fish die-offs due to de-oxygenation of streams and rivers

²³ [The Third National Adaptation Programme \(NAP3\) and the Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting \(publishing.service.gov.uk\).](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/424243/the-third-national-adaptation-programme-nap3-and-the-fourth-strategy-for-climate-adaptation-reporting.pdf)

²⁴ [World's first year-long breach of key 1.5C warming limit - BBC News](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-57111111)

²⁵ <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/learn-about/weather/oceans/el-nino>

²⁶ [Main Climate Change and Public Health Indicators: scoping review \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/424243/main-climate-change-and-public-health-indicators-scoping-review.pdf)

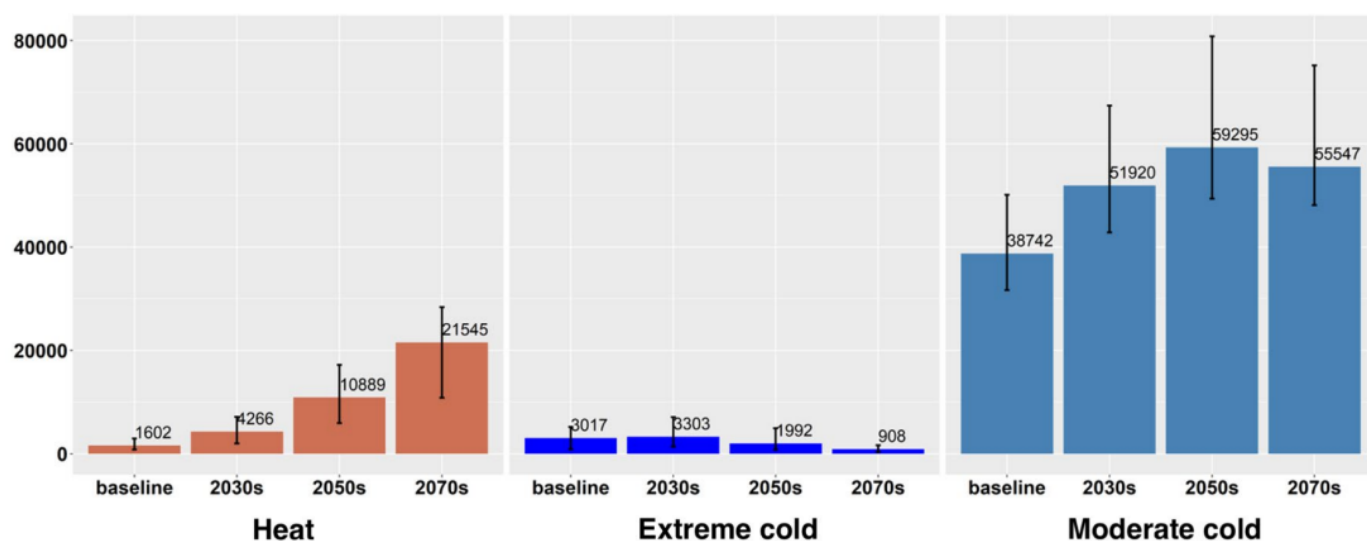
²⁷ [A method for monetising the mental health costs of flooding \(publishing.service.gov.uk\).](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/424243/a-method-for-monetising-the-mental-health-costs-of-flooding.pdf)

²⁸ [Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk - Climate Change Committee \(theccc.org.uk\)](https://www.theccc.org.uk/reports/2019/independent-assessment-of-uk-climate-risk/)

		2020 in England: the highest number since 2003	during the 2018 heatwave
Flooding	£1.6 billion – overall cost of the 2015-16 winter floods	10-15 deaths recorded as a direct result of flooding in 2007	30% increase in topsoil degradation during winter 2015/16 floods in a sample of Scottish catchments
Drought	Economic costs of the 2012 drought were estimated at £1655 million in revenues and £96 million in profit	None recorded due to drought in the last 10 years	A net reduction in carbon uptake of ecosystems was observed during the 2018 drought across Europe
Wildfire	£32 million – agriculture sector losses from wildfire in 2020	No Direct deaths caused by wildfire in the last 10 years	174,000 tonnes of carbon estimated to have been lost from the Flow Country wildfire in Scotland 2019 ²⁹

Recent report from UK Health Security Agency³⁰ further outlines the health impacts of climate change on UK population, indicating increase of mortality in the absence of adaptation measures. Figure 1 demonstrates UK heat and cold deaths for all ages at baseline (2007 to 2018) and projected for 2030s, 2050s and 2070s (based on bias corrected UKCP18 data). The bars represent the mean across the 12 climate model realisations and the error bars are minimum and maximum ranges of the scenarios. Population growth and ageing are included.

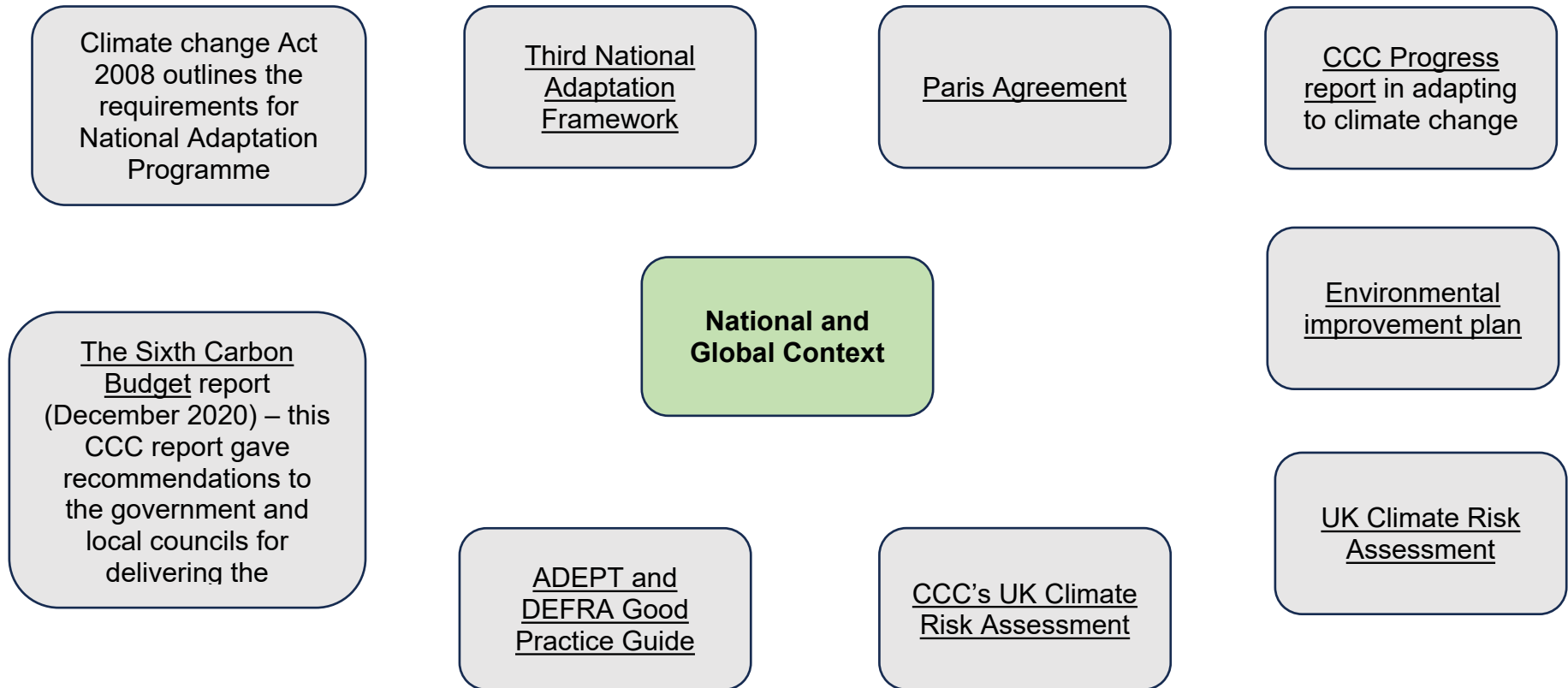
Figure 1. Annual temperature related death in UK.



²⁹ The Third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Technical Report

³⁰ [Climate change: health effects in the UK - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/672214/Climate_change_health_effects_in_the_UK.pdf)

Figure 1. National and global context.



Climate Projections

The UK government's current Environmental Improvement Plan³¹ states that "while we aim to limit global warming to 1.5°C, evidence shows that we must be prepared for warming up to 4°C". The Climate Change Committee advice is to plan for 2°C of global warming and assess the risks for 4°C of global warming by 2100.

The climate projections continue to intensify. Whilst the projections depend on global actions aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the current trends for the South West of England from 2018 UK Climate Projections³² predict a significant increase in temperatures in the second half of the century and are shown in the table below. The temperature projections shown below are calculated using the Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP) which are a calculation of a greenhouse gas concentration trajectory which the IPCC adopted and uses for their climate modelling and research.

Table 1. Temperature increases for South West.

	2050s RCP2.6 (50th percentile)	2050s RCP6.0 (50th percentile)	2080s RCP2.6 (50th percentile)	2080s RCP6.0 (50th percentile)
Mean Annual Temperature	up to +2°C	Between +2°C and +4°C	up to +2°C	up to +3°C
Mean Winter Temperature	up to +1°C	up to +2°C	up to +2°C	up to +3°C
Mean Summer Temperature	up to +2°C	Between +2°C and +4°C	Between +2°C and +3°C	up to +4°C

The Climate Impact tool³³ provides the data for several factors for 2°C and 4°C scenarios in England based on the UK Climate Risk Indicators³⁴, as seen in table below.

Table 2. England National Data.

Climate Impact	Effect of climate change	Present Day	By 2050 (+2C) scenario	By 2100 (+2C) scenario	By 2100 (+4C) scenario
Summer mean daily max temp	Warmer	20.4°C	+2.4°C	+3.7°C	+ 6.6°C
Summer mean rainfall	Drier	206 mm	-56 mm	- 66 mm	- 91 mm
Winter mean daily max temp	Warmer	7.5°C	1.5°C	2.1°C	3.4°C
Winter mean rainfall	Wetter	240 mm	+24 mm	+38 mm	+58 mm
Sea level rise (1981-2000 baseline)	Higher	+0.1 m	+0.4 m	+0.8 m	+1.2m

³¹ [Environmental Improvement Plan \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/672212/eip-2021-01-20.pdf)

³² [UK Climate Projections \(UKCP\) - Met Office](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/ukcp)

³³ [Climate impacts tool: guidance for Environment Agency staff \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/672212/eip-2021-01-20.pdf)

³⁴ [Climate Risk Indicators \(uk-cri.org\)](https://www.uk-cri.org/)

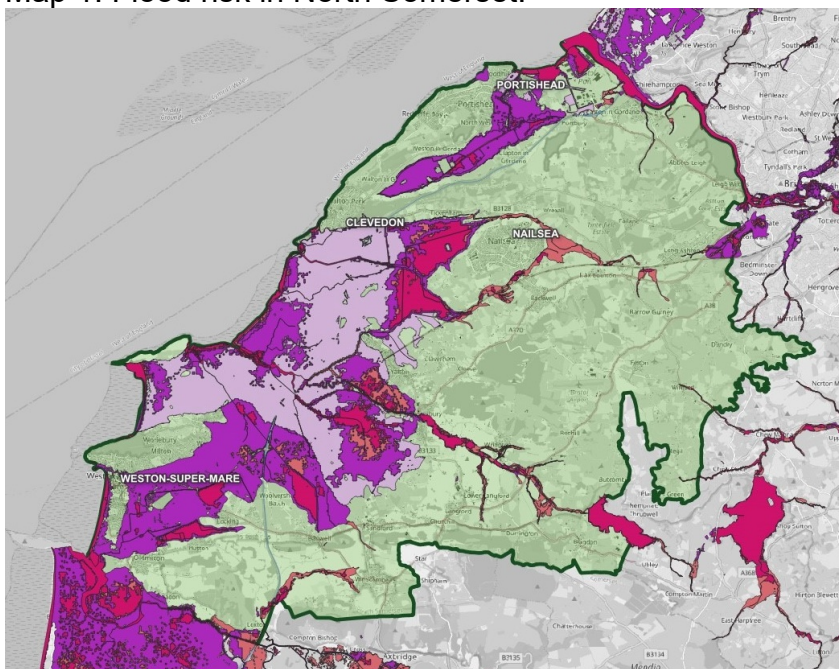
Hot days – chance of reaching 40°C	Hotter more often	Once a century	Once every 20 years	Once every 3-15 years	Once every 3-15 years
Peak rainfall intensity (1981-2000 baseline)	Heavier		+45%		+50%
Peak river flow (1981-2000 baseline)	More extreme		+35%		+127%
Low river flow (1981-2000 baseline)	More extreme		-60%		-85%

14. Impacts for North Somerset

Flood Risk

The sea level rise will have significant impacts for prosperity, health and wellbeing of North Somerset population. 4,300 properties in the region are at medium risk of flooding (between 1% and 3.3% chance of happening each year, also known as a 1 in 100-year event)³⁵. Without flood defences in place, approximately a quarter of the area of North Somerset is at risk of flooding. Whilst the tidal flood defence network across the area is well-developed, sea level rise will still increase the risk of flooding. By 2080, without improvements to flood defences, as many as 63,000 properties could be at risk³⁶. Map 1 below shows the potential flooding in North Somerset linked to extreme storm events by 2100 including sea level rise and taking account of flood defences.

Map 1. Flood risk in North Somerset.



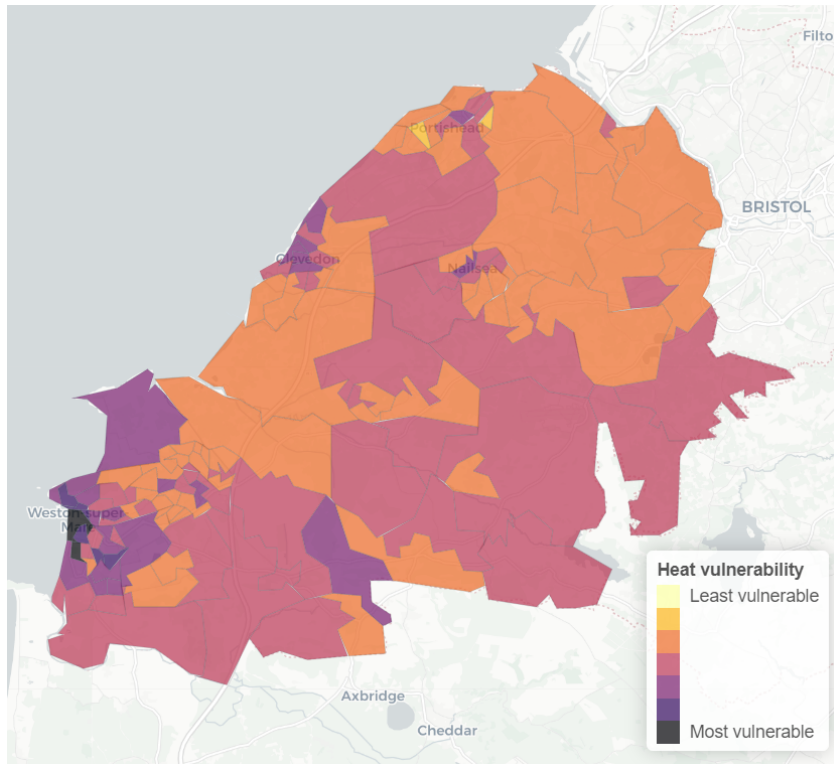
³⁵ [Local Flood Risk Management Strategy | North Somerset Council \(n-somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/local-flood-risk-management-strategy/)

³⁶ [Learn more about this area's flood risk - Check your long term flood risk - GOV.UK \(check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk-service)

Heat Vulnerability

The increase in global temperatures forecast rising temperatures in North Somerset, that could lead to extreme weather events such a heat waves. The Map 3 demonstrates areas in North Somerset where social vulnerability and exposure to heat coincide. The data is based on the Emergency Planning Tool methodology³⁷ that takes in account age and health, income, mobility, crime as well as physical environment and housing characteristics.

Map 3. Social and heat vulnerabilities in North Somerset.



There are several factors that can increase heat vulnerability that includes housing characteristics and green spaces. North Somerset Council’s Green infrastructure strategy³⁸ explores current tree canopy cover (Map 4) and sets measures towards increasing the green infrastructure assets.

Map 4. North Somerset Ward canopy cover map.

³⁷ [Emergency Planning Tool \(shinyapps.io\)](https://shinyapps.io)

³⁸ [Green Infrastructure Strategy | North Somerset Council \(n-somerset.gov.uk\)](https://n-somerset.gov.uk)

As can be seen from the maps above, this challenge is further exacerbated by the fact that the impacts of climate change for North Somerset are likely to be most severe in those wards that are the most deprived.

The mapping above shows that a large proportion of these challenges are consistent across wards affected by climate change, increasing the issue of inequalities.

The consequences of no further action to support climate change adaptation will further increase the persistent inequalities gap in the region and create further challenges for disadvantaged communities and people with protected characteristics.

Climate Risk Assessment

The strategy includes the assessment of the key climate-related risks for North Somerset in line with the Third National Adaptation Framework⁴⁰ and UK Climate Risk Assessment⁴¹. As part of the strategy development, several internal and external workshops were held to identify and assess the risks in North Somerset. The urgency score definitions can be seen in Table 4.

Table 4. Urgency scores definition.

Category	Definition
More Action Needed	New, stronger or different Government action, whether policies, implementation activities or enabling environment for climate change adaptation, over and above those already planned, are beneficial in the next five years to reduce climate risks or take advantage of opportunities. This will include different responses according to the nature of the risks and the type of climate change adaptation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing current and near-term risks or opportunities with low and no-regret options (implementing activities or building capacity). Integrating climate change adaptation in near-term decisions with a long life-time or lock-in. Early adaptation for decisions with long lead-times or where early planning is needed as part of adaptive management.
Further Investigation	On the basis of available information, it is not known if more action is needed or not. More evidence is urgently needed to fill significant gaps or reduce the uncertainty in the current level of understanding in order to assess the need for additional action. Note: The category of 'Research Priority' in CCRA2 has been replaced with 'Further investigation' in CCRA3. This is because of some confusion following CCRA2 that 'Research Priority' only denoted that more research was needed, when in fact the urgency is to establish the extent to which further climate change adaptation is required.
Sustain Current Action,	Current or planned levels of activity are appropriate, but continued implementation of these policies or plans is needed to ensure that the risk or opportunity continues to be managed in the future.
Watching Brief	The evidence in these areas should be kept under review, with continuous monitoring of risk levels and climate change adaptation activity (or the potential for opportunities and climate change adaptation) so that further action can be taken if necessary.

⁴⁰ [The Third National Adaptation Programme \(NAP3\) and the Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/90114/the-third-national-adaptation-programme-nap3-and-the-fourth-strategy-for-climate-adaptation-reporting.pdf)

⁴¹ [UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/90114/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2022.pdf)

Based on the Local Partnerships climate risk tool⁴² and internal consultation workshops, the risks and opportunities in North Somerset associated with climate change have been outlined in Table 5. The urgency score has been determined through internal consultation workshops based on data availability, local knowledge and level of investment in place. The risks and opportunities below are specific to North Somerset, however, fall in line with the UK wide climate risk assessment.

Table 5. Climate Risk Assessment for North Somerset.

Risk or Opportunity	Risk ID	Description	Urgency score
Infrastructure			
Risk	I01	Risks to infrastructure networks (water, energy, transport, ICT) from cascading failures	More Action Needed
Risk	I02	Risks to infrastructure services from river, surface water and groundwater flooding	More Action Needed
Risk	I03	Risks to infrastructure services from coastal flooding and erosion	Further Investigation
Risk	I04	Risks to bridges and pipelines from flooding and erosion	Further Investigation
Risk	I05	Risks to transport networks from slope and embankment failure from water saturation	More Action Needed
Risk	I07	Risks to subterranean and surface infrastructure from subsidence	Further Investigation
Risk	I08	Risks to public water supplies from reduced water availability	More Action Needed
Risk	I10	Risks to energy supplies from high and low temperatures, high winds, lightning	Further Investigation
Risk	I11	Risks to offshore infrastructure from storms and high waves	Sustain Current Action, Watching Brief
Risk	I12	Risks to transport from high and low temperatures, high winds, lightning	More Action Needed
Risk	I13	Risks to digital connectivity from high and low temperatures, high winds, lightning	Further Investigation
Natural Environment			
Risk	N01	Risks to terrestrial species and habitats from changing climatic conditions and extreme events, including temperature change, water scarcity, wildfire, flooding, wind, and altered hydrology (including water scarcity, flooding and saline intrusion).	More Action Needed
Risk	N02	Risks to terrestrial species and habitats from pests, pathogens and invasive species	More Action Needed
Opportunity	N03	Opportunities from new species colonisations in terrestrial habitats	Further Investigation

⁴² [Climate adaptation toolkit and risk generator \(localpartnerships.gov.uk\)](https://localpartnerships.gov.uk)

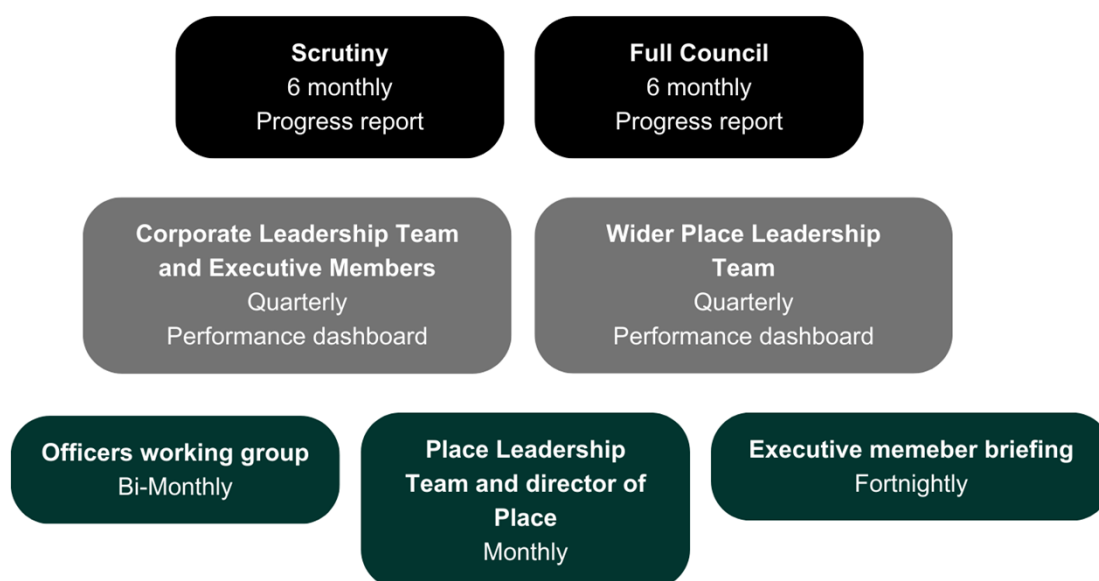
Risk	N04	Risk to soils from changing climatic conditions, including seasonal aridity and wetness.	More Action Needed
Risk	N05	Risks and opportunities for natural carbon stores, carbon storage from changing climatic conditions, including temperature change and water scarcity	More Action Needed
Risk	N06	Risks to agricultural and forestry productivity from extreme events and changing climatic conditions (including temperature change, water scarcity, wildfire, flooding, coastal erosion, wind and saline intrusion).	More Action Needed
Risk	N07	Risks to agriculture from pests, pathogens and invasive species	More Action Needed
Risk	N08	Risks to forestry from pests, pathogens and invasive species	More Action Needed
Opportunity	N09	Opportunities for agricultural and forestry productivity from new/alternative species becoming suitable.	Further Investigation
Risk	N10	Risks to aquifers and agricultural land from sea level rise, saltwater intrusion	Further Investigation
Risk	N11	Risks to freshwater species and habitats from changing climatic conditions and extreme events, including higher water temperatures, flooding, water scarcity and phenological shifts.	More Action Needed
Risk	N12	Risks to freshwater species and habitats from pests, pathogens and invasive species	More Action Needed
Opportunity	N13	Opportunities to freshwater species and habitats from new species colonisations	Sustain Current Action, Watching Brief
Risk	N14	Risks for marine species, habitats and fisheries from changing climatic conditions, including ocean acidification and higher water temperatures.	More Action Needed
Opportunity	N15	Opportunities to marine species, habitats and fisheries from changing climatic conditions	Further Investigation
Risk	N16	Risks to marine species and habitats from pests, pathogens and invasive species	More Action Needed
Risk	N17	Risks to coastal species and habitats due to coastal flooding, erosion and climate factors.	More Action Needed
Health, Communities and Built Environment			
Risk	H01	Risks to health and wellbeing from high temperatures	More Action Needed
Opportunity	H02	Opportunities for health and wellbeing from higher temperatures	Further Investigation
Risk	H03	Risks to people, communities and buildings from flooding	More Action Needed

Risk	H04	Risks to the viability of coastal communities from sea level rise	More Action Needed
Risk & Opportunity	H06	Risks and opportunities from summer and winter household energy demand	More Action Needed
Risk	H07	Risks to health and wellbeing from changes in air quality	Further Investigation
Risk	H08	Risks to health from vector-borne disease	More Action Needed
Risk	H09	Risks to food safety and food security	Further Investigation
Risk	H10	Risks to water quality and household water supplies	Further Investigation
Risk	H11	Risks to cultural heritage	More Action Needed
Risk	H12	Risks to health and social care delivery	More Action Needed
Risk	H13	Risks to education and prison services	More Action Needed
Business and industry			
Risk	B1	Risks to businesses from flooding	More Action Needed
Risk	B2	Risks to businesses and infrastructure from coastal change from erosion, flooding and extreme weather events	More Action Needed
Risk	B3	Risks to business from water scarcity	Further Investigation
Risk	B4	Risks to finance, investment and insurance including access to capital for businesses	Sustain Current Action, Watching Brief
Risk	B5	Risks to business from reduced employee productivity due to infrastructure disruption and higher temperatures in working environments	Further Investigation
Risk	B6	Risks to business from disruption to supply chains and distribution networks	More Action Needed
Opportunity	B7	Opportunities for business from changes in demand for goods and services	Further Investigation

North Somerset Climate Adaptation Action Plan 2024-2029

The action plan was developed based on a number of factors, including the evidence-based approach, national policy, internal workshops with technical and specialist teams. The action plan will be monitored by North Somerset Council through the Climate Emergency Governance Structure (Figure 2) in place and will be reported to the full council on a six-monthly basis. The performance against actions will be publicly available through data dashboard on council website⁴³.

Figure 2. Climate Change Adaptation Governance.



The strategy includes the assessment of the key climate-related risks for North Somerset in line with the Third National Adaptation Framework⁴⁴ and a detailed action plan with the following key principles:

1. Governance

The theme sets out actions for North Somerset Council to take to deliver and monitor the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, as well as sets out policies that could be implemented to support climate change adaptation implementation. The section underlines the importance of council’s partnership working and engagement.

2. Infrastructure, Transport and Assets

The actions include climate change adaptation measures to improve local highways network to reduce region’s vulnerability to flooding and overheating; and set out commitments to improve vulnerability of transport and own assets.

3. Natural Environment

This includes a set of actions council can deliver or encourage to support nature recovery, reduce flood and heat risks through delivery of council’s Green Infrastructure Strategy.

4. Health, Communities and the Built Environment

The theme is exploring actions the council could take or enable that can support wider outcomes of North Somerset Residents including climate justice, improving health and wellbeing and embedding climate change adaptations in the housing stock.

5. Business and Industry

Actions include understanding the evidence behind business and industry vulnerabilities to climate change, as well as, setting out initiatives to engage local businesses in adapting to climate change impacts.

⁴⁴ [The Third National Adaptation Programme \(NAP3\) and the Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Actions identified within the five principles will support North Somerset Council to implement support for local residents, businesses, natural environment and infrastructure, and are directly linked to risks associated with climate change. Given limited funding opportunities and internal resources, the action plan identifies potential delivery partners and funding opportunities that could support plan implementation.

The actions priorities are linked to the risk assessment and are identified as Very High (VH), High (H), Medium (M). The action plan timescales identified as short (next 2 years), medium (2-10 years) and long (over 10 years).

15.

Governance							
Theme	Actions	Delivery lead	Potential partners	Potential funding	Timescales	Priority	Risk N
Resources, training, and capacity building	Set up Climate Change Adaptation working group	Climate Team	Climate and Sustainability partnership	Existing revenue resource	Short	M	N/A
	Integrate climate change adaptation as a key theme at main partnership groups	All	Climate and Sustainability Partnership, North Somerset Together; North Somerset Partnership (NSP), Food Alliance, Cost of Living group.	Existing revenue resource	Short	M	N/A
	Identify and map longer-term decisions and investment opportunities across service areas to align funding to build resilience to climate change	Climate Team	Climate and Sustainability partnership	Existing revenue resource	Medium	H	N/A

	Continue to investigate the feasibility of new technologies that would promote and aid climate change adaptation	Digital Team		Existing revenue resource	Medium	M	N/A
Policies, strategies and risk management	Integrate climate change adaptation measures in Local plan through specific policies and supplementary guidance	Planning policy team	N/A	Existing revenue resource	Short	VH	N/A
	Ensure climate change adaptation and resilience-related planning policy is complied with through planning applications process.	Development Management		Existing revenue resource		VH	
	Ensure climate risks assessment is embedded in the corporate risk assessment	Climate Team	N/A	Existing revenue resource	Short	M	N/A
Partnerships and engagement	Work with partners to identify key contacts to share	Climate Team	Climate and Sustainability partnership	Existing revenue resource	Short	M	N/A

	priorities for climate change adaptation						
	Create a climate change adaptation page with resources.	Climate Team	N/A	Existing revenue resource	Short	M	N/A
	Support external organisations with development of climate change risk assessment and adaptation plans	Climate Team	Climate and Sustainability partnership	Existing revenue resource	Medium	VH	N/A
	Establish communication campaigns on climate change adaptation measures including flood awareness, water reduction, wildlife friendly gardens etc.	Climate Team Policy and Partnership team	Climate and Sustainability Partnership; NS Together; NSP Food Forum Wessex Water Economy Team	Existing revenue resource UK Shared Prosperity Fund Quartet Foundation	Short	M	N/A
Infrastructure, Transport and assets							
Highways	Map the local road network to identify vulnerabilities such as flood risks, heat and subsidence. Starting with	Highways & Transport	Internal Draining Boards, Wessex Water,	Existing revenue resource	Medium	VH	I01, I02, I03, I04, I07, I12

	strategic routes, bus corridors, routes to stations and strategic active travel routes.		Environment Agency				
	Assess bridges for vulnerabilities especially following extreme weather events	Highways & Transport		Existing revenue resource	Medium	VH	I04, I05, I12
	Assess culverts for vulnerabilities especially following extreme weather events	Highways & Transport		Existing revenue resource	Medium	VH	I04
	Undertake the review of approaches to highways maintenance to ensure they are resilient to future climate	Highways & Transport		Existing revenue resource	Medium	H	I01, I05, I12
	Develop Resilient Highways strategy	Highways & Transport		Existing revenue resource	Short	H	I04, I05
Assets owned by the council	Ensuring our own property is adapted to climate change e.g. improved	Projects and Property team	N/A	External funding required	Medium	VH	H01, H03, H04, H06,

	drainage, flood defences etc						
	Embed climate change adaptation and resilience into the design and planning for new infrastructure [new policy out for consultation]	Projects and Property team	N/A	Existing revenue and capital resource	Short	H	H01, H02, H03, H06,
	Embed climate change adaptation and resilience into the council's capital programme for new assets.	Projects and Property team, Planning Policy team	N/A	Existing revenue and capital resource	Short	VH	B1, B6, H03
	Ensure existing council assets have a vulnerability assessment	Projects and Property team	N/A	Existing revenue resource	Medium	VH	H12, H13
Transport	Ensure business continuity through provision of services in extreme weather events and climate change	BSIP / Integrated Transport Unit	WECA / Weston Gateway / First	Existing revenue resource BSIP	Short		I01, I05, I12
	Include climate change adaptation measures into the development of JLTP5	Transport Policy	N/A	Existing revenue resource	Short	VH	I01, I05, I12

	Map active travel routes and PROW and their vulnerabilities	Transport Policy		Existing revenue resource	Short		I01, I05, I12
Natural Environment							
Biodiversity	Introduce Biodiversity supplementary planning document	Planning Policy Team			Short	H	N01, N03, N04, N09,
	Ensure the Biodiversity Net Gain planning policy is complied with through the planning application process	Development Management		Existing revenue resource			N08, N01
	Roll out BNG across the region.	Natural Environment			Medium	VH	N03, N07, N08
	Integrate climate change adaptation principles into the Green Infrastructure Strategy	Natural Environment			Short	VH	N03, N07, N08
	Identify and map less mobile species as a result of climate change	Natural Environment	DEFRA		Long	H	N01, N02, N03, N07, N08, N09
	Support the delivery of West of England's	Natural Environment			Medium	H	N03, N07, N08

	local nature recovery strategy.						
Green infrastructure	Continue to support the number of tree planting initiatives to adapt to extreme heat and reduce flood risks	Natural Environment	Forest of Avon Trust Avon Wildlife Trust	Trees for Climate fund UKSPF Local community funding	Medium	VH	N04, N05, N06, N09,
	Explore peatland restoration in line with the England Peat Action Plan ⁴⁵	Natural Environment	West of England Nature Partnership Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership	DEFRA – Lowland Agricultural Peat Water Discovery Project	Short	VH	N04, N05
	Ensure green infrastructure, nature conservation, trees and woodlands planning policy is complied with through the planning application process	Development management		Existing revenue resource		H	N01, N04, N06, N08
Parks and open spaces	Continue with rewilding initiatives to increase tree planting and tall grass management to increase biodiversity, to better	Natural environment	Local communities	Income from the sale if BNG units from development	Long term	H	N01, N02, N04, N05,

⁴⁵ [England Peat Action Plan \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

	adapt to changing climate, and to provide shade and cool areas for visitors.						
Flood risk	Collaborate as part of the Severn Estuary Coastal Group and South West Coastal Group on a refresh of the Shoreline Management Plans that seeks to provide greater clarity on existing policy unit and provide a health check on others.	Natural Environment	Severn Estuary Coastal Group South West Coastal Group		Short	VH	N09, N10, N11, N12, N13, N14, N15, N16, N17
	Engage with residents in high risk communities about flood preparedness and raising awareness of the flood warning scheme	Natural Environment	Environment Agency DEFRA	DEFRA	Short	VH	I03, H04
	Ensure that the flood risk, sustainable drainage and rivers, watercourses and springs planning	Development Management		Existing revenue resource			I02, I03, I04

	policy is complied with through the planning application process.						
Health, Communities and Built Environment							
Public Health	Develop climate change adaptation health and wellbeing plans or embed climate change adaptation into the new Health and Wellbeing strategy	Public Health	Health and Wellbeing Board	Existing revenue resource	Short	VH	H01, H02, H03, H04, H07, H08, H12, H13
	Investigate and collate data on population and health in relations to climate risks including air quality, health inequalities, mental health etc. To be used in JSNA.	Public Health Business Intelligence		Existing revenue resource	Short	VH	H01, H03, H04, H07, H08
	Ensure monitoring of health indicators such as air pollution, food	Public Health	DEFRA?	Existing revenue resource	Long	H	H01, H03, H04, H07, H08

	safety, invasive species						
	Update health workplaces programmes with advice around working in extreme weather events	Public Health		Existing revenue resource	Medium	M	H01, H02, H03, H12, H13
	Update communications with different partners and colleagues (eg health visitors, school health teams, VSCE) to be able to adapt protocols in events such as heat waves and cold weather. Including information detailing the relationship between climate impacts and health inequalities.	Public Health		Existing revenue resource	Short	M	H12, H13
Health and Social care	Assess care homes for vulnerability risks of heating and flooding; develop actions plans where required						H01, H03, H04, H12,

	Assess flood risks for residents with home care; develop action plans for capital investments and operational procedures where required						H03, H04, H10, H12
	Embed climate risks in all commissioning processes						, H12, H13
Built Environment	Develop policies to reduce climate risks. Relevant policies: local green space, high quality design, climate change adaptation and resilience, renewable and low carbon energy generation, flood risk, sustainable drainage, green infrastructure, active travel routes	Planning Policy		Existing revenue resource	Short	VH	H04, H03, H11, I03

	Promote energy and water security and flood resistance to social housing providers and private landlords	Housing Adaptations and Improvements Team, Private Rented Housing Team			Short	H	H03, H04, H06, H10, H11
	Ensure home retrofitting programmes include climate change adaptation measures such as shading, water efficiency, better ventilation etc	Housing Adaptations and Improvements Team	Centre for Sustainable Energy, Bristol City Leap	Connected for warmth	Medium	VH	H03, H04, H06, H10, H11
Just Transition	Ensure policy and plans developed to address climate risk involve those most likely to be affected	Climate Team	N/A		Short	VH	H03, H04
	Focus the flood risk management schemes into the areas most affected by flood risk					VH	H03, H04,
	Identify the most vulnerable groups to climate change in the region	Climate Team Public Health			Short	VH	H07, H12, H13,

	Work with communities in the most vulnerable areas to establish resilience programmes	Policy and Partnership			Medium	VH	H01, H03, H06, H07, H09
	Support education and awareness raising around climate change adaptation to all residents through our communications	Communications team Climate team	Weston college Schools Further Education providers		Short	VH	H13, H07, H10, H01, H03
Business and Industry							
Business engagement	Communicate key risks of climate change adaptation measures including for flooding, heatwaves, and reducing water and energy use to businesses.	Economy team and Climate Emergency Team	Hive Growth Hub Visit West	UKSPF	Short	H	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7,
	Ensure there is consistent messaging on climate change adaptation and green transition throughout all business support	Economy team	Hive Growth Hub IBB Economic Steering Group	Existing revenue resource	Short	H	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7,

	Explore funding opportunities to help businesses build climate change adaptation and resilience measures	Economy team	N/A	UKSPF	Short	H	B1, B2, B6, B7
	Explore funding opportunities to establish local food supply chains which will improve food security	Economy team	Food and Drink Forum Growth Hub WERN	UKSPF	Medium	H	B6, H09
	Work with agencies that are leading on rural and farmers engagement to identify opportunities for land management to improve the resilience of sites	Natural Environment	DEFRA NFU	Existing revenue resource	Short	H	B1, B2, B3
Evidence	Outline the links between climate change opportunities and economic growth in development of economic plan	Economy team	N/A	Existing revenue resource	Short	M	B7

	Build on Eunomia report to identify critical at risk businesses	Economy team	Future Leap	Existing revenue resource		VH	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5
	Identify large industrial sites at risk of flooding	Economy team	N/A	Existing revenue resource	Short	H	B1, B2
	Ensure climate change adaptation is included in development of the new economic plan	Economy team	Growth Hub Economic Steering Group	Existing revenue resource	Short	H	B4

Glossary

Climate justice is a term which acknowledges that the impacts of climate change will have disproportionately harmful impacts on more vulnerable groups in society.

Built environment refers to the human-made surroundings that provide the setting for human activity, ranging in scale from buildings and parks or green space to neighbourhoods and cities that can often include their supporting infrastructure, such as water supply or energy networks

Carbon footprint is the amount of carbon emitted by an individual or organisation in a given period of time, or the amount of carbon emitted during the manufacture of a product.

Carbon neutral is a process where there is no net release of CO₂. Achieving carbon neutrality is often done through carbon offsetting schemes.

Carbon sink is any process, activity, or mechanism that absorbs more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than it releases. Forests, oceans, and soil are the world's largest natural carbon sinks.

Decarbonisation is reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that an activity produces, as well as increasing the amount that is being absorbed. Commonly used when referring to buildings and energy.

Emissions are any release of gases such as carbon dioxide which cause global warming.

Global warming is the steady rise in global average temperature in recent decades, which experts believe is largely caused by human-produced greenhouse gas emissions.

Greenhouse gases (GHG's) are gases in the atmosphere, which absorb thermal infra-red radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, the atmosphere and clouds e.g. water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.

IPCC is The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is a scientific body established by the United Nations and the World Meteorological Organisation.

Just Transition is defined by The International Labour Organization (ILO)⁴⁶ as: "Greening the economy in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind."

Net Zero is a term used to describe any process where there is no net release of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Achieving net zero is usually done by reducing emissions as much as feasibly possible, then offsetting the remainder.

Renewable energy is energy derived from natural sources that are constantly being replenished, such as wind, sunlight, the flow of moving water, and geothermal heat.

Retrofit refers to any improvement work on an existing building to improve its energy efficiency, making them easier to heat, able to retain that heat for longer, and replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy.

For more information on other commonly used terminology please refer to:

- [The Climate Dictionary: An everyday guide to climate change](#)
- [Glossary – Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet](#)

⁴⁶ [International Labour Organization \(ilo.org\)](http://ilo.org)

Further Information Sources and Tools

Tools

[Climate Just Tool](#)

[Climate Risk Indicators Explorer](#)

[Emergency Planning Tool](#)

[Flood risk checker, GOV.UK](#)

[Flood risk maps for rivers and sea in England](#)

[Local Climate Adaptation Tool](#)

[Sign up for flood warnings](#)

[Tree Equity Score Tool](#)

Information sources

[ADEPT and DEFRA Guidance for local authorities](#)

[Climate ADAPT: summary of UK resources](#)

[Climate Change Projections over land](#)

[Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Guidance, GOV.UK](#)

[Climate Impact Tool: Guidance for Environment Agency Staff](#)

[Environmental Improvement Plan 2023](#)

[Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risks \(Climate Change Committee\)](#)

[Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#)

[National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England](#)

[National Framework for Water Resources](#)

[The Third National Adaptation Programme](#)

[UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022](#)

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Transport, Climate and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Work Programme March 2024

(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 – topic focussed on-going scrutiny (eg task and finish work and steering groups)

Topic	Reason for scrutiny and approach (including reporting arrangements)	Progress and Outcomes	Contact
Waste	To engage with the development and delivery of waste policies and services. Steering Group established – periodic engagement meetings, reporting back to full Panel.	Steering Group met on 20/11/23 and 22/01/24 20/11/23: Members fed back/ received assurance on Garden Waste Charges increase; the waste engagement campaign (6000 properties with highest residual waste); implications of Govt proposals on “simpler recycling”; and an update on the Quatro trials. 22/01/24: Members fed back/received assurance on 3-Weekly Residual Waste collection proposals and Essential works at the Weston Recycling Centre. Key points included: assurance on services for flats, more messaging needed around acceptable recyclates; and assurance on use of PSPOs in preventing collection obstructions	Gemma Dando
Community Safety	To engage with the promotion and delivery of Community Safety policies, services and related projects and services in NS Steering Group – periodic engagement meetings, reporting back to full Panel.	Steering Group met on 08/11/23 Members reviewed and fed back on a number of anti-social behaviour issues; the Anti-social behaviour Action Plan; Crime and Disorder performance’ and CCTV control room transformation. Next Meeting TBC	Howard Potheary
Highways and Transport	To engage with the development and delivery of Highways and Transport policies and services Steering Group – periodic engagement meetings, reporting back to full Panel.	Steering Group met on 12/10/23 fed back and received assurance on: Moving Traffic Enforcement performance; the Highways Programme, the Integrated Transport Scheme pipeline Next meeting TBC	Bella Fortune

Support Services Procurement	Scrutiny through 2-year transition to the new arrangements Steering Group to meet bi-monthly aligned with informal exec officer updates with wider member engagement in advance of milestone decisions	SG met on 15/12/23 (following all cllr briefing). SG received assurance on reference to supplier dependency for the April go live date and welcomed the inclusion of “investable social value opportunities”. Members emphasised need explain (in the report) reference to £120m headroom. Next meeting TBC	Simone Woolley
Budget/MTFP Scrutiny	To enable Members to feedback on Budget/MTFP proposals ahead of Executive consideration of draft Budget at 6 th December and 7 th February Executives	TCC-led All Cllr Scrutiny Sessions on 01/12/23 and 29/01/24 01/12/23: Cllrs heard and fed back on the context and funding assumptions, the updated budget gap and proposals for savings. Agreed that an explanatory outline of Annual Govt Statement to be circulated to members. 29/01/24: Cllrs reviewed changes to the budget and fed back on the updated budget gap; equality impact assessments; and proposed significant changes for deliver in 2024/25. Key discussion points included the extent of opportunity to propose changes given financial realities; how members could now practicably contribute ideas at this late stage (ie in the public consultation); and options for increasing the Council Tax base. Cllrs encouraged to participate in ongoing Scrutiny Panel sessions on specific MTFP proposals (eg joint TCC/CYPS session on home to school transport)	
Clevedon Seafront and Hill Road scheme Review	To review the extent Councils programme of work addresses Executive recommendations in respect of: Technical evidence and public and stakeholder concerns; Community support for implementation; Road safety; and to seek assurance on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrating value for money for scheme change and potential impacts on other council priority schemes • Transparency on engagement with Active Travel England and future relationships Task and Finish working group To report findings to 13/03 Executive	Working Group met on 11 th January. Members heard and fed-back on delivery of the plan of works. Members were reassured by progress but sought further assurance that the Audit West assessment would be taken into account. Next meeting on 11th March 2024	Lucy Shomali / Amy Webb

Weed Management	To review NSC weed management policy and practice together consideration of alternative approaches; and to engage with local stakeholders-with the aim of contributing to shaping future policy.	Inquiry Day on 29/02/24 ID steering group established 08/11/23 to confirm ToR and meeting weekly to plan/deliver event.	Tess Skelly / Leo Taylor
Leisure strategy	To keep review and inform the direction of travel for the leisure provision business cases, especially Backwell/Nailsea. Informal working group	TBA	Karlie Philips

Section Two – briefings, workshops, and other informal panel meetings.

Topic	Reason for scrutiny	Date	Progress and outcomes	Contact
BSIP capital delivery	Update on the capital programme	26/07/23		Bella Fortune
Anti-Social Behaviour Plan	Update on the new plan with particular reference to new guidance on littering and fly-tipping (new Govt Guidance)	28/07/23	Further updates on the Plan to be arranged	Howard Pothecary
Waste Contract	For Panel feedback: announcement of food waste treatment facility contract award and details of upcoming commissioning / procurement of new garden waste and residual top-up treatment facility contractors	01/08/23	Further update to be arranged for 20/11/23	Gemma Dando
Moving Traffic Violations	For panel engagement on proposal to Sept Executive on adopting Moving Traffic Enforcement Powers	08/08/23	Panel received assurance on staged implementation of enforcement and that each proposed enforcement scheme only in place until compliance level met	Darren Coffin-Smith
EV Fund Commissioning Plan	Panel feedback on commissioning plan for the delivery of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in NS	04/09/23	Panel received assurance on the sufficiency of Council control over standards compliance; ensuring siting in rural/economically deprived areas; and grid capacity	Christian Fletcher
Support Services Contract	To feedback on Support Services 2025 Commissioning Intentions prior to report to Council on 19 th September	07/09/23	Members provided feedback	Amy Webb/Stuart Anstead

Biodiversity Net Gain	For Members engagement on draft Biodiversity and Trees SPD prior to public consultation	13/09/23	Members provided feedback. Panel to be updated following the consultation period.	Esther Coffin-Smith/John Flannigan
Housing Infrastructure Fund	To receive updates and give Members' feedback on Housing Infrastructure Fund project progress	18/09/23 30/10/23 11/12/23 29/01/24	Next meeting on 11/03/24	Sam Byers, Alex Fear, Katie Park, Shannon Rickards
Support Services Strategy update	For Members' feedback on Customer Service Strategy action plan implementation; Digital First, telephone first and website usability; and customer access/touchdowns and Council hubs	03/10/23	Panel provided feedback and agreed a follow-up meeting to be arranged to address digital exclusion issues.	Simone Wooley
Capital Programme Risk Management	To update Members on Capital Programme risk management	05/10/23	Members provided feedback and received assurance.	Amy Webb
Leisure Contract extension	To engage with members on proposed Legacy Leisure contract extension ahead of Council decision	12/10/23	Members provided feedback – broadly supportive of proposal,	Karlie Philips
Home to School Transport	Joint briefing with CYPS to review the proposed policy update in the contexts of improving outcomes for young people and MTFP savings	08/02/24	Member fed back and received assurance/clarification on: the pilot programme for independent travel training; redesign and expanded availability of Personal Transport Budget; working with families to best determine travel needs; and review of HTST policies by standardising financial contributions for post 16yrs Next steps – update in April date TBC	Gemma Dando/Pip Hesketh

Section Three - agenda reports to the Panel meetings as agreed by the Chairman. This section provides for the forward planning of agendas and a record of panel meeting activity.

TCC 30 November 2023

Report Title	Purpose of Report	Outcome (actions)	Contact
Rights of Way Improvement Plan	To consider progress made on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan with recommendation that progress be reviewed annually thereafter	Members sought and received assurance on aspects of the ROWIP. Panel to review delivery of ROWIP annually	Esther Coffin-Smith
Green Infrastructure Strategy	To review progress made on the Green Infrastructure Strategy Action plan and to review progress annually thereafter	Members sought and received assurance on aspects of the Strategy. Panel to review the GI Strategy annually	Esther Coffin-Smith
A38 Major Roads Network (MRN) Progress update	To update the Panel on progress	Members sought and received assurance on funding aspects of the scheme. Chair to meet officers to agree an approach to ensuring effective scrutiny of the project going forward	Jason Reading

TCC 7 March 2024

Report Title	Purpose of Report	Outcome (actions)	Contact
Clevedon Sea Front Scheme	To document scrutiny engagement to date, outline next steps and to consider scrutiny approach	Deferred to June Panel	Lucy Shomali
Flood Risk in North Somerset	Follows concerns raised at at full Council in November about lack of routine maintenance by Environment Agency		Simon Bunn/John Flannigan
Climate Emergency Action Plan Progress and Adaption Strategy	To consider progress/feedback ahead of 4 th April report to Council		Victoria Barvenova/Jenny Ford
Road Maintenance	resilience (including adaption to climate change) of the highway network going forward, cost pressures funding sources and opportunities around new contracts	Deferred to informal session at close of 07/03/24 meeting.	Darren Coffin-Smith/Nata sha Hardy

TCC 27 June

Report Title	Purpose of Report	Outcome (actions)	Contact
DRIVE initiative (Domestic Abuse perpetrator programme)	Update Members on delivery phase of the project (review impact etc)		
Clevedon Seafront	To document scrutiny engagement to date, outline next steps and to consider scrutiny approach going forward		
BSIP	Update		
NSEC	Update on governance		

Section Five - 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 Six - Progress and follow-up on implementing Panel recommendations

Panel Recommendation	Date of response	Actions – implementation progress