

# Public Document Pack

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**Date:** Tuesday, 15 June 2021

## \*\* Physical Meeting

While the meeting will take place in person at the Town Hall it will also be live broadcast on YouTube (see link below). Because of the need to maintain social distancing measures, members of the public and media are encouraged to watch the meeting online and not attend in person. Should you wish to attend in person you **MUST** request to do so no less than 48 hours before the meeting. Contact Sue Efford for more information.

Dear Sir or Madam

## **The Executive – Wednesday, 23 June 2021, 2.30 pm – New Council Chamber**

A meeting of the Executive will take place as indicated above.

**Please Note** that any member of the press and public may listen in to proceedings at this 'virtual' meeting via the weblink below –

<https://youtu.be/QHRxBjIhng8>

The agenda is set out overleaf.

Yours faithfully

Assistant Director Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer

To: Members of the Executive

Councillors:

Donald Davies (Chairman), Mike Bell (Vice-Chairman), Steve Bridger, Mark Canniford, Ashley Cartman, Catherine Gibbons, Bridget Petty and Mike Solomon.

All other Members of the Council (for information)

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

## Agenda

### 1. **Addresses by Members of the Public (ESO6) (Agenda item 1)**

The Executive, at the discretion of the Chairman, will hear up to four people, each of whom must be a resident or a business ratepayer or an elector, who wish to address it in accordance with the Executive Standing Orders, on matters that affect the area or its residents and over which the Executive has powers and duties. The Chairman will select the order of the matters to be heard. Each person will be limited to a period of three minutes and this part of the meeting must not exceed fifteen minutes.

Requests to speak must be submitted in writing to the Assistant Director Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer, or the officer mentioned at the top of this agenda either, by noon on the day before the meeting and the request must detail the subject matter of the address.

Note: We are hoping to continue to deal with public participation remotely for the time being due to social distancing measures.

### 2. **Apologies for absence (Agenda item 2)**

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

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 meeting in respect of a declaration, he or she should ensure that the Chairman is aware of this before he or she leaves to enable their exit from the meeting to be recorded in the minutes in accordance with Standing Order 37.

### 4. **Minutes (Agenda Item 4) (Pages 7 - 20)**

28 April 2021, to approve as a correct record

#### 4.1 Executive Appointments on Outside Bodies (EXE 15)

At the April meeting the Executive approved its outside body appointments for the coming year including a number by designation which were changed to reflect the new Executive Member portfolios. In the case of the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, this was changed to the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Services (by designation). However, it is now proposed that this should be changed to the Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Engagement (by designation).

The Executive is asked to approve this change.

**5. Non-Executive Councillors' Addresses (Agenda item 5)**

Non-Executive Councillors wishing to address the Executive are required to notify the contact officer mentioned at the top of this summons letter by noon on the day before the meeting. A total of fifteen minutes will be allocated to hear all addresses.

**6. Matters referred to the Executive and not dealt with elsewhere on this agenda (Agenda item 6)**

None.

**7. West of England Sub-Region: items not dealt with elsewhere on this agenda (Agenda item 7)**

**8. Forward Plan dated 2 June 2021 (Agenda item 8) (Pages 21 - 34)**

**9. Abbots Leigh, Ham Green, Pill and Easton-in-Gordano Neighbourhood Plan (Agenda Item 9) (Pages 35 - 60)**

Report of Councillor Canniford.

**10. Joint Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and Enhanced Partnership (EP) with the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) and Bus Operators (Agenda item 10) (Pages 61 - 74)**

Report of Councillor Davies

**11. Draft Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy 2021-2024 (Agenda item 11) (Pages 75 - 326)**

Report of Councillor Gibbons

**12. Adoption of Local List Nomination Criteria and Procedure (Agenda item 12) (Pages 327 - 340)**

Report of Councillor Canniford

**13. Budget Monitor Month 12 Out-turn Report (Agenda item 13) (Pages 341 - 380)**

Report of Councillor Cartman

**14. Development Programme and Economic Strategy: Business Case and Commissioning Plan for development of Weston Business Quarter (Agenda item 14) (Pages 381 - 392)**

Report of Councillor Canniford

**15. Development Programme: Updates and Consultation Programme (includes exempt appendix) (Agenda item 15) (Pages 393 - 406)**

Report of Councillor Canniford

**16. Oral reports of Executive Councillors (Agenda item 16)**

Executive Councillors might report orally on matters in progress. Such reports will be for information only and no material decisions can be made arising from them.

**17. Development Programme: Acquisition and Development of Weston Town Centre Sites (Exempt Report) 3** (Pages 407 - 414)

Exempt Report of Councillor Bridger

**18. Urgent business permitted by the Local Government Act 1972 (if any) (Agenda item 18)**

For a matter to be considered as an urgent item, the following question must be addressed: "What harm to the public interest would flow from leaving it until the next meeting?" If harm can be demonstrated, then it is open to the Chairman to rule that it be considered as urgent. Otherwise the matter cannot be considered urgent within the statutory provisions.

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**Exempt Items**

Should the Executive 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 Executive 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.



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 Central Chambers building.

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## Minutes

of the Meeting of

## The Executive

### Wednesday, 28th April 2021

held as a Virtual Meeting.

Meeting Commenced: 14:30      Meeting Concluded: 16:20

#### Councillors:

P Donald Davies (Chairman)  
P Mike Bell (Vice Chairman)

P Steve Bridger  
P Ashley Cartman  
P Mark Canniford  
P Catherine Gibbons  
P Bridget Petty  
P Mike Solomon

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

**Also in attendance:** Councillors Nicola Holland (Assistant Executive Member), Robert Payne (Assistant Executive Member), Mike Bird, John Cato, John Crockford-Hawley, Wendy Griggs, Karin Haverson, Ruth Jacobs, Huw James, Patrick Keating, Terry Porter, James Tonkin

**Officers in attendance:** Jo Walker (Chief Executive), Lucy Shomali (Director of Place), Sheila Smith (Director of Children's Services), Hayley Verrico (Director of Adult Social Care), Nicholas Brain (Assistant Director Governance and Monitoring Officer), Michele Chesterman (Corporate Services Directorate), Sue Efford (Corporate Services Directorate), Richard Kent (Place Directorate), Michael Reep (Place Directorate), Mike Riggall (Corporate Services Directorate), Sally Varley (Children's Services Directorate), Melanie Watts (Corporate Services Directorate)

#### EXE Chairman's Welcome

1

The Chairman welcomed everyone to this virtual Executive meeting.

He explained the procedures to be followed at the meeting and confirmed that decisions taken would have the same standing as those taken at a physical meeting of the Executive in the Town Hall.

The Chairman reminded everyone that the meeting was being livestreamed on the internet and that a recorded version would be available to view within 48

hours on the North Somerset Council website.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Executive Members and Assistant Executive Members introduced themselves for the benefit of those in attendance and for members of the public watching the meeting online. The Chairman welcomed Councillor Bridger and Councillor Payne to the Executive and referred to the Executive changes announced at last week's Council meeting. The agenda for this meeting had been published before changes had been announced therefore some reports on the agenda would now be presented by a different Executive Member to the one listed. This would be clarified at the start of each item.

**EXE Addresses by members of the public (ESO 6) (Agenda Item 1)**

2

None

**EXE Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interest (Standing Order 37) (Agenda Item 3)**

3

None

**EXE Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2021 (Agenda Item 4)**

4

**Resolved:** that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

**EXE Non-Executive Councillors' Addresses (Agenda Item 5)**

5

At the invitation of the Chairman Councillor James asked the following question of the Executive:

“The murder of Sarah Everard on the week of International Women's Day realised a lot of Women's fears about gendered violence, harassment, and feeling unsafe in their communities. How in North Somerset, will we challenge gendered violence, street harassment, and the perception on unsafe streets within all areas of the Council, rather than within Community Safety?”

The Chairman thanked Councillor James for his question and responded that given the wide-ranging implications, Executive Members would each consider this in the context of their own portfolios. He suggested Councillor James may also wish to raise this with the various policy and scrutiny panels. Councillor Bell confirmed this matter was being taken seriously and was already being looked at by stakeholder groups. It was hoped to bring forward an action plan with tangible measures over the coming months. Reference was made to the importance of education in addressing the issues, and the need to look at how to work with perpetrators to change behaviours rather than expecting victims to do so.

**EXE Matters referred to the Executive – SPR 19 North Somerset Local Plan (Agenda Item 6)**

6

The Executive received the reference from the Panel.

**Resolved:** that the Panel's comments be noted and considered later in the meeting under agenda item 9.

**EXE West of England Sub-Region (Agenda Item 7)**

7

None

**EXE Forward Plan dated 1 April 2021 (Agenda Item 8)**

8

Councillor Davies presented the forward plan.

**Resolved:** that the forward plan be noted.

**EXE North Somerset Local Plan (Agenda Item 9)**

9

Councillor Canniford presented the report as this matter now came within his portfolio.

Councillor Canniford thanked Councillor Tonkin for the work he had undertaken on this to date, particularly around engagement with parish and town councils. Other Executive Members also added their thanks to Councillor Tonkin during the debate.

In presenting the report Councillor Canniford outlined the various stages of the plan making process and the timetable as set out in the report. He noted the reference from the Strategic Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration Panel in support of the work that had been done to date and thanked the Panel for the work on this. He stressed the spatial strategy was still subject to further testing and assessment and there would be opportunities for further input later in the year.

In discussing the report members expressed disappointment that the government's housing requirement was forcing the council to build over 20,000 homes over a 15 year period, the majority of which would not be for local people. Given the scale of this housing challenge there was unlikely to be sufficient sustainable and deliverable locations to meet this demand without considering development in the Green Belt, on low lying land or in areas of natural beauty. Reference was made to the table in paragraph 3.20 of the report and questions were raised as to how and where the residual numbers could be delivered. There was strong support for retaining the Green Belt and avoiding areas at risk of flooding and further work was needed to ensure climate emergency considerations were fully addressed and new development demonstrated high quality design standards and energy efficiency. Reference was made to the affordability crisis and the need for safe, quality housing to be available to all rather than additional housing numbers on the scale proposed. Further concerns were expressed around the impact of further development on the road network, the lack of good public transport services and the need for additional investment in infrastructure and employment opportunities. Reference was made to the importance of seeking the support of local MPs in addressing these concerns and in lobbying government for a reduction in

housing numbers to a level that was deliverable. Executive Members urged all councillors to be proactive and to encourage local residents to get involved in shaping future plans and lobbying government and local MPs.

**Resolved:**

(1) that the Local Plan vision and strategic priorities for plan making as set out in paragraphs 3.5 and 3.7 of the report be approved and adopted;

(2) that the proposed North Somerset Local Plan spatial strategy be endorsed for further testing and assessment and to act as the framework for the preparation of the Consultation Draft Plan:

*Priority will be given to locating new residential and mixed use development in or close to urban areas where there is an existing or proposed wide range of facilities, services and jobs, and there are opportunities to encourage active travel, particularly at locations which are currently, or have the potential to be, well served by public transport. Employment opportunities will be encouraged at accessible locations well-related to the urban areas and where sustainable transport opportunities can be maximised. Residential development in areas at risk of flooding will be minimised outside the towns. The amount of development at villages and in the countryside will relate to local community needs.*

(3) that the following sequential approach to the assessment and identification of the broad locations for growth (housing and employment) be agreed for inclusion in the North Somerset Local Plan:

(a) Existing planning permissions expected to be implemented during the plan period, then

(b) Maximise urban capacity within the towns of Weston-super-Mare, Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead, then

(c) Consider opportunities for town expansion outside the Green Belt, then

(d) Consider opportunities at other sustainable settlements outside the Green Belt for an appropriate scale of growth, then

(e) Consider small scale opportunities at villages, then

(f) Other opportunities outside the Green Belt, and finally

(g) Opportunities within the Green Belt well related to urban areas and where harm to the Green Belt is minimised (subject to exceptional circumstances being demonstrated to justify changes to Green Belt boundaries); and

(4) that the following broad locations and indicative capacities be agreed for further testing and assessment:

(a) Weston-super-Mare (about 3,000 dwellings)

(b) Nailsea (about 1,500 dwellings)

(c) Yatton/Backwell (total of about 1,000 dwellings)

(d) Other villages (total of about 500 dwellings – locations to be identified)

(e) Green Belt (exceptional circumstances, potential locations and capacity to be identified)

**Reasons for the decision:**

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**EXE 10 Draft Recycling and Waste Strategy (Agenda Item 10)**

Councillor Solomon introduced the item as this matter now came within his portfolio. At Councillor Solomon's invitation, Councillor Petty presented the report. She welcomed the draft strategy, referring to the Council's vision in terms of recycling and waste and outlining the proposals for engagement with residents and businesses before producing a final strategy for Executive approval.

Members welcomed the strategy and referred to the need to engage with supermarkets and retailers to encourage them to become plastic free. Reference was made to the importance of progress with the Environment Bill in enabling local authorities to address some of these issues.

It was noted that the council was already one of the top performing authorities in the region for recycling and that the strategy set challenging targets with the aspiration of becoming the top performing authority in England. Members thanked local residents and businesses for their efforts in achieving high levels of recycling and referred to the benefits both for the climate emergency and the budget of continuing to make further progress and improvement. Members also thanked officers for their work on the new strategy.

**Resolved:**

(1) that the draft recycling and waste strategy document be approved for public consultation; and

(2) that the Executive Member for Waste be authorised to agree the final consultation content, in consultation with officers, before launching.

**Reasons for the decision:**

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**EXE 11 Approval to Expand Ravenswood Special School, Nailsea (Agenda Item 11)**

Councillor Gibbons presented the report. She referred to the increasing demand for places for pupils with learning difficulties and the benefits of providing enough local provision to satisfy this demand. She referred to the consultation process that had been undertaken and the positive support for the proposals. The Children and Young People's Services Panel was supportive of the proposals as was the school's governing body. She confirmed local provision would avoid many pupils having to travel long distances or out of area to access a suitable school, and that any required capital improvements would have regard to energy efficiency and sustainability standards.

**Resolved:** that the expansion of Ravenswood Special School, Nailsea from a range of 112 -119 places to a range of 134 – 140 places to help to meet the increasing demand for pupil places for those with moderate learning difficulties be approved.

**Reasons for the decision:**

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**EXE 12 Approval of North Somerset Parking Standards SPD for Public Consultation (Agenda Item 12)**

Councillor Canniford presented the report as this matter now came within his portfolio. He outlined the key objectives of the SPD and the range of updates proposed, including the provision for electric vehicle charging infrastructure for all new homes and the introduction of a 'Parking Needs Assessment' to assist officers in determining a suitable level of parking for the area.

In discussing the report members urged local residents and businesses to respond to the consultation to ensure the final SPD reflected the realities of parking need in local communities.

**Resolved:** that the revised Parking Standards SPD be approved for public consultation, following internal officer consultation.

**Reasons for the decision:**

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**EXE 13 HIF Banwell Bypass: Update and Statutory Consents (Agenda Item 13)**

Councillor Bridger presented the report as this matter now came within his portfolio. He outlined the core objectives as set out in paragraph 3.4 of the report and the importance at this stage of gathering as much information as possible regarding the land required to construct the bypass scheme to ensure the council could satisfy the conditions of the Grant Development Agreement (GDA). He referred to the tight timescales for delivery of the scheme which required compulsory purchase powers to be progressed alongside negotiations with landowners in the event the land could not be acquired by voluntary agreement. He thanked the officers involved for their work on this.

In discussing the report reference was made to the impact of the bypass on neighbouring villages and the importance of ensuring opportunities for improved links to the local road network, improvements to sustainable and active travel routes and improvement to public transport links were all addressed. With reference to the inclusion within the core objectives of the reduction and offsetting of carbon emissions and an increase in biodiversity net gain of at least 10% it was noted there was a commitment to achieving



these objectives and that discussions were ongoing to reach a consensus on how best to deliver these.

**Resolved:** that the terms of the Housing Infrastructure Fund Grant Development Agreement (“GDA”) entered into between Homes England and North Somerset Council on 24 August 2020 be noted, and thereafter the Executive authorise:-

(a) the carrying out of formal land referencing (including issuing requisitions for information under the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 and/or under the Highways Act 1980) across the area of development being considered for the Banwell Bypass (“the Bypass”) in order to identify landowners, their interests and to gather as much information as possible about the land within the potential route alignments;

(b) the entry into of negotiations with landowners and others with an interest in the relevant land for the acquisition of land or rights in land that may be required for or in connection with the proposed Bypass;

(c) the acquisition by voluntary agreement of land or rights in land required for the Bypass (subject to the relevant financial limits, whereby the decision to proceed with any purchase in excess of the relevant financial limits would be referred to Full Council for authorisation); and

(d) the taking of all steps (including the drafting of a compulsory purchase order and related documentation) necessary to prepare for a subsequent report to Full Council to determine use of compulsory purchase powers to acquire the land and rights in land required for the Bypass.

**Reasons for the decision:**

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**EXE 14 Budget Monitor – Month 11 2020/21 (Agenda Item 14)**

Councillor Cartman presented the report. He thanked the finance team for their work on the budget and confirmed that end of year figures reflected those within this report. However he referred to the ongoing uncertainties and risks around the Covid emergency and funding from central government and warned against complacency. He welcomed the additional financial support the council had received from central government during the year and hoped this support would continue over the coming months.

The Head of Finance reported this was a holding position but confirmed forecasts were largely on target and on budget. She stated that any remaining Covid grant funding would be used to support a range of impacts across the council’s budget for the coming year and with reference to budget variances confirmed additional money had been allocated to some legacy budget shortfalls.

The Chairman thanked all staff and contractors for their hard work in getting to this position.

**Resolved:**

(1) that the projected revenue and capital budget forecasts as detailed within the report be noted, including the likely impacts that the Covid-19 emergency response and associated funding may have on the Council's overall financial position in the short and medium-term;

(2) that the amendments to the revenue budget in respect of additional Covid-19 grant funding be approved; and

(3) that the amendments to the capital budgets as detailed within Appendix 4 of the report be approved.

**Reasons for the decision:**

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**EXE 15 Executive Appointments on Outside Bodies (Agenda Item 15)**

Councillor Bell proposed the following changes to the nominations for the coming year:

1. Bristol Water Challenge Panel - Councillor Haverson had stepped down leaving a vacancy. He proposed that he and the Leader be authorised to agree a nomination to fill the vacancy in due course
2. Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group - Councillor Richardson to replace Councillor McQuillan
3. North Somerset Levels Internal Drainage Board - Green Group: Councillor Haverson to replace Councillor Petty; Labour Group: Councillor Gibbons to replace Councillor Cronnelly.

All other appointments as listed to remain unchanged, subject to those appointments by designation to be updated to reflect the new Executive Member portfolios.

**Resolved:**

(1) that the appointments contained in the updated schedule attached as an appendix to these minutes be approved and adopted for the 2021/22 municipal year; and

(2) that the Leader and Deputy Leader be authorised to fill the vacancy on the Bristol Water Challenge Panel in due course.

**Reasons for the decision:**

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

As set out in the report and discussed above.

**EXE 16 Contracts Awarded over £250,000 – Information Report (Agenda Item 16)**

The Head of Finance presented the report.

**Resolved:** that the report be noted.

**EXE 17 Oral reports of Executive Councillors (Agenda Item 17)**

Councillor Petty updated members on the Hinkley Marine Licence Application and on the Waste & Recycling NSEC and shared presentation slides as previously circulated to members, a copy of which is filed on the minute book. She explained the reasons why the Council did not support EDF's licence application and reported that a public inquiry had been requested to provide independent examination of the issues. Members welcomed the update and supported the request for a public inquiry to provide robust evidence and reassure local residents. Councillor Petty also referred to the forthcoming elections on 6 May and expressed the hope that all those involved would show respect to each other during this time. She thanked election staff for all their work in supporting the elections and for the assistance provided to neighbouring authorities.

Councillor Gibbons welcomed Councillor Holland to the Children's Services team in her new Assistant Executive Member role. She referred to a meeting she had recently attended with BME members of the community and expressed sympathies for all those with family and friends in India and elsewhere where Covid remained a significant problem and questioned how best the council could provide support during this difficult time. Other Executive Members echoed these thoughts and it was noted that North Somerset Together and the Equalities Team within the council were currently looking at what support could be offered.

Councillor Bell reported that the outcome of the application to the High Court in relation to virtual meeting provision had been announced and meant virtual meetings would not be permitted beyond May. He suggested this would present significant challenges until such time as social distancing measures had been lifted and may result in some meetings being deferred or cancelled. He hoped the government would not delay in bringing forward appropriate legislation to allow for the continuation of virtual meetings.

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Chairman

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Organisation	No. of Appts. & Category	Authority Granted by	Representative(s)	Term of Office Expires	Name & Address of Correspondent
Archive and Heritage Advisory Panel	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Cllr John Crockford-Hawley	May 2022	Tom Mayberry, South West Heritage <a href="mailto:tom.mayberry@swheritage.org.uk">tom.mayberry@swheritage.org.uk</a>
Avon Pension Fund Committee	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Cllr John Cato	May 2022	Mark Durnford, Democratic Services B&NES Council <a href="mailto:Democratic_services@bathnes.gov.uk">Democratic_services@bathnes.gov.uk</a>
Bristol Airport Environmental Improvement Fund Committee	4 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Cllr Steve Bridger Cllr Hugh Gregor Cllr Steve Hogg Cllr Bridget Petty	May 2022	Jacqui Mills, Public Relations and Community Manager, Bristol Airport <a href="mailto:Jacqui.Mills@bristolairport.com">Jacqui.Mills@bristolairport.com</a>
Bristol Water Challenge Panel	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	VACANCY	May 2022	Tony Denham, Bristol Water plc <a href="mailto:BWchallengepanel@bristolwater.co.uk">BWchallengepanel@bristolwater.co.uk</a>
Campus Management Committee	3 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Cllr Sarah Codling Cllr Peter Crew Cllr David Hitchins	May 2022	Tracey Dover, Clerk to the Campus Management Committee <a href="mailto:Tracey.Dover@clf.uk">Tracey.Dover@clf.uk</a>
Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Cllr Geoff Richardson	May 2022	Jill Callander, SSG Secretariat Co-ordinator, Magnox Ltd <a href="mailto:hinkley.ssg@magnoxsites.com">hinkley.ssg@magnoxsites.com</a>
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Services (by designation)	May 2022	Olga Pepper, Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority <a href="mailto:O.Pepper@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk">O.Pepper@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk</a>

Organisation	No. of Appts. & Category	Authority Granted by	Representative(s)	Term of Office Expires	Name & Address of Correspondent
Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership Committee	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Services (by designation)  [Councillor Karin Haverson as substitute]	May 2022	Jim Hardcastle, Manager, Mendip Hills, AONB Unit <a href="mailto:jim@mendiphillsaonb.org.uk">jim@mendiphillsaonb.org.uk</a> (Copy to John Flannigan, Community and Environment Service Manager, NSC <a href="mailto:John.Flannigan@n-somerset.gov.uk">John.Flannigan@n-somerset.gov.uk</a> )
North Somerset Levels Internal Drainage Board	15 (5:4:3:2:1) [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Cllr Steve Bridger (I) Cllr John Cato (I) Cllr Mark Crosby (I) Cllr Catherine Gibbons (L) Cllr Ann Harley (C) Cllr Karin Haverson (G) Cllr Steve Hogg (I) Cllr James Tonkin (I) Cllr Richard Westwood (LD)* Peter Burden (C) Dave Dash (L) Bob Garner (C) Peter Harris (LD) Clive Webb (C) Deborah Yamanaka (LD) <i>[(LD)* denotes Labour Group member nominated by Lib Dem Group]</i>	May 2022	Roger Burge Clerk to the North Somerset Levels Internal Drainage Board <a href="mailto:RBurge@somersetdbs.co.uk">RBurge@somersetdbs.co.uk</a>

Organisation	No. of Appts. & Category	Authority Granted by	Representative(s)	Term of Office Expires	Name & Address of Correspondent
North Somerset Partnership	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Cllr Don Davies	May 2022	Lorraine Bush, Policy & Partnerships Development Officer <a href="mailto:lorraine.bush@n-somerset.gov.uk">lorraine.bush@n-somerset.gov.uk</a>
South West Councils	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Leader by designation (or his representative)	May 2022	South West Councils <a href="mailto:info@swcouncils.gov.uk">info@swcouncils.gov.uk</a>
South West Employers Panel	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Leader by designation (or his representative)	May 2022	South West Councils <a href="mailto:info@swcouncils.gov.uk">info@swcouncils.gov.uk</a>
Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 14/2019-20	Cllr Bridget Petty	May 2023 (4-year term)	Stacie Bristow Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Secretariat The Environment Agency <a href="mailto:WessexRFCC@environment-agency.gov.uk">WessexRFCC@environment-agency.gov.uk</a>
West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Overview & Scrutiny Committee	3 (1:1:1) [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Cllr Mike Bird (I) Cllr Peter Crew (C) Cllr Huw James (LD) (Group Leader Nominations)	May 2022	Ian Hird <a href="mailto:Ian.Hird@westofengland-ca.gov.uk">Ian.Hird@westofengland-ca.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk">democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk</a>

Organisation	No. of Appts. & Category	Authority Granted by	Representative(s)	Term of Office Expires	Name & Address of Correspondent
West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Transport Board	2 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Executive Member for Public Transport (by designation)  Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Services (by designation)	May 2022	<u>Ian Hird</u> <a href="mailto:democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk">democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk</a>
Western Gateway Sub-national Transport Board	1 [Exps Y]	EXE 15/2021-22	Executive Member for Strategic Transport (by designation)	May 2022	<a href="mailto:WesternGatewaySTB@westofengland-ca.gov.uk">WesternGatewaySTB@westofengland-ca.gov.uk</a>
Contact Officer: Roz Hime, Democratic Services, Roz.Hime@n-somerset.gov.uk					
<b>Guide to Expenses Categories:</b> N - Expenses not paid by the Council and any claim should be submitted to the Outside Body concerned. Y - Only travel expenses to the main meeting place to be submitted to the Council. Any other travel expenses will require prior authorisation before travel to establish if payment will be made.					

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## Forward Plan

for the four-month period commencing on

**1st July 2021**

published on 2 June 2021

This Forward Plan gives details of decision items to be presented during the forthcoming four months.

Councillors are invited to review the items and to consider whether any of them should be referred for scrutiny or discussed with the appropriate Executive Member.

**Executive Members (8)** (revised portfolios as announced at Council on 20 April 2021)

**Leader of the Council - Councillor Don Davies:** external liaison including strategic partnerships: Local Enterprise Partnership, North Somerset Partnership, Joint Executive Committee (WECA and North Somerset Council), Alliance, Police; strategic policy/corporate plan development, forward programme and strategic review; strategic communications and marketing (with Deputy Leader and Executive Member Engagement); strategic transport - transport policy, public transport, home to school transport, bus and rail strategy.

**Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Adult Services, Health and Housing - Councillor Mike Bell:** adult social care; Health and Wellbeing Board; public health and regulatory services; NHS, health and liaison; emergency management; housing solutions, private sector housing and unauthorised encampments.

**Executive Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning – Councillor Catherine Gibbons:** children and young people's services; education and skills; further and higher education liaison.

**Executive Member for Corporate Services – Councillor Ashley Cartman:** finance – revenue, capital programme and income generation; procurement; legal and democratic services (including electoral and registrar); property and asset management – financial business cases & financing; ICT, digital and customer services; lead for business support contracts – Agilisys and Liberata; human resources and organisational development; shareholder representative role for council companies.

**Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Engagement – Councillor Bridget Petty:** climate and ecological emergency; community engagement and consultation; town and parish liaison; North Somerset Together; voluntary sector liaison.

**Executive Member for Placemaking and Economy – Councillor Mark Canniford:** Placemaking and development - placemaking strategies, culture strategy, Weston placemaking delivery, Tropicana and Playhouse Theatre, strategic events programme, visitor economy development, development and commercial programme, affordable housing delivery; planning - policy, spatial planning, building control; economy and recovery - inward investment, business development and engagement, employment, high street and town centre renewal; parking strategy.

**Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Services – Councillor Mike Solomon:** libraries; community venues; safer communities; environmental services - recycling and waste minimisation, waste and street cleansing contracts, enforcement strategy; highways operations and parking - highway network management, highway maintenance contract, streetlighting, parking management; highway technical services and delivery - liveable neighbourhood schemes, active travel schemes, highway structures; open spaces and natural environment – sports and leisure centre contracts, flood risk management, seafronts parks and lakes operational management, crematoria and cemeteries, marine environment.

**Executive Member for Assets and Capital Delivery – Councillor Steve Bridger:** major infrastructure project delivery – HIF, Metrowest, major schemes; property technical services and project delivery - strategic asset planning, corporate estate (including allocation/appropriation of assets between council directorates/functions), accommodation strategy project delivery, capital projects delivery.

The items and the final decision taker are indicative. Decision making is subject to the Constitution.

Copies of documents listed can be obtained by contacting the officer named in the attached schedules. Other relevant documents may be submitted to the decision maker and can be requested from the named officer as they become available or may be available on the Council's website [www.n-somerset.gov.uk](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk)

## July 2021

### 1. Council and Executive Items

(NB No Executive meeting scheduled for July)

Meeting Date	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Contact Officer for Further Details
13/07	Development Programme updates and decisions, including: (i) Development proposals for brownfield sites in Weston-super-Mare town centre. (ii) Commissioning Plan for development of land to the south of The Uplands, Nailsea.	Council report on Asset, Accommodation and Development Strategies, 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 2021: <a href="https://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/Meetings/document/report/NS_CPM-38-641">https://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/Meetings/document/report/NS_CPM-38-641</a>  Uplands planning application: report to Planning & Regulatory Committee: <a href="https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/files/30C400C7D381EC4C91139FED3D925100/pdf/20_P_2000_R3-COMMITTEE_REPORT_17_FEBRUARY_2021-3013094.pdf">https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/files/30C400C7D381EC4C91139FED3D925100/pdf/20_P_2000_R3-COMMITTEE_REPORT_17_FEBRUARY_2021-3013094.pdf</a>	Council	Part	Partnerships, Corporate Organisation & Overview Management Policy & Scrutiny Panel: consideration of Development Programme consultation, 15th July (proposed)	Contact: Alex Hearn / Jenny Ford 01934 426609/ Geoff Brakspear

Meeting Date	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Contact Officer for Further Details
13/07	Approval of submission of bid for national Levelling Up funding (retrospective)	<p>Levelling Up fund prospectus:  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-prospectus">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-prospectus</a></p> <p>Levelling Up fund additional guidance:  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-additional-documents">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-additional-documents</a></p>	Council	No	Partnerships, Corporate Organisation & Overview Management Policy & Scrutiny Panel: review of process for funding bids, 15th July (proposed).	Contact: Alex Hearn Jenny Ford 01934 426609
13/07	Adoption of the North Somerset Active Travel Strategy	<p>NSC Active Travel Strategy (final version, updated following consultation)</p> <p>Report to 20 April Council</p>	Council	No	Special SPEDR engagement session was undertaken in Feb 2021 to summarise the results from consultation and seek further Member input. Minutes from the session confirm the support of SPEDR in adopting the strategy.	Contact: Lindsay Margerison 01934 427408

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Item/Issue requiring decision</b>	<b>Background Documents for Consideration</b>	<b>Decision Taker</b>	<b>Exempt Item? Yes/No/Part</b>	<b>Policy &amp; Scrutiny Panel Activity &amp; Engagement / Timeline</b>	<b>Contact Officer for Further Details</b>
13/07	HIF Banwell Bypass: Authorisation to make CPO – authorising the making of the CPO and any associated orders and steps	June 2020 HIF Forward Fund Acceptance of Grant - <a href="https://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/Meetings/document/report/NSCPM-38-570">https://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/Meetings/document/report/NSCPM-38-570</a> HIF Banwell Bypass Land Referencing and Prep for CPO - <a href="https://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/Meetings/document/report/NSCPM-111-623">https://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/Meetings/document/report/NSCPM-111-623</a>	Council	No	Informal Place Panel meeting – 14/06/20	Contact: Alex Fear 07881267485
13/07	MetroWest Phase 1 – Delivery Update	23rd February 2021 report to Full Council	Council	No	Informal Place Panel engagement (date TBC)	Contact: James Willcock 01934 426414

## July 2021

### 2. Executive Member Items and Director Key Decisions

Decision not before	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Contact Officer for Further Details
01/07	Adoption of Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve (new entry)	CSD 151 (2016) – earlier decision to adopt the nature reserve <a href="https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/15%2016%20CSD%20151.pdf">https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/15%2016%20CSD%20151.pdf</a>	Executive Member (Cllr Bridger)	No	Panel Chairman has agreed the matter has been dealt with locally by the Town and Parish Councils and the Ward Member and is not therefore necessary to be brought to the panel	Contact: John Flannigan 01934 427346
01/07	Community and Voluntary Controlled School Admissions Arrangements 2021-22 and 2022-23 variation to include statutory required International Adopted Previously Looked After Children oversubscription criteria from 1 September, to comply with the new 2021 School Admissions Code requirements (new entry)	<u>School Admissions Code, School Admission Arrangements for North Somerset Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2021-22, School Admission Arrangements for North Somerset Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2022-23</u>	Executive Member (Cllr Gibbons)	No	25 May School Organisation Scrutiny Steering Group	Contact: Felicity Williamson 01275 884502

## August 2021

### 1. Council and Executive Items

(NB No Council or Executive meetings scheduled for August)

### 2. Executive Member Items and Director Key Decisions

Decision not before	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Contact Officer for Further Details
01/08	Article 4 directions on preventing the demolishing of stone walls and stone gate posts in Great Weston Conservation area. Area of Advertising and Shopfront Control in Great Weston Conservation area (updated entry - previously listed for June)	NSC adopted policy document 04/12/18: Great Weston Conservation area management plan  <a href="http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/Great%20Weston%20Conservation%20Area%20management%20guidance.pdf">http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/Great%20Weston%20Conservation%20Area%20management%20guidance.pdf</a>	Executive Member (Cllr Canniford)	No	Research work April /June 2021. Scrutiny panel July 2021	Contact:Cara MacMahon 01934 426825

Decision not before	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Contact Officer for Further Details
01/08	Award of contract for professional design services in support of Weston Business Quarter infrastructure development (new entry)	North Somerset Economic Plan: <a href="https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-03/29981%20Economic%20Plan%20ACC.pdf">https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-03/29981%20Economic%20Plan%20ACC.pdf</a> Executive 23/06/2021	Director of Place (key decision)	No	Place Panel all-member briefing on Junction 21 Enterprise Area and Weston Business Quarter to be arranged in discussion with Chair (expected early June)	Contact: Alex Fear 01934 426458
01/08	Award of contract for Winterstoke Hundred Academy expansion site preparation works (new entry)	HIF Commissioning plan <a href="http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/docs/doc29685.pdf">http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/docs/doc29685.pdf</a>	Executive Member (Cllr Bridger)	No	Present Procurement Paper to Place Panel on 14 June 2021.	Contact: Jon d'Este-Hoare 07385 402975



## September 2021

### 1. Council and Executive Items

Meeting Date	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Contact Officer for Further Details
08/09	2021/22 Month 4 Budget Monitor	Previous Budget Monitor reports to Executive	Executive	No	Awaiting information	Contact: Melanie Watts 01934 634618
08/09	Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and Revenue Budget 2022/23	Previous Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan reports to Executive	Executive	No	Awaiting information	Contact: Melanie Watts 01934 634618
08/09	Award of the Nursing & Healthy Child Programme Contract	Commissioning Plan Procurement Plan	Executive	No	Engagement with Children's and Health Panels during the procurement process	Contact: Hayley Burton 01275 888202
08/09	Adoption of new brand identity and vision for Junction 21 Enterprise Area	J21EA revisioning prospectus	Executive	No	Special Place Panel July 2021 (to be confirmed with Place secretariat and chair)	Contact: Alastair Shankland
08/09	Approval of the revised Travel Plan SPD for public consultation (previously listed for June)	Revised Draft Travel Plans SPD and additional documents for schools Current Travel Plan SPD <a href="https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/travel%20plans%20supplementary%20planning%20document.pdf">https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/travel%20plans%20supplementary%20planning%20document.pdf</a>	Executive	No	Informal Place Panel prior to 23 June (date TBC)  Panel engagement will also be sought after the conclusion of public consultation and prior to formal adoption of the revised SPD.	Contact: Steve Thorne 01934 426920/James Wigmore 01275 888076

Meeting Date	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Contact Officer for Further Details
08/09	Approval of Green Infrastructure Strategy (previously listed for June)	Report: Pre-consultation sign-off of the draft North Somerset green infrastructure strategy – in preparation for public consultation (February-March 2021) <a href="https://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/Meetings/document/report/NSCPM-111-603">https://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/Meetings/document/report/NSCPM-111-603</a>	Executive	No	Ongoing engagement with Community and Corporate Organisation Scrutiny Panel	Contact: John Flannigan 01934 427346
21/09	Climate Emergency Progress Update (for information, no decision required) (new entry)	<a href="#">Climate emergency strategy</a> <a href="#">Climate emergency Action Plan – update Jan 2021</a> <a href="#">Climate Emergency Progress Report – Jan 2021</a> Baseline evidence reports: <a href="#">Council Area</a>	Council	No	PCO meeting 15 <sup>th</sup> July (TBC)	Contact: Nicola Webb 01275 884835

## September 2021

### 2. Executive Member Items and Director Key Decisions

Decision not before	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Contact Officer for Further Details
01/09	Winterstoke Road Bridge – acceptance of MOD funding and adding ~£4.5m to the capital programme	19.10.16 WRB Full 12.11.19 Council Report	Director of Place (key decision)	No	Briefing to Cllr John Crockford-Hawley as Place Chairman June 2021	Contact: Alex Fear 01934 426458
01/09	Approval to submit the A38 MRN scheme Outline Business Case and on Local Contribution funding (new entry)	Director Decision 19/20 DE295 <a href="https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-05/19-20%20DE%20295.pdf">https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-05/19-20%20DE%20295.pdf</a>	Executive Member (Cllr Bridger)	No	Place P&SP Chairman consulted with and liaison ongoing	Contact: Konrad Lansdown: 07917 184804

## October 2021

### 1. Council and Executive Items

(NB No Council meeting scheduled for October)

Meeting Date	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Contact Officer for Further Details
20/10	2021/22 Month 6 Budget Monitor (new entry)	Previous Budget Monitor reports to Executive	Executive	No	Awaiting information	Contact: Melanie Watts 01934 634618
20/10	Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and Revenue Budget 2022/23 (new entry)	Previous Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan reports to Executive	Executive	No	Awaiting information	Contact: Melanie Watts 01934 634618
20/10	Bus Back Better: Approval of the Joint Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) (new entry)	Report to Executive 23/06/2021 Also, Ministerial statement of 15 March 2021: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/local-transport-update-national-bus-strategy-for-england-published">https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/local-transport-update-national-bus-strategy-for-england-published</a> New National strategy launched 15 March 2021: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/buses-back-better">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/buses-back-better</a>	Executive	No	Place Panel session to be arranged prior to Executive to allow detailed scrutiny of the Joint Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)	Contact: Bella Fortune or Lindsay Margerison 01934 427408

October 2021

2. Executive Member Items and Director Key Decisions

Decision not before	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Contact Officer for Further Details
01/10	Permission to commence the Presumption Route competition process with the DfE to seek a sponsor for a new primary school in Weston super Mare to meet new development demand (new entry)	Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy 2021 – 2024 –report to Executive 23 June 2021	Executive Member (Cllr Gibbons)	No	CYPS School Organisation Steering Group – 25 May 2021	Contact: Sally Varley 01275 884857

Page 33

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## **North Somerset Council**

**Report to The Executive**

**Date of Meeting: 23 June 2021**

**Subject of Report: Abbots Leigh, Ham Green, Pill And Easton-In-Gordano Neighbourhood Plan**

**Town or Parish: Abbots Leigh and Pill & Easton-In-Gordano**

**Officer/Member Presenting: Executive Member for Place**

**Key: Yes**

**Reason: It affects more than one ward in North Somerset**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. To accept the Examiners modifications to the Abbots Leigh, Ham Green, Pill and Easton-in-Gordano Neighbourhood Plan as set out in the appendix to this report and resolve that with those modifications the Abbots Leigh, Ham Green, Pill and Easton-in-Gordano Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions, is compatible with Convention rights and complies with the definition of a neighbourhood development plan and should therefore proceed to referendum; the referendum are will be the Neighbourhood Plan area, and
2. The Director of Place is authorised to make the necessary arrangements for the Referendum which will be held in the Abbots Leigh, Ham Green, Pill and Easton-in-Gordano neighbourhood plan area.

### **1. SUMMARY OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The Abbots Leigh, Ham Green, Pill and Easton-in-Gordano Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) has been tested through independent examination. Following consideration of the Examiner's Report, North Somerset Council must come to a formal decision as to whether the Plan meets the necessary basic conditions and other provisions in order to go forward to referendum.
- 1.2 The Examiner has concluded that a number of modifications (some quite significant) are required in order that the Plan meets the necessary 'basic conditions'. It is recommended that these are accepted and that the Executive resolve that with the modifications set out in the appendix to this report the Plan meets the conditions and provisions in order for it to proceed to referendum.

### **2. POLICY**

- 2.1 A Neighbourhood Plan is prepared by the local community (with help and advice from North Somerset Council and other bodies as necessary). If it secures a majority

'yes' vote at the referendum (more than 50% of the votes in favour) then North Somerset Council will subsequently 'make' the Plan. It will then have the status of a development plan document and will be used alongside the North Somerset Core Strategy, Site Allocations Plan and Development Management Plan. Where relevant policies exist in the Neighbourhood Plan they will take precedence over the North Somerset Development Management Plan policies within the area covered by the NDP.

- 2.2 The Abbots Leigh, Ham Green, Pill and Easton-in-Gordano NDP (like the Development Management Plan and Site Allocations Plan) sits under the strategic policies contained in the North Somerset Council Core Strategy and the time period of the Plan is aligned to the Core Strategy time period of 2026.
- 2.3 Because the Neighbourhood Plan covers the same time period as the Core Strategy, it will be superseded by the Local Plan 2038 when this is adopted in 2023.
- 2.4 If Executive agree that the Plan meets the necessary conditions to go to referendum then it will have due weight in decision making on planning applications from that point. It does not formally become part of the North Somerset Development Plan however until it has passed the referendum and then subsequently been "made" by the Council.

### **3. DETAILS**

- 3.1 The area covered by this Neighbourhood Plan is the combined parishes of Abbots Leigh and Pill & Easton-in-Gordano
- 3.2 The draft Plan was submitted to North Somerset Council for independent Examination on 20 November 2020. North Somerset Council then organised a period of consultation (submission consultation) before submitting the plan, supporting documents and consultation responses (including North Somerset Council's comments on the Plan considered by Executive on 9 December) to an independent Examiner for examination.

#### **Role of the Examiner**

- 3.3 Mr Andrew Ashcroft was appointed as independent Examiner and he issued his report on 14 May.
- 3.4 It is the role of the Independent Examiner to consider whether a neighbourhood plan meets the 'basic conditions' as set out in law following the Localism Act 2011. The Examiner cannot consider other matters. In order to meet the basic conditions, the Plan must:
  - have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
  - contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
  - be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area;
  - be compatible with European Union (EU) and European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) obligations.



- 3.5 The Examiner also must decide whether it meets other provisions under Paragraph 8(1) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; this includes
- confirming that the plan identifies a time period,
  - the Parish Council is the correct body to prepare the plan, and
  - it contains policies for the development and use of land and does not include excluded development.

Mr Ashcroft has concluded that the Abbots Leigh, Ham Green, Pill and Easton-in-Gordano Neighbourhood Plan meets these provisions.

- 3.6 The Examiner can make one of three recommendations:

1. that the Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to Referendum as it is, on the basis that it meets all legal requirements;
2. that the Neighbourhood Plan, as modified, should proceed to Referendum;
3. that the Neighbourhood Plan does not proceed to Referendum, on the basis that it does not meet the relevant legal requirements.

Mr Ashcroft has concluded in line with 2 above, namely that provided his recommended modifications are made the Plan will meet the basic conditions and can go forward to referendum. He has also stated that the referendum area should be the neighbourhood area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. the area of the combined parishes of Abbots Leigh and Pill & Easton-in-Gordano).

#### **North Somerset Council's role**

- 3.7 Although the Independent Examiner's role is to assess the acceptability of the Plan and make recommendations, the responsibility falls to North Somerset Council to formally decide whether the Plan meets the basic conditions and other requirements (paragraph 12(4) Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and can therefore be recommended to go forward to a referendum. The Examiner has concluded that a number of modifications are necessary for the Plan to meet the basic conditions. These range from relatively minor modifications to improve clarity, to significant changes such as the deletion of a number of policies which did not meet the basic conditions.

- 3.8 North Somerset Council must now consider each of the Examiners recommendations (and reasons) and decide whether to accept the modifications. The only modifications which the Council can make are:

- to ensure the Plan meets the basic conditions
- to make it compatible with EU Convention Rights
- to comply with the definition of a neighbourhood development plan and the provisions that can be made by a neighbourhood development plan
- to set a time period for the plan
- to correct errors

If North Somerset Council is satisfied that the Abbots Leigh, Ham Green, Pill and Easton-in-Gordano NDP can meet these conditions and provisions if modified, then a referendum must be held. The referendum is arranged by North Somerset Council and must be held within 56 working days of the decision to hold the referendum. To avoid the main holiday season this means the referendum will take place in September.

- 3.9 Were the Council to decide not to accept an Examiner's modification and come to a different conclusion because of new evidence, or because it takes a different view of a certain fact, then it is necessary to undertake a further period of consultation with the possibility of holding another Examination. This course is therefore not to be undertaken lightly. The table of modifications is appended to this report, with the recommendation that Executive agree each of them.

### **The Examiners report and outcomes**

- 3.10 Although Mr Ashcroft has recommended modifications to many of the policies in the way of rewording, this is to aid clarity so that the policies can operate effectively and as intended having regard to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Notable modifications include:-
- Deletion site allocation HOU1 Site A Orchard House Ham Green and replacement with a criteria based policy
  - Deletion of policy HOU2 Site B affordable housing exceptions site Ham Green as he considered it inappropriate for the neighbourhood plan policy to allocate a specific exception to national Green Belt policy. This is especially so given the lack of details to assess its impact on Green Belt at the time the policy was developed.
- 3.11 A number of policies are recommended to be deleted because they are not implementable such as **HO5** offsite contributions, **HO6** residential conversion of outbuildings and **T3** electric vehicles.
- 3.12 Others are to be deleted and replaced with a community action such as **T5** Passenger rail services, **Env3** rewilding and **Her2** Conservation Area for Abbots Leigh. These will become actions for the community to progress rather than being factors to consider in planning decision making.
- 3.13 Modifications have been suggested to many other policies in line with the requirements of the NPPF and to make them more effective and appropriate to be used in decision making on planning applications. All of these are detailed on the appended table.
- 3.14 A number of consequential modifications will be needed to achieve consistency and these have not all been all detailed by the Examiner or included on the appended schedule. However, the plan will be modified in accordance with these prior to the necessary material being published for the referendum.
- 3.15 It is concluded that all of the modifications should be accepted in order to meet the basic conditions and that Executive determine that the plan is passed to referendum. It is North Somerset Council's responsibility to arrange the referendum based on the modified plan. The referendum area will be the Abbots Leigh, Ham Green, Pill and Easton-in-Gordano Neighbourhood Plan area as recommended by Mr Ashcroft.

## **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 The Neighbourhood Plan Regulations 2012 require that a formal period of consultation is carried out by the parish council in the preparation of the NDP (known as Regulation 14 consultation). This was carried out and as required a consultation statement detailing this was submitted to North Somerset Councils with the Neighbourhood Plan.

- 4.2 It is also a requirement under Regulation 16 that North Somerset Council undertake a period of consultation on the submitted plan and accompanying documents. This was carried out from 1 February to Monday 15 March 2021. All responses received were forwarded to Mr Ashcroft for consideration as part of the Examination.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Government provides funding by way of a Neighbourhood Planning Grant to help Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) meet their legislative duties in relation to neighbourhood planning. Specifically, it covers the neighbourhood planning duties introduced by the Localism Act 2011 which are to provide advice or assistance; to hold an examination; and to make arrangements for a referendum. As such £20k can be claimed in retrospect once a Local Planning Authority has made the decision to hold a referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan. This is done through the government's DELTA claims system.
- 5.2 There are no ongoing financial implications. The Neighbourhood Development Plan does not commit council resources in order to implement the plan's provisions.

## **6. LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There is a duty on the Council to assist the Neighbourhood Plan making process and the procedure is set out in Schedule 4B of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act (as amended) and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, and Town and Country Planning (General) and Development Management Procedure (Amendment) Regulations 2016.

## **7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The Neighbourhood Development Plan contains policies and community actions to help tackle climate change at the local Neighbourhood Development Plan area.

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 8.1 The Plan with modifications is considered to meet the necessary basic conditions and therefore it must be passed to referendum. The only circumstance in which this would not take place would be if the Parish Councils as Qualifying Body made a decision to withdraw the plan.

## **9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The Neighbourhood Plan is considered to have met the necessary Human Rights Articles and it is not considered that there are any equality impact considerations arising from the Plan.

## **10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no direct corporate implications.

## **11. OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 11.1 As the plan is considered to meet the necessary basic conditions and other provisions, the only option is for North Somerset Council to organise a referendum. The referendum must take place within 56 working days of the published decision, unless the Parish Council agrees to an alternative date.

### **AUTHOR**

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### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[Examiners Report for the Abbots Leigh, Ham Green, Pill and Easton-in-Gordano Neighbourhood Plan](#)

[Abbots Leigh, Ham Green, Pill and Easton-in-Gordano Neighbourhood Plan \(as submitted for examination\)](#)

## Appendix

### List of inspectors proposed modifications and North Somerset Councils response

Policy/Paragraph	Examiners report ref/para	Examiners Modification	Summary of reasoning	Councils conclusion and Action required
End of section 5.5 as separate paragraphs	7.17	<p><i>Insert at the end of Section 5.5 as separate paragraphs:</i></p> <p><i>'The three scenarios have been used to inform the policies in the submitted Plan. Given that the North Somerset Local Plan 2023-2038 is at an early stage it is impractical to identify longer-term growth requirements with any degree of confidence. Similarly, the neighbourhood plan recognises that strategic nature of growth in North Somerset is a matter for North Somerset Council and not for the parish councils.</i></p> <p><i>The three scenarios have no formal status that would affect development management up to 2026. This is reflected in the relatively short Plan period (2020 to 2026) of the neighbourhood plan. Nevertheless, they have been used as a basis to inform development which could take up to 2026 on the basis of the current development plan. Each of the three scenarios has the potential to contribute towards longer-term development in the Local Plan period. In any event Section 2 of the submitted Plan makes a clear commitment to review</i></p>	To clarify the intention that the three growth scenarios are included only as background information rather than a strategy for development within the neighbourhood plan.	<p>Agree with examiners reasoning.</p> <p>Insert the explanatory text as given.</p>

Policy/Paragraph	Examiners report ref/para	Examiners Modification	Summary of reasoning	Councils conclusion and Action required
		<i>the neighbourhood plan following the adoption of the Local Plan. Such an updated/ revised neighbourhood plan would need to address the basic conditions as applicable to the neighbourhood area at that time'</i>		
<b>Housing</b>				
<b>Policy HO 1</b> Site A (Orchard View) for care home and thirty houses	7.18	<p><b>Replace the policy with: 'Proposals for the development of Site A (Orchard View as shown on Map 5) for a care home and thirty houses will be supported where the development:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>would not have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt than the existing development;</b></li> <li>• <b>would provide satisfactory pedestrian and vehicular access;</b></li> <li>• <b>would relate in height, scale and massing to the commercial buildings to the north and east and to the residential buildings to the south and west; and</b></li> <li>• <b>would not have an unacceptable impact on</b></li> </ul>	In the round proposals for exception sites in the Green Belt are exceptions to national and local policy. An assessment therefore needs to be made (and is absent from the supporting information to the policy) of whether the impact on the openness of the GB exceeds the existing impact. The policy should be rephrased as support for the proposed uses provided there is no greater impact on the openness of the GB.	Accept the examiners reasoning.  <b>Make the necessary policy text changes.</b>

Policy/Paragraph	Examiners report ref/para	Examiners Modification	Summary of reasoning	Councils conclusion and Action required
		<b>the amenities of the residential properties in the immediate locality.</b>		
<b>Policy HO 2</b> Site B (Chapel pill Lane) as an exception site for 16 affordable houses	7.22 -7.34	Delete the policy.	Inappropriate for the neighbourhood plan to allocate a specific exception site especially given the lack of details to assess impact on GB.	Accept the examiners reasoning that the neighbourhood plan should not be allocating this site as an exception to national policy.  <b>Delete policy.</b>
	7.22-7.34	<p><i>In Section 5.6 of the Plan:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>At the end of the paragraph beginning ‘Chapel Pill Lane was well located’ add ‘This proposal has been developed into a planning application and will be determined by North Somerset Council in due course’</i></li> <li>• <i>Replace ‘For the period to 2026, therefore, the Plan allocates two new development sites in Ham Green which would offering a further forty (40) new dwellings in the Plan Area by 2026 (see map 4):’</i></li> </ul>	Inappropriate for the neighbourhood plan to allocate a specific exception site especially given the lack of details to assess impact on GB.	Accept the examiners reasoning that the neighbourhood plan should not be allocating this site as an exception to national policy.  <b>Delete supporting text in section 5.6</b>

Policy/Paragraph	Examiners report ref/para	Examiners Modification	Summary of reasoning	Councils conclusion and Action required
		<p><i>with 'For the period to 2026, therefore, the Plan supports the development of Land at Orchard View in Ham Green which would offer a further thirty new dwellings in the Plan Area by 2026. This policy approach is associated with the development of a care home on the site (see map 4).'</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Delete 'AFFORDABLE HOUSING: A one-and a-half-acre exception scheme of up to sixteen (16) affordable housing units to rent on Chapel Pill Lane in the Green Belt (proposed by the Pill and District Community Land Trust)'</i></li> <li>• <i>Replace 'Both these sites lie within Ham Green (see Map 4)'</i> with <i>'The site lies within Ham Green (see Map 4)'</i></li> </ul>		
	7.22 -7.34	<i>On Map 4 remove the reference to Chapel Pill Lane.</i>	Inappropriate for the neighbourhood plan to allocate a specific exception site especially	Accept the examiners reasoning that the neighbourhood plan should not be allocating this site



Policy/Paragraph	Examiners report ref/para	Examiners Modification	Summary of reasoning	Councils conclusion and Action required
			given the lack of details to assess impact on GB.	as an exception to national policy.  <b>Delete map 4 reference to Chapel Pill Lane</b>
	7.22 -7.34	<i>Delete Section 5.8 of the Plan and Map 6.</i>	Inappropriate for a neighbourhood plan policy to allocate a specific exception site especially given the lack of details to assess impact on GB.	Accept the examiners reasoning that the neighbourhood plan should not be allocating this site as an exception to national policy.  <b>Delete supporting text and map 6</b>
<b>HO3</b> Energy assessment for new development	7.35	Reword the policy <b>Proposals for new residential development should incorporate the relevant details of Policy DM2 of the Sites and Policies Plan Part 1</b>	Ministerial Statement March 2015 does not support any additional local technical standards or requirements relating to the construction, internal layout or performance of new dwellings. The matter is already covered in Site Allocations Plan policy DM2	Accept examiners conclusions  <b>Replace with examiners wording</b>
<b>HO4</b> Infill development	7.38	Reword policy <b>Infill development which is in keeping with local scale and character will be supported within the Pill Settlement boundary'</b>	Modifications required to meet the clarity required by the NPPF	Accept the examiners modification and reasoning.  <b>Replace with examiners wording</b>

Policy/Paragraph	Examiners report ref/para	Examiners Modification	Summary of reasoning	Councils conclusion and Action required
HO5 Offsite sustainability contributions	7.40	Delete policy	Whilst the ambitions of the policy are well-intended its approach may be beyond the ability of a developer through ownership issues and constraints. In any event the policy does not provide any certainty about the scale and nature of the proposals involved and the extent of the 'surrounding environment'.	Agree with Examiners conclusions and reasoning.  <b>Delete policy</b>
HO6 Residential conversion of outbuildings	7.42	Delete the policy	The ancillary residential use of outbuildings within a curtilage is permitted development and to restrict the use would require an Article 4 direction outside of the scope of a neighbourhood plan. Use as a separate dwelling would require planning consent and fall to be judged under existing policies. As such the intention of the policy is already addressed through existing development plan policies.	Agree with Examiners conclusions and reasoning  <b>Delete policy</b>
<b>Transport and movement</b>				

Policy/Paragraph	Examiners report ref/para	Examiners Modification	Summary of reasoning	Councils conclusion and Action required
<b>T1</b> Location of new development	7.44	<p><b>Replace the policy with:</b></p> <p><b>‘New development which integrates with well-provided and regular public bus or rail infrastructure and service provision and minimise traffic congestion and air pollution will be particularly supported’</b></p>	Potential conflict with policy HO4 which generally allows development within the settlement boundary. However significant elements of the Pill/Easton/Ham Green	<p>Agree with Examiners reasoning and conclusions</p> <p><b>Replace policy with examiners wording</b></p>
<b>T2</b> Rights of way and pathways	7.47	<p><b>Replace the policy with:</b></p> <p><b>‘Development proposals should protect public rights of way and pathways (and those around The Bottoms, Martcombe, Chapel Pill and Ham Green in particular) and, where practicable, enhance their condition and accessibility to users’</b></p>	The supporting text justifies a policy to protect and enhance public rights of way, however as written it does not relate to the development management process.	<p>Agree with examiners conclusion and reasoning.</p> <p><b>Replace policy with examiners wording.</b></p>
<b>T3</b> Electric vehicles	7.49	<p><b>Delete the policy</b></p> <p>Include an additional sentence within the supporting text at the end of section 6.4  <i>“These figures for method of travel will change first as a consequence of more home-working and secondly as a consequence of the growing use of electric vehicles”</i></p>	Policy reads as a process requirement rather than a land use policy and does not provide any clarity for the determination of planning applications. The suggested additional sentences in response to the clarification note by the PC should be incorporated into the supporting text.	<p>Agree with the examiners’ conclusions and reasoning.</p> <p><b>Delete policy</b></p> <p><b>Include additional sentence in supporting text as examiners recommendation</b></p>

Policy/Paragraph	Examiners report ref/para	Examiners Modification	Summary of reasoning	Councils conclusion and Action required
<p><b>T4</b> Protection and safety of cyclists in improvement areas 3 and 4</p>		<p><b>Replace the policy with:</b>  <b>‘Where it is practicable to do so, development proposals affecting Improvement Areas 3 (Abbots Leigh) and 4 (Pill Precinct) should incorporate measures for the protection and safety of pedestrians and cyclists which are appropriate to their scale, nature and location’</b></p>	<p>This policy has a general effect and will be an important consideration in determining planning applications in these locations. Nevertheless, I recommend that the policy is modified so that it takes account of the scale and nature of the proposals concerned and the practicability of incorporating the measures included in the policy into development proposals. This will bring the clarity required by the NPPF for the development management process.</p>	<p>Agree with the examiners’ conclusions and reasoning.</p> <p><b>Modify policy</b></p>
<p><b>T5</b> Passenger rail service implications</p>	7.55	<p>Delete the policy  Add a new community action to read  <i>“The Parish Council will work with Metro West and North Somerset Council to develop a strategy to monitor and respond to the implications of the re-opening of the Pill railway station (including traffic, parking, the impact on local business and residential amenity)”</i></p>	<p>The policy seeks to look towards the future impacts of the reopening if the railway station. However, the station is not yet re-opened and it would be both impractical and unreasonable at this stage to expect development proposals to take account of any potential impacts of the opening of the station</p>	<p>Accept Examiners conclusions and reasoning.</p> <p><b>Delete policy</b></p> <p>Add a new community action as stated by examiner.</p>

Policy/Paragraph	Examiners report ref/para	Examiners Modification	Summary of reasoning	Councils conclusion and Action required
			<p>on residential amenity in the immediate locality. In its response to the clarification note the parish councils acknowledged that circumstances have now moved on and suggest that the policy is replaced by a community action. I recommend this course of action with some modifications to its detail.</p>	
<b>T6</b> Walking and cycling	7.59	<p><b>Replace the policy with: ‘New development which are designed to encourage walking and cycling to work (including journeys to school) and to ensure access to local retail and public services in Pill will be particularly supported’</b></p>	<p>The intention of the policy is self-evident. However, it has the ability to conflict with Policy HO4 which offers more general support to new residential development within the Pill settlement boundary. In any event significant elements of the Pill/Easton/HamGreen area are within convenient walking distance of retail and public services.</p>	<p>Accept examiners reasoning and conclusions</p> <p><b>Reword policy</b></p>
<b>7 Landscape, environment and biodiversity</b>				
<b>Env1</b> Protection of landscape	7.62	<b>Delete the words “the Green Belt”</b>	As submitted the policy conflates Green Belt issues (which relate the	Agree with examiners reasoning and

Policy/Paragraph	Examiners report ref/para	Examiners Modification	Summary of reasoning	Councils conclusion and Action required
			openness of land) with landscape sensitivity issues in the Crockerne Drive/Brookside area. In order to remedy this matter, I recommend that the reference to the wider Green Belt issue is removed from the policy. This will allow its focus to be on landscape sensitivity issues. In any event the control of development in the Green Belt is already addressed in national and local planning policies.	conclusions. <b>Modify policy</b>
<b>Env2</b> Protection of salt marshes and foreshore	7.64	<b>Replace the policy with: ‘Development proposals should protect and where practicable enhance the environment and wildlife (especially the salt marshes and the inter-tidal shore) of Royal Portbury Dock’</b>	Modify wording for clarity and to ensure it relates to the development management process	Agree with examiners reasoning and wording. <b>Modify policy</b>
<b>Env3</b> Rewilding	7.66	Delete policy and replace with a community action to read <i>‘The parish councils will work with landowners and developers to ensure that areas for rewilding, plant native trees, shrubs, margins and flowering plants are incorporated into development proposals, that the diversity of hedges</i>	In the response to the clarification note the parish councils agreed that the policy should become a community action. Changes to the wording are necessary so it properly describes the	Agree with examiners reasoning and conclusions <b>Delete policy</b> <b>Replace with a Community Action</b>

Policy/Paragraph	Examiners report ref/para	Examiners Modification	Summary of reasoning	Councils conclusion and Action required
		<i>and verges is safeguarded, and to ensure that grasslands are allowed to develop as wild flower meadows'</i>	work which the councils will undertake.	
<b>Heritage</b>				
<b>Her1</b>	7.68	<b>Replace the policy with: 'The design of new development and/or extensions of existing development should take account of the significance and setting of any heritage assets in the immediate locality'</b>	As submitted, all development proposals will need to be in sympathy with a surrounding historic environment. However, this will not be the case in certain parts of the neighbourhood area. The modification address this matter which refers both to heritage assets and to the immediate locality of the site concerned. An additional modification is necessary in order to have regard to national policy which refers to the 'significance' of heritage assets rather than 'distinctiveness'.	Agree with examiners reasoning and conclusions  <b>Modify policy</b>
<b>Her2</b> Conservation area in Abbots Leigh	7.70	Delete policy and replace with a community action  <i>'CA/Her1: North Somerset Council and Abbots Leigh Parish Council will explore the appropriateness of designating a conservation area in Abbots Leigh'</i>	The designation of conservation areas is a matter for NSC rather than Abbots Leigh Parish Council and is one which would need to be considered under separate	Agree with examiners reasoning and conclusions  <b>Delete policy</b>  <b>Add a community action as examiners wording</b>

Policy/Paragraph	Examiners report ref/para	Examiners Modification	Summary of reasoning	Councils conclusion and Action required
			legislation rather than within the neighbourhood plan.	
Economy and Employment				
<b>Emp1</b> Conversion and extension of domestic buildings for home working	7.72	<b>Replace the policy with:-  ‘Proposals for the conversion, extension or improvement of domestic buildings (including digital infrastructure) to facilitate home working will be supported’</b>	Modifications are necessary so that it has the clarity required by the NPPF and specifically relates to the development management process.	Agree with examiners reasoning and conclusions.  <b>Modify policy</b>
<b>Emp2</b> Conversion of redundant buildings	7.75	<b>Replace the policy with:  ‘Proposals for the conversion and re-use of redundant buildings (including vacant or under-used agricultural buildings) for workshops or small businesses development will be supported’</b>	Modifications to wording so that it has the clarity required by the NPPF and specifically relates to the development management process. Otherwise, it meets the basic conditions	Agree with examiners reasoning and conclusions  <b>Modify policy</b>
<b>Emp3</b> Local start-up businesses	7.77	<b>Replace the policy with:  ‘Proposals which create space for local start-up business, working hubs or internet hot-desking will be supported’</b>	Modifications to wording so that it has the clarity required by the NPPF and specifically relates to the development management process. Otherwise, it meets the basic conditions	Agree with examiners reasoning and conclusions  <b>Modify policy</b>
<b>EMP4</b> Support for tourism proposals	7.79	<b>Replace the policy with:</b>	Modifications to wording so that it has the clarity required by the NPPF and	Agree with examiners reasoning and conclusions



Policy/Paragraph	Examiners report ref/para	Examiners Modification	Summary of reasoning	Councils conclusion and Action required
		<b>'Proposals for visitor or tourist attractions and which would create local job opportunities will be supported'</b>	specifically relates to the development management process. Otherwise, it meets the basic conditions	<b>Modify policy</b>
<b>Emp5</b> Protection of business/village centre uses	7.81	<p><b>Replace the policy with:</b></p> <p><b>'Changes of use from use Class E in the Pill Precinct (as shown on Map inset number) will not be supported. Development proposals which would detract from the economic vitality and the availability of employment opportunities in the Eden Business Park and the Old Brewery (as shown on Map inset numbers) will not be supported'</b></p> <p><i>Incorporate additional Maps into the Plan to identify the Pill Precinct, the Eden Business Park and the Old Brewery</i></p>	Class E uses would comfortably capture the range of uses currently available in the Pill Precinct. However, the Eden Business Park and the Old Brewery are more focused on business and commercial uses. In these circumstances the policy approach should be more general and seek to safeguard employment opportunities. In order to bring the necessary clarity for a development plan policy the three areas affected by the policy should be shown on additional maps in the Plan.	<p>Agree with examiners reasoning and conclusions</p> <p><b>Modify policy; and include new maps to show the areas of the Pill Precinct, Old Brewery and Eden Business Park which relate to this policy</b></p>
<b>Emp6</b> Support for employment redevelopment at Orchard View	7.84	<b>Delete Policy</b>	This policy overlaps with Policy HO1. In effect Policy Emp6 welcomes the economic benefits which would arise from the development of a care	<p>Agree with Examiners reasoning and conclusions.</p> <p><b>Delete policy</b></p>

Policy/Paragraph	Examiners report ref/para	Examiners Modification	Summary of reasoning	Councils conclusion and Action required
			<p>home and new houses on the site. However, this is an economic consequence rather than a policy.</p> <p>The existing supporting text in Section 9.4 of the Plan which addresses this matter is unaffected by this recommended modification as it explains the economic benefits of the proposed HO1 development in a factual way</p>	
<b>Emp7</b> Upgrading of digital technology	7.86	<p><b>Replace the policy with:</b></p> <p><b>‘Proposals for the upgrading of digital technology and which take account of the character of the immediate area in which they are located will be supported’</b></p>	<p>Clarity required to conform to NPPF. Given the range of potential digital technology proposals which may come forward in the Plan period (including telecommunications equipment) I also recommend that the policy ensures that proposals take account of the character of the area within which they are located. Otherwise, it meets the basic conditions</p>	<p>Agree with Examiners reasoning and conclusions.</p> <p><b>Modify policy</b></p>
<b>10 Climate emergency</b>				

Policy/Paragraph	Examiners report ref/para	Examiners Modification	Summary of reasoning	Councils conclusion and Action required
CC1 Carbon capture and biodiversity	7.88	<p><b>Replace the policy with:</b></p> <p><b>‘Insofar as planning permission is required development proposals which would enhance carbon capture and ecological biodiversity will be supported’</b></p>	Recommend detailed modifications to its wording so that it has the clarity required by the NPPF and specifically relates to the development management process. Otherwise, it meets the basic conditions	<p>Agree with Examiners reasoning and conclusions.</p> <p><b>Modify policy</b></p>
CC2 Renewable energy in new housing developments	7.92	<p><b>Replace the policy with:</b></p> <p><b>‘As appropriate to their scale, nature and location development proposals for new housing, extensions to dwellings or business premises should be designed to generate as much of their energy from renewable sources as is practicable’</b></p>	I recommend detailed modifications to its wording so that it has the clarity required by the NPPF and specifically relates to the development management process. In particular the recommended modification takes account of the scale of the project concerned and the feasibility of its ability to generate its power from renewable sources. Otherwise, it meets the basic conditions.	<p>Agree with Examiners reasoning and conclusions.</p> <p><b>Modify policy</b></p>
CC3	7.94	<p><b>Replace the policy with:</b></p> <p><b>‘Development proposals should ensure that any external lighting minimises light pollution’</b></p>	Recommend detailed modifications to its wording so that it has the clarity required by the NPPF and specifically relates to the development management process. I also recommend that it relates to external lighting as internal lighting	<p>Agree with Examiners reasoning and conclusions.</p> <p><b>Modify policy</b></p>

Policy/Paragraph	Examiners report ref/para	Examiners Modification	Summary of reasoning	Councils conclusion and Action required
			is not controlled through planning legislation. Otherwise, it meets the basic conditions.	
CC4 Investigation of wind turbines	7.96	<b>Delete the policy and reposition as a community action</b>	Policy does not identify suitable parts of the neighbourhood area within which such development should take place. In these circumstances it has not been possible for the sector and local residents to comment accordingly. As such I recommend that the policy is deleted and repositioned as a Community Action.	Agree with Examiners reasoning and conclusions.  <b>Delete the policy; and reposition as a community action</b>
CC5 Rainwater harvesting and surface water run-off	7.98	<b>Replace the policy with:</b>  <b>‘Proposals which incorporate rainwater harvesting and do not increase urban run-off will be supported’</b>	Recommend detailed modifications to its wording so that it has the clarity required by the NPPF and specifically relates to the development management process. Otherwise, it meets the basic conditions.	Agree with Examiners reasoning and conclusions.  <b>Modify policy</b>
CC6 Local food production	7.100	<b>Replace the policy with:</b>  <b>‘Insofar as planning permission is required proposals which assist in the local production of food will be supported’</b>	Some of the initiatives identified in part 10.4 of the Plan are potentially very important in local food production but may not constitute development in	Agree with Examiners reasoning and conclusions.  <b>Modify policy</b>

Policy/Paragraph	Examiners report ref/para	Examiners Modification	Summary of reasoning	Councils conclusion and Action required
			<p>planning terms. This issue is reflected in the recommended modifications to the wider policy approach. Detailed modifications to the policy wording so that it has the clarity required by the NPPF and specifically relates to the development management process. Otherwise, it meets the basic conditions.</p>	
Policy CAF1	7.105	<p><b>Replace the policy with:</b></p> <p><b>‘Development proposals within the open spaces listed in section 11.5 of the Plan (and shown on Maps 11 and 12) or within their immediate locality should safeguard, and where practicable enhance, the open space concerned. Proposals for development which would hinder access to an identified open space or unacceptably detract from its amenity value will not be supported’</b></p>	<p>I recommend that the policy is recast so that it more closely relates to the development management process. As submitted the first part of the policy expects the open spaces to be protected and enhanced without identifying the mechanisms to do so. I also recommend that the second part of the policy comments about the outcomes of proposals which would unacceptably impact on open spaces. Finally, I recommend that the policy comments about development proposals in</p>	<p>Agree with Examiners reasoning and conclusions.</p> <p><b>Modify policy</b></p>

Policy/Paragraph	Examiners report ref/para	Examiners Modification	Summary of reasoning	Councils conclusion and Action required
			the immediate locality of the	
<b>CAF2 Improvements to Pill Precinct</b>	7.108	None-policy meets the basic conditions	n/a	Agree with examiners reasoning and conclusions.  <b>No change to policy.</b>
<b>CAF3 Sport and recreation uses on Beggar Bush Lane</b>	7.111	None-policy meets the basic conditions	n/a	Agree with examiners reasoning and conclusions.  <b>No change to policy.</b>
Community aspirations	7.113	<p>In Section 1.2 replace 'Community Action Policies' with 'Community Actions' whilst retaining the colour.</p> <p>After the section on Community Actions add a new paragraph to read:</p> <p>'The planning policies will become part of the development plan. They will be used with North Somerset Council policies to determine planning applications in the neighbourhood area. Whilst the community actions will not have such status, they will form the basis of work which the parish councils will pursue either themselves or with others'</p> <p>Consequential renumbering of community actions as a result of other modifications to the Plan.</p>	Further clarification is needed that these are not land use policies	Agree with examiners reasoning and conclusions.  <b>Amend supporting text in line with examiners modifications</b>

Policy/Paragraph	Examiners report ref/para	Examiners Modification	Summary of reasoning	Councils conclusion and Action required
<b>General</b> Consequential amendments	7.117	<i>Modification of general text (where necessary) to achieve consistency with the modified policies and to accommodate any administrative and technical changes.</i>	Necessary to bring the rest of the plan into conformity with the modifications.	Consequential amendments to the Plan text will be made prior to the plan being published for referendum.
<b>General</b> Review of the Plan	7.118	Wording of Section 2 <i>Replace the final sentence of Section 2 of the Plan with: 'Based on the current timetable, the emerging strategic framework for North Somerset will be finalised in early 2023. Within twelve months of the adoption of the Local Plan the need or otherwise for the neighbourhood plan to be reviewed will be assessed. In the event that a full or a partial review of the Plan is necessary it will be undertaken from that point onwards'</i>	To clarify the timescales involved for a review of the Plan in relation to the finalising of the new Local Plan for North Somerset.	Agree with examiners reasoning and conclusions.  <b>Amend supporting text in line with examiners modifications</b>

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## North Somerset Council

### Report to the Executive

**Date of Meeting: 23 June 2021**

**Subject of Report:** approval to prepare a joint **Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)** and subsequently prepare an **Enhanced Partnership (EP)** with the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) and bus operators.

**Town or Parish:** All

**Officer/Member Presenting:** Councillor Donald Davies, The Leader of the Council, with Executive Member responsibility for Strategic Transport; Transport Policy, Public Transport, Home to School Transport, Bus and Rail Strategy.

**Key Decision:** Yes

**Reason:** The Decision is likely to incur expenditure of more than £500,000 as part of the plan development and consultation stage, and is expected to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the Local Authority.

### Recommendations

This report seeks approval to:

- 1) **issue a joint legal Notice of Intent to prepare an Enhanced Partnership (EP) with WECA and bus operators**, as required by the national bus strategy 'Bus Back Better'.
- 2) **prepare a joint Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) in partnership with WECA and bus operators**, and;
- 3) **prepare a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with WECA** to set the terms of reference for the preparation of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and **delegate this to the Executive Member (in consultation with the Director of Place and Assistant Director Legal & Governance)**. We await further Government guidance on funding (expected 'Summer 2021') before the MoU can be appropriately detailed.

What is an Enhanced Partnership (EP)?

- An agreement between Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) and operators to work together to improve bus services;
- Includes a clear vision of the improvements that the EP is aiming for (an EP Plan) and accompanying actions to achieve them (set out in one or more Enhanced Partnership Schemes - EPS);
- Made by LTAs but needs support of a defined proportion of operators and any relevant highway authorities;
- An EP Plan must have at least one EPS linked to it;
- LTAs must consider whether appropriate to make EP jointly with other LTAs.

## 1. Summary of Report

In March 2020, the Government announced [£3billion for buses](#), heralded as ‘the most ambitious shake-up of the bus sector in a generation’ (gov.uk). This was supported by the publication of the Government’s [Bus Back Better – a National Bus Strategy for England](#), announced on 15 March 2021.

This strategy sets out the following overall vision and aims:

- To get overall bus patronage back to its pre-COVID level and then exceed it;
- To make the bus a practical and attractive alternative to the car for more people;
- To make buses more frequent, more reliable, easier to understand and use, better co-ordinated and cheaper;
- To offer a London-style bus network: fully integrated services, simple multi-modal tickets, more bus priority measures, high-quality information for passengers, services that keep running into the evenings and at weekends and turn-up-and-go frequencies in cities;
- Significantly more ambitious bus priority schemes in cities and congested places;
- To create a virtuous circle: increasing usage, but also reducing operating costs so better services can be sustained without permanently higher subsidy.

This represents a landmark opportunity to use significantly increased national government funding as part of what is a radical reshape of how public transport is planned and delivered in England. The guidance is clear that the BSIPs will help to ‘dramatically improve bus services in England outside London through greater local leadership, to reverse the recent shift in journeys away from public transport and encourage passengers back to bus’. There will also be ‘no return to a situation where services are planned on a purely commercial basis with little or no engagement with, or support from, LTAs [Local Transport Authorities]’.

This signals the beginning of the end for the commercially-viable bus service model that currently dictates the make-up of local bus networks. An opportunity of this magnitude should not be missed nor underestimated. This level of intervention is very much needed with our bus sector model failing steadily since deregulation in the late 1980s, after years of under-funded levels of investment and COVID-19 compounding these issues, threatening the current bus network format’s very existence.

To summarise, the new requirements of Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) include:

- By 30 June 2021: Deciding which statutory path to follow, either an Enhanced Partnership (EP) or a Franchise – and publish a legal notice of intent to cover this. To clarify, we are recommending choosing the EP model for improvements to the bus network and not the full franchise model. We could enter into a Franchise arrangement but this a much more detailed and resource intensive framework for bus network delivery. We have not yet developed and assessed the benefits, costs and risks of such an approach and in any event Government advice suggests it would take at least two years to put in place. This would require detailed business case development as well as full public and stakeholder consultation.
- By 31 October 2021: Submit a joint Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) as part of a bid for a share of the £3billion Transformation Funding - which if split pro rata by population would mean £40 - £50 million for the West of England. The quality of the BSIP will influence the amount of funding awarded;
- By April 2022: Have a joint EP Plan and one or more EP Schemes in place or be following the statutory processes to develop a bus franchising assessment;
- Annual commitments:
  - Delivery of improvement and EP commitments;
  - Annual BSIP review and publication;

- 6 monthly monitoring reporting.

Ultimately, this report seeks approval for the three items listed in the ‘Recommendations’ section above on page 1.

## 2. Policy

The national Government’s [Bus Back Better – a National Bus Strategy for England](#) is consistent with the following NSC and West of England policies & plans:

- The [North Somerset Council \(NSC\) Corporate Plan 2020-24](#)
- The [West of England Bus Strategy \(2020\)](#);
- The [West of England Joint Local Transport Plan 4 \(JLTP4\) \(2020\)](#);
- NSC’s Emergency Active Travel Fund (Tranche 1) and the Active Travel Fund (Tranche 2) scheme package;
- The emerging [NSC Local Plan 2038](#).

For more detail on how the national bus strategy and resulting workstreams are consistent with the above NSC and West of England plans and policies, please see Appendix 1 below.

## 3. Details

In March 2020, the Government announced [£3billion for buses](#), heralded as ‘the most ambitious shake-up of the bus sector in a generation’ (gov.uk). This was supported by the publication of the Government’s [Bus Back Better – a National Bus Strategy for England](#), announced on 15 March 2021.

As set out in the Summary above, this is a radical reshape of how public transport is planned and delivered in England, with Government clear that there will be ‘no return’ to a situation where services are planned on a purely commercial basis with little or no engagement with, or support from, LTAs.

The national strategy covers many aspects of bus operation and concludes that the current model is not working. The strategy acknowledges the contributions of both public and private sector (including naming the West of England metrobus as a case study) but ultimately highlights the failings of the deregulated market in place since 1986; further compounded by significant further losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns shattering passenger patronage and confidence. [Government data](#) shows that bus usage on average (outside London) dipped as low as 10% compared to January 2020 levels during the COVID-19 pandemic (April 2020) and even now (12 May 2021) has only recovered to approximately 60% of January 2020 levels (data as of 10 May 2021). WECA also has more localised data from a large bus service operator that shows patronage in the West of England is even lower than the national average. The strategy therefore sets out a new vision for a cohesive network of attractive, high quality bus services to kickstart a new era for bus travel as an option for all.

With this comes a vast range of new responsibilities for local transport authorities (LTAs) as new ‘local leadership’ plays a much more central role in the planning of services, infrastructure and awareness. As part of the national bus strategy (NBS), LTAs are required to develop an ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) in collaboration with local bus operators, highway authorities, community transport bodies and local businesses, services and people. The recently received guidance is clear that:

- **By 30 June 2021:** each LTA must have committed to establishing an Enhanced Partnership (EP) (or begin the statutory process of franchising services, which we are not recommending to proceed with). Operators in those areas should co-operate with those processes. After this date, only LTAs and operators who have met these

requirements will continue to receive COVID-19 Bus Service Support Grant (CBSSG) or any new sources of bus funding from the Government's £3bn budget.

- **By 31 October 2021:** Each LTA must publish and submit a local Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) as part of the bid for Transformation Funding.
- **By April 2022:** Each LTA will need to have made an EP and subsequent EP Plan and Enhanced Partnership Scheme(s) (EPS) - or be following the statutory process towards a franchising scheme - to access the new discretionary streams of transformation funding for buses. Only services operated or measures taken under an EP or where a franchising scheme has been made will be eligible to receive the new funding streams. The Secretary of State has discretion to delay payment or make individual exceptions and only services operated under an EP or franchise will be eligible for reformed Bus Services Operators Grant (BSOG). The LTA must also publish its first six-monthly progress report against BSIP targets.
- **By October 2022:** Submit to Government our first annual update of the BSIP and the second six-monthly progress report against BSIP targets.

Further to this, the BSIP must:

- Take account of cycling and walking schemes, complementing those forms of travel;
- Include targets for punctuality, journey times and patronage with reporting of progress against those targets every six months;
- Be updated annually and be reflected in an updated Joint Local Transport Plan.

On undertaking joint BSIPs, the guidance states that:

*'LTAs may also join together to produce a single BSIP – particularly where local economies and travel patterns overlap significantly. We expect LTAs to collaborate to resolve any cross-boundary issues. Where all, or the vast majority of, services in one area run across the border into another area (for example a small unitary authority with services running into a shire authority), we would expect a single BSIP to be produced. We also expect to see shared arrangements across any areas wishing to become new or expanded MCAs in the future.'*

As stated, we are proposing to prepare a joint BSIP with WECA. Our transport network, including our bus network, is very much a West of England and not just a North Somerset network. Most of our key routes, including key corridor routes serving our four largest towns of Weston-super-Mare, Portishead, Clevedon and Nailsea, radiate from Bristol (via many of our other villages along these transport corridors) to provide a key commuter, education and leisure access to and from the city centre. The National Bus Strategy (NBS) is clear however that bus service improvements for smaller towns and villages in the more rural areas is a key priority too, but the way in which the overall transport network patterns work will continue to be on a regional basis, even as we emerge from the pandemic.

There are lots of benefits to developing a BSIP with our West of England neighbours:

- LTA resources and funding can be pooled to improve efficiency and cut costs;
- A joint scheme properly joins up cross boundary bus services;
- Local bus operators can share resources to develop the BSIP in a joined-up way.

It is important to note that from July 2021, Government will limit payment of all discretionary grants for bus services to:

- those LTAs and operators who have made a formal commitment to work together in developing an EP in their area, or:

- those authorities who have embarked on the process of establishing a franchising scheme. If an EP is the delivery model preferred by the LTA, there is an expectation that the formal process of making it would be complete by April 2022.

The timescales are challenging and so work has already begun on liaising with WECA and bus service operators to prepare a BSIP. The deadlines show the urgency in getting to work on this BSIP, with funding set to reduce if we do not pursue one. We need Executive Committee scrutiny and approval to confirm our commitment to creating a BSIP with WECA for our West of England bus network. This approval will also allow us to issue a joint legal Notice of Intent to prepare a joint Enhanced Partnership (EP) as appended in Annex A, as required by the national bus strategy 'Bus Back Better'.

#### **4. Consultation**

The guidance from the DfT sets out that the BSIP will need to be 'developed in collaboration with bus operators; and other stakeholders such as bus user, service provider and local business groups should also be consulted' and that overall, the BSIP should 'be developed by LTAs in collaboration with local bus operators, community transport bodies and local businesses, services and people'.

Due to the number of cross-border services across the West of England, we will work with WECA to develop a consistent consultation package on our BSIP to ensure that we engage with the above identified stakeholders closely and within the timescales of publishing our BSIP by the end of October 2021. Members will have the chance to feed into consultation planning once consultation plans are more detailed.

We are in the process of developing our consultation strategy for this important workstream and will consider utilising the new Citizens' Panel as a representative range of our residents. Not only do we have recent consultation responses on our bus network (see JLTP4 and Bus Strategy in Appendix 2 below) but the timescales are tight to have a full BSIP developed, consulted upon and published by the end of October 2021. This could be a very suitable opportunity to use the new Citizens' Panel to help review the recent bus network consultation responses to check they are still representative of residents' priorities for improvements and if not, to gain further important input.

Our consultation plan will be updated regularly to ensure that it remains fit for purpose for the ongoing consultation that is required as we develop our Enhanced Partnership by April 2021 and for the annual review and update of our BSIPs. We are also required to set up a Bus Forum for operators, stakeholders, businesses and other users, allowing an open and ongoing engagement with all these key players that are crucial to achieving the thriving bus network that is sought after. The Bus Forum is likely to be West of England wide, to match the scope and scale of the Enhanced Partnership and BSIP. The importance of consultation is emphasised in the BSIP guidance and we will be developing consultation plans to ensure it continues to play an integral part of our annual BSIP updates after the initial preparation of our first BSIP in October 2021. We will ensure we engage with all West of England bus service operators once we have approval to proceed with our joint Notice of Intent to prepare an Enhanced Partnership, as is outlined in the EP guidance received from the DfT.

For more information on the recent consultation responses we have had from the West of England Bus Strategy and West of England Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP4), please see Appendix 2 below.

## **5. Financial Implications**

It should be noted that further guidance is expected from the DfT specifically on funding this workstream in 'summer 2021', in two parts:

- 1st part based on LTA allocations via formula and a reward element based on the quality of the BSIP;
- 2nd part would be capital allocations based on the larger priority schemes identified in the EP.

As outlined in the Risks section below, there would be significant financial risks and implications should we choose to not develop a BSIP with our West of England neighbours, or not develop one at all.

### **Funding**

The £3bn for buses announced by the PM in February 2020 (for LTAs in England), to cover a five-year period to 2025, will initially be invested in:

- Supporting new and increased services – with at least £300m of funding to support the sector recover from the pandemic in 2021-22;
- Giving LTAs the skills and people they need to deliver this strategy – with £25m of the £300m allocated in 2021-22. The £25m available in financial year 2021–22 (to support LTAs in forming partnerships and developing plans, and to create a Bus Centre of Excellence) has so far resulted in each LTA receiving £100k (Capability Funding) and more will be made available from June 2021;
- Bus priority schemes – first ones to be delivered in 2021-22;
- Accelerating the delivery of zero emission buses with £120m in 2021-22.

The bulk of the £3bn will be paid after the transformational changes begin in April 2022.

This workstream reintroduces a vast range of new responsibilities for local transport authorities (LTAs) as new 'local leadership' plays a much more central role in the planning of services, infrastructure and awareness; and over a sustained period of time. The current confirmed funding plan is only until March 2023, but the BSIP delivery plan is initially to 2025, although an extension to 2030 is possible, subject to funding availability and review of the BSIP delivery. Progress against targets is required to be reported every six months to the DfT and a refreshed BSIP produced every 12 months. It is envisaged that this will be the new normal up to and beyond 2030 for local bus network planning and management. Much greater control and responsibility over our bus and overall transport network will need funding and resource security over a sustained period of time to enable us to achieve and maintain the ambitious new plan for the future of our bus network.

As outlined in the Details section above, from 1 July 2021, only LTAs and operators who have committed to an EP or a franchise will continue to receive CBSSG or any new sources of bus funding from the £3bn budget. The new funding will be discretionary, as CBSSG is already. With CBSSG (COVID Bus Service Support Grant), this will remain in place 'for as long as it is needed.' BSOG (the Bus Service Operators' Grant) will continue as now until further notice but the BSIP guidance also explains that as part of the wider reform of the BSOG, the DfT will consult on linking payment of that reformed grant to the new EP and BSIP commitments. At present, the payments are made directly from Government to bus operators but there may be a role for Local Transport Authorities in the future.

Ultimately, when prepared and adopted, the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) will outline the detailed interventions and investment required to achieve the aims of the plan and will therefore be used when bidding for the above and other funding opportunities. It is expected that it will help us to bid for significant further investment and funding.

## **Costs**

We have only just received the BSIP guidance and further guidance on funding specifically is expected in 'summer 2021'. As this emerging workstream develops we will set out the detailed costs needed to deliver the outputs required by Government.

What is clear from the guidance however is the desire to 'create a legacy of capability in LTAs on bus-related issues.' Valuable in-house skills and capacity has been eroded in many LTAs (including NSC) since the 1990s and the Government want to help build up LTA in-house capabilities to improve and maintain the significant interventions and positive changes for our bus network.

To address this, the Government has already provided £100,000 towards local authority resource requirements to develop this significant workstream further (Capability Funding). It also indicated that further funding will be available from the end of June 2021 but this is as yet unspecified. The Strategy and guidance also state that further significant funding will be made available for the larger improvement interventions (such as capital infrastructure) in future years. There will be further traffic management costs for the Council in its new expanded traffic management and bus network planning role. There is not much detail available on this as of yet, but some of this work could be funded by income from traffic management offences.

This will enable the Council to build local skills and experience to support and maintain the network but will come with a significant resource ask if we are to achieve this. Not only will a considerably enhanced Public Transport team need multiple new full time officers (which we are already recruiting for) but other supporting functions elsewhere within the Council will be required (as well as a high potential for external consultancy support in the short to medium term). For example, there will be a significant increase in our traffic management responsibilities, with bus lane enforcement and greater control over our transport network.

## **6. Legal Powers and Implications**

North Somerset Council are both the highway and transport authority and so have the legal powers to amend the highway and transport network, under the Council's powers as Local Highway Authority ([Highways Act 1980](#)).

To clarify, in the West of England, the transport authorities, who have responsibility for planning transport improvements, are: North Somerset Council and the West of England Combined Authority (WECA, who are the regional transport authority covering the administrative areas of Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire). The highway authorities, with responsibility for maintenance of and the delivery of improvements to the public highway, are: Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire councils.

[The Bus Services Act 2017](#) gave local authorities new powers to bring about change and unlock the potential for the bus industry to achieve more passengers than it does today, through:

- new enhanced partnerships and advanced quality partnership scheme powers. These provide the framework for authorities to work side by side with operators to set a shared vision for bus services in their area, and;
- new franchising powers.

The Government is clear that we must publish a formal Notice of Intent to enter into an Enhanced Partnership (EP) by June 2021, and an Enhanced Partnership Plan and



Schemes which must be in place by April 2022. We could also enter into a Franchise arrangement but this a much more detailed and resource intensive framework for bus network delivery. We have not yet developed and assessed the benefits, costs and risks of such an approach and in any event Government advice suggests it would take at least two years to put in place. This would require detailed business case development as well as full public and stakeholder consultation.

The Notice of Intent (see Annex A) sets out the intention to prepare a joint EP, as well as the intention to prepare an Enhanced Partnership Plan and accompanying Enhanced Partnership Scheme(s), as required and set out in section 138F of the Transport Act 2000.

[The Bus Services Act 2017: Enhanced Partnerships Guidance](#) sets out (under 'Notice of Intention and Invitation to Participate') that the local transport authority must:

- give formal notice of its intention to prepare an EP and invite all the local bus operators to participate in that process before they start to prepare the plan and scheme;
- (as part of the notice of intention to prepare an EP plan and scheme) should set out the geographical area which it is envisaged that the EP plan could cover (although this can be modified later) and include a contact point at the authority for further information;
- It is up to the authority to decide how they give notice of their intention to prepare a plan and scheme. They may choose to do so via their website or local newspapers, for example. The notice should, however, be drawn to the attention of all local operators running services within or into the proposed geographical area of the EP and an invitation to participate in the development of the EP should be sent to the address that is listed on the PSV operator's licence of each operator concerned;
- Once notice has been given and invitations to participate have been issued, formal discussions between authorities and local bus service operators can commence on the content of an EP. Other stakeholders such as passenger groups should also be involved at this stage to ensure that the EP package that goes forward to the next stage is likely to deliver the outcomes that are expected. The scale of stakeholder participation should reflect the size and ambition of the proposals.

NSC will closely follow the above steps once approval is given to prepare a joint EP.

## **7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

If approved, progressed and delivered, the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) will radically overhaul the existing bus network to provide a vastly improved bus service and bus infrastructure provision. If the aims of the national bus strategy, through our BSIP, are achieved then there will be a significant increase in the proportion of trips by bus, replacing trips otherwise undertaken by the more polluting (and less space-efficient) single petrol/diesel car trips. Taking a local bus emits a little over half the greenhouse gases of a single occupancy car journey and also help to remove congestion from the roads (*BBC – J. Timperley, 2020 – article [here](#)*). Additionally, all specific infrastructure projects will undertake a more detailed environmental assessment.

Far reaching improvements to our bus network and services will therefore enable a shift to cleaner transport choices such as the bus (and active travel to get to the bus network wherever possible) and as we electrify (and possibly hydrogenise) our bus fleets, further emissions savings will be made.

## **8. Risk Management**



**Table 1: Risks & Mitigations of BSIP workstream**

Risk	Mitigation
Insufficient funding to maintain the local bus network – resulting in unsustainably large additional costs to local authorities and ultimate failure of the bus network	It is anticipated that the level of funding devolved to us will be tapered against the expected rise in demand and fares revenue as the economy recovers. We will seek information from bus operators on current costs, revenue and grant levels. We are able to use an evaluation tool that may be able help us prioritise our bus revenue support.
Insufficient officer resource and funding to progress the work to enable a completed BSIP by October 2021	NSC are currently recruiting for experienced Public Transport officers to lead on this workstream. If unsuccessful we will draw on consultant support and WECA officers to support where appropriate.
Uncertainty on recovery of local economy and demand for buses	Through the Urban Transport Group, our colleagues at WECA have access to modelling on a range of scenarios in the other city regions. We will keep a close eye on local and regional data and patterns of public transport use.
Procurement process delays	Government has promised some limited exemption from competitive tendering rules in the Transport Act 1985 but more tendering is inevitable. NSC have good bus contract procurement expertise which will be utilised and either additional temporary staff resource or external consultants will enable us to cope with the volume.
Historically limited number of operators to provide competition	We will ensure that we follow the necessary fairness of competition guidelines and all procurement rules as set out in the BSIP guidance. This will help to ensure that the improved bus services and network that we will identify through our BSIP is open to all operators to develop a case to deliver the services.

Further to the above, a more detailed risk assessment will be developed as part of the BSIP.

## 9. Equality Implications

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? **No**

One of the key drivers of the national bus strategy ‘Bus Back Better’ is to improve accessibility for all. This includes physical accessibility improvements in getting to bus stops, the waiting and boarding facilities at stops and interchanges and also the vehicles themselves. The drive to improve equality and accessibility also includes improving the ease of information, such as consistent local branding of stops and services, up to date accessible timetable and route information at bus stops, same evening and weekend frequencies as day time, universal ticketing and easy smart payment options and more marketing campaigns to promote existing and new routes. Furthermore, one of the actions for national government as part of the strategy is to review eligibility for free bus travel for disabled people to ensure that the strategy helps to improve the equality of opportunity and help disabled people participate fully in public life.

The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), once prepared, will include a number of key objectives, including but not limited to:

- high quality bus service;
- high quality waiting environment;
- high vehicle standards.

More specific attributes are contained under each objective, including:

- Bus stops, bus stations and interchanges to be accessible, safe and inclusive by design with good facilities;
- Good pedestrian accessibility to adjacent residential areas and passenger destinations.
- Full accessibility with ample areas for pushchairs and luggage in addition to the wheelchair space;
- Setting a basic minimum standard of accessibility to network from rural areas;
- Easy access to information via Travelwest website and app, including times, accessibility information, fares and live running.

These are just some of the objectives and attributes set to be included within our BSIP that show the level of commitment to improving equality and accessibility to a vastly improved bus network, all through the direction of the national bus strategy.

A more detailed Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the BSIP development and will be reported and made available for scrutiny when possible.

## **10. Corporate Implications**

As set out in the Summary above, this is a radical reshape of how public transport is planned and delivered in England, with Government clear that there will be 'no return' to a situation where services are planned on a purely commercial basis with little or no engagement with, or support from, LTAs.

Although extremely positive for the improvement of the North Somerset bus network in all aspects, this is a significant new resource ask for the Council; to develop, implement and monitor the BSIP on a regular basis. We are currently deploying resource from across the Transport teams and are working closely with WECA pending clarifying a longer term approach.

More focused to [NSC Corporate policies](#), the national bus strategy (via our more specific BSIP for North Somerset and the West of England) will set out a new vision and action plan to achieve a cohesive network of attractive, high quality bus services to kickstart a new era for bus travel as an option for all. This helps hit all three Corporate Plan priorities of being:

- Open (with the open sharing of bus data helping to improve bus services further including accessibility and journey planning);
- Fair (by significantly improving equality and accessibility to and on the bus network);
- Green (with the more people using the bus instead of private car, this has a huge potential to save significant carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions).

More specifically, the [NSC Corporate Plan 2020-24](#) sets out to achieve 'A transport network that promotes active, accessible and low carbon travel' and by 2023, to see 'More people using the bus network, and improvements in reliability and passenger satisfaction'. Through delivering showcase bus corridors, as well as other measures that will be detailed in the BSIP, the Corporate Plan aims to see:

- An increase in bus patronage;
- The delivery of at least one new showcase corridor by 2023, and;
- Measures to enable the unhampered movement of buses.

Preparing and then delivering a joint Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) with WECA and bus operators and preparing a joint Enhanced Partnership (EP) would be consistent with and add further weight to our Corporate Plan aims for bus service improvements shown above.

## **11. Options Considered**

1. NSC attempt to undertake an Enhanced Partnership (EP) and BSIP alone and not with WECA. This is not consistent with the guidance, which states that:

*'...particularly where local economies and travel patterns overlap significantly...we expect LTAs to collaborate to resolve any cross-boundary issues. Where all, or the vast majority of, services in one area run across the border into another area (for example a small unitary authority with services running into a shire authority), we would expect a single BSIP to be produced. We also expect to see shared arrangements across any areas wishing to become new or expanded MCAs in the future.'*

It is also logical to undertake a joint EP and BSIP as our public transport works very much as a regional, West of England wide network with most of our routes, certainly the key corridor routes, radiating cross-border from Bristol. The BSIP will also form as a bidding document that will be used to lever in additional funding and investment to improving our bus network, and an NSC-only BSIP will not carry the same weight or attractiveness as a joint plan with our West of England neighbours.

2. NSC do not commit to an EP or BSIP at all. As set out in the Funding section above, from 1 July 2021 only LTAs and operators who have committed to an EP or a franchise will continue to receive COVID-support funding for bus services (CBSSG) or any new sources of bus funding from the £3bn budget. Choosing to not be eligible for potentially significant funding for a 'new era for bus travel' would be a difficult decision to justify given our financial position and the ongoing uncertainty in our failing bus network system. Concessionary fares and supported bus services would become even harder to fund and deliver. Many of our bus services would become further commercially unviable and would end, particularly given the last year with the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 pandemic.

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### **Annexes:**

- Annex A – North Somerset Council's Notice of Intent to Enter into an Enhanced Partnership (attached separately to this report);

### **Background Papers:**

- [The national bus strategy: Bus Back Better \(March 2021\)](#)
- [National Bus Strategy: Bus Service Improvement Plans \(May 2021\)](#)  
[Guidance to all local authorities and bus operators \(Department for Transport, May 2021\)](#)
- [The West of England Bus Strategy \(June 2020\)](#)
- [The West of England Joint Local Transport Plan \(JLTP4\) \(March 2020\)](#)
- [Bus Services Act 2017 – New powers and opportunities](#)
- [Guidance on Enhanced Partnerships](#)
- [Guidance on Franchising Schemes](#)

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Policy alignment between Bus Back Better and NSC and West of England plans and policies

The [West of England Bus Strategy](#), consulted upon extensively in January 2020 and adopted in June 2020, considers options to improve the bus network and set out how further growth in bus usage can be encouraged. The strategy includes proposals to create better, faster, more reliable and more accessible services across Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. Through this strategy, North Somerset Council (NSC) and WECA aimed to see bus passenger numbers double by 2036 (from a 2011 baseline), although this needs to be reviewed in light of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The [West of England Joint Local Transport Plan 4 \(JLTP4\)](#), consulted upon extensively in January 2019 and adopted in March 2020, sets out the region's priorities for improving bus travel to be a serious alternative to the private car. Policy W1, aims to:

'Provide more public transport options and improve service quality.'

This is supported by three main interventions to support the delivery of the policy:

- Provide high quality and reliable mass and rapid transit;
- Support and enhance existing public transport services, and;
- Improve the availability and accessibility of accurate travel information and ticketing.

The bus service improvement policies and interventions contained within both the West of England Bus Strategy and the JLTP4 are consistent with the direction of the national Government's [Bus Back Better – a National Bus Strategy for England](#). The vision and aims of this positive new strategy are set out in the Summary section above.

The [North Somerset Council \(NSC\) Corporate Plan 2020-24](#) sets out to achieve 'A transport network that promotes active, accessible and low carbon travel' and by 2023, to see 'More people using the bus network, and improvements in reliability and passenger satisfaction'. Through delivering showcase bus corridors, as well as other measures that will be detailed in the joint BSIP, the Corporate Plan aims to see:

- An increase in bus patronage;
- The delivery of at least one new showcase corridor by 2023, and;
- Measures to enable the unhampered movement of buses.

Preparing and then delivering a joint Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) with WECA and preparing an Enhanced Partnership (EP) with WECA and bus operators would be consistent with and add further weight to our Corporate Plan aims for bus service improvements shown above.

The BSIP guidance emphasises that this is not just a bus strategy for buses, but part of an integrated approach to improving the overall transport network via increasing opportunities to use lower-carbon and more space-efficient forms of transport as a realistic alternative to the private car. Further to this, the BSIP guidance is also clear that 'Government will also take into account an LTA's performance with respect to the policies set out in the Strategy when considering funding allocations for wider, non-bus local transport schemes.' It is therefore even more important that we are well coordinated in our approaches to first and last mile trips to and from the bus network. This includes having up to date, best practice policies adopted accompanied by already-identified interventions to improve active travel, the rail network and other transport options. This will ensure that we are planning for and

provide a coordinated, interchange nodes approach to our bus service improvement planning.

Our success with the Emergency Active Travel Fund (Tranche 1) and the Active Travel Fund (Tranche 2) in 2020 should stand us in good stead in terms of our reputation with the Department for Transport. On this workstream, NSC was one of two authorities in England to receive more funding than bid for due to the strength and ambition in both bids and we are underway with consultation before delivery later in 2021-22.

In policy terms, our Emerging NSC Active Travel Strategy (ATS) is set to be adopted by NSC Full Council in July. The ATS is clear on the importance of linking active travel infrastructure and awareness improvements to public transport corridors and interchanges as the first and last mile of all public transport journeys. This Active Travel Strategy will help show national government that we are ready with our local policies in place to accompany this major increase of investment in our bus network with serious and ambitious active travel improvements alongside. This is consistent with the guidance we have had so far on preparing a BSIP; interlinking public transport and active travel for more space-efficient, cost-efficient, active and lower carbon journeys. A link to our Emerging ATS is available in the Background documents section below.

North Somerset Council are also underway with developing the new Local Plan, which will set out the policies and sites for residential and employment development, including required transport improvements to facilitate these, up to 2038. At the 28 April 2021 NSC Executive Committee Meeting, Members unanimously endorsed the preferred spatial strategy for our Local Plan, following full public and stakeholder consultation on both the Challenges and Choices facing North Somerset as part of [developing the plan](#).

The Local Plan will be a full plan with detailed policies on the approach to various forms of development and will set out the overall spatial strategy; where NSC recommends growth should be encouraged to meet the need for the houses, infrastructure, jobs and services North Somerset will need. This will be consulted upon later in 2021 but will work in tandem with the BSIP as both are developed throughout Summer and Autumn 2021. This collaboration across the two plans has already begun.

## Appendix 2: West of England Bus Strategy and JLTP4 consultation summary

Further to the above, in the last three years we have undertaken a good level of consultation on public transport in the West of England. The [West of England Bus Strategy](#) was consulted upon extensively in January 2020 (with nearly 2,000 responses) and adopted in June 2020. It considers options to improve the bus network and set out how further growth in bus usage can be encouraged. Summarised in the [Bus Strategy Consultation Report](#), the consultation was seen as a success with support for the strategy. Responses showed that:

- 85% of people either strongly agreed, agreed or somewhat agreed with the objectives:
  - developing a comprehensive and joined-up bus network;
  - maximising bus service reliability and reducing journey times;
  - providing simplified ticketing;
  - addressing congestion;
  - developing accessible passenger waiting facilities, and;
  - continuing to improve passenger satisfaction.
- A significant majority (84.3%) agreed to the reallocation of road space to prioritise buses, with over half of all people “strongly agreeing”;
- Over two-thirds of responses agreed with the proposed target: doubling passenger numbers by 2036;
- Nearly four out of five (79.8%) people either strongly agreed or agreed that rural communities would be better served by connections to transfer hubs with over four out of five (82%) people agreeing that other transport solutions should be explored to serve rural areas instead of conventional buses;
- The highest ranked priorities for supported bus services were access to employment, hospitals and education facilities;
- The highest ranked bus strategy themes were a well-designed bus network, reliable and faster bus services and modern, clean accessible buses.

Consultation on the new West of England Bus Information Strategy is also planned this summer (2021).

The West of England JLTP4 (Joint Local Transport Plan 4) also undertook a full public consultation in February and March 2019 for six weeks and generated over 4,000 responses. The responses resulted in making over 3,500 edits and improvements to JLTP4 as a result of the consultation, which overall showed (as seen in the [Consultation Report](#)):

- a strong enthusiasm for the aims & objectives of the plan (65% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed);
- support for rail, bus improvements (58 responses) and active travel (39 responses);

As a result of the consultation, key changes to the plan from the 3,500+ edits included strengthening the West of England authorities’ [Climate Emergency declarations](#), stronger text on demand management and the reallocation of street space, the removal of references to the withdrawn Joint Spatial Plan and adding the Environmental, Equalities & Health impacts of JLTP4.

## North Somerset Council

### Report to the Executive

**Date of Meeting: 23 June 2021**

**Subject of Report: Draft Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy 2021 - 2024**

**Town or Parish: All**

**Officer/Member Presenting: Cllr Catherine Gibbons, Executive Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning**

**Key Decision: Yes**

**Reason:** The Commissioning Strategy covers education provision across North Somerset.

### Recommendations

That the Executive approves this draft Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy 2021 – 2024 for implementation from 1 September 2021.

#### 1. Summary of Report

- 1.1 The draft Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy 2021 – 2024 is the Council's Education Delivery Plan. It sets out how the Council intends to work with existing and new partners to meet demand for mainstream and Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) school places in the right locations as locally as possible. The Council is committed to working with the schools, academies and Multi-Academy Trusts serving North Somerset, with the Diocese of Clifton and the Diocese of Bath & Wells, with early years private, voluntary and independent organisations, other education stakeholders and with the Regional Schools' Commissioner in coequal partnerships. Together as partners we are required to meet the needs of our local communities and enable all children and young people to reach their academic potential and be ready for the world of employment.
- 1.2 Whilst the Council's role in running schools has changed, North Somerset will continue, during the life of this plan, to focus on delivering our core functions, working as partners within the schools' system and being the champions for parents and the local community. Schools and academies and other educational settings have a major impact on the lives of the pupils they serve. They also make a significant contribution to achieving the Council's key outcomes as laid out in North Somerset's Corporate Plan. This strategic plan sets out how the Council's statutory obligations in securing sufficient school places will be delivered.
- 1.3 The plan has been circulated for consideration by the public on e.consult and directly to all schools and academies and other key local stakeholders. Prior to its public



circulation, an earlier draft was discussed with and sent to schools and academies via the Education Excellence Partnership Board (EEPB). Informal and formal consultations have been undertaken covering the period October 2020 to April 2021. Overall there has been support for the principles and recommendations made.

- 1.4 This report provides an update on the outcomes of the consultations and recommends a final plan for implementation to cover the period 1 September 2021 – 31 August 2024. Changes as a result of the consultation are shown in track changes, except there they are updates in tables or table pictures to reflect new data as this would make reading the updated version difficult.
- 1.5 The current Education Provision in North Somerset – A Commissioning Strategy ~ 2018 – 2021 is available at <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/education%20provision%20in%20North%20Somerset%20-%20a%20commissioning%20strategy.pdf>
- 1.6 The draft Education Provision in North Somerset – A Commissioning Strategy ~ 2021 – 2024 and its appendices are attached to this report as appendices 1 – 7.

## **2. Policy**

- 2.1 Whilst there is no statutory duty on Council's to consult and publish their pupil place strategies, the Education Provision in North Somerset – A Commissioning Strategy ~ 2021 – 2024 has been produced to enable the school place needs of the Council's area to be strategically planned. The Council aspires to meet local demand for school places as close to a student's home as possible and to act in the interest of local children and young people.

## **3. Details**

- 3.1 The Education Provision in North Somerset – A Commissioning Strategy ~ 2021 – 2024 is the 3-year plan of the Council covering its school place commissioning strategies. Its aim is to secure enough school places in the right locations for North Somerset residents. The Plan is made up of a main policy document and the following appendices:

Appendix 1 ~ Part 1 School Cluster Projections and Data and Part 2 School Cluster Actions

Appendix 2 – SEND Strategy

Appendix 3 – Place Planning & Developer Contributions including the processes for securing new schools and the Addendum Matrix for school competitions

Appendix 4 – Capital Funding

- 3.2 The main plan has been updated to reflect the latest local guidance, current demographics and future housing developments aligned to the draft Local Plan, confirmation of which schools are academies (61, previously 56) and which remain LA maintained (17, previously 22) along with Multi-Academy Trust alignments and other education-based provisions and partnership arrangements. Finally, it provides the legal and local policy context against which decisions are recommended and taken.



3.3 The principles in this updated plan remain largely unchanged, except for the update in italics below:

- To support the aspiration of 'Local schools for Local Children' – children should be able to attend a school that enables them to achieve their potential close to where they live. ***This may be within North Somerset or the nearest school outside the district if they have needs that, due to their individual nature, are best met at a specialist school or college.***
- To be a champion of children and young people – we will make decisions in the interests of children, actively championing the needs of every child, and ensuring they are happy, active and safe. ***We will ensure that as Corporate Parents we work with our different commissioners to ensure that our children and young people have the best education possible.***
- Plan to provide new school places in areas of residential growth and, ***on occasions, suggest or support a decrease in the capacity of a current educational provider in an existing area to ensure the overall viability of both establishments (including a potential reduction in size of an existing provider in the short or longer term), or the relocation of schools into areas of growth where the needs of the community can be better managed through this change. This is to ensure that new schools become central to a significant new development, whilst noting that some demand for the existing provider may remain as is or decline.***
- ***Encourage all existing settings to provide the maximum number of places possible within the existing capacities of their sites. The Council will challenge schools and academies (academies via the Secretary of State for Education /Regional Schools' Commissioner (RSC)) to admit more pupils where it considers the establishment has the capacity to do so and the projections support a sustainable increase in class structures.***
- ***Challenge schools in areas of residential growth who wish to reduce their Planned Admission Number (PAN) when either the projections or the Local Plan indicated future growth and these places will be needed in the future***

3.4 We have continued to detail our expectations of ourselves and partners and what we look for when meeting new demand for places, with updates in italics below:

We will:

- Work with stakeholders and partners to understand local aspirations and pre-school, school and post-16 provision place needs, overseeing responses to demand ***and suggesting and supporting the removal of surplus places as required.***
- Provide a robust lead in the allocation of school places, challenging and insisting that, where appropriate, schools offer places. We will use either our existing powers of direction or will refer cases to the Secretary of State/Regional Schools' Commissioner for determination if necessary.
- Maximise capital resources and use them efficiently, to provide permanent solutions to any deficits in places at schools with sustainable good or outstanding Ofsted outcomes where:
  - there is proven demand for places;
  - the site can normally accommodate at least an extra 0.5 form of entry from current published admission levels with the resulting increased buildings and resources if required; and

- the increase fits with the Council's strategic principles as outlined in this Commissioning Strategy.

This all will be subject to having sufficient funding to provide a fit-for-purpose outcome.

- Work with schools and MATs to ascertain if surplus school capacity can be used to create specialist Hubs to support the inclusion of pupils with SEND within mainstream settings
- Work with local schools to create 'breach' classes at schools with sustainable good or outstanding Ofsted outcomes, where permanent increases in demand are not sustainable in the longer term, or where sufficient resources to create permanent solutions are not available. Temporary breach classes will only normally be provided where the school is able to support the increase in pupils from their revenue allocations in accordance with the Council's Exceptional Growth Policy.
- **Work towards having local schools that pupils can access sustainably, thereby assisting the Council's aspiration to be carbon neutral by 2030**
- Provide (at least) 5-year pupil projections, working with schools and other partners to meet the short and long-term needs of local communities within the funding available, sharing requirements for additional places regularly with our partners and other providers.
- Encourage schools and education partners to express interest in expanding their provision in order to meet Basic Need where appropriate.
- Ensure that any new buildings the Council provides are flexible and capable (funding permitting) of being adapted and remodelled to meet current and future needs for all learners.
- Lead and facilitate an ethos of ensuring that all learning providers within North Somerset are committed to working together to meet the best interests of children and families. This may involve acting as a brokerage service.
- Work to achieve commitment from any new education partners to subscribe to North Somerset Council's learning community principles.
- Where possible, enable schools to facilitate access to wider community resources.
- Plan for the long-term future, **taking into account expected areas of population and housing growth and areas of population decline, seeking to secure strategic solutions that will most effectively meet our statutory place duties to existing and future communities.**
- Be reasonable and fair in our expectations of others.

We expect our partners to:

- Work together to meet the best interests of children, young people and families, sharing plans and operating in a transparent way that encourages professional dialogue and participation. **In some cases, this may involve making decisions to benefit other partners where this is in the interest of pupils and/or the wider Council area (such as removing surplus places).**
- Do all they can to provide places for all local pupils and young people – the Council will challenge schools/academies where it feels the interests of the child or young person has not been met and will direct schools to take children/refer cases to the Secretary of State/Regional Schools' Commissioner to facilitate admission, where it is considered appropriate to do so.
- Provide inclusive learning environments, seeking to support all pupils in mainstream facilities where appropriate.
- **Look to support the creation of local Resource Bases for high attaining pupils with Autism or for those who require Behavioural short-term interventions on mainstream sites where the attendance of a pupil in a specialist facility as required will promote integration and provide the**

**support and interventions to enable children and young people to re-integrate back into mainstream classes when appropriate.**

- Provide at least good/outstanding standards of education.
- Promote life-long opportunities for students in preparation for their leaving school and thereafter that will enable all children to flourish.
- **Share and co-ordinate their replacement, expansion or place reduction plans to ensure that together we meet the needs of our communities, noting the need for capital resources to be maximised across the Council's area.**
- Contribute to their community and its economy. We have an expectation that schools will work flexibly with the local community, sharing their buildings and assets to enable the educational and wider social and, where possible, economic needs of the local area to be met.
- Commit to work extensively and effectively with parents, other providers and the wider children's services.
- Deliver a wide offer of teaching, learning and other services, meeting additional pupil, young person and family needs, ensuring that problems are identified and addressed universally, maximising pupil and family learning improvements, and making the greatest use of their community resource to ensure collective accountability in the local area.
- Be committed to working together to meet the best interests of all children, young people and families.
- Understand and promote the importance of positive physical and mental health.
- **Work towards being carbon neutral by 2030, reviewing the use of energy, building management and options for sustainable travel to and from school.**
- Be reasonable and fair in their expectations of the Council and of others

3.5 When meeting new demand, for Council provided provisions it should be central and accessible to the community(ies) it serves. We will look to provide genuinely personalised learning experiences for children and young people and enable full participation (0-19 where appropriate). Where possible, new schools will include Early Years facilities. Early Years providers should work with the local authority to provide good and outstanding provision for all children benefiting their social, physical and cognitive development and outcomes, and helping to prepare them for school.

3.6 During the current plans 3-year period the following new/replacement primary school places have been delivered:

During the period of the current plan (2018 to 2021) the following new/replacement school places were delivered by the Council: School	Planning Area	No. of new places	No. of replacement places	Year of increase	Permanent/ Result of temporary breach
Flax Bourton C of E Primary School	Backwell	15 places per cohort (105 overall)		September 2019	Permanent

Chestnut Park Primary, Yatton	Backwell	30 places per cohort (210 overall)		To open September 2021	Permanent
All Saints East Clevedon C of E Primary School	Clevedon	3 places per cohort going from a 17 intake to 20 (21 additional places overall)		September 2019	Permanent replacement for 120; including remodelling for 30 delivered by September 2018
Parklands Educate Together Primary	WSM East	60 places per cohort (420 overall)		September 2018	Permanent 420 places by September 2020
<b>Total Places</b>		<b>Breach Only ~ 0 Permanent ~ 766</b>			

3.7 Extra secondary school places have also been secured:

<b>During the period of the current plan (2018 to 2021) the following new/replacement school places were delivered by the Council: School</b>	<b>Planning Area</b>	<b>No. of new places</b>	<b>No. of replacement places</b>	<b>Year of increase</b>	<b>Permanent/ Result of temporary breach</b>
Gordano School	Portishead	Increase in capacity to 2080 and a PAN increase from 308 to 336 from September 2018 A breach of an extra 28 places in both 2018 and 2019		September 2018 and September 2019	Permanent

North Somerset Enterprise Technology College	WsM	Closure of this ETC to pupils at the end of the 2018/19 school year with a loss of 300 years 10 and 11 and 400 6th form places		July 2019	Permanent
Priory Community School Academy	WsM	Increase in capacity to 1500 and a PAN increase from 240 to 300 from September 2018 A breach of an extra 30 places in both 2018 and 2019		September 2018	Permanent
Winterstoke Hundred Academy	WsM	The phased opening of a 750 place 11 – 16 plus 200-place 6th form on 1 September 2020		September 2020	Permanent
<b>Total Places</b>		<b>Breach Only ~ 86 Permanent ~ 690</b>			

3.8 New Special school places during the current strategy's delivery period are as shown below:

During the period of the current plan (2018 to 2021) the following new /replacement school places were delivered by the Council: School	Planning Area	No. of new places	No. of Breach places	Year of increase	Permanent/ Result of temporary breach
Westhaven	WsM	The phased expansion of the school to accept		September 2019	Permanent

		18 infant-aged pupils (c6 per cohort)			
Westhaven	WsM	The phased expansion of the school to accept 10 6 <sup>th</sup> form pupils (c5 per cohort)		September 2020	Permanent
Westhaven	WsM		A breach of c40 pupils to meet extra demand	September 2020	Temporary
Ravenswood	Nailsea		The breach allocation of c7 pupils to meet extra demand	September 2020	Now incorporated into permanent expansion (see below)
Ravenswood	Nailsea	A phased expansion of the school to accept between 22-28 extra pupils from September 2021		To be delivered by September 2021	Permanent
Nailsea School	Nailsea	The creation of a 10-place Resource Base for High Functioning pupils with Autism		September 2020	Permanent
Mendip Green Primary	WsM	The creation of a 10-place Resource Base for High Functioning pupils with Autism		To be delivered by September 2021	Permanent
Voyage Learning Campus	WsM	The delivery of additional classrooms to help meet demand on their Milton site		To be in place by July 2021	Permanent
<b>Total Places</b>		<b>70 - 76</b>	<b>47</b>		

3.9 Appendix 1, Part 1 provides school cluster specific projections and demographic data that informs the action plans across the district between 2021 – 2024. It

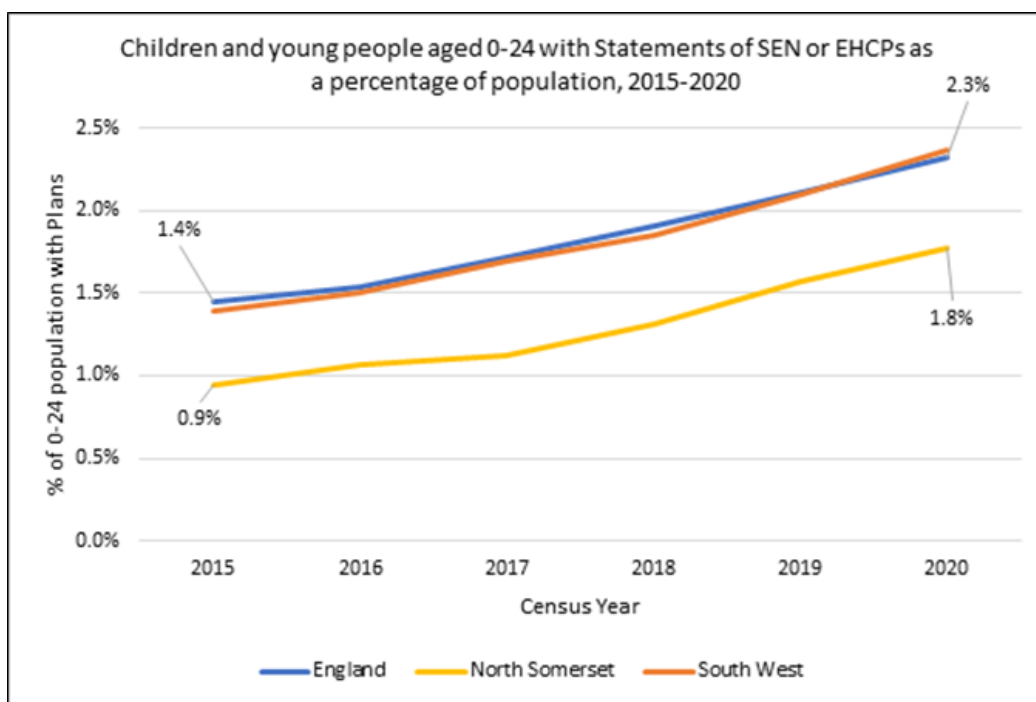
contains current data in relation to Ofsted ratings, age ranges, pupil numbers, transport costs and expansion opportunities.

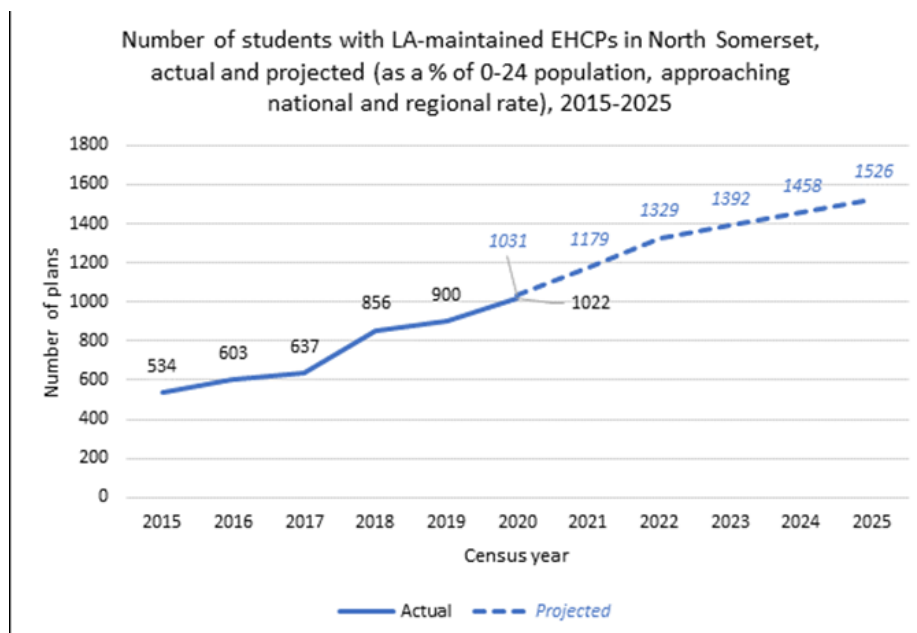
Part 2 details the actions the LA has taken between 2018 – 2021, the outcomes of these to date and draft actions for future delivery during the period 2021 – 2024.

3.10 Appendix 2 shares the Special School places that are and are to be made available to students with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). School places are granted based on the student's individual needs, rather than geographic location. Because placement of students with special educational needs is a highly individualised decision, for projecting future demand requires a different approach than is used for mainstream schools.

Estimating demand for future special school places requires analysis of the incidence of EHCPs in the population and of past trends and applying assumptions about future directions of those trends in North Somerset.

The numbers of pupils with SEND have increased significantly since 2015 with local demand expected to increase from 534 plans in 2015 to c 1500 plans by 2025.





- 3.11 The Council’s vision is to provide places for learning that provide opportunities appropriate to the needs of all members of the school and early years community. Council Members and officers, acting as Corporate Parents, will work with different commissioners to ensure that our children and young people have the best education possible.
- 3.12 The appendix also lists the principles and actions to progressed between 2021 – 2024 that have, as a default position, that we will support inclusion in a mainstream setting where it meets the needs and best interests of the child; that we will work to a Community Base Model, supporting a ‘Local (nearest) School for Local Children’ where appropriate; that we will work with schools and the Regional Schools’ Commissioner to ensure parity of provision across similar settings; that schools will be consistent in their messages for those seeking school places and will not treat applications from those with additional needs differently; that the sizes of our special schools will allow for effective management, stress-free environments and maximum opportunities; that we will actively advise schools and other establishments of the provision that is needed, and will share plans for expected future needs with a wide range of potential providers; that all partners (education, health, care) should make adequate and appropriate contributions to the costs of placements or of other support needed to secure children’s attendance in order to meet all needs identified in Education, Health and Care plans; that Top-up funding is only used as an intervention where mainstream schools are supporting additional needs as part of a Graduated Response; that we should ensure that children and young people with SEND gain maximum life chance benefits from educational, health care and social care and have the opportunity to achieve their full potential; we will use quantitative and qualitative needs analysis to identify current and future needs; we will aspire to enable children, young people and their families to have a choice relating to the education they can access within the local area; and school placements should be as close to a student’s home as possible and where home to school transport is offered, it should be o mode of transport that is sustainable.
- 3.13 Whilst it is appreciated, we are still some way off meeting local demand within North Somerset in its entirety (whilst noting that for some students a placement at a



specialist school outside the district is appropriate), our plans to increase provision for SEND between 2021 – 2024 are to:

- deliver the expanded Baytree School in Clevedon for 65 pupils. The site will have a built-in capacity to expand to 85 places when required
- review the capacity of the current Baytree site to secure extra places. The site could accommodate around 75 extra ambulant pupils with Profound and Severe Learning Difficulties (PSLD)
- deliver c 28 – 38 extra places at Ravenswood, following Executive approval on 28 April 2021
- continue to review the uses of the now vacant Voyage Learning Campus (VLC) site in Nailsea
- look at the provision of facilities at the VLC and seek out funding for the co-location of facilities onto a new single site
- review the need for more places for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD)
- work with the DfE and deliver the Social and Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) Learn@MAT school for 65 learners at Churchill to open in September 2023
- seek to deliver a temporary provision for SEMH pupils, either at parts of the vacant VLC site at Nailsea or, with the support of other schools, at another site within the district by September 2021
- review the success of the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) hubs at Nailsea School and Mendip Green Primary with an option to create an ASD hub for primary and secondary provision in vacant classrooms across every cluster over the next 10 years
- progress the creation of Hubs to support short-term placements for those with behavioural challenges in vacant classrooms across every cluster over the next 10 years
- review the use of the vacant VLC site at Nailsea

3.14 The Council's role in creating new school places and how it seeks contributions from developers are covered in appendix 3. The principles to be followed are mostly unchanged except for the information in italics below:

- The Council will consider the expansion of existing schools/academies where standards were consistently rated as good or outstanding at their last inspection by Ofsted, where the most recent Progress 8 score was at least the national average, where the school or Trust are in good financial health and have the capacity to make the change and, where a school is designated as having a religious character, the trustees of the school and appropriate religious authority (in the case of church schools the diocese or relevant diocesan board), does not object to the proposed change. ***This may include increases in cohort sizes on the existing school site and/or the expansion of cohorts and/or an age range on a new or existing site;***
- When reviewing demand for school places, it will consider the numbers of pupils in and around the locality of the school, standards and Ofsted ratings, as well as demand for school places. ***Where there is a need for extra places due to new housing and the creation of a new community, an existing school will only be supported for expansion if there is insufficient demand to create a new school within the area of demographic growth, supporting the principle of 'local schools for local children'.***

The appendix provides a policy base for Children's Services requests and site and build requirements. An overview of new school competitions and expansions is supplemented by an Addendum that provides an Evaluation Matrix when reviewing sponsor submissions.

- 3.15 Appendix 4 details the capital funding available to the Council and how we determine funding priorities.

For the Council's Capital Maintenance allocations for the remaining 12 schools (13 sites) Community, Voluntary Controlled and Trust schools it remains responsible for, the priority will be to undertake:

- o Urgent emergency health and safety projects
- o Projects identified as required as to fail to do so could result in imminent school building closures if not progressed

Funding will be allocated based on the priorities shown in 2020 condition surveys of the school estate.

An exception to this is where a maintained school has an Academy Order stating that the school will be changing to academy status. Section 6 of the Academies Act 2010 provides that 'Local Authorities must cease to maintain a school on the date which it opens as an academy.' This strategy includes a policy of not including schools that are known to be converting to academy status in its Schools Capital Maintenance Programme even though, for many, if they had not converted before the start of a new financial year, the Council has received an element of maintenance funding for them as part of its Capital Maintenance Funding received from the DfE's national grant distributions. This is because the funding from the DfE does not cover the extent of work required across the school's capital buildings stock that far exceeds the annual allocations.

The Council's Capital Maintenance Allocation for the 12 LA schools for which the Council is now responsible (as at January 2021) from allocations received over the past 3 financial years is as below:

<b>2018/19</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2019/20</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2020/21</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2020/21</b> <b>'Boris' Uplift</b> <b>£</b>
600,767	384,833	370,543	172,087
<b>600,767</b>	<b>384,833</b>	<b>542,630</b>	

Details of the allocations for 2021/22 were announced on 27 April 2021. Our allocation has remained at £370,543 due to the inclusion within this amount of £71,996 transitional protection.

- 3.16 The delivery of new school places is dependent on the provision of sufficient land and capital allocations appropriate to new place needs. Securing new school sites of sufficient size for a proposed new school and clear of physical constraints is complex. The capital funds needed to progress all schemes contained within the commissioning strategy are not always in place. Officers continue to work to secure capital allocations from developers and through external funding sources as available.
- 3.17 Basic Need Capital Allocations between 2011/12 – 2019/20 have totalled £63,268,316. The DfE Scorecards - <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/local-authority-school-places-scorecards> provide a national and local snapshot of school places and the progress council's make towards ensuring there are sufficient at least good school places in each local authority areas across England

Our Basic need allocations for 2020/21 and 2021/22 have been assessed as £0.

- 3.18 The Council was allocated £788,484 between the 2018/19 and the 2020/21 financial years to support adaptations/expansions to its Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision. This was further enhanced by £181,508 and £363,016 across this period (£1,325,007 in total).

A further year's allocation of this grant of £1,152,776 was announced in April 2021 although it has been made clear future allocations cannot be relied upon. This money is intended to create new SEND places.

- 3.19 The draft Education Provision in North Somerset – A Commissioning Strategy ~ 2021 – 2024 document and appendices have been updated, shown as tracked changed, to include alterations as a result of the consultation and other time relevant updates.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 A first draft of this document was shared with the Children & Young Peoples Services (CYPS) Policy & Scrutiny School Organisation Steering Group, internal officer groups and the Education Excellence Partnership Board between October – December 2020.

- 4.2 An updated draft Education Provision in North Somerset – A Commissioning Strategy ~ 2021 - 2024 was published on e.consult and made available to the following groups:

- Schools/Partners/Governors
- Members via the Children and Young Peoples' Services (CYPS) Policy and Scrutiny Panel and all Cllrs via the Members Briefing Sheet
- Strategic Schools Forum
- Primary Heads' Association of North Somerset (PHANS)/Secondary Heads in North Somerset (SHINS)/ Heads' Association of North Somerset (HANS)/Special Heads of North Somerset (SENS)/School Cluster Groups
- Education Excellence Partnership Board (EEPB)
- Regional Schools' Commissioner
- Council's Corporate Management Team
- All staff via the staff bulletin the Knowledge and Directorate newsletter Noticeboard
- Diocese of Bath and Wells, Diocese of Clifton and the Methodist Group
- Academy Partners via their Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) Trust Boards
- Early Years Partners
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Board
- Springboard
- North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together
- Local Further and Higher Education Partners
- Members of the public and other stakeholders via e.consult
- Town and Parish Council's

The consultation, whilst circulated to schools, was not directly shared with School Councils during this period. This was because schools were semi-open as part of the Covid lock-down arrangements and were either operating parallel teaching of pupils

at home and in school or implementing the return to site for all pupils prior to the Easter break. Adding additional pressures onto students and schools at this time was not considered appropriate.

4.3 The public consultation ran between the period 22 February and 5 April 2021.

In total eleven responses were recorded on the Council's e.consult page and six additional emails were received. Four members of the public attended a virtual public meeting. A full list of responses is attached in appendix 8.

4.4 Eleven responses were received on the E.consult site, one of which being anonymous.

In summary:

- One consultee felt that the strategy failed represent the real perspective of certain groups of people within North Somerset and it would be helpful if there could be more opportunities to comment as a whole community (virtually or in a socially distanced way). In response, one assumes this person was unable to attend the virtual public meeting.
- Churchill Academy & Sixth Form remains supportive of the local authority's commissioning strategy and the principle of local schools for local children. They noted the demographic projections and would welcome a feasibility study for the expansion of their school on our existing site. With regard to the 2021-24 actions linked to the Churchill cluster, their Trust believes that an expansion of Churchill Academy & Sixth Form on their current site would be a more cost-effective, efficient and sustainable solution to provide school places for young people living in new housing within our cluster, than a new secondary school in Yatton. In reply, the offer from this academy to work with the Council is appreciated.
- A local Cllr who is also a local resident and school governor stated that she thought the strategy was very comprehensive document covering all aspects of education provision with a significant amount of data supporting the strategy.
- The Extend Learning Academies Network (ELAN) recognised the increased need for extra SEND provision and felt the plans proposed will go some way to reduce the impact of SEND on mainstream schools, although the size of the new 65-place Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) school won't meet current or future demand. Concerns were also raised that current provisions do not meet need with out of county placements being expensive and not in the interests of most pupils. The proposals for the expansion of current special provisions will not be enough, placing further pressures on mainstream budgets. Improved financial planning is required to ensure that the increase in spending to accommodate children with SEN outside of mainstream, but not in special provisions, is minimised and funding is directed to expanding or creating new specialist provisions. In response, these concerns are shared, and any solutions will be subject to the availability of appropriate resources

Concerns about how the development of school buildings to provide learning facilities fit for 21st century living, teaching and learning in urban situations

that are not necessarily fit for purpose were also raised. In reply, the Council will aspire to make these changes in the buildings and within the projects it is responsible for. Many of the schools in North Somerset are academies and as such the Council is precluded from updating these with the responsibilities now held by the appropriate school Trusts.

ELAN asks that, noting falling school rolls, the Council considers relocating an existing school to the new site thus negating the need for redundancies and other expensive cost reduction measures, which are publicly funded from these school and academy budgets. In addition, the sale of any land/buildings could be used to subsidise a new building or be used by the council to provide enhanced educational facilities, such as SEND provision. In answer to this suggestion, regrettably s106 and other agreements are often constrained, and developers are only required to pay for new provision as a result of their development. If a school were to be relocated the developer could claim that their contribution should not be payable. This is because the relocated school would cater for 'existing' pupils and would provide places in addition to those required as a result of the new development. The Council does not have the resources to pay for the re-provision of places and retrospective land or site receipts rarely cover the cost of new places where land values are not considerable. In addition, the Council's ability to secure local provision with future developer schemes could be compromised if the 'local schools for local children' requirements were extended to encompass other locations and the developers claim there is space across the district to meet the needs of their new housing.

ELAN supports the Action 1 in the SEND appendix to support families but highlighted a training need about the potential of 'Early Help' and 'Teams Around the Family' with some schools. ELAN have expertise in this area and their offer of help and collaboration via the Beach Training Hub is appreciated.

The ELAN Trust would also welcome the opportunity to be part of the North Somerset specialist provision hubs solutions.

- A Headteacher of a North Somerset primary school responded. As this person also attended the public consultation event, her views are included in that summary. The e.consultation response gave no specific views.
- Worle Village Primary school felt the strategy overlooked the impact falling birth rates have on schools in the north of Weston and would want pupils from new housing in other parts of Weston to be a solution to their business strategies, helping to make their classes and staffing structures more viable. They asked if the strategy was looking for the amalgamation of smaller schools into larger schools, eliminating the 'village' community school. In response, in offering local school for local children, having schools as central assets to new developments paid for by the developer and in enabling pupils to walk to school, the Council is creating new communities, reducing the carbon footprint and responding to the requirements of these new developments. Most schools in North Somerset are now academies and as such the Council has no role to play in their organisational structures or revenue decisions. The Council's duty is to secure enough places for its pupil population. As businesses, academies will need to adapt to rises and falls in pupil numbers that follow a cyclical pattern over time. If academies wish the

Council to be involved in the amalgamations of academies, the Council would be willing to offer its expertise provided the changes met with the strategic requirements of the district.

- St Martins C of E Primary School felt that the focus of the consultation appears to be about the expansion of school provision in line with the expansion of new homes. They did not feel that any thoughts to the impact to schools where there are potential drops of local demand had been given. As with the response to Worle Village School, Councils are no longer responsible for the running of academies. As businesses they will need to adapt to rises and falls in pupil numbers that follow a cyclical pattern over time. In supporting local schools for local children and reducing our carbon footprint, transporting children to schools away from where they live goes against these principles.

The school also suggested that rather than invest in building new facilities for Special Needs, thought should be given to converting an existing mainstream school with a falling roll to meet this need. Again, with most schools now being academies this option is out of the Council's control. If a school were to close however and the leased site is returned to the Council, this could be an option for its future use.

The governors of St Martin's were encouraged at the commitment to building "Greener" schools, but not sure how that is to be delivered to older buildings. They would like to see provision for grants to help older schools invest in greener energy such as Solar Panels for Electricity and Heating as well as improved insulation. Again, Councils are precluded from investing in the maintenance of academies whose Trusts become responsible for their buildings upon transfer. The Council does however support the progression of 'greener' options for schools and academies and this commitment has been shared by officers and the Executive Members for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning and Climate Emergency and Environment. This has included a number of presentations at the Education Excellent Partnership Board (the body make up of Trust Chief Executive Officers and senior council staff where partnership support is shared) of opportunities for grants and other initiatives for all schools and academies.

- The Lighthouse Schools Partnership are broadly in favour of the Council's draft commissioning strategy. They felt that North Somerset typically understands its responsibilities and relationship with schools well and makes every effort to establish strong relationships with providers. They made the following specific points:
  - The MAT does not feel that there is a case for an additional secondary school at Yatton. The provision of an additional primary school has already led to a gross overprovision of school places and consequent inefficient use of public funds. Any future need for secondary school places should in the first instance be addressed by negotiation with local secondary schools. As Backwell School is the local provider, this process should begin there. In response, the Local Plan looks to create in excess of 25,000 new homes and current provision alone cannot be expanded to meet this need. Many children living in the central villages in North Somerset are transported to secondary schools. The Council is also creating new schools in new housing developments as close as possible to the start of the delivery of new

homes so these new academies can become central and part of the new community. In supporting local schools for local children and reducing our carbon footprint, transporting children to schools away from where they live goes against these principles.

- The MAT has challenged the thousands of pounds spent on home to school transport against the millions of pounds of public money to build and sustain a new school. They feel large schools can be both financially efficient and high achieving. In reply, Council tax funds pay annually for home to school transport that over the 5 – 7 years of attendance at a school per cohort can also cost millions of pounds to supply. The use of government capital grants and developer contributions to create local places will enable the council's revenue allocations to be redirected on other essential council services such as social care and support the reduction in the carbon footprint generated by home to school transport routes.
  - The MAT has noted that the demographic projections forecast sharp declines in the primary school population. They ask that the council works with groups of school in MATs (and beyond MATs in clusters) to manage places provision so that where necessary schools and Trusts can plan to reduce Planned Admission Numbers to match likely demand. Where it is predictable that existing PANs would yield inefficient class sizes, the overall number of places in a cluster should be reduced. In response, the council is happy to work positively with schools and Trusts who are willing to voluntarily reduce PANs.
  - The MAT feels that where new housing development is taking place, the council should give consideration to the use of Community Infrastructure Levy as an alternative to Section 106 contributions to ensure that all developments make contributions to local services. The council should hypothecate such funds to education purposes so that existing provisions can benefit. In reply, CIL contributions are made available to cover all infrastructure needs resulting from the development and not just education requirements. Parts of the funds are distributed to town and parish councils and schools can apply to these organisations for local support. The CIL funds, as with s106, are paid to the Council to support its strategic obligations and are intended to be used to meet deficits in local provision and not cover pre-existing or condition or suitability needs. S106 for major developments has worked well for the Children's Services Directorate recently with significant funds that have created new places and, to date, have far exceeded the CIL payments made to the Council from smaller developments.
- Supportive Parents (a group that supports the parents and carers of pupils with SEND) confirmed that they feel North Somerset Council has assessed its role in school place provision correctly. They have been aware of plans for new school places but are less clear that full consideration has been given to anticipating the proportion of families moving into the developed areas who may have SEN and require/request special school places or whether any of the housing will be sufficient to meet the independent needs of young adults with complex physical needs. In reply, the projections and s106 requests do consider demand from new housing. The need to provide more homes for young adults with disabilities has been shared with those overseeing the Local Plan.

They feel it is unclear in the current Board arrangements who holds schools and MATs to account over the identification of and meeting the needs of children with SEND. Governors and Trusts may hold headteachers to account, but Governors and Trusts are not monitored or held to account other than via Ofsted. Could it be considered that someone sits on the Education Excellence Board to act as a critical friend and hold them to account if this does not already happen? In response a new post of Assistant Director, Education Partnerships has recently been approved within the Children's Services Directorate. This role of this post is to hold schools and Trust to account in relation to inclusion and act as the critical friend.

As a partner organisation they are aware of the |councils work but they are not sure this is known to the general public or parents of children with SEND. It is also not clear whether this is sufficient allocation of spaces needed or when all of these places will actually be available. It would be good to see a clearer offer of local provision available on the Local Offer and the future plans. In answer to these queries, these suggestions have been shared with those overseeing the Local Offer and plans to create a page on the Local Offer website with a calendar of what new provision is expected to be on stream and when will be progressed.

- A member of the public responded but included no specific comments.

4.5 Six responses were received outside of the e.consult process from those representing organisations. Some were highlighting typographical or technical errors that have been amended. The remaining comments are summarised below. All are available for review in appendix 9.

- North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together thought the strategy overall was very positive and they appreciated some advance planning for SEND provision and additional SEND school places across North Somerset. Their only concern was that the Council was not being ambitious enough in the delivery of Inclusion Hubs within mainstream schools. They felt there should be more provision of this kind across the whole of the district. In response, the Council is working with its schools and academies and is seeking their support in the creation of Behavioural and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Hubs in each cluster. Our first primary ASD hubs opens in September 2021 and the secondary ASD Hub will have been open for a school year by July 2021. The successes of the hubs will be reviewed. Currently there is no funding identified for the creation of extra provisions, but if the business case for the hubs shows success in educational, social and emotional outcomes, business cases for extra provisions will be developed and further facilities added as site and funding opportunities permit during the life of this draft plan.
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> response from a North Somerset Councillor sought clarification on some definitions, on plans for a Voyage Learning Campus (VLC) site in the North of the Authority and was keen to see options for a new secondary school site in Yatton being identified and secured. In response the clarifications have been provided. It is hoped that if it is possible to have hubs in each cluster, these can be supported both by the sponsor of the new Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) School (Learn@MAT) and by the VLC staff. In response to the need for



sites in the north, the Council does need schools and Trusts in the north to offer their sites for this form of provision so that business cases for the capital and revenue to fund them can be developed. Officers will continue to work with colleagues in the Place Directorate to seek an appropriate site for extra secondary provision on or close to Yatton.

- Parish Council - a Parish Council considered that the Council understands its strategic role correctly. It would prefer new schools to be under Local Authority control but accepts the requirements of legislation in this regard. They are aware of some of the new places made available but felt that sharing current and new plans on the Council's website may be a useful way of providing more regular updates. Finding new SEND places should be a priority.

Clarification of principle 4 in the SEND appendix 2 has been made in response to a query from this Parish Council. It is now more explicit that schools should not treat applications from those with additional needs differently or unfairly. Principle 12 has also been updated to show that in having more local placements a closer location should allow more sustainable transport to be available. Action 7 of this appendix has also been amended to clarify that reviews of parental preferences for specialist schools will help to inform future place delivery plans when needing to meet demand for extra SEND places locally. Extra developer contributions should be sought with CIL money used to meet shortfalls in capacity in a location.

Support was provided for having new schools open at the start of the delivery of a new housing development. The concerns of the Council about the arrangements for developer contributions for providing SEND schools/places was also shared by this organisation. The Parish Council suggested that Town Councils or other partner organisations could be asked for financial contributions towards local school buildings.

The Parish Council felt that more government money to assist with the maintenance of school buildings, especially as some are old and in need of repair, is needed.

- A local special School supported the principle of local schools for local children and that long journeys to non-residential placements for pupils with SEN(D) can be not only distressing and counter-productive, but also incur significant costs to the Local Authority. Extending the provision at their school to include extra places and the possibility and the development of independent living skills is a vision of the Governing Body and would receive their support.

4.6 Four members of the public attended a virtual consultation meeting on 15 March 2021. The event included an interactive PowerPoint summary of the Commissioning Strategy to share an overview, check for any inaccuracies and answer immediate questions. During the presentation, the following points were raised:

- Officers were asked if new places project delivery priorities in the plan were weighted in any way. In response, projects would be delivered on a case by case basis, but funding would be relevant as to whether a project is deliverable, if there is developer funding, how it aligns on higher level strategies and whether it meets the Council's aspiration to be carbon neutral by 2030.

- A query was made as to whether post 16 data for non-school providers could be included with the SEND data and a request for further details about the strategies for pupils aged post 16 was made. In response it was confirmed that the document was a North Somerset one covering local schools. Data for organisations who work outside of the remit of this plan have not been included due to resource constraints.

In response to the strategies for post-16, the significant increase in Education and Health Care Plans over the recent years, and the associated demands placed on mainstream and specialist provisions, has been a catalyst in ensuring that the whole community works together to address the issues. Partnership working is progressing, following events such as the Inclusion Summit, which has as its intention earlier identification and support for children and young people both in educational settings and the community. By proactively addressing the needs of our young people and supporting our provisions to be able to meet their needs, we anticipate that for post-16 the change in SEND policy means that the students currently supported via the high needs funding will remain the same but more of these students are likely to now have an EHC plan as the LA has become better at identifying these students. Therefore, the total number of high needs places needed in post 16 is likely to remain the same.

- One attendee wanted to know whether the future Baytree places had been included in the projections as she was concerned that we still have a greater need for SEND places than those to be made available. She was keen to see how interventions for short term places may work. She also wondered if the strategy of Hubs was making a positive difference although she felt the Nailsea Hub was worth investing in. In response, the need for even greater numbers of SEND places was confirmed. The Nailsea Hub was making a significant difference to those now benefiting from its opening. The personal opinions of parents are important and enabling SEND pupils to be educated within their local community is good for them and, in being more cost effective, helps to spread the High Needs resources across more children.
- The additional work with the Voyage Learning Campus (VLC) pupils and short-term interventions to support reintegration back into mainstream schools was praised but it was suggested it could be enhanced to support other pupils and schools. An officer confirmed that enhanced primary outreach support with the aim of more staff going into schools and pupils attending the VLC was under review. Secondary pupils were also being supported with short-term VLC attendance for a term plus if required to help with targeted support for their specific needs. The work of the inclusion panel and outreach work with the SEMH school was and will help with these needs too.
- One attendee wanted to know whether this strategy would inform the Local Plan. The Local Plan has a higher rating than this document as it is a legal requirement that the Council has a Local Plan. The Children's Services are keen to ensure that those developing the Local Plan are aware of where new schools (funded by S106/CIL) are needed and where schools could benefit from new developments to generate extra children because they have a surplus of places.

4.5 Responses to the consultation were reviewed by senior managers and the Children and Young Peoples Services Policy & Scrutiny School Organisation Steering group in

May 2021. Copies are available for review by members on request. These groups were supportive of the document and of it being submitted for review and consideration by the Executive.

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 All capital expenditure resulting from this plan will be subject to approval in accordance with the Financial Regulations 2017.

### **Costs**

- 5.2 There are no direct financial implications as a result of the consultation of this plan.

### **Funding**

- 5.3 The delivery of new school places is dependent on the provision of sufficient land and capital allocations appropriate to new place needs. Securing sites of sufficient size for a proposed new school and clear of physical constraints is complex. Whereas land for new primary schools can often be given as part of s106 agreements in larger developments, land for new secondary and specialist SEND provision can be more difficult to obtain as the allocation of a significant school site may not always be proportionate to the level of appropriate developer contribution. Expansions of current schools may not always be possible due to the physical constraints of their sites. In certain cases, capital to secure a school site may be needed. The cost of a site is often dependent on its perceived value and the Council has no capital fund available to purchase land for school purposes. In addition, the cost of providing the buildings needed to deliver the extra places may often exceed the funding available. Whilst compromises are made, additional resources are often needed. Delays in the delivery of schemes may be necessary whilst additional funds are secured, although delays often result in increased costs too.
- 5.4 The capital funds needed to progress all schemes contained within the commissioning strategy are not in place. Officers continue to work to secure capital allocations from developers and through external funding sources as available. For basic need schemes to create new mainstream places the council has been reliant on funding from central government. Currently our recent and current basic need allocations have been £0. Whilst we have been allocated funding to create additional SEND places, the DfE have made Council aware that this cannot be relied upon. (See risks below).
- 5.5 Capital allocations come to the Council from a range of sources including: Basic Need; s106 contributions/Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Free School Bids. The Department for Education (DfE) may also allocate bespoke funding for priority areas as national priorities dictate.

Whilst the Local Authority (LA) receives a Maintenance Allocation to cover urgent health and safety and condition needs of Community and Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools, Voluntary Aided (VA) schools are supported by the Locally Coordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP) overseen by their Diocese. All schools have ear-marked Devolved Capital paid to them to meet the improvement needs of their sites. Smaller academies/academy chains can bid for funds from the Academies

Condition Improvement Fund whilst larger academy chains qualify for School Condition Allocations.

- 5.6 The Council commissioned surveys of the Local Authority's (LA) school estate in 2020 and we are working to a 5-year programme of works for LA schools. From the autumn 2020 the initial outcomes have been shared with schools, the final visit, due to Covid restrictions and the other pressures on schools, being 25 March 2021.

As anticipated the level of need has far exceeded the funding received from the government and for this reason the school's programme has been incorporated into the wider council's Asset Strategy that had additional Council resources allocated to it. A budget for the overall Asset Strategy of £2,500,000 to include schools, leisure and depots was approved by Full Council in February 2021. A programme of works for 2021/22 and 2022/23 is in the process of being drawn up. To date, other than progressing with schemes that have needed to be delivered, either due to flooding or imminent system failure, no works have been progressed ahead of this timescale. The final programme has not yet been recommended and no decisions have yet been made.

- 5.7 Whilst the Council was granted a total basic need allocation of £31,641,935 between the 2018/19 and the 2019/20 financial years, the allocations for the 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years have all been announced as £0.

Basic need is paid to support the provision of new mainstream school places, whether at academies or LA maintained schools. There is an expectation that Council's contribute c30 - 40% of their funds to each project. Council funding is rarely allocated to school projects.

## **6. Legal Powers and Implications**

- 6.1 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 sets out how Local Authorities should exercise their statutory duties to secure primary and secondary education to meet the needs of the population in their area. The Education and Inspection Act 2006 enhanced the role of Local Authorities, making them strategic commissioners of services with a mandate to promote high standards for all and greater choice and diversity.
- 6.2 The Education Act (EA) 1996 Section 14A, added by Section 3 of Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006 requires Local authorities to consider and respond appropriately to parental representations about school provision in relation to local authorities' functions under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996. Local Authorities must reasonably consider parental representations regarding the provision of schools and respond accordingly, including outlining any proposed action or, where it is considered action is not needed, to explain the reasons for this.
- 6.3 The Education Act 2011 maintains the role of Local Authorities as the strategic commissioner of services but provides greater autonomy of education provision by the encouragement of the establishment of academies, free schools, studio schools and Enterprise Colleges that are independent of the Local Authority. The Act gives Local Authorities 'a critical new role as strengthened champions of choice, securing a wide range of education options for parents and families, ensuring there are sufficient high-quality school places, co-ordinating fair admissions, promoting social

justice by supporting vulnerable children, and challenging schools which fail to improve.'

- 6.4 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 Sections 6A, 7, 9, 10 and 11, amended by Education Act 2011 section 37 and the secondary legislation - The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 provides guidance on the statutory process local authorities must follow when considering inviting proposals / considering proposals to establish new schools. This legislation requires local authorities to give precedence to academy proposals when they consider there is a need for a new school in their area.
- 6.5 The Childcare Act 2016, section 2 allows the Secretary of State for Education to discharge his duty to secure free childcare for qualifying pupils on English local authorities. A failure to provide pre-school places means the Council would be in breach of this duty.
- 6.6 There is a current Government expectation that within the schools' system, academy status will become the norm, although a requirement for all schools to become an academy is no longer being progressed. Where there is a need for a new school, the first choice will be a new academy or free school.

## **7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

- 7.1 The Council is committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. Creating the right numbers of school places where pupils live can reduce the journey lengths of pupils going to and from school and assist with this commitment.

## **8. Risk Management**

- 8.1 There is no longer a requirement to produce a School Organisation Plan. It is important, however, that the strategic plans and commissioning strategies the Council wishes to pursue in relation to its education provision planning should be shared with schools and other partners. By consulting on proposed strategies, the risk of not providing the right forms of education in the future is mitigated.
- 8.2 In expanding current schools, the Council must be mindful not to compromise the facilities available to pupils prior to the expansion. This is to ensure that the accommodation available to pupils is not unduly affected and that infrastructure upgrades such as utilities and adequate group spaces are appropriate to the future needs of the school after development. Such changes require significant capital resources.
- 8.3 There is a significant risk that the capital funds needed to progress all the schemes contained within the commissioning strategy will not be found. School schemes need to be assessed against other council priorities. Officers continue to work to secure capital allocations from developers and through external funding sources as available, but often these do not cover the full cost of a project. Compromises need to be sought, but with increased costs to meet green agenda and other new planning

requirements, there is a risk that some schemes will not be affordable, and pupils will need to be transported to other schools both inside and outside the district.

- 8.4 Local schools in areas where a decline in pupil numbers would prefer the Council to defer the provision of new schools whilst they have significant surplus places. This works against the principles of local schools for local children and a reduction in our carbon footprint. Officers should support new developments in areas where there is current capacity to support the sustainability of these schools.

## **9. Equality Implications**

- 9.1 The strategies within the Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy 2018 – 2021 document provide for the need within North Somerset to providing genuine learning experiences for all children and young people 0 – 25 (pre-schools; schools/academies/post-16/vulnerable learners).

Individual EIAs are undertaken for projects at the time of implementation.

- 9.2 In undertaking the Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy 2021 – 2024 consultation, consultees were asked in they had any equality concerns in respect of public sector equality duties. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 the School has the following public sector equality duties:

- I. Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- II. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- III. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

In response, whilst specifically asked, no public sector equality concerns were raised at the Virtual Public Consultation event on 15 March 2021.

Of the eleven e.consult responses, eight had no concerns, two had no view and one had a concern. The concern was that ' the proposed strategy is not inclusive and goes against the equality act. Whilst there are good recommendations it is somewhat short sighted and as such fails to be inclusive of the' . (The rest of the comment is missing due to the system's word count restrictions. No further email was received as suggested within the forms completion guidance). Regrettably the responder did not indicate who they were and who they were presenting.

## **10. Corporate Implications**

- 10.1 The draft Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy 2021 – 2024 (once agreed) will be the new Children's Services policy base for mainstream schools and SEND strategic place decisions. The Council has a duty to undertake a review of provision to ensure that the best possible long-term educational outcomes

can be achieved for children and young people and that local resources are used effectively across the whole of the Council's area.

10.2 In delivery the strategy will contribute to the Council's aims of:

- A thriving and sustainable place – having good local schools makes living in North Somerset an attractive place to live for those families who are seeking local school places. Having a local school will also contribute to the Council's aims to be carbon neutral by 2030
- A council which empowers and cares about people – working in partnership with our school partners we can support children to achieve their full potential
- An open and enabling organisation – securing new schools and working with our partners we can manage our resources and work with these partners to deliver the best outcome for local residents.

## **11. Other Options Considered**

11.1 To not have a plan and rely on meeting reactive needs across North Somerset.

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Member of the National EBD OG Executive Committee

### **Appendices:**

- Appendix 1 – Draft Education Provision in North Somerset - A Commissioning Strategy 2021 – 2024
- Appendix 2 – Appendix 1 ~ Part 1 Cluster Data
- Appendix 3 – Appendix 1 ~ Part 2 Cluster Plans - Actions and Reviews
- Appendix 4 – Appendix 2~ SEND Strategy
- Appendix 5 – Append 3 ~ Place Planning & Developer Contributions
- Appendix 6 – Addendum to Appendix 3 ~ New School Scoring Matrix
- Appendix 7 – Appendix 4 – Capital Funding Strategy
- Appendix 8 – e.consult and emailed responses

### **Background Papers:**

Education provision in North Somerset – A Commissioning Strategy 2018 – 2021  
<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020->





**DRAFT v2**

**Education Provision in North Somerset**

**A Commissioning Strategy**

**2021 - 2024**

**DRAFT**

# FOREWORD

Dear Stakeholder

Thank you for taking the time to look at our latest ~~draft~~ Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy 2021 - 2024 school place delivery plan. It provides an overview of the Council's strategic priorities for the delivery of school places across the area of North Somerset between September 2021 and August 2024. We are committed to working with the schools, academies and Multi-Academy Trusts serving North Somerset, with the Diocese of Clifton and the Diocese of Bath & Wells, with early years private, voluntary and independent organisations, other education stakeholders, parent representative groups and with the Department for Education (DfE) and Regional Schools' Commissioner to deliver the right numbers of school places in the right locations to meet the needs of the district's children. As Corporate Parents working with different commissioners, we all have a duty to ensure that our children and young people have the best education possible. Not all of our decisions will be popular or easy, but we have a shared aspiration to meet the needs of our local communities to enable all children and young people to be able to access provision as local to their home as appropriate, and to reach their academic potential so they can be ready for the world of employment.

Schools, academies and other educational settings have a major impact on the lives of the pupils they serve. They also make a significant contribution to achieving the Council's key priorities that are laid out in North Somerset's Corporate Plan.

## OUR VISION An open, fairer, greener North Somerset



### Open

We will provide strong community leadership and work transparently with our residents, businesses and partners to deliver our ambition for North Somerset.

### Fair

We aim to reduce inequalities and promote fairness and opportunity for everyone.

### Green

We will lead our communities to protect and enhance our environment, tackle the climate emergency and drive sustainable development.

## Our priorities

### A thriving and sustainable place

- A great place for people to live, work and visit
- Welcoming, safe and clean neighbourhoods
- To be a carbon neutral council and area by 2030
- A transport network which promotes active, accessible and low carbon travel
- An attractive and vibrant place for business investment and sustainable growth
- A broad range of new homes to meet our growing need, with an emphasis on quality and affordability

### A council which empowers and cares about people

- A commitment to protect the most vulnerable people in our communities
- Partnerships which enhance skills, learning and employment opportunities
- An approach which enables young people and adults to lead independent and fulfilling lives
- A collaborative way of working with partners and families to support children achieve their full potential
- A focus on tackling inequalities and improving outcomes

### An open and enabling organisation

- Engage with and empower our communities
- Make the best use of our data and information
- Empower our staff and encourage continuous improvement and innovation
- Provide professional, efficient and effective services
- Manage our resources and invest wisely
- Collaborate with partners to deliver the best outcomes
- Embrace new and emerging technology

## Our values



North Somerset’s Children’s Services will continue to focus on its three core responsibilities of:

- Ensuring every child has a school place
- Ensuring the needs of vulnerable pupils are met
- Acting as champion for parents and families

and it remains committed to working with all local education providers sharing the principles of:

- Children and young people first
- High expectations for every child and young person
- Outcomes (not methods)
- Supported autonomy
- Responsiveness to need and performance

In working to achieve consensus with our plans, we ~~have~~ ~~will~~ worked ~~ed~~ through the following stages (approval permitting):



This ~~draft plan for consultation will, once agreed,~~ covers the period 1 September 2021– 31 August 2024.

We look forward to working with you for the benefit of our children and young people.

**Sheila Smith**  
Director of Children’s Services

**Councillor Catherine Gibbons**  
Executive Member for Children’s Services and Lifelong Learning

## CONSULTATION

This plan ~~has been~~ ~~will be~~ circulated for consideration by the following groups:

- Schools/Partners/Governors
- ~~School Youth Councils~~
- Members via the Children and Young Peoples' Services (CYPS) Policy and Scrutiny Panel and Members Briefing Sheet
- Strategic Schools Forum
- Primary Heads' Association of North Somerset (PHANS)/Secondary Heads in North Somerset (SHINS)/ Heads' Association of North Somerset (HANS)/Special Heads of North Somerset (SENS)/School Cluster Groups
- Education Excellence Partnership Board (EEPB)
- Heads and Chairs Briefing Forum
- ~~Governors Association of North Somerset (GANS) – this organisation no longer exists~~
- Regional Schools' Commissioner
- Council's Corporate Management Team
- Development and Environment (D&E) Directorate's Senior Leadership Team
- Diocese of Bath and Wells, Diocese of Clifton and the Methodist Group
- Academy Partners via their Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) Trust Boards
- Early Years Partners
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Board
- Springboard
- North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together
- Local Further and Higher Education Partners
- Members of the public and other stakeholders via e.consult
- Town and Parish Council's

~~Regrettably it was not possible to share the draft strategy with School Councils during the consultation period as schools were semi-open as part of the Covid lock-down arrangements and were operating parallel teaching of pupils at home and in school for some of the consultation period/overseeing the return of all pupils to school. Adding additional pressures onto students and schools at this time was not considered appropriate.~~

~~The consultation will run from 22 February 2021 – 5 April 2021 and views will be gathered, via virtual information events and discussions with Members, officers, schools and governors as required. The draft strategy will also be included on the Council's public consultation website – e.consult. E.consult enables council consultations to be available to the wider public. It automatically signposts those who have expressed an interest in education matters to its availability.~~

~~We are offering an opportunity for anyone who wants to ask us questions about this consultation to register for one of the following virtual Teams meetings:-~~

- ~~• Thursday 11 March 2021 between 11:00 and 12:00~~
- ~~• Monday 15 March 2021 between 18:00 and 19:00~~

~~If you would like to attend one of these events, please email your details to [School.Organisation@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:School.Organisation@n-somerset.gov.uk). Whilst we are happy for you to share information about these meetings with others, please can we ask all attendees to contact us directly if you wish to be admitted to the meeting. Please do not share your personal invitation once received as we need to know your details to admit you to the event.~~

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### 1. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

#### 1.1 Purpose of the Plan

- 1.1.1 ~~The This-draft~~ Education Provision in North Somerset – A Commissioning Strategy 2021 – 2024 is the Council’s School Organisation Plan. Its main purpose is to outline the Local Authority’s delivery plans when carrying out its strategic duty to deliver sufficient school places. It details how the Council will ensure that every child aged 4 – 16 (and those aged 16 – 19 in school sixth forms) will have access to a local school place in the 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 school years. The plans needs to meet the needs of a growing population due to new housing in some areas; oversee increases in secondary places due to larger numbers of junior aged pupils who will be transferring to secondary education as a result of increases in primary school places and previous residential growth; and manage a potential reduction in demand in other areas due to a fall in birth rates that may affect the numbers of pupils starting school for the first time in areas without significant new residential developments.

The draft plan provides the underpinning principles and procedures the Council will follow when working with schools and other partners. It provides a strategic overview of school place needs in North Somerset as part of the Council’s wider role to provide leadership of education and economic development and to be the local ‘Children’s Champion’. It is a Local Authority Plan that builds on the principles outlined in North Somerset’s Corporate Plan 2020 -2024 - [https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/Corporate%20Plan%202020-2024\\_0.pdf](https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/Corporate%20Plan%202020-2024_0.pdf) and previous Education Commissioning Strategies - <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/education%20provision%20in%20North%20Somerset%20-%20a%20commissioning%20strategy.pdf>

- 1.1.2 North Somerset Council has a duty to secure sufficient suitable education opportunities to meet the reasonable needs of all young people in their area. It does not have a duty to provide these facilities exclusively. In addition to covering the Council’s statutory duty to secure sufficient places for pupils in mainstream school-based education aged 4-19, the plan also outlines plans for those of statutory school age (4 - 19) and aged 19 - 25 who have a learning difficulty assessment. It does not include the commissioning of post-16 education specifically unless within an 11- 19 school/academy.

The Council is supportive of the potential opportunities that Higher Education provided by Weston College and other nearby universities can add to

education across North Somerset and sees this as a key contributor to its economic vision.

1.1.3 The Council is committed to working closely with its partners to shape provision in the area by identifying gaps, enabling new provision, supporting developments with existing providers and developing the market. These partners currently include all maintained schools and the following Multi-Academy Trusts with a school(s) within North Somerset:

- The Cabot Learning Federation (CLF)
- The Cathedral Schools Trust (CST)
- The Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP)
- Educate Together (ET)
- The Clevedon Learning Trust (CLT)
- Kaleidoscope
- Extend Learning Academies Network (ELAN)
- The Priory Learning Trust (PLT)
- Bath & Wells Multi-Academy Trust
- Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership
- Wessex Learning Trust

and Weston College, the Regional Schools' Commissioner (RSC) and her officers, the Department for Education (DfE), Early Years providers, Springboard Opportunity Group, the West of England Learning Enterprise Partnership (WoE LEP), North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together, Diocese of Bath & Wells and Diocese of Clifton, the Methodist Ministry and local Baptist churches and providers in the voluntary sector.

New Multi-Academy Trusts partners with a school(s) within North Somerset in the future will include:

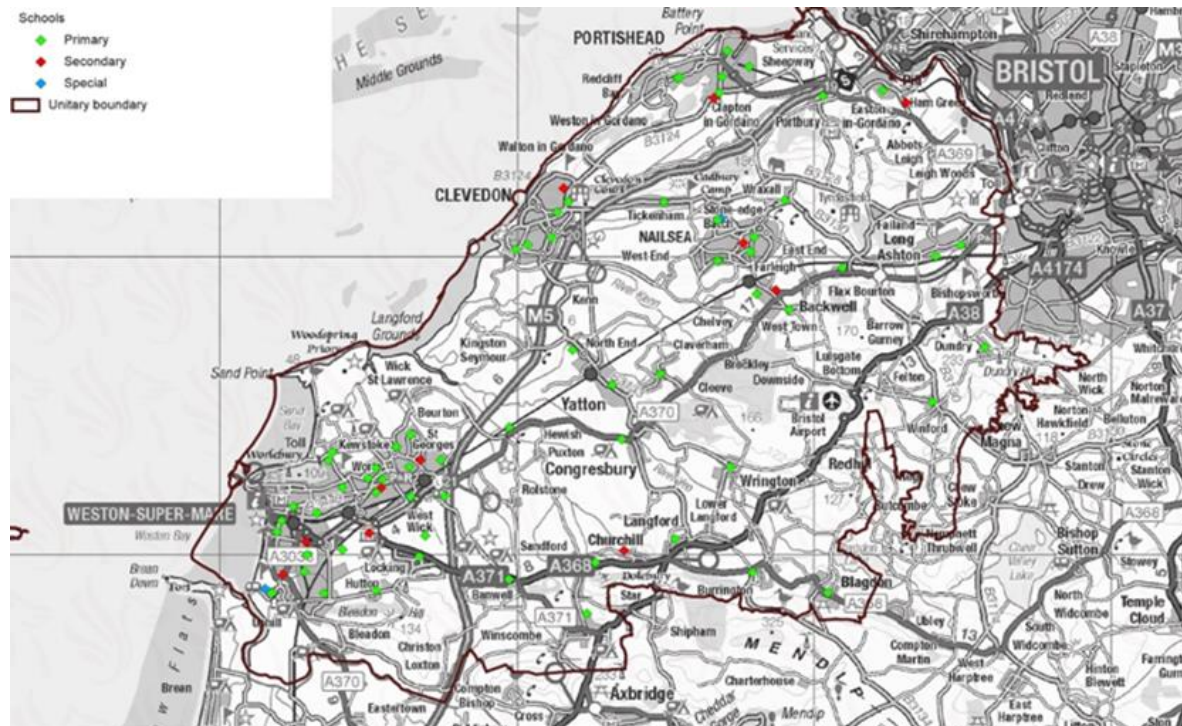
- Learn@MAT

The Council, as Corporate Parents, will work with our different commissioners to ensure that our children and young people have the best education possible.



## 1.2 Overview of North Somerset – including district future needs

1.2.1 The map below shows the administrative boundary of North Somerset, the main settlement areas and primary and secondary schools and academies as at September 2020.



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1.2.2 North Somerset covers an area of around 374.7km<sup>2</sup>, (145 square miles) with a population of 213,919 (2018 Office of National Statistics Population Estimate). It lies south west of Bristol, abutting the city boundary to the north and east. The Severn estuary coast to the west and the Mendip Hills in the south. There is a varied landscape with coastal and rural, international and national designations such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest and the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

1.2.3 North Somerset's primary town is Weston-Super-Mare. It accounts for just under 40% of North Somerset's population, which along with Clevedon (11%) and Portishead (12%) are located on the coast. The other main population centre of Nailsea (8%) is located on the outer edge of the Green Belt approximately seven miles from Bristol.

North Somerset's economy, travel patterns and leisure and retail patterns are heavily influenced by its proximity to Bristol and easy access to the M5 motorway. Each of the four main towns has a high level of out-commuting to Bristol and its north fringe by private car with low public transport use (less than half the national average). Most villages are also within commuting



distance of Bristol and therefore to varying degrees have a significant dormitory role. The Council's transport policies that seek to overcome these problems are set out in the Joint Local Transport Plan 4 (JLTP4) <https://travelwest.info/app/uploads/2020/05/JLTP4-Adopted-Joint-Local-Transport-Plan-4.pdf> These policies are about to be strengthened in the light of the Council's declaration of Climate Emergency in JLTP5, which the Council has begun to develop and will be consulting upon in due course. The relationship between homes and jobs and education is critical in seeking to reduce out-commuting and the need to travel. The Council's [existing](#) land-use policies are set out in the Core Strategy <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/core%20strategy.pdf> These policies are about to be strengthened in the light of the Council's declaration of Climate Emergency in the new Local Plan, which the Council has recently consulted upon and will continue to develop in 2021.

In 2019 the average gross annual pay for full time employees working in North Somerset was £32,424. Currently average earnings for employees across the South West are £33,543 per annum. The average full-time gross pay for the residents of North Somerset in 2019 was £36,411, this is lower than the average figure for England and Wales which was £37,859. North Somerset has a high percentage of older people (23% as opposed to 18.5% nationally in 2019, Office of National Statistics Mid-Year Population Estimates). It is a generally prosperous area but has pockets of deprivation and crime particularly in central areas of Weston-Super-Mare. There are serious housing affordability issues with affordable housing completions falling well below the required amount.

- 1.2.4 North Somerset contains two regionally important facilities: Bristol Airport located on the A38 some 4.5 miles from the edge of Bristol, and the deep-sea port of Royal Portbury Dock located at the mouth of the River Avon.
- 1.2.5 The area is due to see considerable housing growth. This will exceed previous increases year on year in the housing supply as shown below.

## Housing delivery and future requirement



Actual housing completions and anticipated future delivery



1.2.6 North Somerset was successful in a bid to Homes England (The Homes Infrastructure Bid (HIF)) in November 2019. The bid comprises a new second secondary school site for Winterstoke Hundred Academy at Parklands Village in Weston, and the delivery of a Banwell bypass (including land assembly), utilities upgrades and flood mitigation.

The HIF bid proposed the delivery of 7,557 home. 4,482 of these dwellings are located at the Weston Villages. These are sites that are at an advanced stage, with planning policies, Outline Planning Consents and site infrastructure in place. In some cases, early phases of housing have been delivered, although those phases are excluded from the HIF housing numbers.

Modelling work on the student numbers arising from the Weston Villages has demonstrated a need for additional secondary school places from 2023/2024 onwards. As the Winterstoke Hundred Academy should not be filled immediately with Weston Villages students, it will also provide some capacity for students from other nearby developments. Delivery of all homes at Weston Villages will take place from 2020 - 2026.

The specific numbers and locations of the remaining 3,075 homes in the HIF bid will be subject to the North Somerset Local Plan process, but no significant further dwelling developments can come forward along this corridor until the Banwell bypass is in place to mitigate the impacts of the Weston Villages developments. The route also provides direct access to potential housing locations being promoted by landowners and developers through the Local Plan process, which are otherwise landlocked and inaccessible. Delivery, subject to the above, will take place from 2024 – 2033.

Table 1 below provides detailed progress on each of the individual sites as at July 2020:

*Table 1: Ownerships and progress at sites at Weston Villages:*

Site	Dwellings	Landowner	Developer	Allocation	Land assembly	Outline planning	First Reserved Matter
Haywood Village	1,650	Persimmon Homes	Persimmon Homes	Complete	Complete	Secured 17/01/2018	Secured 19/07/2020
Parklands Village: Locking Parklands:	1,032 *	Homes England	St. Modwen	Complete	Complete	Secured 17/07/2015	Secured 15/04/2016
Parklands Village: Mead Fields (masterplan)	1,150	Mead Realisations	Taylor Wimpey / Bellway Homes	Complete	Complete	Secured 08/04/2015	Secured 20/09/2018
Parklands Village: Mead Fields (extension)	250	Mead Realisations	Taylor Wimpey / Bellway Homes	Complete	Complete	Secured 27/10/2017	Secured 27/12/2018
Parklands Village: Moss Land:	300	St. Modwen	St. Modwen	Complete	Complete	Secured 17/01/2018	Secured 07/01/2020
Parklands Village: residual (i)	36	Homes England	St. Modwen	Complete	Complete	N/a	Full consent secured 01/04/2019
Parklands Village: residual (ii)	64	Homes England	St. Modwen	Complete	Complete	Expected 2021	Expected 2022

\* Planning consent is for 1,200 homes but only 1,032 are HIF-enabled.

A planning application for the residual 64 homes is expected within the next year in relation to the Homes England / St. Modwen site. This development site includes a 9ha area that was previously envisaged to be used for an indoor skiing centre alongside commercial/retail uses, a proposal which is no longer being progressed. Homes England/St. Modwen are known to be reviewing their masterplan for this area and it is expected that a planning application / amendment will be received later in ~~2020~~2021. Given the size of the plot, it is likely this will include in excess of the 64 residual dwellings originally identified in the HIF bid.

1.2.7 The Council's current development plan sets out a requirement for 20,985 new homes to be built by 2026. The Site Allocations Plan was adopted in April 2018 and this document allocated enough sites to meet the requirement, as set out in the table below.

Location	Total sites identified in Site Allocations Plan	Built by 2017	Residual at 2017
<b>Developments identified in the North Somerset Site Allocations Plan (SAP)</b>			
Weston Villages	6,500	835	5,665
Weston urban area	6,479	<b>3,096</b>	<b>3,383</b>
Portishead	3,421	<b>2,878</b>	543
Clevedon	768	401	367
Nailsea	1,267	<b>203</b>	1,064
Service villages	2,412	784	<b>1,628</b>
Other areas	1,438	650	788
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,285</b>	<b>8,847</b>	<b>13,438</b>

Work has now commenced within the council to produce a new Local Plan, which will cover the fifteen-year period from 2023 to 2038. ~~Plan preparation is ongoing, and as such no specific locations for the growth that will be required during this period have been confirmed.~~ A consultation on how the housing growth should be broadly distributed was held from November-December 2020 within the Choices for the Future consultation. Following this consultation a report was taken to the councils Executive Committee in April 2021 which set out a spatial strategy for further testing and assessment to inform the Consultation Draft of the plan which, and a draft plan will be prepared and developed in 2021 with a consultation at the end of the year.

**~~Review: Were you aware of the above plans and do you have any comments to make about their delivery in relation to school place planning?~~**

### **1.3 Current schools and wider People and Communities Support and Partnerships**

- 1.3.1 As at 1 September 2020 there were 78 state-maintained schools/academies in North Somerset. The January 2020 census confirmed schools are delivering education to approximately 30,408 pupils. Winterstoke Hundred Academy – a new secondary school – opened on 1 September 2020, replacing the North Somerset Enterprise Technology College that closed in July 2019.

The Council has a statutory duty to provide every child in North Somerset with an education. The latest range of school provision as at ~~February-May~~ 2021 is given below:

Maintained Schools (17)	Academies (61)
<p><b>Community Primary</b>  Banwell Primary School*  Golden Valley Primary School  Kewstoke Primary School  Sandford Primary School*  Winscombe Primary School*</p> <p><b>VC Primary</b>  Churchill C of E Primary School  St Andrew's Primary School  Wrington C of E Primary School</p> <p><b>VA Primary</b>  Burrington C of E VA Primary School  Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School  St Francis Catholic Primary School  St Joseph's Catholic Primary School  Worlebury St Paul's C of E VA Primary School</p> <p><b>Special</b>  Baytree School  Ravenswood School  Voyage Learning Campus  Westhaven School</p>	<p><b>Primary</b>  All Saints East Clevedon C of E Primary School  Ashcombe Primary School  Backwell C of E Junior School  Becket Primary School  Birdwell Primary School  Blagdon Primary School  Bournville Primary School  Castle Batch Community Primary School  Christ Church C of E Primary School  Court-de-Wyck Church School  Crockerne C of E Primary School  Dundry C of E Primary School  Flax Bourton C of E Primary School  Grove Junior School  Hannah More Infant School  Haywood Village Academy  Herons' Moor Academy  High Down Infant School  High Down Junior School  Hutton C of E Primary School  Kingshill Church School  Locking Primary School  Mary Elton Primary School  Mead Vale Community Primary School  Mendip Green Primary School  Milton Park Primary School  Northleaze C of E Primary School  Oldmixon Primary School  Parklands Educate Together Primary  Portishead Primary School  St Anne's Church Academy  St Georges Church School  St John the Evangelist Church School  St Mark's Ecumenical Anglican/Methodist Primary School  St Martin's C of E Primary School  St Mary's C of E VA Primary School  St Nicholas Chantry C of E VC Primary School  St Peter's C of E Primary School  Tickenham C of E Primary School</p>

	Trinity Anglican Methodist Primary School Uphill Primary Academy Walliscote Primary School West Leigh Infant School Windwhistle Primary School Winford C of E Primary School Worle Village Primary School Wraxall C of E VA Primary School Yeo Moor Primary School Yatton C of E Junior School Yatton Infant School  <b>Secondary</b> Backwell School Broadoak Academy Churchill Academy and Sixth Form Clevedon School Gordano School Hans Price Academy Nailsea School Priory Community School Academy St Katherine's School Winterstoke Hundred Academy Worle Community School Academy
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The schools with \* have indicated that they hope to join a MAT in the 2021~~9~~/~~22~~ school year.

[The Secretary of State for Education has entered into a Funding Agreement with the Clevedon Learning Trust and Chestnut Park Primary School will open in North End Yatton on 1 September 2021.](#)

1.3.2 Most academy schools work within the following Academy Trusts. The list below is as at October 2020 and is subject to further change as schools transfer and partnerships develop:

Academy Trust	Conversion Date
<b>The Bath and Wells Diocesan Academies Trust</b>	
Court-de-Wyck Church School	01/12/2015
Kingshill Church School	01/04/2013
St Georges Church School	01/09/2016
St John the Evangelist Church School	01/07/2016



St Mark's Ecumenical Anglican/Methodist Primary School	01/09/2016
Trinity Anglican Methodist Primary School	01/03/2016
<b>Cabot Learning Federation</b>	
Broadoak Academy	01/07/2019
Haywood Village Academy	01/09/2016
Hans Price Academy	01/05/2011
Hérons' Moor Primary	01/19/2019
Uphill Primary Academy	01/10/2020
Winterstoke Hundred Academy (from the NSETC)	01/07/2019
<b>Clevedon Learning Trust</b>	
Clevedon School	01/02/2012
All Saints C of E Primary	01/04/2019
Mary Elton Primary School	01/04/2017
St Nicholas Chantry C of E VC Primary School	01/02/2018
Tickenham C of E Primary School	01/01/2015
Yeo Moor Primary School	01/01/2015
<b>Educate Together</b>	
Parklands Educate Together Primary School	01/09/2018
<b>Extend Learning Academies Network (ELAN)</b>	
Bournville Primary School	01/10/2017
Locking Primary School	01/10/2017
Mead Vale Primary	01/02/2018
<a href="#">Mendip Green Primary</a>	<a href="#">01/09/2018</a>
Milton Park Primary School	01/10/2017
Oldmixon Primary School	01/10/2017
Walliscote Primary School	01/10/2017
Windwhistle Primary School	01/10/2017
<b>Cathedral Schools Trust</b>	
St Katherine's School	01/01/2019
<b>Kaleidoscope</b>	
Ashcombe Primary School	01/09/2017
Becket Primary School	01/09/2017
Crockerne C of E Primary School	01/09/2017
Christ Church C of E Primary School	01/09/2017
Hutton C of E Primary School	01/09/2018
St Martin's C of E Primary School	01/09/2017
Worle Village Primary School	01/09/2017
<b>Lighthouse Schools Partnership</b>	
<u>Portishead Hub</u>	
Gordano School	01/07/2011
High Down Infant School	01/09/2016
High Down Junior School	01/09/2016
Portishead Primary School	01/09/2016
St Mary's C of E VA Primary School	01/09/2016
St Peter's C of E Primary School	01/09/2016
<a href="#">Wraxall C of E Primary School</a>	<a href="#">01/07/2018</a>

<u>Backwell Hub</u>	01/01/2018
Backwell School	01/02/2018
Backwell C of E Junior School	01/10/2019
Blagdon Primary	01/10/2018
Flax Bourton C of E Primary	01/02/2018
Northleaze C of E Primary School	01/02/2018
West Leigh Infant School	01/03/2018
Grove Junior School	01/03/2018
Hannah More Infant School	01/03/2018
Yatton C of E Junior School	01/03/2018
Yatton Infant School	01/03/2018
<b>Midsomer Norton Partnership Trust</b>	
Dundry C of E Primary School	01/09/2015
<b>The Priory Learning Trust</b>	
Priory Community School Academy	18/08/2011
Worle Community School Academy	01/03/2017
Castle Batch Community Primary School	01/04/2018
St Anne's Church Academy	01/04/2018
<b>Wessex Academy Trust</b>	
Nailsea School	01/01/2021

The following schools remain as Single Academy Trusts:

<b>Single Academy Trusts</b>	
Birdwell Primary School	01/04/2013
Churchill Academy and Sixth Form	01/08/2011

1.3.3 North Somerset has three special schools and three Resource Bases attached to mainstream schools.

To qualify for a place in one of these specialist provisions, pupils must have an educational placement named in their Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) at an establishment which is not a mainstream primary or secondary school. This included special schools operated by the Local Authority and provision purchased directly from other education providers.



Name of School	Age Range	Planned Places	Descriptor	<a href="#">School census data Jan 2021</a>
Baytree School	3–19	72	Severe and Profound Learning Difficulties	<a href="#">7572</a>
Ravenswood School	3–19	112 – 119	Complex and Severe Learning Difficulties	<a href="#">125127</a>
Westhaven School	7–16	156	Complex Learning Difficulties	184
Mendip Green Primary School	4-8*	11	Hearing Impaired/ Communication	<a href="#">1211</a>
Castle Batch Community Primary School	4-11	20	Speech and Language	<a href="#">1216</a>
Nailsea ASD	11 - 16	10	High functioning pupils with Autism	<a href="#">89</a>
Weston College	14-25	448	General FE Provider – with specialist provision for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Profound and Complex Learning Difficulties</li> <li>• Complex and Severe Learning Difficulties</li> <li>• Complex Learning Difficulties</li> <li>• Deaf and Hard of Hearing</li> <li>• Visual Impairment</li> <li>• Speech and Language</li> <li>• Autism</li> <li>• Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties</li> <li>• Mental Health</li> <li>• Other (Ranges of specific learning difficulties, physical impairment medical conditions, etc.)</li> </ul>	<a href="#">515521</a> <del>(111 x age 16-18)</del> <del>(104 x age 19–25)</del>

1.3.4 The Voyage Learning Campus is an Alternative Provision school that provides for pupils for years 1 – 11 across two sites. Its supports schools in meeting the needs of pupils with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

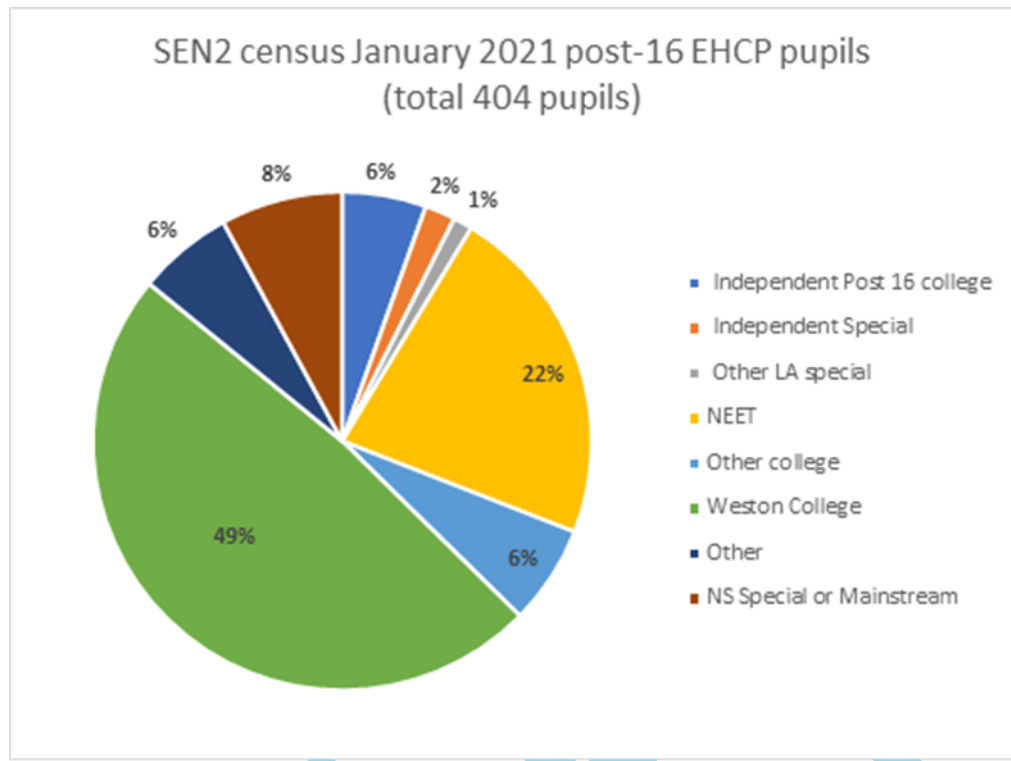
Alternative Provision is education provided when children are otherwise out of school. This included pupil referral units, hospital school or other forms of provision accessed via the local authority or directly by schools to deliver the statutory duty to provide education for such pupils.

As at September 2021~~0~~, the service is available as follows:

<p>Tuition Service</p> <p>Voyage Learning Campus</p>	<p>PRU provision on VLC roll</p> <p>Mostly PEX</p> <p>Voyage Learning Campus</p>
<p>Number of places: 25  <u>FTE (more than 25 pupils are supported, attending on a p-t basis)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 3 to Year 11</li> </ul> <p>Transport funded if required</p>	<p>Number of commissioned places: 80</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KS1/KS2 and Year 7: <u>320 places (10 PEX and 20 outreach support @: Milton, Weston)</u></li> <li>Years 8-11: <u>560 places (40 PEX; 10 outreach support) @ Oldmixon, Weston</u></li> </ul> <p>Transport funded if required</p>

The VLC is also commissioned to provide tuition to those pupils unable to attend school on medical grounds.

1.3.5 As at January 2021 404 pupils with SEND attended post-16 provisions as shown below:



The largest provider of local post-16 provision for young people with SEND in North Somerset is Weston College, where high quality SEND programmes of study are provided and young people benefit from a well-developed infrastructure of support and effective inclusive curriculum design.

Increases in EHCPs for pupils in primary and secondary-aged education ~~could will also~~ have an impact on the demand for post-16 places. The significant increase in ECHPs recently and the associated demands placed on mainstream and specialist provisions has been a catalyst in ensuring that the whole community works together to address these needs. Partnership working is progressing, following events such as the Inclusion Summit in November 2020 which has, as its intention, earlier identification and support for children and young people both in educational settings and in the community. By proactively addressing the needs of our young people and supporting our provisions to be able to meet their needs whilst they are of compulsory school age, we anticipate that these strategies should provide the right support to enable many students to move into employment or access further or higher education without the need for extra assistance.

It is our expectation that the total number of high needs places needed post 16 is not likely to increase by the same percentages.

1.3.6 Weston College continues to innovative learning support programmes, through its empowerment-based specialist support model, which promotes a whole-organisation, sustainable approach to inclusive practice. Dynamic, intensive individualised support programmes are delivered by highly qualified

SEND practitioners that challenge and enable learners to develop sustainable, transferable skills and strategies to progress onto higher level course, employment or independent living. Simultaneously the specialist staff collaborate with the teachers to develop the skills and knowledge needed to deliver inclusive learning within the classroom, addressing the learner's needs, aspirations and vocational focus. Learners work with the specialist staff to develop strategies to accommodate their differences and inform others how they learn most effectively. The Specialist areas include:-

- Autism which includes Weston Bay Residential Training Facility
- Social and Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) and Developmental Trauma
- Mental Health and Well-being
- Specific Learning Difficulties
- Visual Impairments
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Positive Behaviour Management
- Assistive Technology
- Sensory Learning Base for Profound and Moderate Learning Difficulties (PMLD)

This is recognised locally and nationally as outstanding and has received many national, regional and local accolades including that of a Centre for Excellence in SEND. This is an unusually comprehensive offer at the FE stage and meets the range of needs identified in North Somerset. Where students are placed outside the area at post-16, this is generally as a result of requiring specialist residential care alongside learning.

The delivery model at Weston College includes both a range of specialist programmes and support to access the mainstream curriculum robust Initial Needs Assessment process which builds on links established and collaborative working with schools, specialist providers and other key agencies. This ensures effective and seamless transition for students and their families and to ensure that planning for progression into and beyond college is considered as part of the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) review process where appropriate.

The college is highly committed to supporting the Pathways to Adulthood approach, working with students to ensure they are accessing support to develop their skills to ensure they reach an optimum level of independence as young adults. This includes support for living independently, finding work or progression to further education opportunities. The college works effectively with the Local Authority in ensuring young people access appropriate support when needed.

At the time of writing this ~~draft~~ strategy Weston College is providing support for 480 High Needs Learners and 197 of these with an Education, Health and Care Plans living in North Somerset, representing 69% of this group. On this basis, the college is the single biggest SEND post-16 provider currently.

Weston College 197  
North Somerset Special Schools 26  
Other FE colleges/Specialist Provision 53

While post-16 provision at Weston College is not directly commissioned by North Somerset Council, it is essential that it has appropriate synergy and is aligned synchronously to develop and support children and young people with SEND as they move through the system. On this basis, our partnership and joint working with the college is recognised as being of key strategic importance. Weston College is a partner in our SEND Programme Board which develops responses to changing needs and challenges across the sector. Further consideration of the sufficiency, range and suitability of post-16 provision will be part of the board's work plan during 2021 to 2024. The projections developed for the Specialist Provision Review will be refined and refreshed as part of the development of future editions of this Education Commissioning Strategy.

1.3.76 Mainstream post-16 provision in Weston-Super-Mare continues to be mainly provided by Weston College with Winterstoke Hundred Academy offering a phased opening of 6<sup>th</sup> form facilities to year 12 pupils from 1 September 2020. The 6 academies across the region outside of Weston super Mare (Backwell School, Churchill Academy and Sixth Form; Clevedon School, Gordano School, Nailsea School and St Katherine's School), all offer a range a 6<sup>th</sup> form studies. Baytree School, Ravenswood School and Westhaven School (Special Schools) and Weston College are the main providers of post-16 studies for pupils with SEND.

1.3.87 The responsibility for a child's education rests with their parents. In England, education is compulsory, but school is not. The latest guidance on Elective Home Education (EHE) was published by the DfE in April 2019 - [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/791528/EHE\\_guidance\\_for\\_parentsafterconsultationv2.2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/791528/EHE_guidance_for_parentsafterconsultationv2.2.pdf)

Parents have a right to educate their children at home. Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 provides that: "The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable -

- (a) to his age, ability and aptitude, and
- (b) to any special educational needs he may have either by regular attendance at school or otherwise."

This means that the responsibility for children's education rests with their parents. In England, education is compulsory, but – despite the phrase 'child of compulsory school age' quoted above – going to school is not. State-funded education is made available for all children of compulsory school age whose parents request it, and every child should be in school or receiving alternative provision made by the local authority or the child's school, unless parents themselves can make suitable arrangements. If parents do educate

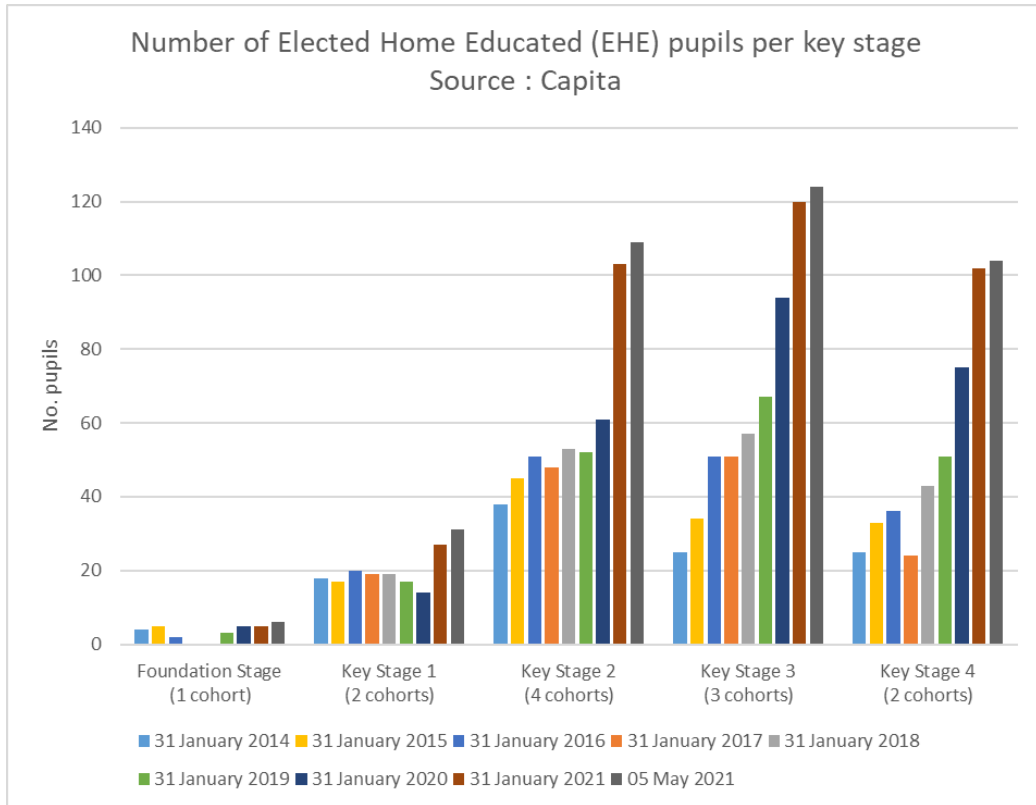
children at home, section 7 means that the child should be getting an efficient, suitable full-time education.

There are no specific legal requirements as to the content of home education, provided the parents are meeting their duty in s.7 of the Education Act 1996. This means that education does not need to include any particular subjects and does not need to have any reference to the National Curriculum; and there is no requirement to enter children for public examinations. There is no obligation to follow the 'school day' or have holidays which mirror those observed by schools. Many home educating families do follow a clear academic and time structure, but it should not be assumed that a different approach which rejects conventional schooling and its patterns is unsatisfactory or constitutes 'unsuitable' education. Approaches such as autonomous and self-directed learning, undertaken with a very flexible stance as to when education is taking place is judged by outcomes, not on the basis that a different way of educating children may or may not be wrong.

The role of the Local Authority (LA) for pupils who are home educated is limited:

1. There is no requirement for a home educating parent to register their child with the LA.
2. It is not the role of the LA to monitor the quality of the education provided. LAs have no duties or powers in this respect.
3. Home educating parents are not required to follow the national curriculum, there is no requirement to follow any prescribed educational programmes, they do not have to have a set number of hours that should be taught in a day. They are not required to provide a broad and balanced curriculum. In brief there are very few requirements that home educators need to meet.
4. Home educators do not have to respond to any queries that the LA make, although it would be sensible for them to do so.
5. The LA does not have the right to access the homes of home educators.

Within North Somerset there are [e250-c360](#) families who home educate their children. Data for the last seven years and the current [November 2020](#)[May 2021](#) picture in key stages is shown below:



	31 January 2014	31 January 2015	31 January 2016	31 January 2017	31 January 2018	31 January 2019	31 January 2020	31 January 2021	05 May 2021
<b>Foundation Stage (1 cohort)</b>	4	5	2	0	0	3	5	5	6
<b>Key Stage 1 (2 cohorts)</b>	18	17	20	19	19	17	14	27	31
<b>Key Stage 2 (4 cohorts)</b>	38	45	51	48	53	52	61	103	109
<b>Key Stage 3 (3 cohorts)</b>	25	34	51	51	57	67	94	120	124
<b>Key Stage 4 (2 cohorts)</b>	25	33	36	24	43	51	75	102	104
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>374</b>

Source : Capita

The data within North Somerset mirrors a survey undertaken by the Association for Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) in spring 2018 indicating that the main reasons for increases in home education are due to:

- Disagreements between schools and families.
- Parental dissatisfaction with schools- bullying and other reasons.



- Families avoiding court prosecutions for non -attendance.
- Coercion from schools.
- Families encouraged to EHE as an alternative to permanent exclusion.
- Children with unmet SEN needs.
- The need to pay for public exams if a child is educated at home
- To avoid the risk of exclusion.

Additionally, in response to Covid-19, we ~~have are~~ seeing increasing numbers of EHE pupils as some parents are anxious about sending their children into school due to the risks of Covid-19 to themselves and their children. Also, some families have found that home schooling during lockdown has worked for them and their children. Specifically, to North Somerset, our participation rates of our Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children into secondary education remains low with EHE being the opted route for a large majority of GRT families.

Maintaining records of these families is made more complex because parents/carers who are home educating their children do not have to register with the local authority in the same way that they would do if they were seeking a school place.

Local Authorities can challenge whether a parent/carer is providing “suitable” education at home if they issue a School Attendance Order (SAO). This is a lengthy legal process where the local authority provides evidence that the education is not suitable. It must have the agreement of a school to its findings and the school must be named in the order. With academisation the powers of a local authority to direct a school to be named in the order are diminishing.

Whilst the EHE departmental guidance still provides Local Authorities with no real powers when it comes to EHE, the revised guidance does set out clearer expectations and definitions of what a “suitable” education is. The AEHEP (Association of Elective Home Education Professionals) are still working with the department and calling for legislative changes to EHE as currently the only powers Local authorities have is a lengthy court process through the issuing of school attendance orders.

Currently there is an Education Committee looking at EHE: The Education Committee examines how home-educated children are being supported in their learning and whether more needs to be done to ensure they are all receiving a high-quality education. It will also look at duties of local authorities, and the potential role for inspections in ensuring standards.

- [Inquiry: Home education](#)
- [Education Committee](#)

The Committee is exploring the benefits of home education and the possible disadvantages, as well as the impact the Covid-19 has had on children educated at home. Children can be educated at home for a variety of reasons. Figures from March 2019 suggested that more than 60,000 children were



being home educated in England, with the number increasing in recent years. It is likely that the number is under-reported as parents are not required to register their home-educated children with the local authority. In April 2019 the Government published a consultation on proposed legislation concerning children not in school, which included a proposal for a register of children not attending mainstream schools, maintained by local authorities. The Government has not published its response.

The AEHEP are calling for a mandatory registration system for EHE families as well as changes to funding rules for EHE and a regulatory framework for inspection.

In North Somerset we have 2 days of designated Education Welfare Officer time to meet with the increasing numbers of EHE.

1.3.98 The Council promotes and facilitates the ongoing development of Early Years and Childcare provision for children aged 0 – 14 (or up to 18 for disabled young people) in North Somerset. The Early Years Funded entitlement in North Somerset is mainly provided by the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector. According to the Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT), North Somerset's percentage take up of 3- and 4-year olds benefiting from some free early education was 96% in 2019 and 95% in 2020.

Local Authorities have a legal duty to secure a sufficient supply of childcare across their areas. This is achieved through managing the market to encourage diversity of supply. All children should be able to take up their funded hours in a high-quality setting. Evidence shows that higher quality provision has greater developmental benefits for children, particularly for the most disadvantaged children leading to better outcomes. All children who meet the prescribed criteria should be able to take up a free place benefiting their social, physical and cognitive development and outcomes and helping to prepare them for school. Evidence shows that attending high quality early education has a lasting impact on social and behavioural outcomes. The free entitlements make childcare more affordable for parents and enable parents to work or increase their working hours if they wish to do so.

There are different types of Early Years provision available in North Somerset including: Childminders, Pre-schools, Nurseries, School Nursery classes and Out of School childcare.

North Somerset maintains details of Early Years and Childcare providers registered on the North Somerset Online Directory. This is broken down as follows:

Type of provider	Number of providers		
	2018	2019	2020
Childminders	155	155	130
Day nurseries	44	43	43
Governor run nursery on school site	2	2	2
Independent Schools with nursery provision	3	3	4
Pre schools	39	39	38
School nursery class	10	11	15
School with two-year- old nursery provision	3	3	3
Specialist service provider (Springboard)	4	4	4
Out of School provision	20 Out of school clubs	19 Out of school clubs	19 Holiday provisions
<b>Totals</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>258</b>

A child is entitled to 570 hours of funded childcare from the next new term if both of the following conditions are satisfied: 1) the child has attained the age of two 2) the child or parents meets the eligibility criteria.

All children aged three and four, from the funding period after their third birthday, can receive 570 hours of free early education from any registered or agreed provider(s) that are inspected for quality by Ofsted. [More information can be found here.](#)

The Children Act 2016 placed a new legal duty requiring free early years provision to be extended to 1140 hours (or 30 hours per week term time only) for eligible working parents from September 2017 onwards. North Somerset Council works with its early year's providers to meet this extended demand. An annual sufficiency report is produced and published, identifying any gaps in sufficiency to meet the councils' statutory responsibilities.

The Council has an expectation that any school with early years places on-site, whether delivered by the school or an external provider, will continue to offer those places unless agreed by the Council.

1.3.109 The partnership with Early Years providers is vital in ensuring that North Somerset can provide sufficient and sustainable quality childcare that parents and carers are willing to access. The Early Years Strategy Group provides an essential link between all partners including private, voluntary and independent groups as well as Health colleagues and Council officers.

1.3.110 The Council works to promote the wellbeing and safety of all children in North Somerset both in schools and across the wider children's services. All schools and early years settings have a Designated Safeguarding Lead for child protection, who is responsible for taking appropriate action and working with Children's Services when there is a concern about a child or young person. The North Somerset Safeguarding Children's Partnership (NSSCP) has responsibility for all children and young people resident in North Somerset. Policies, procedures and practice are in line with national and local guidance and legislation.

1.3.12 The Council that includes its Councillors and officers will ensure, as Corporate Parents, that it works with different commissioners to ensure that our children and young people have the best education possible.

1.3.134 The Education Excellence Partnership Board was established in January 2017. This Board, overseen by an independent chair, enables the education providers in North Somerset to discuss and agree school strategic issues and developments for the whole education community in North Somerset. Whilst the decisions about this commissioning strategy still lie with the Council and its decision-making processes, the EEPB is a key and critical partner. In addition, the Board undertakes the role of monitoring standards across the whole schools' community in North Somerset. The membership, including Strategic Partners of the Board, is as below:

- Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of MATs within North Somerset and those working with more than one academy in North Somerset
- Heads of Teaching Schools (until August 2021)/Representatives from the Teaching School Super Hubs supporting North Somerset schools (from September 2021)
- Diocesan representatives (determined by the Diocese of Bath and Wells and the Diocese of Clifton).
- Representatives from Headteachers/Governor reference groups (HANS, SHINS, PHANS, SENS & GANS)
- LA representatives, including those representing LA maintained schools and children and young people with SEND
- DfE officers (for limited items)
- One member of the Headteachers Board and/or Sub Regional Improvement Board (for local standards board items)
- Membership from the Early Years, and FE sector (to be considered once the board is further established)

The purpose of the Board is to involve CEOs and Headteachers alongside Diocesan representatives and Council officers in the partnerships between the Multi- academy trusts, Teaching Schools/Teaching School Super Hubs, Maintained Schools, the Local Authority and the Dioceses, to be a cohesive force in the ever-changing educational landscape that can operate and support education delivery across school structures. The Board contributes to the strategic planning of provision for vulnerable children and young people, including Children Looked After and those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

The Board's remit is to:

- Ensure there is a rigorous focus on high standards and successful outcomes for all children and young people in North Somerset through the promotion of excellence.
- To agree the Maintained School Improvement Commissioning Strategy and support the Local Authority to ensure that all children and young people have access to good and outstanding education learning and achievement.
- Receive a report on standards and progress for children and young people at all Key Stages, all identified groups, Children Looked After, Special Educational Needs and Disabled and disadvantaged.
- To enable the Local Authority to fulfil its statutory duties.

- To establish and maintain arrangements to commission the necessary school improvement support and intervention for all schools.
- Work with CEOs and Headteachers to access, channel and utilise all local resources to the full for the best outcomes of every child.
- Be a voice that ensures CEOs and Headteachers can raise common concerns effectively with all strategic partners.
- Collate needs and offers from local schools to enable effective school-to-school support to take place.
- Develop a local measure of educational excellence for schools and academies informed by, but not limited to Ofsted grading.
- Establish arrangements to regularly inform CEOs and Headteachers of CPD available and organise conferences / INSET opportunities to fulfil identified needs through the strategic partners.
- Establish a mechanism for the appropriate sharing of information, including performance data across MATs, schools, clusters and other strategic partners.
- Share ideas and good practice and to identify areas of further joint working such as joint bids or procurement opportunities that promote efficiency
- The Partnership Board will pick up the business aspects of any actions likely to impact on maintained schools.

1.3.1~~42~~ In all types of schools, governing bodies and Multi-Academy Trust Boards have a vital role, focusing on their three core strategic functions: Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; Holding the Headteachers to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent. Governors are key partners in delivering sufficient school places and outstanding outcomes for all.

1.3.1~~53~~ All local authorities are required to have a school's forum which has a consultative role in relation to the local distribution of school funding. In North Somerset, we have delegated some of our decision-making responsibilities and given our Strategic Schools Forum an additional strategic role.

It is a consultative body for the following:

- changes to the local funding formula (the local authority makes the final decision)
- proposed changes to the operation of the minimum funding guarantee
- changes to or new contracts affecting schools (school meals, for example)

- arrangements for pupils with special educational needs, in pupil referral units, and in early years provision

It is a decision body for the following:

- how much funding may be retained by the local authority within the dedicated schools grant (for example, providing an admissions service, or providing additional funding for growing schools)
- any proposed carry forward of deficits on central spend from one year to the next
- proposals to de-delegate funding from maintained primary and secondary schools (for example, for staff supply cover, insurance, behaviour support)
- changes to the scheme of financial management

The representatives come from schools, early years and 16-19 education providers, all of whom have a responsibility to represent the interests of their peer group rather than just their individual school, provision or multi-academy trust.

1.3.1~~6~~45 The SEND Programme Board is the multi-agency group which currently oversees the implementation of the Local Area's joint SEND strategy, the delivery of our action plans and which receives regular reports on the progress and impact of our work. The Board includes representatives from:

- North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together – our local Parent Carer Forum
- Supportive Parents SENDIAS Service
- Elected Members (including our Executive Member for Children & Young People and Chair of our Policy & Scrutiny Panel)
- Senior leaders and commissioners of statutory services (including North Somerset Council and Bristol North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCG)
- Local providers of health and social care services
- Primary, Secondary and Special Schools
- Weston College

The Board is currently chaired by the Interim Assistant Director responsible for Children's Services and reports to the Children's Improvement Board. Reports from the board are also escalated to the relevant Leadership Teams within the Local Authority and CCG. In addition to the above, the Board assists with the process of preparing for inspections, peer challenges or other regulatory oversight which may arise in respect of the wider local area SEND system.

1.3.1~~7~~5 There are statutory duties that Council's must follow in terms of securing sufficient educational and recreational leisure-time activities for the



improvement of young people's well-being (Education Act 1996). In particular, it is the Council's duty to ensure that any barriers to accessing such facilities are removed, and that factors such as availability of transport, income, health and disability, gender or sexuality do not prevent young people from accessing opportunities. This duty is primarily focused on the 13-19 age group, but also includes young people with learning disabilities from 13-24 and recognises the need to provide a range of activities suitable for children of all ages.

In North Somerset, the Council has supported the formation of independent Local Commissioning Networks to deliver a package of recreational, educational, cultural and sporting activities in their area best suited to local needs. These groups work with local young people in establishing their needs and priorities and to raise funds to support their delivery. These networks often work with local town and parish councils to support the process of assessing local need, securing activities and in providing limited seed funding for local positive activity initiatives.

- 1.3.1<sup>86</sup> The Local Authority will continue to develop closer partnerships with the Education Funding and Skills Agency (EFSA), the DfE and the Regional Schools' Commissioner to ensure that all young people can develop and achieve their full potential through a rich choice of high-quality provision.

**Review:**

~~Have we recorded the data above correctly and are there any changes needed to existing or new partnerships needed going forward?~~

## 1.4 Legal and Local Policy Context

- 1.4.1 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 sets out how Local Authorities should exercise their statutory duties to secure primary and secondary education to meet the needs of the population in their area. The Education and Inspection Act 2006 enhanced the role of Local Authorities, making them strategic commissioners of services with a mandate to promote high standards for all and greater choice and diversity.

The Education Act (EA) 1996 Section 14A, added by Section 3 of Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006 requires Local authorities to consider and respond appropriately to parental representations about school provision in relation to local authorities' functions under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996. Local Authorities must reasonably consider parental representations regarding the provision of schools and respond accordingly, including outlining any proposed action or, where it is considered action is not needed, to explain the reasons for this.

The Council will act in the interests of pupils to secure education settings that are proven to be sustainable and provide good/outstanding standards of education.

- 1.4.2 The Education Act 2011 maintains the role of Local Authorities as the strategic commissioner of services but provides greater autonomy of education provision by the encouragement of the establishment of academies, free schools, studio schools and Enterprise Colleges that are independent of the Local Authority. The Act gives Local Authorities ‘a critical new role as strengthened champions of choice, securing a wide range of education options for parents and families, ensuring there are sufficient high-quality school places, co-ordinating fair admissions, promoting social justice by supporting vulnerable children, and challenging schools which fail to improve.’ Updated guidance issued by the Department for Education (DfE) in 2018 reaffirms the role of Local Authorities. Alongside academies and the Regional School’s Commissioner, LAs play a key role in ensuring there is a coordinated approach to place management and meeting the strategic needs of their areas.

The Council supports the principle of partnership working and will act as a facilitator or challenger of change where this is in the best interests of learners.

- 1.4.3 The Education Act 1996 Section 14 provides that in respect of provision in primary and secondary schools, in carrying out their duty to provide sufficient school places for the area, local authorities must have particular regard to the need to secure Special Educational Needs provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs.

The Council, working with its partners, is committed to ensuring that all children and young people can reach their academic potential and be ready for the world of employment.

- 1.4.4 All local authorities and local-authority-maintained schools must follow statutory guidance when making changes, including school closure. Guidance was last updated on 19 November 2019 and includes the regulations relating to [Opening and closing maintained schools](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/851585/Opening_and_closing_maintained_schools1012.pdf) (assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/851585/Opening\_and\_closing\_maintained\_schools1012.pdf) and [Making significant changes \(‘prescribed alterations’\) to maintained schools](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/756572/Maintained_schools_prescribed_alterations_guidance.pdf) (assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/756572/Maintained\_schools\_prescribed\_alterations\_guidance.pdf).

These regulations apply to governing bodies, local authorities and decision makers. They set out how to make changes based on:



- The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013
- The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013

Statutory guidance should be followed unless there is a very good reason not to. In the main, local authorities can still propose changes for Community schools, and both Foundation and Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools and local authorities can propose expansions for Foundation and VC schools. Where decisions are made by the Local Authority (for Community, VA, Foundation and VC schools), significant or contentious determinations are taken by The Executive (where a Statutory Proposal has been published). Smaller changes that do not require a statutory proposal or non-contentious decisions may be taken by the Executive Member for Children's Services & Lifelong Learning. In most cases the decision makers will take advice from the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel or the Panel's Steering Group and/or the Director of Children's Services or her officers.

Expansions at a mainstream school that do not require a physical enlargement to the premises of the school are not covered by the Prescribed Alterations Regulations. An increase in pupil numbers may be achieved solely by increasing the Planned Admission Number (PAN) in line with arrangements and processes outlined in the School Admissions Code.

The Council is committed to consulting when proposing change, although its remit to do so on its own behalf will diminish as more schools convert to become academies. The Council will continue to look strategically at the needs of the residents of North Somerset and will act in the interests of all children and young people. It will work with academies where their proposals align with the principles and priorities of this plan to progress proposals for approval by the Regional Schools' Commissioner.

- 1.4.5 There is different guidance for academy trusts planning to make organisational changes or close an academy by mutual agreement with the Secretary of State. The latest updates, as at 5 November 2019 — [see all updates](#), includes:

[Making significant changes to an open academy and closure by mutual agreement](#) and supporting [Full business case application form](#) and [Fast track application form](#)

Changes can include:

- expansion
- merging with another academy
- changing the school's age range
- changing the school's faith

Depending on the proposals for change, one of two processes are followed – the ‘fast track’ application or the ‘full business’ case. The process route is determined by the complexity of the change. Controversial changes are also subject to full business cases.

Whilst the Council is asked to contribute to consultations and make its views known to the Regional Schools’ Commissioner (RSC) or Secretary of State (SoS) for Education, it is the RSC or SoS, as appropriate, who makes a final decision. In making decisions on proposals the RSC will be advised by their Head Teacher Board (HTB).

- 1.4.6 There is a Government expectation that within the schools’ system, academy status will become the norm. Where there is a need for a new school, the first choice must be a new academy or free school. Only where the Local Authority is unable to identify a suitable sponsor to open a new school, it will be *‘able to contact the Secretary of State for Education so that together such a sponsor can be found.’*

Local Authorities currently have a statutory duty under section 14(3A) of the Education and Inspections Act 1996 to exercise their functions with a view to securing diversity in the provision of schools, and in increasing opportunities for parental choice when planning the provision of school places. Local Authorities must also have regard to the presumption that successful and popular schools should be expanded.

The Education Act 2011 reinforces the freedoms that Academies and Free Schools have in relation to the establishment of new schools. In making decisions about the provision of a new school, the Council will take into consideration the sustainability of the new and other local schools and local standards and effectiveness. It will recommend the option that secures the best outcome for learners.

- 1.4.7 Where a local authority determines there is a need for a new school it must follow the Establishing a new school: free school presumption route guidance on establishing new schools and the qualities new school proposers must demonstrate. This was last updated by the DfE on 5 November 2019 - [Academy and free school presumption: guidelines](#). The guidance is for local authorities and new school proposers and applies to academies and free schools.

The [Education Act 2011](#) changed the arrangements for establishing new schools and introduced section 6A, which is known as the academy or free school presumption. Local authorities can adapt the DfE’s model specification to specify what they need from proposers, but both proposers and local authorities must follow national guidelines when seeking proposals or making applications.

The presumption process is the main route by which local authorities establish new schools to meet the need for additional places, both in terms of basic need and the need for diverse provision within their areas. It can be used to deliver all types of schools, including mainstream, alternative provision, special schools, and faith/church schools. Local authorities are responsible for determining the specification for the new school and lead and implement the project to establish the school. The Department for Education provides support and advice to local authorities and sponsors throughout the process. Whilst the local authority is able to express a preference for its preferred sponsor, the RSC, via the local Headteachers Board, or the SoS decides and appoints the successful sponsor. Any new school opening is subject to the sponsor securing a Funding Agreement with the DfE.

The presumption process sits alongside but is not the same as the central mainstream Free School Programme as supported by the New School's Network.

All new schools established through the presumption process are classified as free schools. 'Academy' is the legal term for state-funded schools that are independent of local authority control and receive their funding directly from the government.

Under the presumption route the local authority is responsible for providing the site for the new school. It is the department's expectation that the site is made available free or on a peppercorn basis by the local authority to the trust. The local authority is also responsible for meeting the associated capital and pre/post-opening revenue costs. Basic need capital funding is provided on an un-ringfenced basis, so that local authorities can provide the places that they need, including through new presumption schools.

If the local authority decides, prior to proposals being submitted, that circumstances have changed such that it is no longer satisfied that there is any need for a school (for example, where a housing project has been cancelled or where a proposed central route free school will meet the identified need), then the local authority can halt the presumption process and withdraw the specification on these grounds. If this happens, the local authority should ensure that they inform the departmental lead contact at the earliest possible opportunity.

Where proposals have been received, the local authority is required to seek the Secretary of State's permission to halt the competition, providing him with evidence that the basic need no longer exists or has reduced to such an extent that a new school is no longer needed. The local authority sends their cessation request to the departmental lead contact at the appropriate time. The Secretary of State will consider this evidence when making his decision but must be satisfied that the local authority is able to meet its statutory duties under section 14 of the Education Act 1996.

The Council has undertaken three Presumption route school competitions since 2014 and it is highly likely a further 1 and possibly --2 competitions will be followed during the life of this plan.

- 1.4.8 The School Admissions Code is issued under Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 ('SSFA 1998'). The Code applies to admissions to all maintained schools and academies in England and is followed alongside the School Admission Appeals Code and other guidance and laws that affect admissions and admission appeals in England. These Codes imposes mandatory requirements and include guidelines setting out aims, objectives and other matters in relation to the discharge of functions relating to admissions by all admission authorities.

The Council will follow the guidelines and requirements of the School Admissions Code <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-code--2> and the School Admissions Appeals Code <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-appeals-code> . It will challenge school and academies who fail to follow these requirements in accordance with the obligations for local authorities set out in these guidelines.

- 1.4.9 The DfE were seeking views on a revised version of the School Admissions Code to support vulnerable children – see <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-school-admissions-code--4>

The consultation closed on 16 October 2020. It was seeking to clarify and improve the school admissions process where children are admitted to school in-year, so outside of the normal admissions round. The revised code will also provide additional information and details that will support admission authorities in discharging their duties effectively. These changes are primarily intended to support the most vulnerable children and wider changes to the admissions system and other elements of the code were not under review at this stage.

In the draft Code it is recommended that each local authority must have a Fair Access Protocol to ensure that unplaced and vulnerable children, and those who are having difficulty in securing a school place in-year, are allocated a school place as quickly as possible. The Protocol must be consulted upon and developed in partnership with all schools in its area. Once the Protocol has been agreed by the majority of schools in its area, all admission authorities must participate in it. Participation includes making available a representative who is authorised to participate in discussions, make decisions on placing children via the Protocol, and admitting pupils when asked to do so in accordance with the Protocol, even when the school is full.

Local authorities must provide admission authorities with reasonable notice and information as to how and when discussions around the placement of children via the Protocol will take place. No school - including those with places available – should be asked to take a disproportionate number of children who have been excluded from other schools, who display challenging behaviour, or who are placed via the Protocol. The protocol must also set out how the needs of children who have been excluded, and children for whom mainstream education is not yet possible, will be met. The code prescribes the groups of vulnerable and/or hard to place children and the FAP is to be used where they are having difficulty securing a school place in-year, and it can be demonstrated that reasonable measures have been taken to secure a place through the usual in-year admission procedures

Eligibility for the Fair Access Protocol does not limit a parent's right to make an in-year application to any school for their child. Admission authorities must process these applications in accordance with their usual in-year admission procedures and they must not refuse to admit such children on the basis that they may be eligible to be placed via the Protocol. There is no duty for local authorities or admission authorities to comply with parental preference when allocating places through the Protocol, but parents' views should be taken into account.

In the event that the majority of schools in an area can no longer support the principles and approach of their local Protocol, they should initiate a review with the local authority. There should be a clear process for how such a review can be initiated within each Protocol. The existing Protocol will remain binding on all schools in the local area until the point at which a new one is adopted.

We await updates to the Code as a result of this closed consultation.

To ensure equity in administering the FAP, the Council has developed a matrix for secondary and primary placements that, through a formulaic process, accounts for the percentage numbers of pupils with complex needs at each school per cohort. This data is then used to ensure that allocations are 'fair' across schools with and without vacancies so that no school should be asked to accept a dis-proportionate allocation of pupils with complex needs.

- 1.4.10 The New Schools Network was set up in 2009 as 'a charity that works to transform the standard of education in England by delivering more high-quality free schools and campaigning to win public and political support for free schools.' They campaign to increase the number of good new free school applicants, provide hands-on support to applicants through their Development Programme and support successful applicants through their Delivery Programme as they prepare to open new schools.



The closing date for the last wave of Free School Applications – wave 14 – was 11 November 2019 and successful schools were announced on 5 February 2021 . This wave focused on demand for new school places in areas with low educational standards and educational underperformance. Whilst only those able to sponsor a new school are eligible to apply using this route, no applications locally were expected as North Somerset as an area did not meet the eligibility criteria.

The Council would look to support applications made to the New School's Network where they meet the strategies and aspirations of this plan.

- 1.4.11 The government can offer the opportunity for proposer groups to apply to set up a special school in response to a local authority specification. Shropshire and Bromley local authorities' were the latest areas able to open competitions in 2020.

Special free schools receive £10,000 per place, per annum, from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for children and young people up to the age of 19 years with education, health and care (EHC) plans. In addition, special free schools may receive top-up funding from the relevant local authorities at an agreed rate in respect of each individual child placed at the school. Special schools can also receive income from specialist services provided to other schools and/or local authorities under a service level agreement.

Most new schools receive additional funding to reflect the additional costs involved in the early years after opening. Free schools will get this funding through the post-opening grant.

Special free schools receive £250 for each new primary place and £500 for each new secondary place created (up until the school reaches capacity). They will also receive a fixed-rate leadership grant of £170,000, payable 50% in year 1, 30% in year 2 and 20% in year 3.

North Somerset benefited from a successful new Special Free School following a bidding process in 2018 and 2019. Learn@MAT were announced as the successful sponsor in July 2020 and the new school serving up to 65 pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs will open by September 2023 in Churchill. The Council has provided the land for the school, free of charge, on a 125-year lease.

- 1.4.12 The DfE published guidance to establish new Voluntary Aided Schools in December 2018, although it is currently not to be used. Proposers were able to establish a new voluntary aided school without bidding for capital funding using this scheme.

1.4.13 The statutory commissioning duties of a local authority are outlined in the table below, although all plans for how they all will be delivered are not specifically included in this document.

Legislation	Year	Title of duty	Function - What is it intended to achieve?
<p>Education Act 1996 Section 19 (3A) and (3B). Secondary: Education (Provision of Full-Time Education for Excluded Pupils) England Regs 2007(SI 2007/1870) Education Act 1996 Sections 3A and 19 and schedule 1, amended by section 3 of the Children Schools and Families Act 2010. Secondary - Enactment regulations apply other areas of education law to Pupil Referral Unit (PRU).</p>	<p><b>1996</b></p>	<p>Statutory duty for the local authority to provide full time education from the sixth day of exclusion for permanently excluded pupils and for pupils who are excluded from a pupil referral unit for a fixed period of more than 5 days. To make arrangements for the provision of suitable education at school or otherwise for each child of compulsory school age who, for reasons of illness, exclusion or otherwise, would not receive it unless such arrangements were made. Local authorities may establish pupil referral units to discharge their duty but do not have a duty to do so.</p>	<p>This ensures that children who cannot (for whatever reason) be in mainstream education, continue to receive full-time education unless it is not in the child's best interests. These measures were introduced to make exclusions a more effective sanction and to reduce the disruption to a child's education caused by exclusion.</p> <p>The local authority would want to ensure that those pupils that can be reintegrated into mainstream education can do so as soon as possible.</p>
<p>Education Act 1996, schedule 1, amended by Education Act 2011 section 45. Secondary - Education (Pupil Referral Units) (Management Committees etc.) England Regulations 2007. Education (Pupil Exclusions and Appeals) (Pupil Referral Units)</p>	<p><b>1996</b></p>	<p>Duties in relation to pupil referral units: Determine and review a curriculum policy; that the curriculum should be balanced and broadly based; make information available to parents in relation to the unit; establish management committees and appoint first members for all PRUs. Local authorities must</p>	<p>The intention of requiring a local authority to establish management committees for every pupil referral unit was to improve their management of PRUs, by giving them similar responsibilities to governing bodies of mainstream schools.</p>

Legislation	Year	Title of duty	Function - What is it intended to achieve?
England Regulations 2008.		delegate some of their functions in relation to pupil referral units to the management committee but must not delegate functions in relation to staffing and finance of the unit, health and safety issues, control of premises and a reserve power in relation to prevention of a breakdown of discipline.	The local authority will want to commission places from local PRUs to ensure that all pupils are able to access education and that young people are given the skills and opportunities to enable them to contribute to our working society.
<p>Education Act 1996 Part IV, Chapter 1 (sections 312-332B) and Schedules 26 and 27. Secondary - The Education (Special Educational Needs) (England) (Consolidation) Regulations 2001 (SI 2001/3455).</p> <p>Children and Family Act 2014, Part 3 (19 – 83) and Schedule 3, parts 1 and 2</p> <p>The Equality Act 2010 – Part 6</p>	1996	Children with Special Educational Needs	<p>Identifying and assessing Special Educational Needs, making and reviewing Education Health Care Plans</p> <p>Keeping arrangements for Special Educational Needs provision under review. Making arrangements for parents and carers of children with SEND and for young people aged 16 – 25 to access free, impartial and confidential Information, Advice and Guidance</p> <p>Supporting a dispute resolution service.</p> <p>Enabling the views, wishes and feelings of the child and their parents or the young person to be taken into account where considering the right</p>



Legislation	Year	Title of duty	Function - What is it intended to achieve?
			provision and support to facilitate the development of the child or young person
Education Act 2002 (introduced 1 June 2004) Section 175 and Children Act 2004 Section 11.	<b>2002</b>	Duty on local authorities in relation to their education functions to ensure that these functions are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The authority must have regard to guidance given by the Secretary of State (in England)/ Welsh Ministers (in Wales).	Aims to ensure that safeguarding is integral to all that local authorities do in carrying out their education functions. Applies to: Local authorities in their education functions (and also to governing bodies of maintained schools, governing bodies of Further Education institutions; independent schools).  The local authority has a duty to keep children safe.
Children Act 2004 Section 18.	<b>2004</b>	Duty to appoint a Director of Children's services to fulfil the functions of the local authority as they relate to children and young people, including education, children's social care and local partnerships	To provide a single line of accountability within the local authority for services to children and to promote co-operation to improve children's well-being among partners in the local area.
Children Act 2004 Section 19.	<b>2004</b>	Duty to designate a Lead Member for Children's Services to discharge functions of the local authority as above	To provide a single line of political accountability within the local authority for services to children and to promote co-operation to improve children's well-being

Legislation	Year	Title of duty	Function - What is it intended to achieve?
			among partners in the local area.
Children Act 2004 Section 10 (1).	<b>2004</b>	Duty to co-operate' – to make arrangements to promote co-operation between the local authority; each of the authority's relevant partners, and such other persons or bodies the authority consider appropriate to improve outcomes for children. Those outcomes are defined as the five Every Child Matters outcomes: be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being.	To promote and encourage better co-operation and partnership working among the various agencies which provide or commission services for children (and families) at every organisational level from strategic planning to front line multi agency team work.  The local authority has a duty to act as the 'Champion for Children'
Childcare Act 2006 Section 1	<b>2006</b>	General duty to improve the Well-being of children under five and reduce inequalities	Places a duty on local authorities to improve the outcomes of all children under 5, close the gaps between groups with the poorest outcomes and the rest by ensuring early years services are accessible to all families.
Sections 6,7 (as substituted by section 1 of the Education Act 2011) and 7a (as inserted by the children and Families Act 2014)	<b>2006</b>	Duty on local authorities to secure sufficient Early Years provision free of charge. Regulations made under section 7 set out the type and amount of free provision and the children who benefit from free provision.	Places a duty on local authorities to ensure that all children who meet the prescribed criteria are able to take up a free place benefiting their social, physical and cognitive development and outcomes and helping

Legislation	Year	Title of duty	Function - What is it intended to achieve?
			to prepare them for school.
Education and Skills Act 2008 Section 68.	<b>2008</b>	To make available to young people and relevant young adults such services as they consider appropriate to encourage, enable or assist them to engage and remain in education or training. The services are currently known as Connexions services. Local authorities can fulfil the duty to make services available either by providing them itself or by making arrangements with others which could include other local authorities.	To make available to young people and relevant young adults such services as they consider appropriate to encourage, enable or assist them to engage and remain in education or training. Local authorities can fulfil the duty to make services available either by providing them itself or by making arrangements with others which could include other local authorities.
Education and Skills Act 2008 section 10.	<b>2008</b>	Required to promote the effective participation in education or training of the young people in their area to 18 (or 25 for those with learning difficulties or disabilities). The duty is already enacted but comes into force in June 2013.	Key driver behind Raising the Participation Age.
Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 section 41 inserts sections 15ZA and 15ZB into the Education Act (1996)	<b>2009</b>	Duty in respect of education and training for persons over compulsory school age.	That local authorities act as the strategic commissioner of provision for young people aged 16-19 (and those aged up to 25 who are subject to a learning difficulty assessment).

Legislation	Year	Title of duty	Function - What is it intended to achieve?
Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 section 42 inserts section 15ZC into Education Act (1996).	2009	Encouragement of education and training for persons over compulsory school age.	To ensure local authorities encourage participation in education and training.
Children Act 2004 Section 10	2004	Duty on YOTs and custodial establishments to make arrangements for ensuring that their functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (section 11) and to co-operate with other agencies in the making of arrangements under section 10, and they should have processes in place to fulfil these duties.	<p>Local authorities and YOTs will need to have explicit arrangements in place to support each other's involvement with individual children, including those looked after outside their home authority. This will require information sharing protocols, effective IT systems, up-to-date contact information and joint training for children's services and YOT staff about care planning and remand/sentence planning for looked after children in the youth justice system. Children detained under criminal justice legislation in secure establishments are subject to the 1989 Act. 4 The responsible authority continues to have responsibilities towards them in the same way as they would to other children in need recognising that the court, by sentencing the child, has determined where s/he will live.</p> <p>Children in detention: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review</p>

Legislation	Year	Title of duty	Function - What is it intended to achieve?
			(England) Regulations 2010 - The local authority must establish that the YDA's education staff are aware of, and able to meet, the child's educational needs, including any special needs.
Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 section 44 inserts section 51A into Further and Higher Education Act 1992.	<b>2009</b>	Duty to provide for named individuals.	Local authorities, if necessary, can require a provider to make provision for a named individual.
Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act (2009) Part 2 sections 48-52 insert various clauses into the Education Act (1996). Amended by Education Act 2011 section 30	<b>2009</b>	Provision of education for persons subject to youth detention.	Sets out the role of the local authority in providing education for 16-19s in youth detention in their area
Further and Higher Education Act 1992 section 33E, amended by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 Schedule 8.	<b>2009</b>	Requires sixth form colleges to consult with local authorities before offering or participating in secondary education.	Most other local authority duties in relation to further education are transferred to the Secretary of State by the Education Act 2011.
Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 Schedule 13 inserts section 69A into the Education and Inspections Act 2006, amended by	<b>2009</b>	Powers of the Secretary of State to require a local authority to give a warning notice to a maintained school.	Allows the Secretary of State to intervene in under-performing schools.

Legislation	Year	Title of duty	Function - What is it intended to achieve?
Education Act 2011 section 44.			
Academies Act 2010 section 6, amended by Education Act 2011 section 58.	<b>2010</b>	Requires that local authorities cease to maintain a school once it becomes an academy. This does not, however, prevent them from providing goods or services to the academy or making payments for some but not all of its expenses.	Makes clear that section 6(2) of Academies Act 2010, which prohibits a local authority from maintaining a school once it has converted into an Academy, does not prohibit a local authority from doing any of the things which do not amount to “maintaining” a school.
Academies Act 2010 section 8 and schedule, amended by Education Act 2011 sections 59 and 63 and schedule 14.	<b>2010</b>	Allows the Secretary of State to transfer to converter academies property (including land), rights or liabilities held by local authorities on behalf of schools which convert.	To ensure that the transfer of assets from the LA to the academy/MAT takes place within agreed timescales
Childcare Act 2016 Section 1 and Section 2	<b>2016</b>	<p>Places a duty on the Secretary of State to secure the equivalent of 30 hours of free childcare over 38 weeks of the year for qualifying children</p> <p>Section 2 allows the Secretary of State to discharge her duty under section 1 of the Act by placing a duty on English local authorities to secure free childcare for qualifying children.</p>	To ensure there is sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 -14 (or up to 18 for disabled children). To ensure that parents are able to work because childcare places are available, accessible and affordable and are delivered flexibly in a range of high-quality settings.

1.4.14 The Council has a duty to be the 'Champion for Children' and will make decisions that meet the best interests of children and communities:

We will actively work to the following principles:

- To support the aspiration of 'Local schools for Local Children' – children should be able to attend a school that enables them to achieve their potential close to where they live. This may be within North Somerset or the nearest school outside the district if they have needs that, due to their individual nature, are best met at a specialist school or college.
- The belief that every child should have access to a good or outstanding school in a safe environment – all students should have access to the best education possible.
- To improve the outcomes of all children under 5 – early years services must be accessible to all and early years providers must work to close the gaps between groups with the poorest outcomes and the more and most able.
- The expectation that all schools, colleges or other education and training providers in North Somerset will welcome and provide effectively for all children and young people– no pupil should be refused a place unless there are significant educational reasons to do so.
- Moral purpose –all partners should work together and accept our joint collective responsibility to ensure that every child can reach their maximum potential and make a full contribution to society.
- To promote life-long opportunities preparing students for their future after school - all schools will enable all children and young people to flourish by contributing to their community and the economy.
- To be a champion of children and young people – we will make decisions in the interests of children, actively championing the needs of every child, and ensuring they are happy, active and safe. We will ensure that as Corporate Parents we work with our different commissioners to ensure that our children and young people have the best education possible.

Effective planning will:

- Provide schools and other education providers with the information necessary to enable them to make informed decisions about how they will provide sustainable 'inclusive and improving' education, achieve the highest possible standards and ensure the full participation of all learners, especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.
- Add diversity and choice. The Council will support plans to provide new and expand quality learning provisions, working to provide schools and other provisions that meet the needs of learners irrespective of the type of provision.
- Plan to provide new school places in areas of residential growth and, on occasions, suggest or support a decrease in the capacity of a current educational provider in an existing area to ensure the overall viability of



both establishments. This may include a potential reduction in size of an existing provider in the short or longer term, or the relocation of schools into areas of growth where the Council has some freedoms over the use of funding allocations and the needs of the community can be better managed through this change. This is to ensure that new schools become central to a significant new development, whilst noting that some demand for the existing provider may remain as is or decline.

- Encourage all existing settings to provide the maximum number of places possible within the existing capacities of their sites. The Council will challenge schools and academies (academies via the SofS/RSC) to admit more pupils where it considers the establishment has the capacity to do so and the projections support a sustainable increase in class structures.
- Challenge schools in areas of residential growth who wish to reduce their PAN when either the projections or the Local Plan indicated future growth and these places will be needed in the future
- Where financially possible, provide learning facilities fit for 21<sup>st</sup> century living, teaching and learning. This includes developing sites and buildings that promote active activities such as walking, cycling or scooting to school, having production kitchens on site, promoting school allotments and other measures to help tackle childhood obesity. The Council will use its capital resources wisely to meet the needs of learners. (This may necessitate making difficult decisions about the viability of some sites where other local facilities can meet the demand for places. It will look to secure resources generated from closing a facility or site to be used to update other provisions for a greater number of learners where it is able to do so).

1.4.15 The Council will encourage schools and other educational providers to adopt new governance and delivery arrangements and assist the transfer of schools to Multi-Academy Trusts where these contribute to the principles of quality, coherence, consolidation and value for money. These should be the drivers for change, allowing schools to align to local and national policies.

1.4.16 In transferring assets, the local authority has a duty to protect public funds and to continue to support its other statutory functions that are not automatically delivered by schools. Where other statutory services are delivered from a school site owned by the Council it will only transfer assets as required by the Academies Act 2010. Any land or buildings not used by the school in the 7 years prior to academy transfer, such as rooms or a building on the site used by a private, voluntary or independent early years provider, will not normally be transferred as an asset to the academy when it changes status. This is to protect the public funds invested in the parts of the site not used for school delivery for other council users and/or to enable the local authority to exercise its duties in relation to other statutory duties, most notably early years. In exceptional cases the Council may agree to transfer an asset if the academy/academy trust is able to sign up to the continuation of



services from this asset in perpetuity, with any changes only possible if a Deed of Variation is subsequently agreed.

#### 1.4.17 Our Expectations of Ourselves

In considering the needs of North Somerset we will:

- Work with stakeholders and partners to understand local aspirations and pre-school, school and post-16 provision place needs, overseeing responses to demand and suggesting and supporting and working with schools and MATs to progress the removal of surplus places as required too.
- Provide a robust lead in the allocation of school places, challenging and insisting that, where appropriate, schools offer places. We will use either our existing powers of direction or will refer cases to the Secretary of State/Regional Schools' Commissioner for determination if necessary.
- Maximise capital resources and use them efficiently, to provide permanent solutions to any deficits in places at schools with sustainable good or outstanding Ofsted outcomes where:
  - there is proven demand for places;
  - the site can normally accommodate at least an extra 0.5 form of entry from current published admission levels with the resulting increased buildings and resources if required; and
  - the increase fits with the Council's strategic principles as outlined in this Commissioning Strategy.This all will be subject to having sufficient funding to provide a fit-for-purpose outcome.
- Work with schools and MATs to ascertain if surplus school capacity can be used to create specialist Hubs to support the inclusion of pupils with SEND within mainstream settings
- Work with local schools to create 'breach' classes at schools with sustainable good or outstanding Ofsted outcomes, where permanent increases in demand are not sustainable in the longer term, or where sufficient resources to create permanent solutions are not available. Temporary breach classes will only normally be provided where the school is able to support the increase in pupils from their revenue allocations in accordance with the Council's Exceptional Growth Policy.
- Work towards having local schools that pupils can access sustainably, thereby assisting the Council's aspiration to be carbon neutral by 2030
- Provide (at least) 5-year pupil projections, working with schools and other partners to meet the short and long-term needs of local communities within the funding available, sharing requirements for additional places regularly with our partners and other providers.
- Encourage schools and education partners to express interest in expanding their provision in order to meet Basic Need where appropriate.
- Ensure that any new buildings the Council provides are flexible and capable (funding permitting) of being adapted and remodelled to meet current and future needs for all learners.

- Lead and facilitate an ethos of ensuring that all learning providers within North Somerset are committed to working together to meet the best interests of children and families. This may involve acting as a brokerage service.
- Work to achieve commitment from any new education partners to subscribe to North Somerset Council's learning community principles.
- Where possible, enable schools to facilitate access to wider community resources.
- Plan for the long-term future, taking into account expected areas of population and housing growth and areas of population decline, seeking to secure strategic solutions that will most effectively meet our statutory place duties to existing and future communities.
- Be reasonable and fair in our expectations of others.

#### 1.4.18 Our Expectations of Others

We expect our partners to:

- Work together to meet the best interests of children, young people and families, sharing plans and operating in a transparent way that encourages professional dialogue and participation. In some cases, this may involve making decisions to benefit other partners where this is in the interest of pupils and/or the wider Council area (such as removing surplus places).
- Do all they can to provide places for all local pupils and young people – the Council will challenge schools/academies where it feels the interests of the child or young person has not been met and will direct schools to take children/refer cases to the Secretary of State/Regional Schools' Commissioner to facilitate admission, where it is considered appropriate to do so.
- Provide inclusive learning environments, seeking to support all pupils in mainstream facilities where appropriate.
- Look to support the creation of local Resource Bases for high attaining pupils with Autism or for those who require Behavioural short-term interventions on mainstream sites where the attendance of a pupil in a specialist facility as required will promote integration and provide the support and interventions to enable children and young people to re-integrate back into mainstream classes when appropriate.
- Provide at least good/outstanding standards of education.
- Promote life-long opportunities for students in preparation for their leaving school and thereafter that will enable all children to flourish.
- Share and co-ordinate their replacement, expansion or place reduction plans to ensure that together we meet the needs of our communities, noting the need for capital resources to be maximised across the Council's area.
- Contribute to their community and its economy. We have an expectation that schools will work flexibly with the local community, sharing their buildings and assets to enable the educational and wider social and, where possible, economic needs of the local area to be met.
- Commit to work extensively and effectively with parents, other providers and the wider children's' services.

- Deliver a wide offer of teaching, learning and other services, meeting additional pupil, young person and family needs, ensuring that problems are identified and addressed universally, maximising pupil and family learning improvements, and making the greatest use of their community resource to ensure collective accountability in the local area.
- Be committed to working together to meet the best interests of all children, young people and families.
- Understand and promote the importance of positive physical and mental health.
- Work towards being carbon neutral by 2030, reviewing the use of energy, building management and options for sustainable travel to and from school.
- Be reasonable and fair in their expectations of the Council and of others

1.4.19 When meeting new demand, it is vital that any new school:

- Should be central and accessible to the community(ies) it serves.
- Provide genuinely personalised learning experiences for all its children and young people.
- Enable full participation for all children and young people (0-19 where appropriate). Where possible, new schools will include Early Years facilities. Early Years providers should work with the local authority to provide good and outstanding provision for all children benefiting their social, physical and cognitive development and outcomes, and helping to prepare them for school
- Work with other local schools and partners for the benefit of the whole community.
- Provide engaging environments for parents, carers and the local community.
- Provide a wide curriculum of learning that leads to high standards and good behaviour within specialist facilities.
- Create spaces for all pupils, including those with additional needs.
- Be willing to share their facilities with the local community, building in safeguards to enable this to be possible both during and outside the school day (where appropriate).
- Provide at least good/outstanding standards of education with outstanding leadership.
- Provide 21<sup>st</sup> century learning facilities for all pupils, where children and young people can be inspired to learn and develop educationally, morally, economically and emotionally in safe, secure and physically stable environment within a financially robust establishment.

1.4.20 In planning for new schools, the Council, stakeholders and partners must be realistic about the limitations that apply. These include:

- The availability and affordability of land in preferred locations
- Funding limitations of both capital and revenue resources

- The need to secure partners to bring the school forward (for example an academy or free school; developers etc.)
- Government regulations that may change or that may apply at the time

1.4.21 Further details about developer contributions and how these are collected can be found in appendix 3

~~Review: Do you agree with the Operational Principles and Procedures outlined above? Should they be updated in any way?~~

## 1.5 Standards and Successes

1.5.1 North Somerset Council has a good record of success and achievement:

As of ~~November-May 2020~~2021, ~~79~~**82**% of North Somerset schools with Ofsted ratings were good or outstanding schools; ~~45-34 schools (58)~~**44**% had not yet been rated post-academisation. The latest comparable figures for the whole of England and the South West were 86% and 82%, respectively.<sup>1</sup>

As of ~~November-May 2020~~2021, ~~84~~**87**% of our primary schools with Ofsted ratings were rated good or outstanding. This is under the latest figures for England (88%) and the South West (83%).

As of ~~November-May 2020~~2021, ~~63~~**66**% of our secondary schools with Ofsted ratings were rated good or outstanding. This is under the latest figures for England (76%) and the South West (69%).

As of ~~November-May 2020~~2021, **100**% of our special schools were rated good or better. This is over the latest figures for England (90%) and the South West (90%).\*

For Early Years settings, according to the Ofsted Inspection Data source, as of ~~31 March 2020~~31 August 2020 **North Somerset** had ~~27~~**26**% outstanding and ~~69~~**71**% Good EY's outcomes. National comparisons are ~~48~~**17**% Outstanding and 79% Good.

Further information including performance over time can be found on the Ofsted Data View platform:

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/ofsted#!/vizhome/Dataview/Viewregionalperformancevertime>.

The effects of Covid-19 have had far reaching impact in terms of schools, who remained open throughout the initial and further Lockdown periods to

<sup>1</sup> North Somerset OfSTED ratings were analysed from data held by the Pupil Places and Planning team as of 9 November 2020. Regional and national figures are as of 31 August 2020 and were obtained from the OfSTED data view platform available at <https://public.tableau.com/profile/ofsted#!/vizhome/Dataview/Viewregionalperformancevertime>.

vulnerable children and those of Key Workers. Following the decision from the DfE, there were no formal examinations during the summer of 2020 and the same will apply in 2021, with individual student's results being the result of teacher assessments.

- 1.5.2 The essential raw materials for generating social, economic and cultural capital and good health are skills and knowledge. In providing places for learning for the 21st century and beyond, schools can be centres for all forms of learning, providing opportunities appropriate to the needs of all members of their community. The Council is supportive of schools increasingly being centres for community engagement, social interaction and gateways to access services and support. Schools also offer a potential future location for the development of community-led, locally delivered services, which will meet the needs of children and young people, alongside other members of the community.

The Council's ability to influence this practice is diminishing however as more existing schools convert to academy status and new schools are formed that are outside of Council 'control'.

The Council is keen to see schools interacting with their local communities and will encourage the co-location of services where appropriate for all new schools and within existing schools where practicable. This is why links with the community have been included in the Council's Presumption Route competitions for new schools as below:

- Haywood Village Primary – the inclusion of community meetings spaces on the school site and use of the larger school hall as a shared sports facility. The school also has use of a shared football pitch with the local community
- Parklands Educate Together Primary - The local community has access to a meeting space and the school hall, outside of the school day. The hall has been designed to facilitate theatre activities and it is hoped the school will become a hub for local activity outside of school hours
- Chestnut Park Primary School – this new school will ~~is hoped to~~ open in September 2021 and is located adjacent to an Extra Care facility and interactions between the children and older people is to be encouraged. The local community should be able to have access to the school hall outside of school hours.

All three schools have or will have early years facilities on site.

- 1.5.3 The Council has a strong success rate when delivering its basic need capital programmes. Recent Council projects have been delivered on time and within budget tolerances, although Covid-19 has added to the cost of those projects in progress from March 2020 as contractors have needed to employ different

measures to keep their sites safe. Overall costs have been competitive and there is a high level of satisfaction from schools.

The DfE annually publishes a School Places Scorecard <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-school-places-scorecards-2019> that assesses and compares local authority delivery in terms of their pupil projections and capital project delivery.

In the latest 2019 scorecard, North Somerset was assessed to have a primary place forecast accuracy one and three years ahead of -0.2% and of +4.8% respectively. Whilst the Council's permanent expansions are costed within the 20 – 40% lowest of all costs per pupil, the commitment the Council has given to expand supporting accommodation when providing temporary solutions placed it in the 60 - 80% of highest costs for temporary expansions. The ability of the Council to continue in this practice will be dependent on the funding it receives.

For the 2019 school entry, 99% of primary place applicants received one of their preference schools when compared to the English average of 97.5%. The DfE estimate North Somerset requires an additional 30 primary places for 2021/22 and will have 12.8% spare places across the sector in the same period. The proportion of new places in good and outstanding schools was placed at 100%, compared with the English average of 91%, ranking us 1/120 nationally.

The secondary scorecard showed a +0.4% accuracy for one year ahead projections and a +6.7% overestimation in a 3-year growth period. For the 2019 school entry, 99.3% of secondary place applicants received one of their preference schools when compared to the English average of 93%. The DfE estimate North Somerset requires an additional 110 primary places for 2021/22 and will have 12.3% spare places across the sector in the same period. The proportion of new places in good and outstanding schools was placed at 100%, compared with the English average of 88%, ranking us 1/114 nationally.

### Primary Places

During the period of the current plan (2018 to 2021) the following new/replace-ment school places were delivered by the Council:	Planning Area	No. of new places	No. of replacement places	Year of increase	Permanent/ Result of temporary breach



School					
Flax Bourton C of E Primary School	Backwell	15 places per cohort (105 overall)		September 2019	Permanent
Chestnut Park Primary, Yatton	Backwell	30 places per cohort (210 overall)		<del>Due to</del> to open September 2021	Permanent
All Saints East Clevedon C of E Primary School	Clevedon	3 places per cohort going from a 17 intake to 20 (21 additional places overall)		September 2019	Permanent replacement for 120; <u>including</u> remodelling for 30 delivered by September 2018
Parklands Educate Together Primary	WSM East	60 places per cohort (420 overall)		September 2018	Permanent 420 places by September 2020
<b>Total Places</b>		<b>Breach Only ~ 0 Permanent ~ 766</b>			

### Secondary Places

During the period of the current plan (2018 to 2021) the following new/replace-ment school places were delivered by the Council: School	Planning Area	No. of new places	No. of replacement places	Year of increase	Permanent/ Result of temporary breach
Gordano School	Portishead	Increase in capacity to 2080 and a PAN increase from 308 to 336 from September 2018 A breach of an extra 28 places in 2019 <u>and of 54 places in 2021</u>		September 2018 and September 2019 <u>plus September 2021</u>	Permanent
North Somerset Enterprise Technology College	WsM	Closure of this ETC to pupils at the end of the 2018/19 school		July 2019	Permanent

		year with a loss of 300 years 10 and 11 and 400 6 <sup>th</sup> form places			
Priory Community School Academy	WsM	Increase in capacity to 1500 and a PAN increase from 240 to 300 from September 2018 A breach of an extra 30 places in both 2018 and 2019		September 2018	Permanent
Winterstoke Hundred Academy	WsM	The phased opening of a 750 place 11 – 16 plus 200 place 6 <sup>th</sup> form on 1 September 2020		September 2020	Permanent
<b>Total Places</b>		<b>Breach Only ~ 86</b> <b>Permanent ~ 690</b>			

#### Special School Places and Resource Bases

During the period of the current plan (2018 to 2021) the following new/replace-ment school places were delivered by the Council: School	Planning Area	No. of new places	No. of replacement places	Year of increase	Permanent/ Result of temporary breach
Westhaven	WsM	The phased expansion of the school to accept 18 infant-aged pupils (c6 per cohort)		September 2019	Permanent
Westhaven	WsM	The phased expansion of the school to accept 10 6 <sup>th</sup> form pupils (c5 per cohort)		September 2020	Permanent
Westhaven	WsM	A breach of c40 pupils to meet extra demand		September 2020	Temporary



Ravenswood	Nailsea	The breach allocation of c7 pupils to meet extra demand		September 2020	Temporary <u>and now included in the permanent change (as below)</u>
Ravenswood	Nailsea	A phased expansion of the school to accept between 22-28 extra pupils from September 2021 <u>(subject to approval)</u>		To be delivered by September 2021	Permanent
Nailsea School	Nailsea	The creation of a 10-place Resource Base for High Functioning pupils with Autism		September 2020	Permanent
Mendip Green Primary	WsM	The creation of a 10-place Resource Base for High Functioning pupils with Autism		To be delivered by September 2021	Permanent
<u>Voyage Learning Campus</u>	<u>WsM</u>	<u>The delivery of additional classrooms to help meet demand on their Milton site</u>		<u>To be in place by July 2021</u>	<u>Permanent</u>
<b>Total Places</b>		<b>Breach Only ~47 Permanent ~70 - 76</b>			

1.5.4 New mainstream places are also being considered in Weston super Mare to meet of housing developments. This will may include a further 630-place primary school in Haywood Village in Weston, a further two primary schools across the Parklands development for 630 and 315 places and a possible expansion of Parklands Primary School from 420 to 630 places. Plans for a new 420-place primary school in central Weston super Mare are also under discussion.

The HIF bid has secured resources for a building to accommodate up to 900 pupils at Winterstoke Hundred Academy's second site on the Parklands development in Weston super Mare.

All of the above projects will be reviewed and some delivered, as required, during the life of this new plan.

1.5.5 In 2017 the Council undertook a review to carefully consider the specific needs of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), noting that for many students their specialist environments can be local but may also

be outside of North Somerset. The review centred on the view that children and young people's needs are almost invariably best met by provision which is close to their home and part of their wider community.

The review has been an ambitious and is an ongoing piece of work. The number of North Somerset children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) has risen from 534 in January 2015 to 1,022 in January 2020 – an increase of 91% over the last five years.

Conservatively assuming a 0.1% pa increase in the national rate of EHCPs, and assuming that the increase in demand that North Somerset is experiencing is likely to result in it approaching the national rate over the next few years, it is estimated that the number of North Somerset pupils with EHCPs is likely to reach over 1,500 by 2025.

At Census Day 2020, only 77% of the 1,022 EHCP pupils were educated within North Somerset, with the remaining 239 young people educated outside the area, receiving alternative provision, or without a school place. It is North Somerset's aspiration to provide 'local schools for local children' by securing appropriate provision for pupils with EHCPs in mainstream and special schools as close to home as possible.

1.5.6 The current Education Provision in North Somerset - A Commissioning Strategy~ 2018 – 2021 sets out the delivery plans for SEND between 2018 – 2021 as below:

- To secure a 2nd site for Baytree Special School increasing places for pupils with Profound and Severe Learning Difficulties from 72 to 120 places by the 2021/22 school year – cost £14.63m (£1m approved plus £13.6m ~~provisionally~~ added to the P&C 2021/22 Capital Programme by Council for February 2021), to be available open in the 2022/23 school year and to new pupils by September 2023 at the earliest. The school will have the capacity to grow to 157 places as required
- To expand Westhaven Special School to accommodate 18 infant-aged and 10 post-16 pupils by September 2020 (infant-phase and post-16 both approved and delivered).
- To create 10-place primary and 10-place secondary phase High-Functioning Autism Resource Bases at Mendip Green (~~subject to~~ RSC approved edat) and Nailsea (RSC approved) schools by September 2020 (delivered) and September 2021 (in delivery) respectively
- To deliver breach admissions to the maximum levels allowed by legislation/can be accommodated on site without going against health and safety advice
- Work with the DfE/ESFA to deliver a 65-place SEMH School in Churchill by September 2023 with the scheme starting on site in September 2022 (funding and timescales with the DfE/ESFA).

- New addition – to expand Ravenswood Special School ~~to accommodate an additional 22 – 18 pupils by increasing the place range from 112 – 119 places to a range of 134 – 140 places~~ by September 2021 – agreed by the Executive on 28 April 2021 to be delivered by September 2021 currently within the consultation stage.

1.5.7 Further details of the Council’s SEND strategy can be found in Appendix 3.

~~Review: Were you aware of the new places provided and to be delivered between 2018 – 21 and of the future for delivery?~~

~~If not, how can the Council better update the community about current and potential plans?~~

1.5.8 When planning learning provision, our stakeholders will be any person, body or organisation that will have a legitimate responsibility or influence or who could be impacted by the provision of a learning facility for the local community. These are mainly:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils</li> <li>• Existing and potential parents</li> <li>• Diocesan partners</li> <li>• Police</li> <li>• Key health partners</li> <li>• Youth Networks</li> <li>• Local residents</li> <li>• Trust bodies</li> <li>• Free School promoters</li> <li>• Regional Schools’ Commissioner</li> <li>• Springboard Opportunities Group</li> <li>• North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Years Providers</li> <li>• Businesses</li> <li>• Community Partnership Groups</li> <li>• Governors</li> <li>• Neighbouring local authorities</li> <li>• Other Admission Authorities</li> <li>• Neighbouring Local Authorities</li> <li>• Education Funding and Skills Agency (EFSA) and FA and Department for Education (DfE)</li> <li>• Academies and academy trusts</li> <li>• School Youth Councils</li> </ul>
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~~Review: Are there any partners we have failed to list above ?~~

## Appendix 1 – Part A School Clusters Detailed Data 2021 – 2024

Map Ref	This number relates to the number on the map showing the location of the schools in the cluster. Primary schools are shown as blue dots and secondary as green. The larger the dot, the bigger the school in terms of the numbers of pupils it can have on roll.
School	School name and link to school website
Multi Academy Trust	If the school is an academy and part of a Multi Academy Trust, the name of the trust is given
Latest Ofsted inspection	The judgement and date of the most recent Ofsted inspection
FGA	First Geographical Area – some schools have FGAs as part of their admissions arrangements meaning children living inside their defined FGA have a higher priority in their admissions oversubscription criteria than those living outside.
PAN	Published Admission Number – the number of pupils the school will admit at the normal point of entry. This is Reception year for primary and infant schools, Year 3 for junior schools and Year 7 for secondary schools.
No. places full Trend Y6-R (primary schools) or Y11 to 7 (secondary schools)	<p>The total number of places available in the school as at January 2021</p> <p>The percentage of spaces that are filled as at January 2021</p> <p>The trend in pupil numbers as at January 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing – generally more children in the younger cohorts than the older ones ↑</li> <li>• Decreasing – generally fewer children in the younger cohorts than the older ones ↓</li> <li>• Fluctuating – cohort numbers going up and down, no pattern ~</li> <li>• Stable – cohort number generally the same across all year groups ↔</li> </ul>
Annual transport costs	The annual Home to School Transport mainstream cost for 2019/20 to transport eligible pupils to this school
Expansion feasible?	Information on the school site and options or feasibility to expand capacity (if a feasibility study is required before this can be determined, the text will reflect this). This section also includes any relevant historical information about the site.

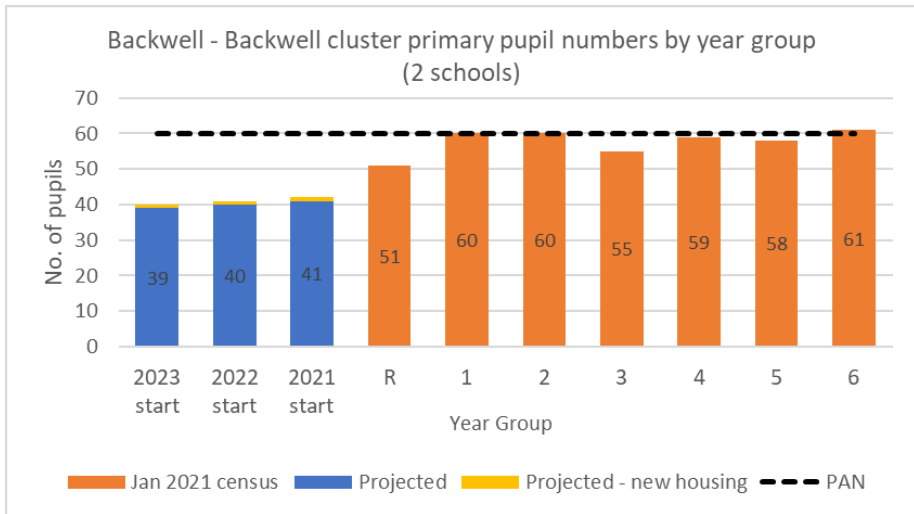
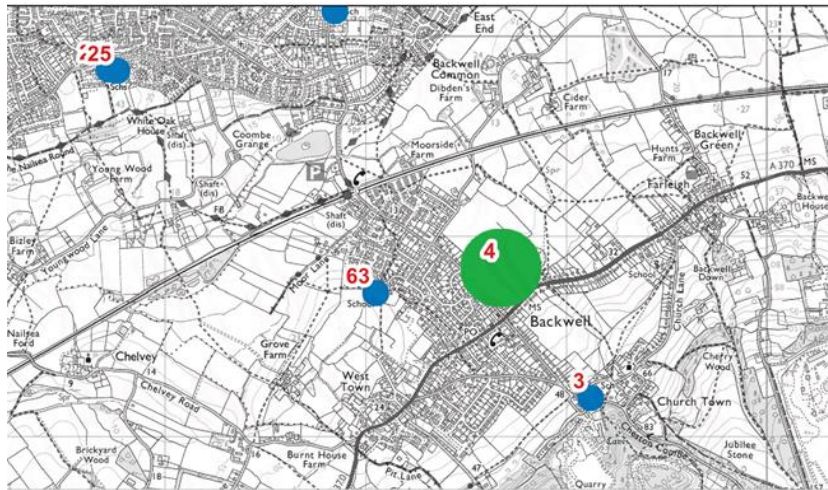
The information below has charts, tables and maps for each cluster area relating to primary and secondary current and projected pupil numbers and new housing (properties occupied – according to Council Tax records April 2021).

The clusters are:

Backwell (primary split into Backwell, Long Ashton and Yatton), Churchill (primary split into East, North and South), Clevedon, Nailsea, Pill, Portishead and Weston-super-Mare (primary split into Central, East, North and South).

# Backwell - Backwell Primary Cluster - current picture

2 primary-age schools, 404 pupils, schools are 96% full, 60 Reception places



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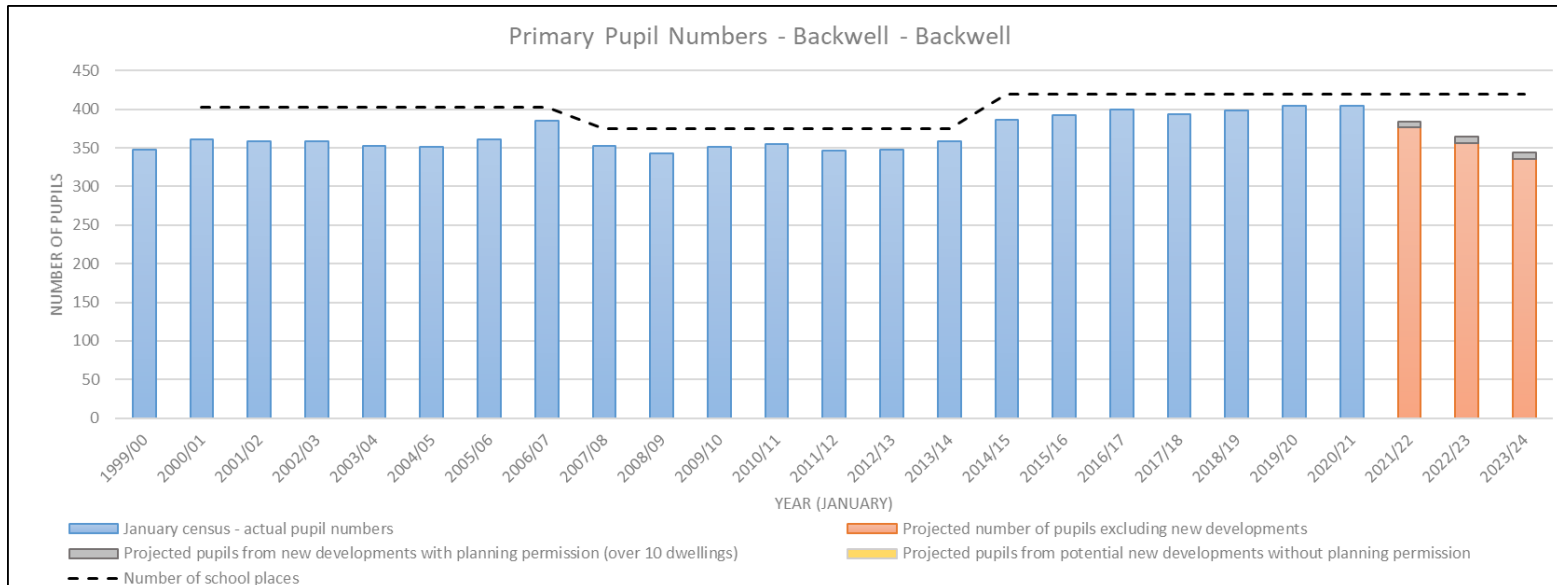
Map Report

	School	MAT	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	PAN	No. places % full Trend Y6-R	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
3	<a href="#">Backwell Church of England Junior School</a>	<a href="#">Lighthouse Schools Partnership</a>	Outstanding 20/03/2014	7-11	60	240 97% full Stable--	£13,110	An assessment of the site has shown that plans for expansion are cost prohibitive There is a designated school site located close to Backwell C of E Junior School, although it is not large enough for a new school
63	<a href="#">West Leigh Infant School</a>	<a href="#">Lighthouse Schools Partnership</a>	Outstanding 15/01/2009	5-7	60	180 95% full Fluctuating ~	£13,110	This school has previously been expanded from 135 to 180 places. No further expansion is possible.

<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>		Predicted demand (number of pupils)					Predicted empty places (negative values = shortfall)				
School	No. places	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
School	No. places	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Backwell C of E Junior	240	226	226	226	215	208	14	14	14	25	32
West Leigh Infants	180	167	150	130	120	114	13	30	50	60	66
New housing pupil estimates		0	6	8	9	9					
<b>Total</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>% space across the cluster</b>							<b>6%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>21%</b>

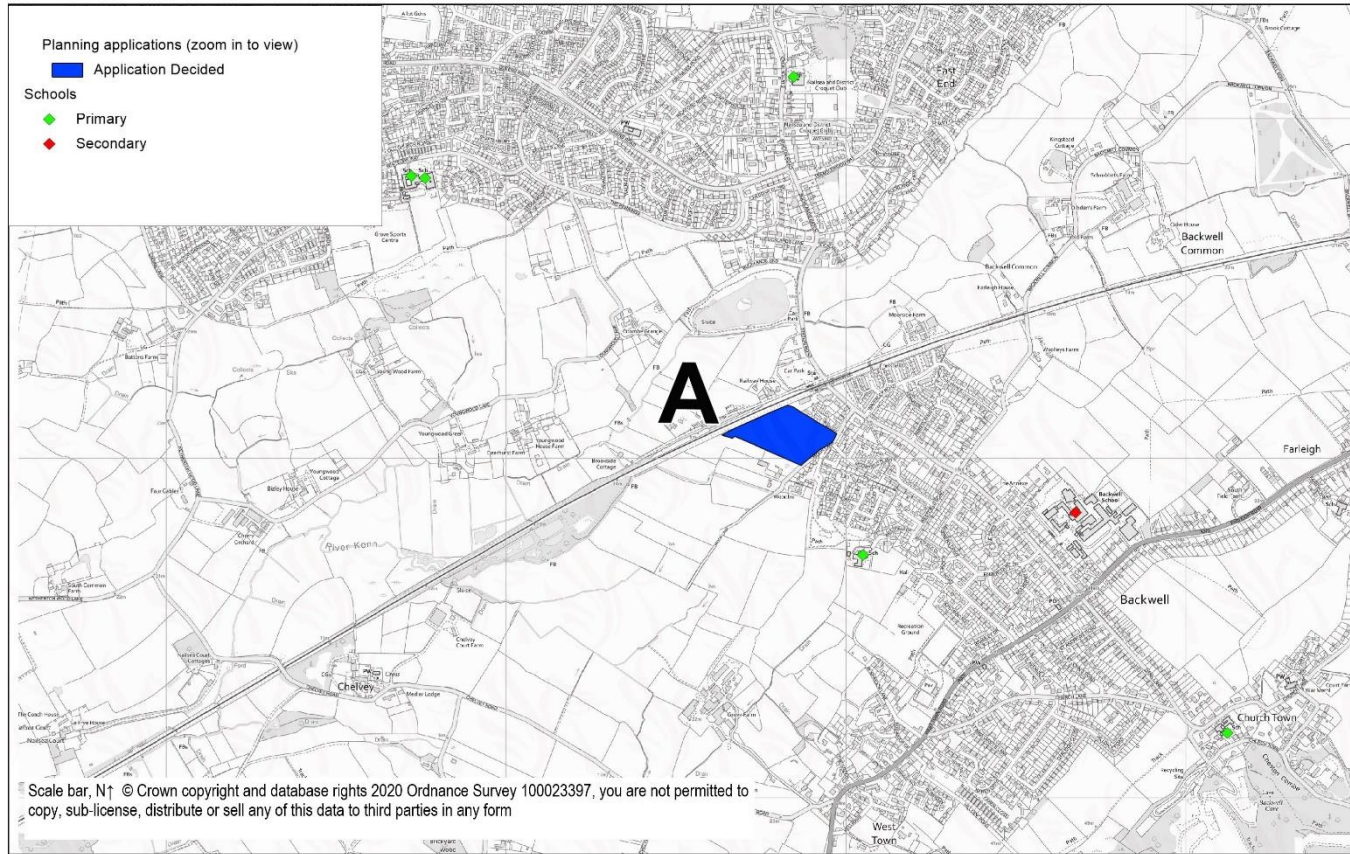
### Backwell – Backwell Primary Cluster future projections

Both primary schools in the cluster are projected to have decreasing pupil numbers over the next five years, even with the small amount of new housing expected.





# Backwell – Backwell Cluster – new housing



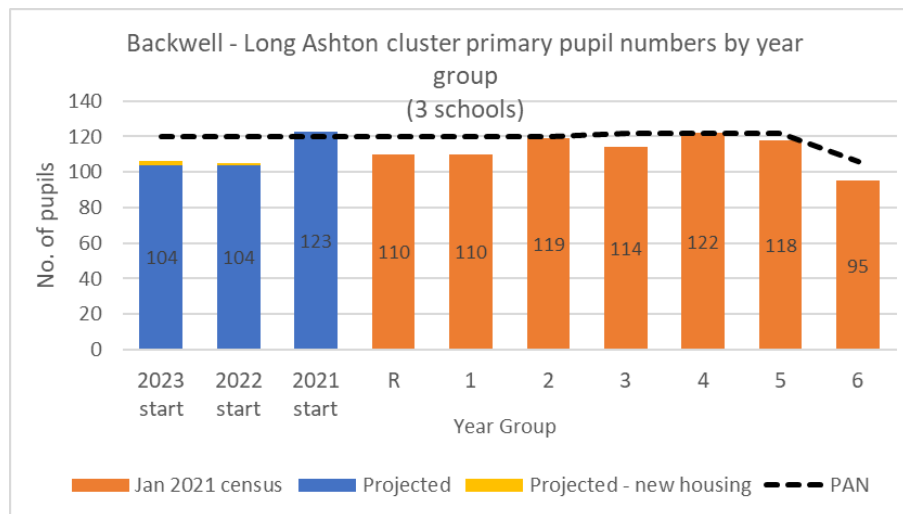
Map Ref	Backwell - Backwell	Permission Date	Site	No. of dwell.	Properties occupied
A	15/P/1916/O	21/12/2017	Land at Moor Lane, Backwell	65	19
			<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>19</b>

# Backwell – Long Ashton Primary Cluster - current picture

3 primary-age schools, 788 pupils, schools are 95% full, 120 Reception places



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Page 90

Map Ref	School	MAT	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	PAN	No. places % full Trend Y6-R	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
7	<a href="#">Birdwell Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Single academy</a>	Good 17/03/2016	3-11	60	420 95% full Stable--	£0	No as the school has been expanded twice previously to meet local demand
21	<a href="#">Flax Bourton Church of England Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Lighthouse Schools Partnership</a>	Outstanding 11/03/2015	4-11	30	202 94% full Stable --	£0	No as this school has already been expanded to a 210-place school in 2018



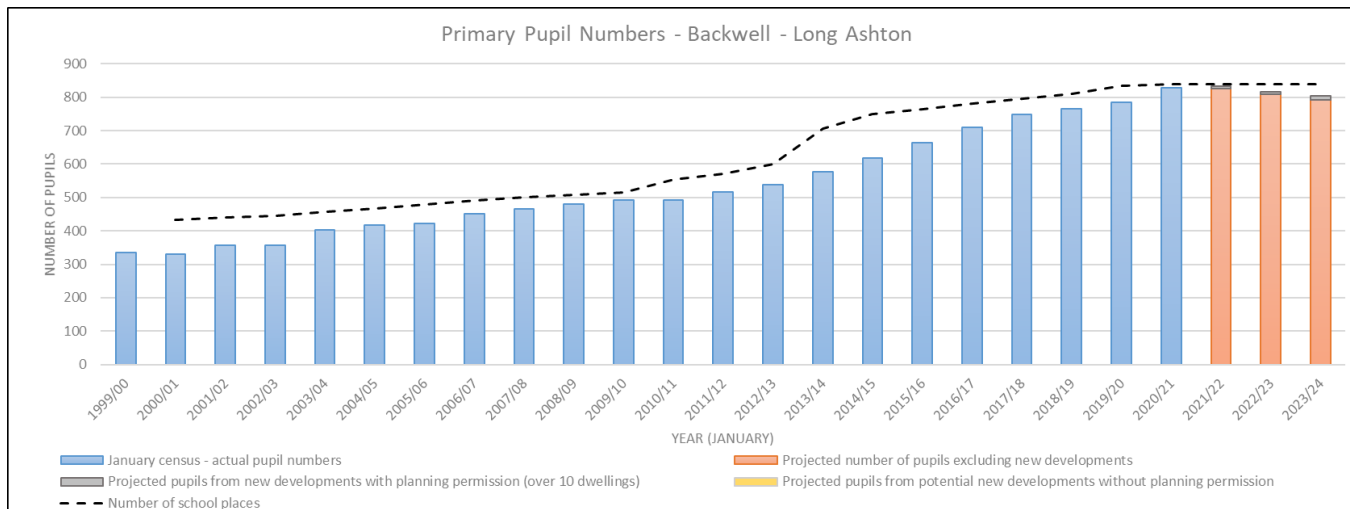
40	<a href="#">Northleaze Church of England Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Lighthouse Schools Partnership</a>	Good 27/09/2016	4-11	30	210 94% full Stable --	£0	No. An assessment of the site has shown that this school cannot be expanded
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<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>	<b>Predicted demand</b> (number of pupils)	<b>Predicted empty places</b> (negative values = shortfall)
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School	No. places	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Birdwell Primary	420	412	414	406	404	391	8	6	14	16	29
Flax Bourton CE Primary School	210	192	207	198	190	189	18	3	12	20	21
Northleaze CE Primary School	210	200	205	204	199	196	10	5	6	11	14
New housing pupil estimates		0	2	6	8	10					
<b>Total</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>% space across the cluster</b>							<b>4%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>6%</b>

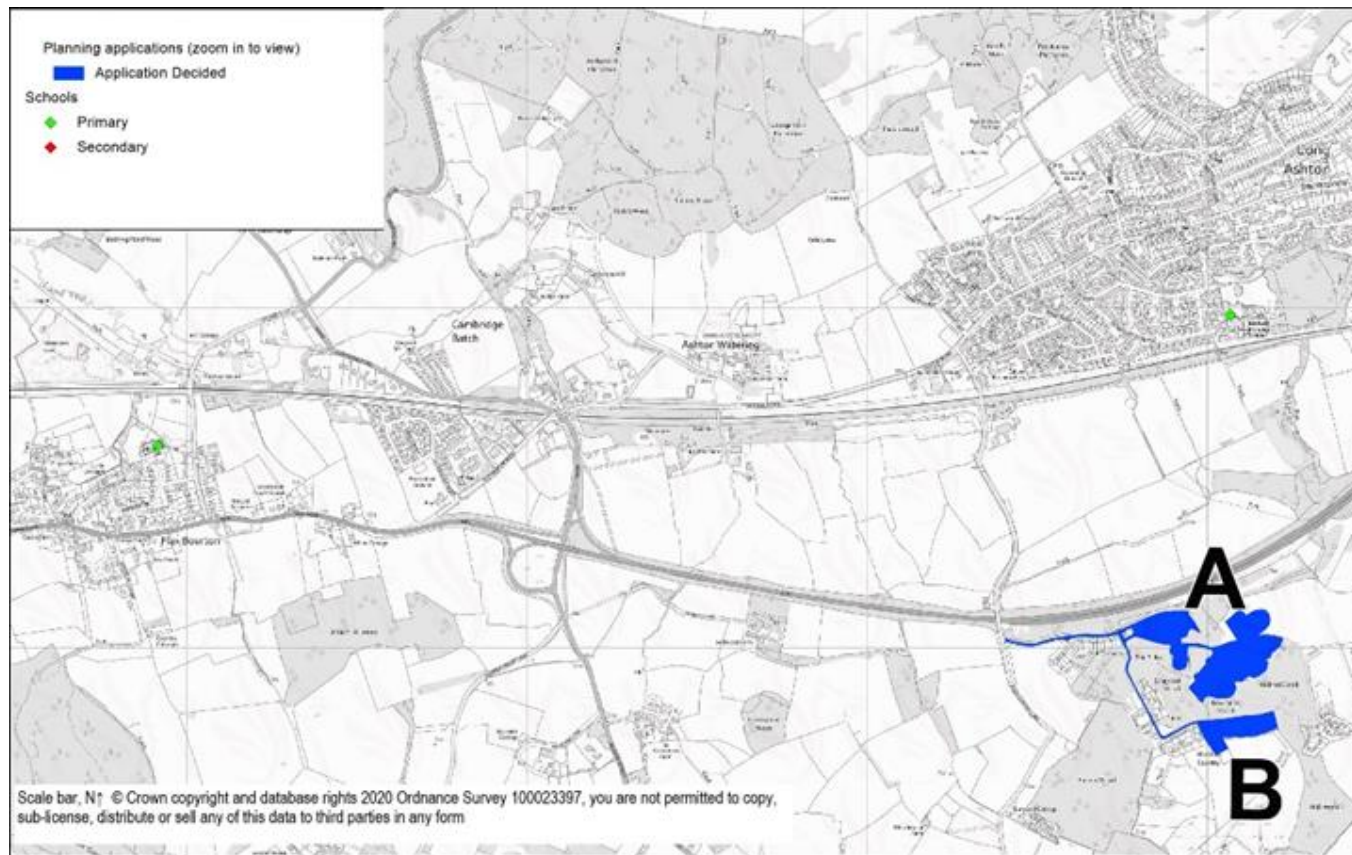
### Backwell – Long Ashton Primary Cluster future projections

All primary schools in the cluster are projected to have fluctuating pupil numbers over the next five years, with a small amount of new housing expected.



# Backwell – Long Ashton Cluster – new housing

Page 166



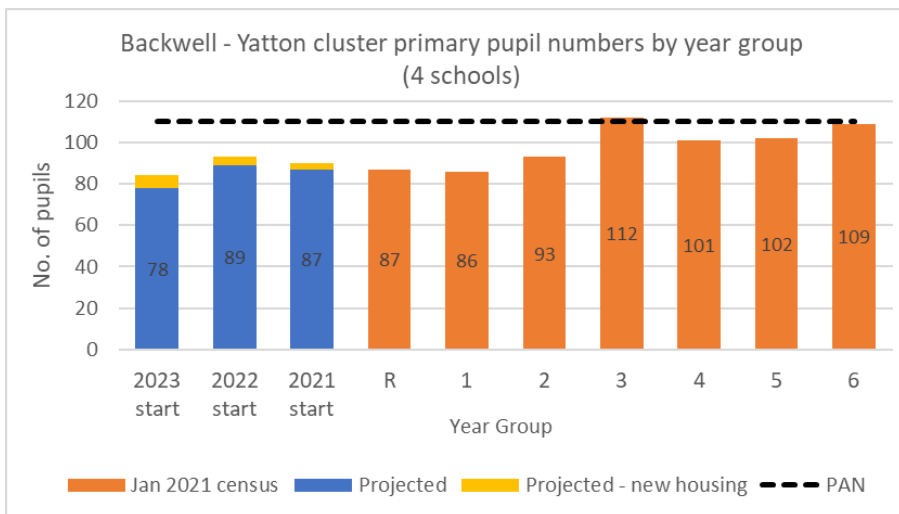
Map Ref	Backwell - Long Ashton	Permission Date	Site	No. of dwell.	Properties occupied
A	15/P/2301/F	01/06/2017	Former Barrow Hospital, Barrow Gurney	66	0
B	15/P/2302/F	01/06/2017	Former Barrow Hospital, Barrow Gurney	14	0
			<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	0

# Backwell – Yatton Primary Cluster - current picture

4 primary-age schools, 690 pupils, schools are 90% full, 110 Reception places



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Map reported

Map reported	School	MAT	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	PAN	No. places % full Trend Y6-R	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
x	<a href="#">Chestnut Park Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Clevedon Learning Trust</a>	Not inspected 00/01/1900	4-11	30	210 - -	-	To open in September 2021. The school has been designed to enable a 210-place expansion to 420 places if needed in the future.
18	<a href="#">Court-De-Wyck Church of England Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Bath &amp; Wells MAT</a>	Good 20/03/2018	4-11	20	140 88% full Fluctuating ~	£0	This site has the capacity to increase to 210 places having previously been a 210-place school. New classroom(s) would be required

73	<a href="#">Yatton Infant School</a>	<a href="#">Lighthouse Schools Partnership</a>	Outstanding 26/11/2009	4-7	90	270 79% full Stable --	£29,892	The Yatton Infant and Junior Schools are on sites that accommodate their combined capacity of 630 places. The site is not large enough for any expansions without compromising play space. <u>The Local Authority has supported plans by the Lighthouse Schools Partnership to reduce the PAN at Yatton Infants from 90 to 60 for September 2022, noting that the school site has the capacity to increase its pupil intake back to 90 places per cohort should demand require this in the future</u>
74	<a href="#">Yatton Church of England Junior School</a>	<a href="#">Lighthouse Schools Partnership</a>	Good 26/04/2017	7-11	90	360 98% full Stable --	£29,892	See Yatton Infant School.

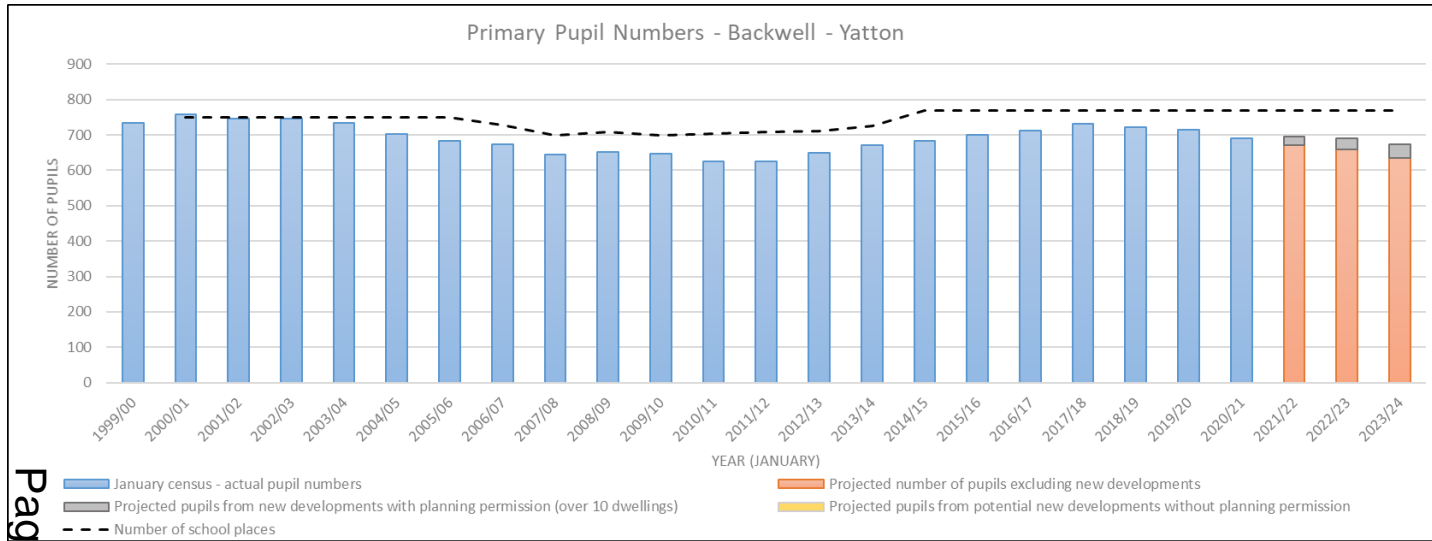
Page 168

<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>	<b>Predicted demand</b> (number of pupils)	<b>Predicted empty places</b> (negative values = shortfall)
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School	No. places	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Court de Wyck Church School	140	128	120	123	119	109	12	20	17	21	31
Yatton Infant School	270	212	216	218	214	198	58	54	52	56	72
Yatton Junior School	360	349	336	318	302	289	11	24	42	58	71
New housing pupil estimates		0	16	23	31	39					
<b>Total</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>% space across the cluster</b>							<b>11%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>18%</b>

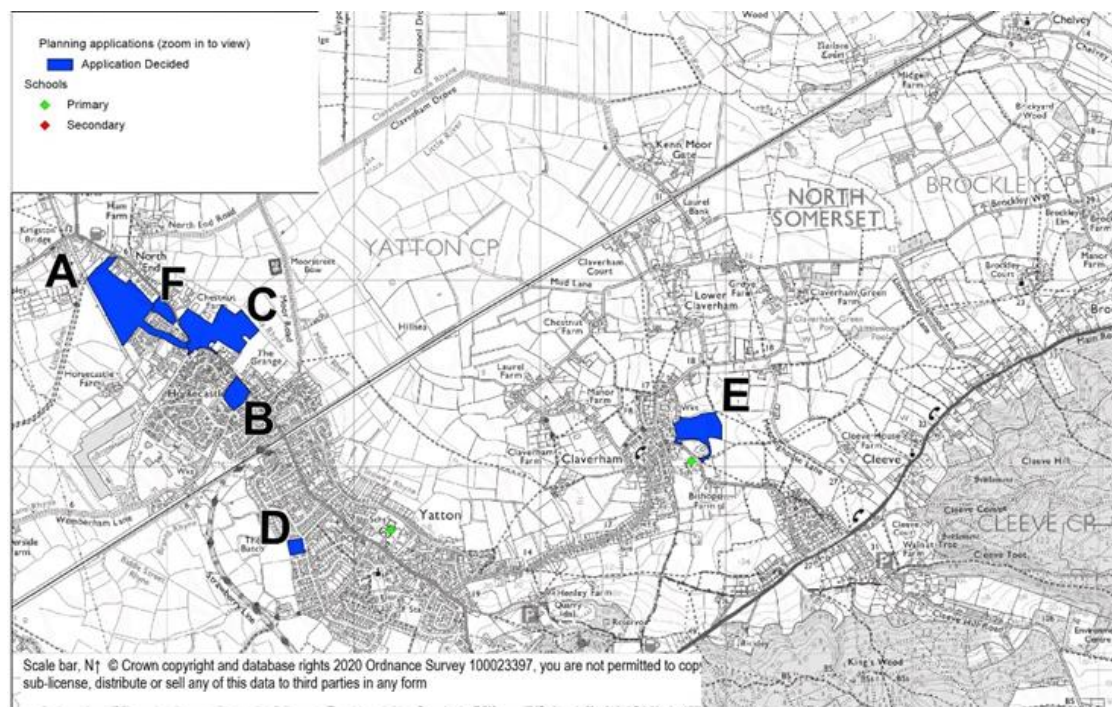
## Backwell – Yatton Primary Cluster future projections

All primary schools in the cluster are projected to have decreasing pupil numbers over the next five years even with the small amount of new housing expected.





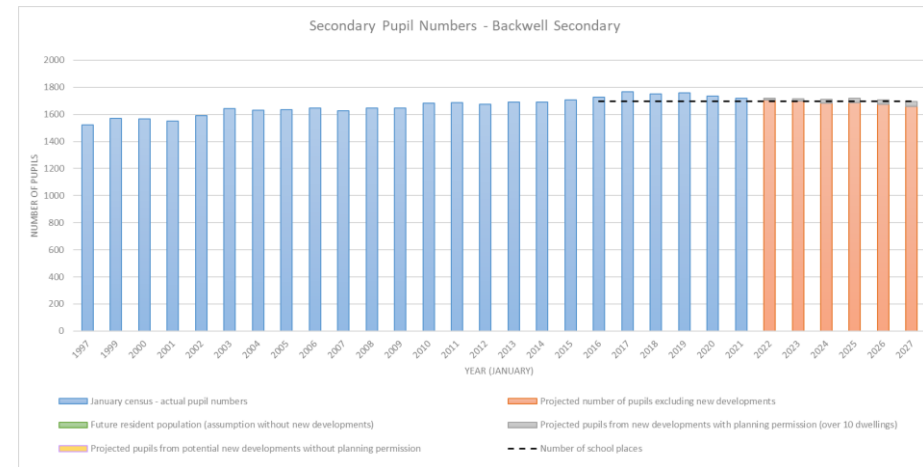
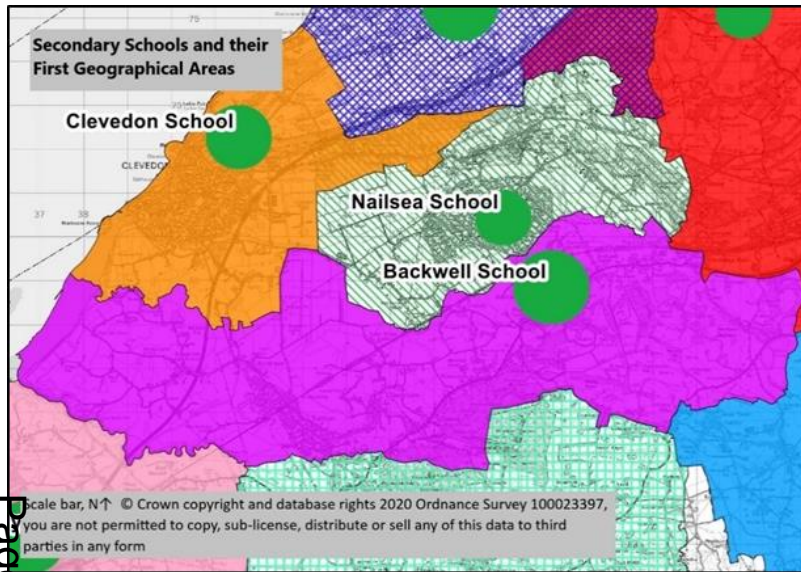
## Backwell – Long Ashton Cluster – new housing



Map Ref	Backwell - Yatton	Permission Date	Site	No. of dwell.	Properties occupied
A	15/P/1488/O	21/07/2017	Arnolds Way, Yatton - Phase 2	111	93
B	15/P/1299/O	15/11/2017	Oxford Plasma Technology, North End Road, Yatton	55	0
C	15/P/0946/O	08/01/2018	Land North of Arnolds Way and North End Road Yatton	154	0
D	17/P/2377/F	05/04/2019	Titan Ladders, 195 - 201 Mendip Road, Yatton	37	28
E	18/P/3659/FUL	23/08/2019	Former UTAS Site Claverham Works Bishops Rd, Claverham	77	0
F	19/P/0834/FUL	16/04/2020	Arnolds Way Yatton - Phase 3	28	0
			<b>Total</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>121</b>

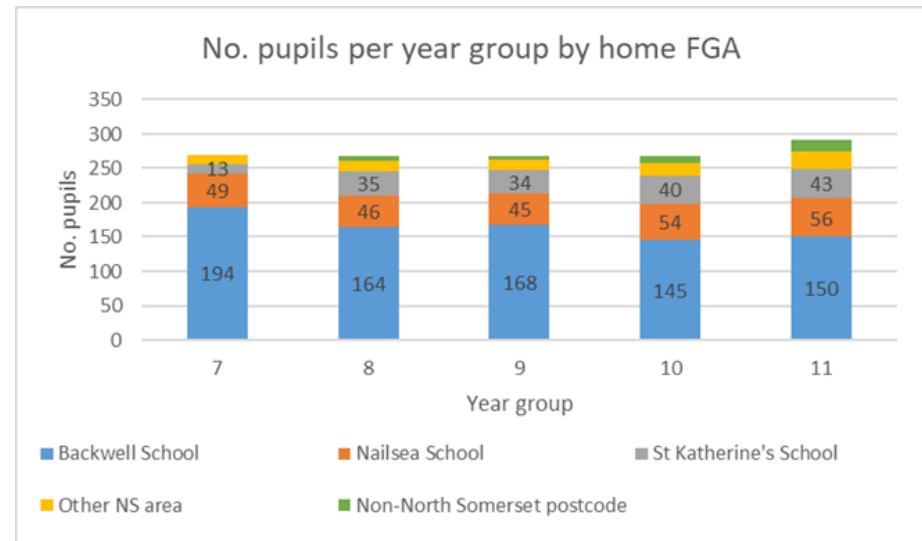
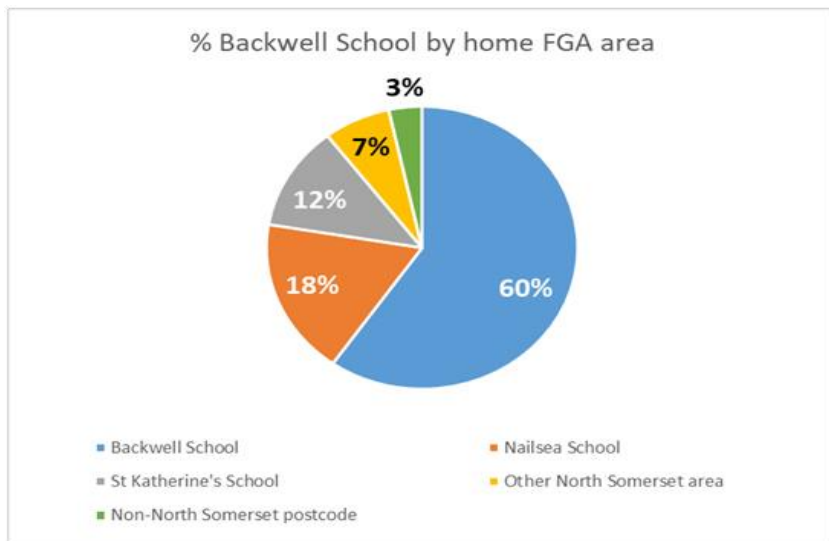
## Backwell Secondary Cluster – current picture

1 secondary-age school, 1719 pupils, school is 125% full, 270 Year 7 places



Page 171

Map Ref	School	MAT	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	PAN	No. places % full Trend Y11-7	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
4	<a href="#">Backwell School</a>	<a href="#">Lighthouse Schools Partnership</a>	Good 29/01/2020	11-18	270	1380 125% full Stable --	£335,469	A feasibility study would be required



## Backwell Secondary Cluster – future projections

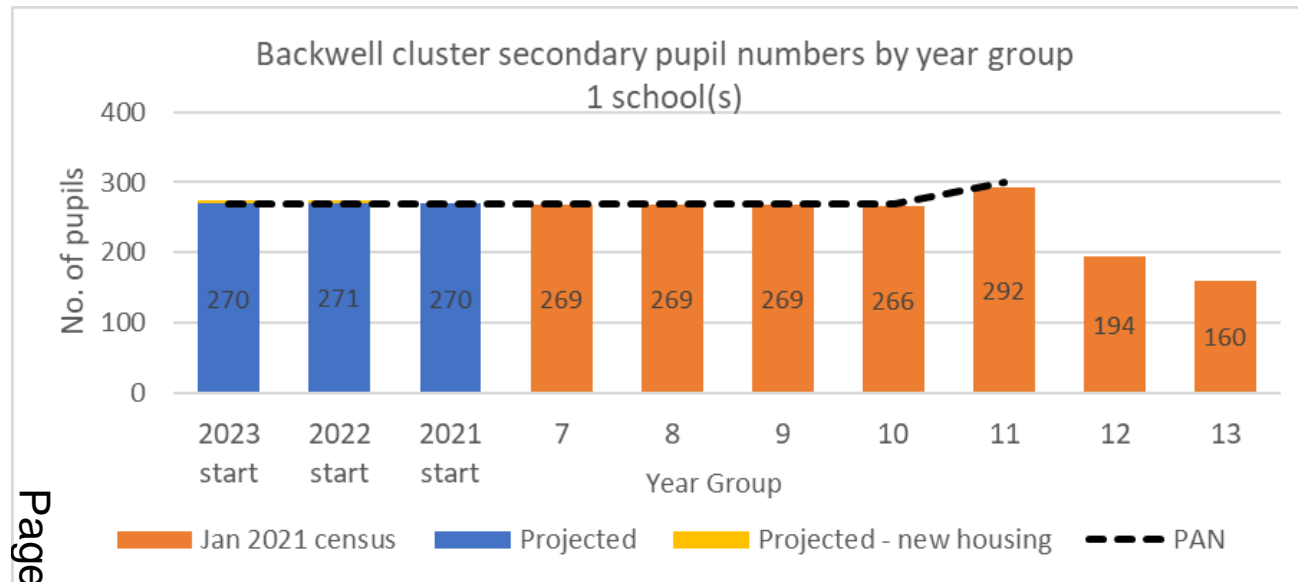
Page 172

<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>	No. places	Predicted demand (number of pupils)							Predicted empty places (negative values = shortfall)						
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Backwell School	1,769	1708	1707	1697	1684	1686	1673	1661	61	62	72	85	83	96	108
New housing pupil estimates		0	12	19	26	32	34	35							
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,708</b>	<b>1,719</b>	<b>1,716</b>	<b>1,710</b>	<b>1,718</b>	<b>1,707</b>	<b>1,696</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>% space</b>									<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>



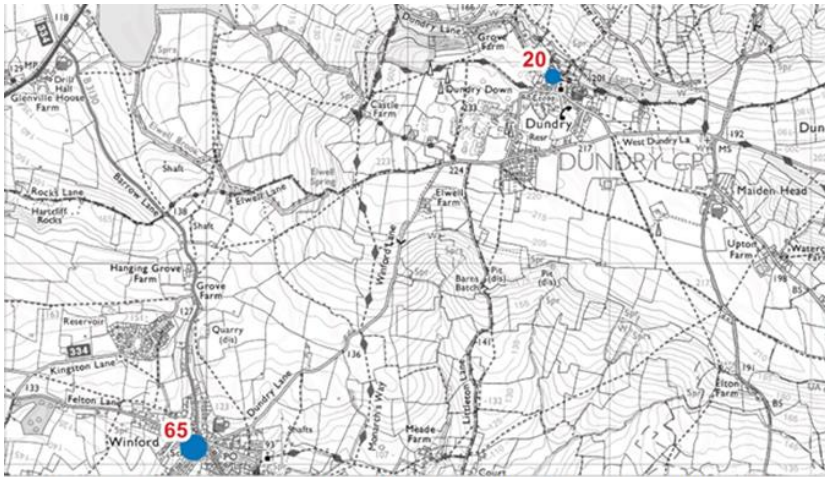
## Backwell Secondary - future projections

Numbers are projected to remain stable for Backwell School.

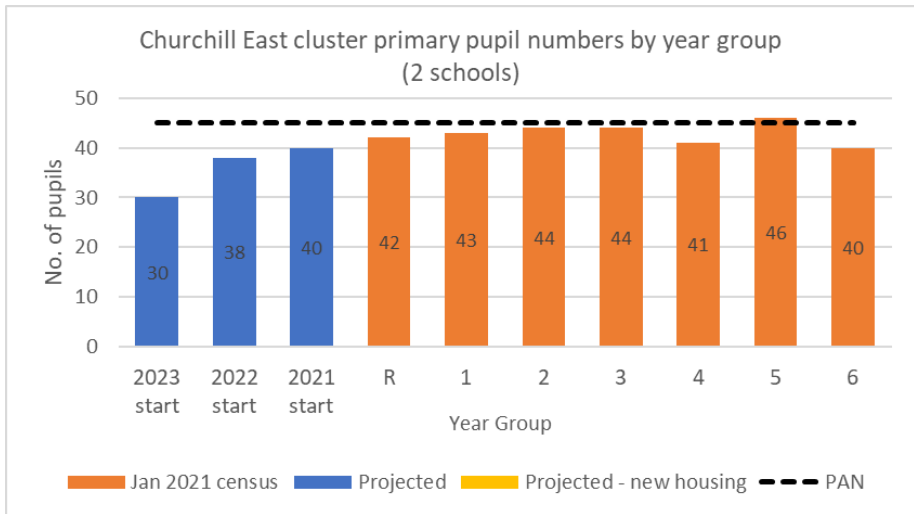


# Churchill East Primary Cluster - current picture

2 primary-age schools, 300 pupils, schools are 95% full, 45 Reception places



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Page 17 of 17

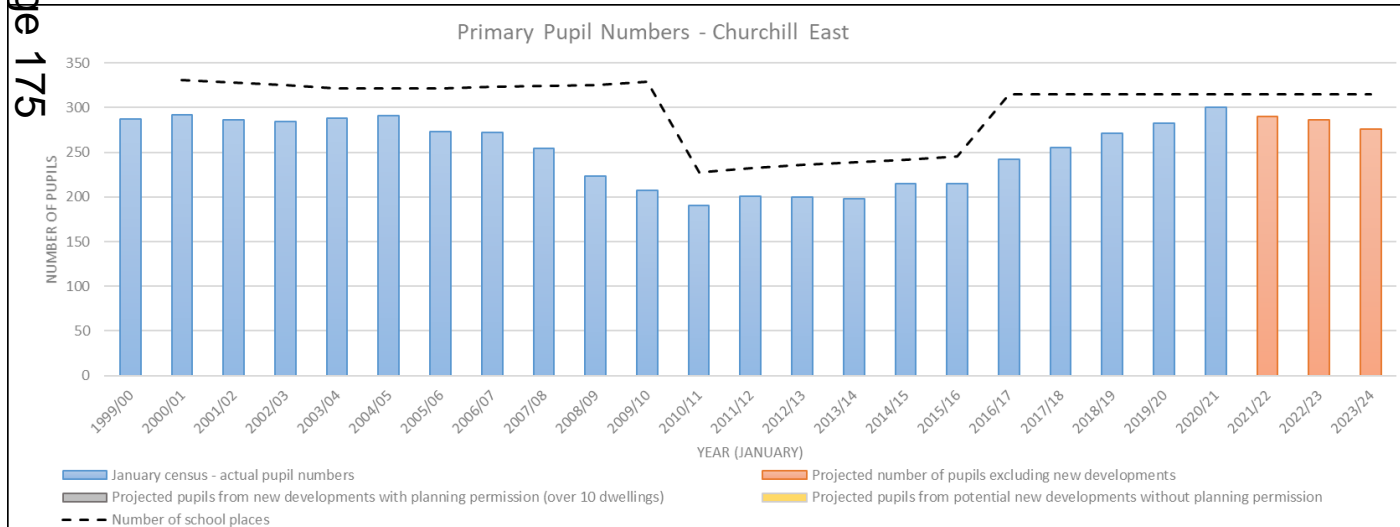
Map Ref	School	MAT	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	PAN	No. places % full Trend Y6-R	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
20	<a href="#">Dundry Church of England Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership Trust</a>	Requires improvement 10/01/2019	4-11	15	105 90% full Stable --	£5,180	No as the site is constrained
65	<a href="#">Winford Church of England Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Lighthouse Schools Partnership</a>	Good 26/01/2016	4-11	30	210 98% full Stable --	£68,053	This school was expanded in 2016 from 140 to 210 places. No further expansions are possible on the site.

<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>	<b>Predicted demand</b> (number of pupils)	<b>Predicted empty places</b> (negative values = shortfall)
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School	No. places	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Dundry CE Primary School	105	86	90	91	87	86	19	15	14	18	19
Winford Primary School	210	204	200	195	189	181	6	10	15	21	29
New housing pupil estimates		0	0	0	0	0					
<b>Total</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>% space across the cluster</b>							<b>8%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>15%</b>

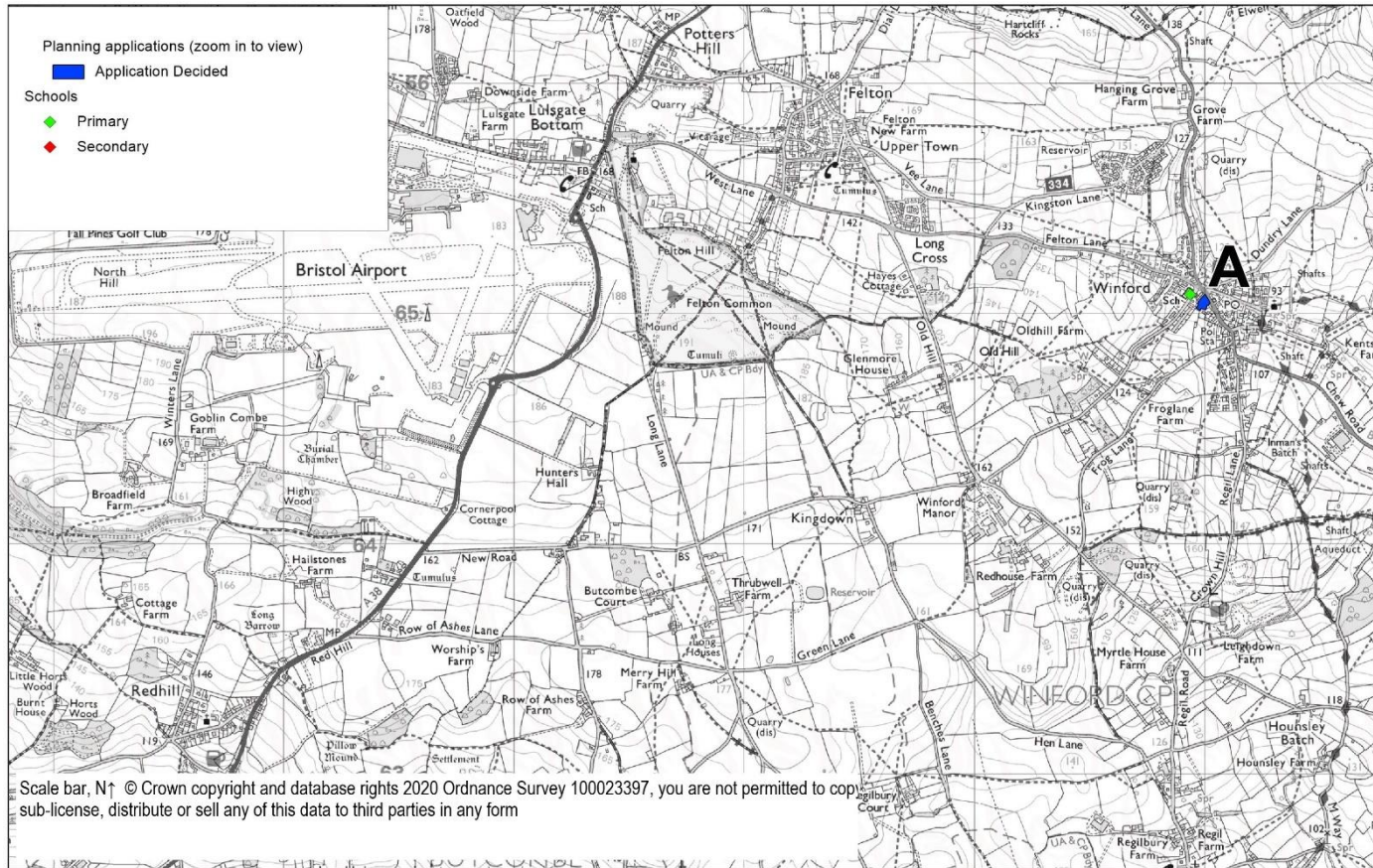
### Churchill East Primary Cluster future projections

Dundry Primary Schools is projected to have fairly stable pupil numbers over the next five years. Winford Primary School is projected to have decreasing pupil numbers over the next five years.



# Churchill East Cluster – new housing

Page 176



Map Ref	Churchill East	Permission Date	Site	No. of dwell.	Properties occupied
A	12/P/0390/O	20/04/2017	The Old Coach Station, Winford	11	0
			<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>

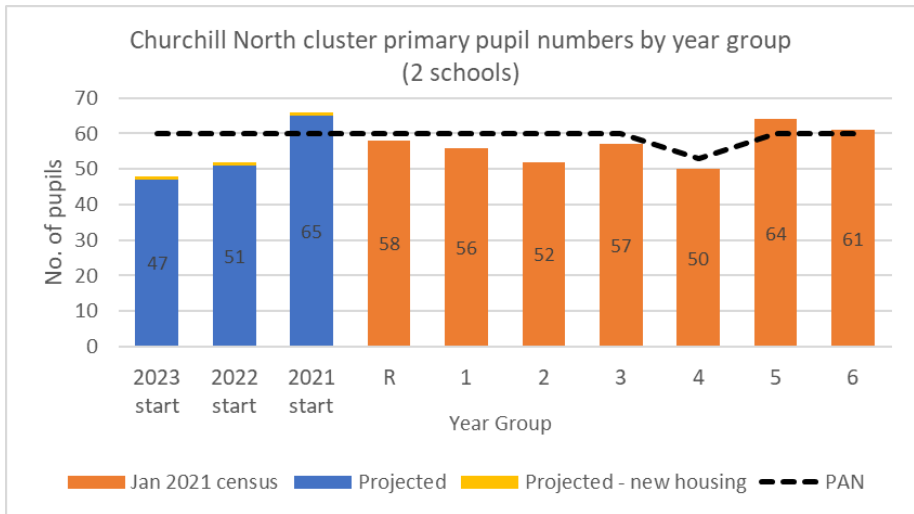


# Churchill North Primary Cluster - current picture

2 primary-age schools, 398 pupils, schools are 96% full, 60 Reception places



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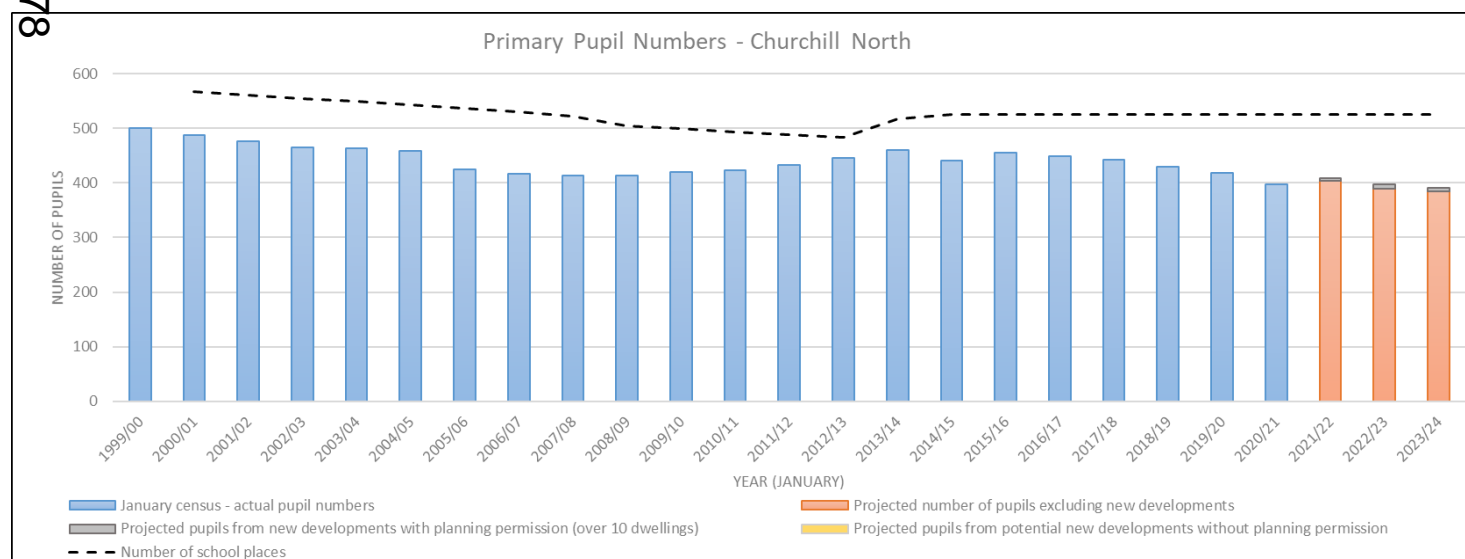
Page 46

Map Ref	School	MAT	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	PAN	No. places % full Trend Y6-R	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
46	<a href="#">St Andrew's Church of England Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Maintained</a>	Good 16/01/2018	4-11	30	203 97% full Fluctuating ~	£0	Site has accommodated up to 420 places in the past and has the infrastructure of a larger sized 420-place school
72	<a href="#">Wroughton Church of England Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Maintained</a>	Outstanding 12/06/2015	4-11	30	210 96% full Stable --	£30,240	A feasibility study <u>would need to be</u> <del>has been</del> undertaken although it is anticipated the site could accommodate additional pupils

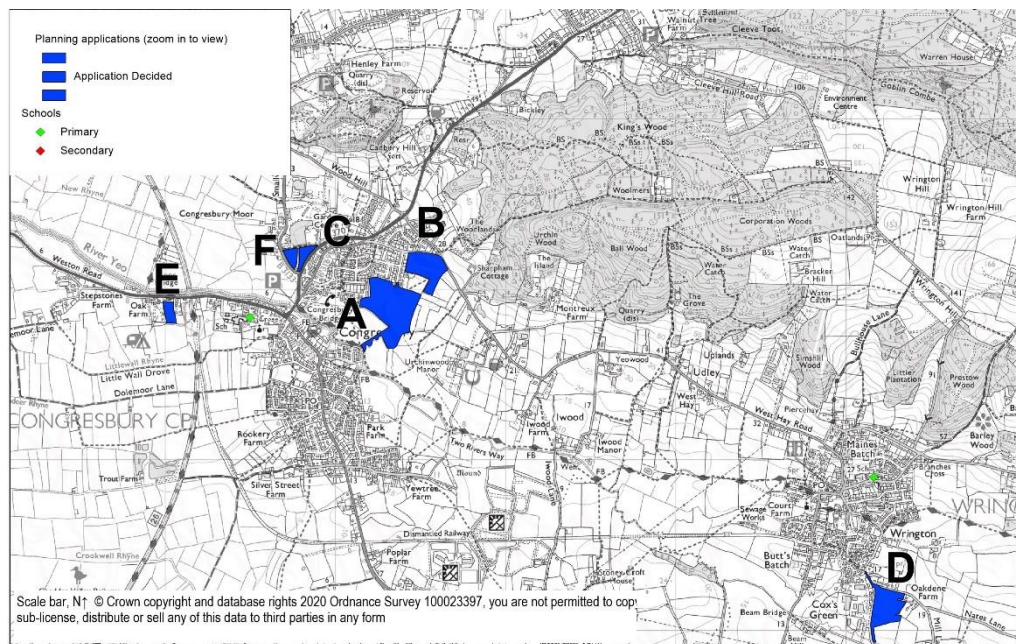
<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>		Predicted demand (number of pupils)					Predicted empty places (negative values = shortfall)				
School	No. places	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
St Andrew's Primary School	315 reducing to 210 by 2022	203	201	186	185	181	22	24	24	25	29
Wrington CE Primary	210	204	203	204	199	193	6	7	6	11	17
New housing pupil estimates		0	3	5	7	7					
<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>% space across the cluster</b>							<b>13%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>19%</b>

### Churchill North Primary Cluster future projections

Both primary schools in the cluster are projected to have decreasing pupil numbers over the next five years, even with the small amount of new housing expected.



# Churchill North Cluster – new housing



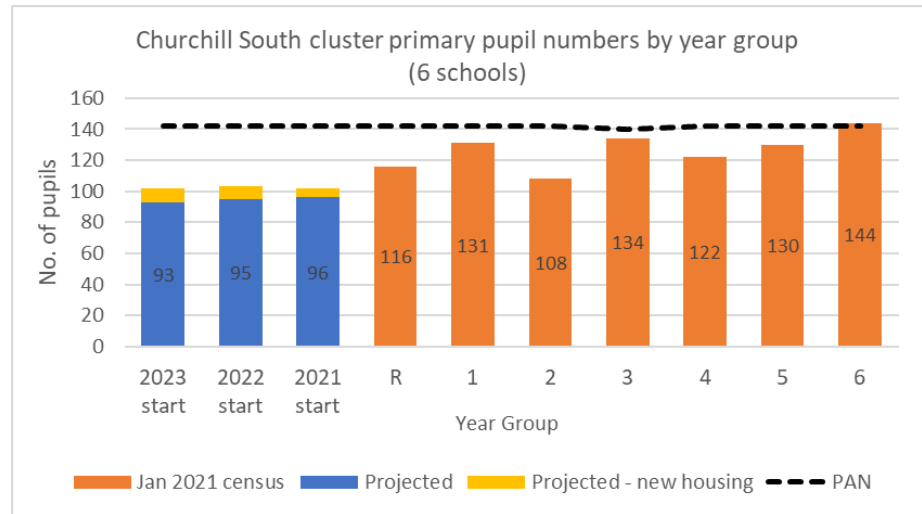
Map Ref	Churchill North	Permission Date	Site	No. of dwell.	Properties occupied
A	15/P/0519/O	13/04/2016	Land south of Cobthorn Way off Wrington Lane Congresbury	38	36
B	16/P/1521/O	24/03/2017	Land off Wrington Lane, Congresbury	50	0
C	16/P/2982/O	11/10/2017	Land South of Cadbury Garden Centre, Bristol Road, Congresbury	21	0
D	16/P/1291/O	23/11/2017	Land at Cox's Green, Wrington	55	0
E	18/P/2532/OUT	26/07/2019	Land At Station Close Congresbury (Sousta)	13	0
F	18/P/3905/OUT	15/11/2019	Land At Smallway Congresbury	21	0
			<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>	36

# Churchill South Primary Cluster - current picture

6 primary-age schools, 885 pupils, schools are 89% full, 142 Reception places



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Page 180

Map Ref	School	MAT	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	PAN	No. places % full Trend Y6-R	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
5	<a href="#">Banwell Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Maintained</a>	Good 05/12/2017	4-11	30	210 78% full Fluctuating ~	£0	Plans show the site could accommodate a 315 or 420-place school, although it's location may be problematic in terms of parking and highways challenges

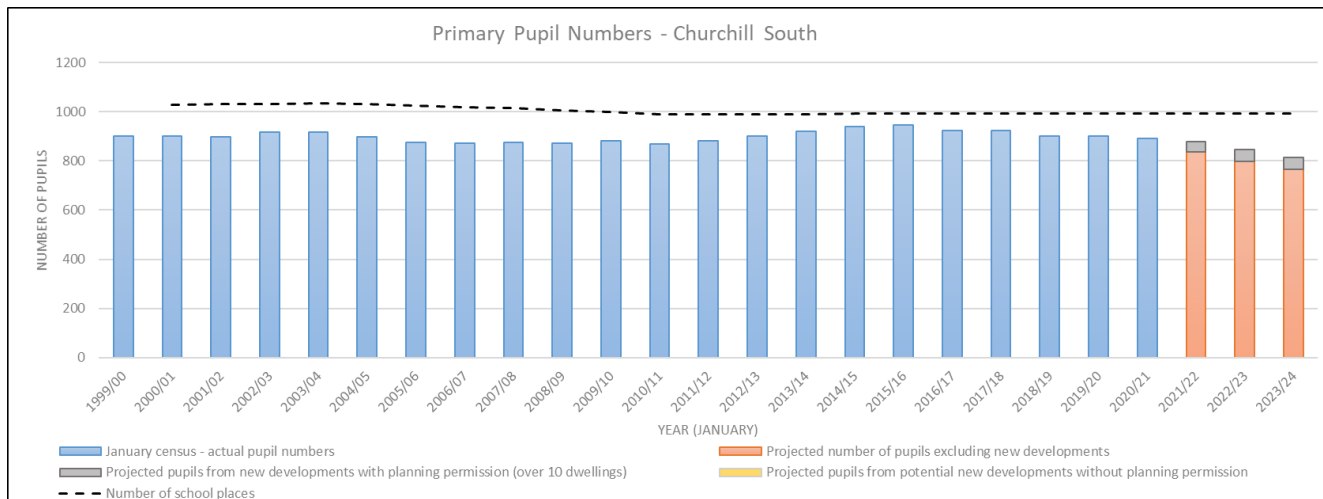


8	<a href="#">Blagdon Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Lighthouse Schools Partnership</a>	Serious Weaknesses 24/10/2018	4-11	17	117 94% full Fluctuating ~	£23,064	No as the site is constrained
11	<a href="#">Burrington Church of England Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Maintained</a>	Good 18/05/2017	3-11	15	105 57% full Fluctuating ~	£22,440	No as the site is constrained
14	<a href="#">Churchill Church of England Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Maintained</a>	Good 11/05/2017	4-11	30	210 94% full Fluctuating ~	£18,162	Plans show the buildings could be expanded to accommodate a 315 or 420-place school, although this would be at the expense of play space that would need to be replaced off-site
45	<a href="#">Sandford Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Maintained</a>	Outstanding 12/04/2013	4-11	20	140 104% full Stable --	£0	Plans show the site could accommodate a 210-place school provided extra adjacent land (not in the Council's ownership) were to be made available
86	<a href="#">Winscombe Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Maintained</a>	Good 12/10/2017	4-11	30	210 99% full Stable --	£6,341	Plans show the site could accommodate a 315 or 420-place school, subject to planning and other approvals

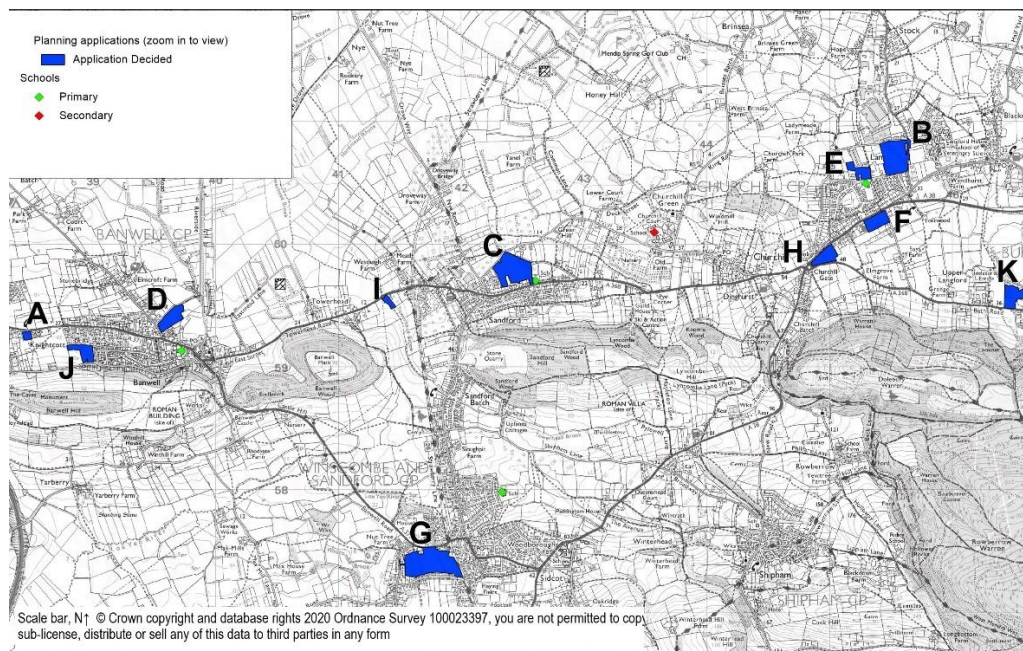
<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>		Predicted demand (number of pupils)					Predicted empty places (negative values = shortfall)				
School	No. places	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Banwell Primary School	198	164	151	138	129	117	34	47	60	69	81
Blagdon Primary	119	113	105	102	100	96	6	14	17	19	23
Burrington CE Primary School	102	63	54	52	52	50	39	48	50	50	52
Churchill CE VC Primary	210	194	188	182	174	172	16	22	28	36	38
Sandford Primary School	140	146	137	132	127	126	-6	3	8	13	14
Winscombe Primary School	210	212	201	193	184	177	-2	9	17	26	33
New housing pupil estimates		0	34	44	46	47					
<b>Total</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>194</b>
<b>% space across the cluster</b>							<b>9%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>20%</b>

### Churchill South Primary Cluster future projections

All primary schools in the cluster are projected to have decreasing pupil numbers over the next five years, even with the amount of new housing expected.



# Churchill South Cluster – new housing

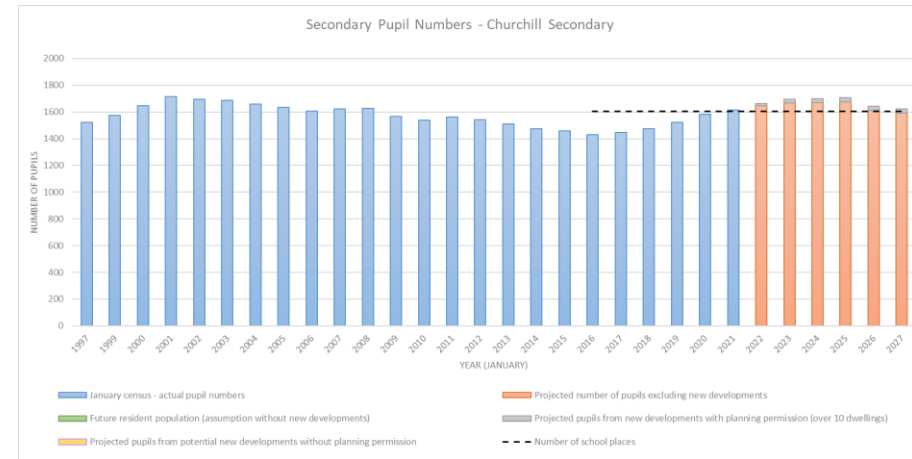
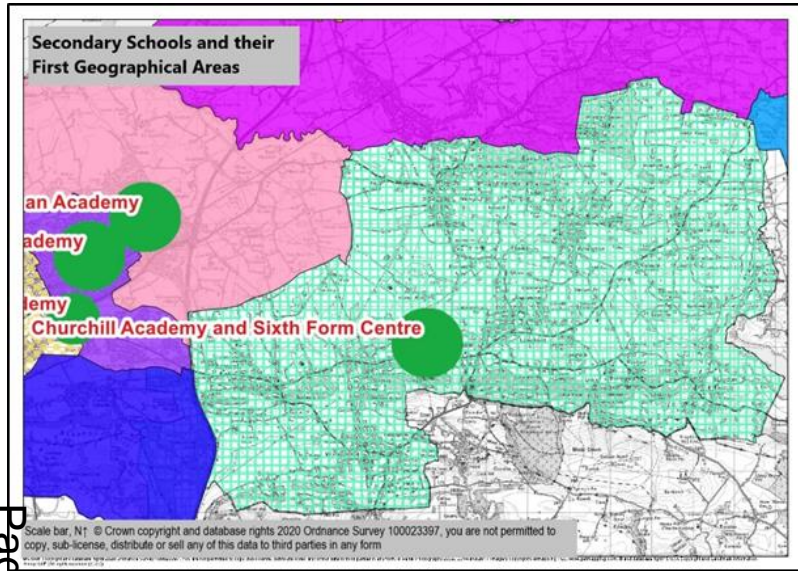


Page 183

Map Ref	Churchill South	Permission Date	Site	No. of dwell.	Properties occupied
A	15/P/0968/O	05/02/2016	Land at Western Trade Centre Knightcott Road Banwell	10	0
B	15/P/1414/O	16/08/2016	Pudding Pie Lane, Churchill	141	57
C	15/P/0583/O	12/10/2016	North of Sandford Primary, Sandford	118	66
D	16/P/2094/O	09/11/2016	Land East of Wolvershill Road, Banwell	44	38
E	15/P/2521/O	09/11/2016	Land to North of Pudding Pie Lane, Langford, Churchill	35	0
F	15/P/1313/O	24/11/2016	Says Lane, Churchill	43	38
G	15/P/1979/O	09/12/2016	Woodborough Farm, Winscombe	175	10
H	17/P/1200/O	18/07/2018	Land off Bristol Road, Churchill	40	0
I	18/P/2024/OUT	25/03/2020	F Sweeting & Sons Adjacent To Orchard Lea Station Road Sandford	16	0
J	18/P/3334/OUT	02/07/2020	Land To South Of William Daw Close Banwell	26	0
K	19/P/1963/FUL	02/07/2020	Land At Blagdon Water Garden Centre Bath Road Langford	12	0
			<b>Total</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>209</b>

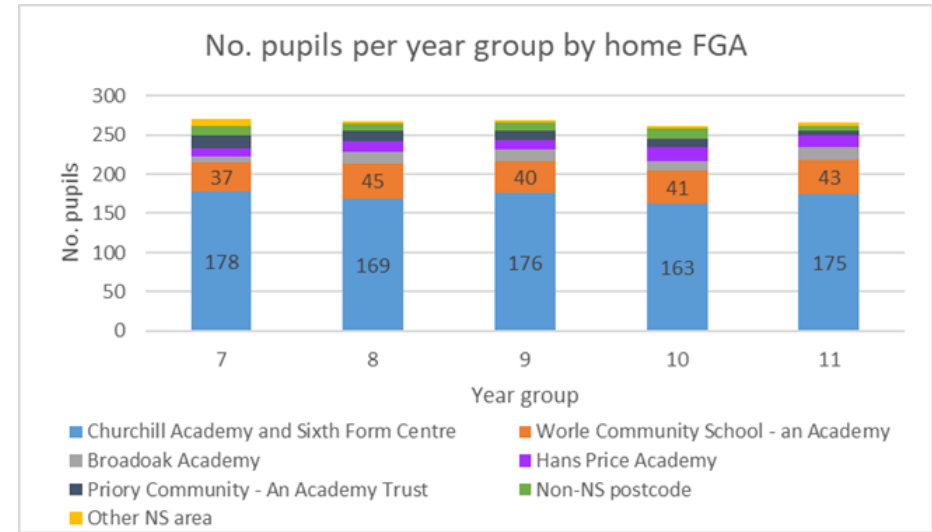
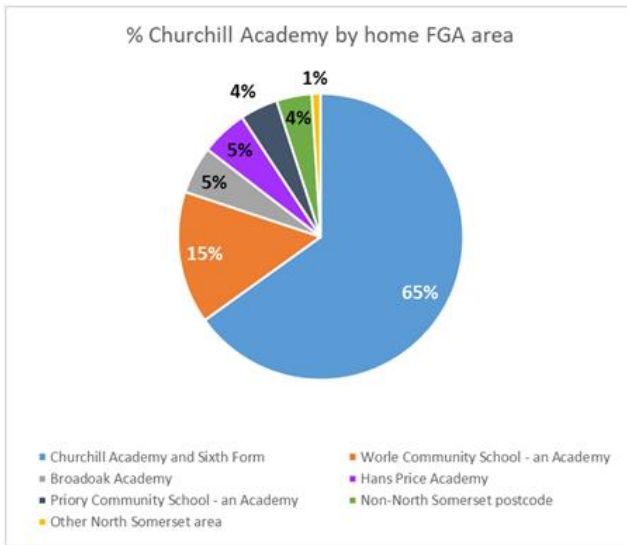
# Churchill Secondary Cluster – current picture

1 secondary-age school, 1615 pupils, school is 120% full, 270 Year 7 places



Page 15

Map Ref	School	MAT	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	PAN	No. places % full Trend Y11-7	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
15	<a href="#">Churchill Academy &amp; Sixth Form</a>	<a href="#">Single academy</a>	Outstanding 15/07/2015	11-18	270	1350 120% full Stable --	£442,537	A feasibility study would be required



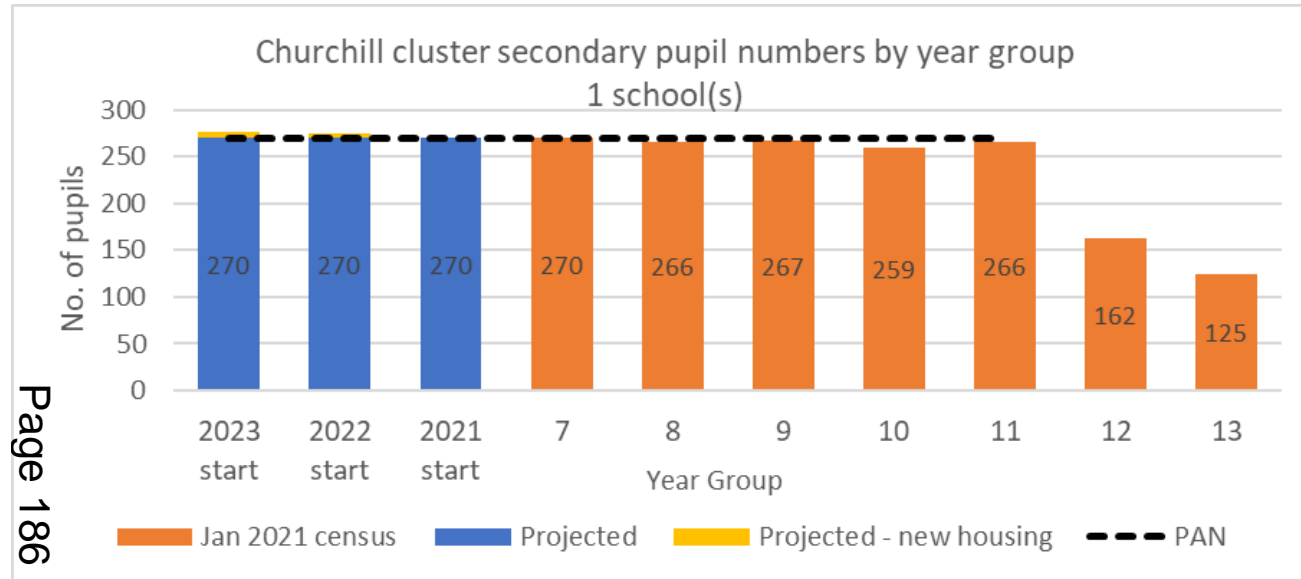
## Churchill Secondary Cluster – future projections

Page 185

Pupil Projections	No. places	Predicted demand (number of pupils)							Predicted empty places (negative values = shortfall)						
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Churchill Academy and 6th Form	1,650	1616	1646	1669	1671	1675	1612	1591	34	4	-19	-21	-25	38	59
New housing pupil estimates		0	19	26	29	31	33	34							
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,616</b>	<b>1,665</b>	<b>1,695</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,706</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>1,625</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>-15</b>	<b>-45</b>	<b>-50</b>	<b>-56</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>% space</b>									<b>2%</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2%</b>

## Churchill Secondary - future projections

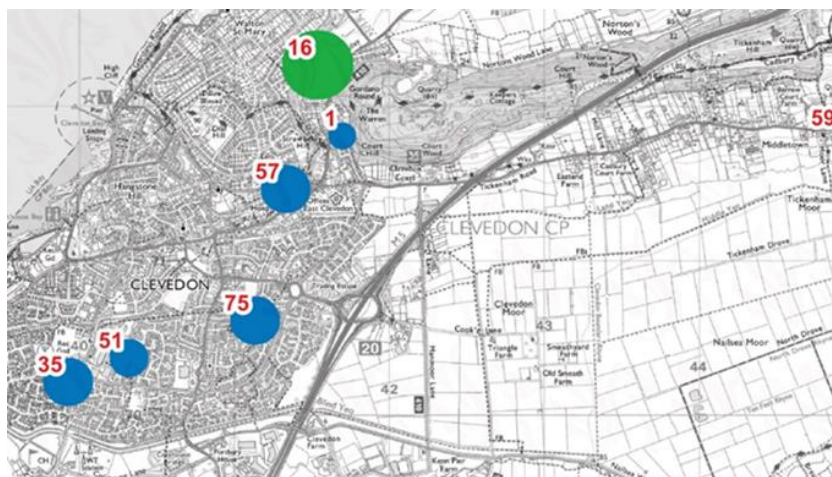
Demand for Churchill secondary places is set to increase over the next few years, however, 30% of Churchill's pupils currently live in Weston-super-Mare so Churchill should be able to accommodate local pupils going forward.



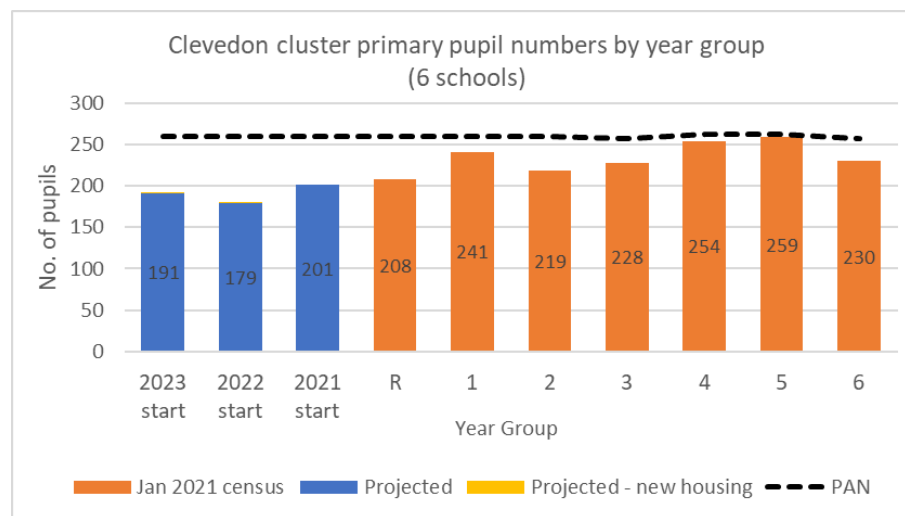


# Clevedon Primary Cluster - current picture

6 primary-age schools, 1639 pupils, schools are 90% full, 260 Reception places



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Map reported

	School	MAT	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	PAN	No. places % full Trend Y6-R	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
1	<a href="#">All Saints East Clevedon Church of England Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Clevedon Learning Trust</a>	Good 01/03/2017	4-11	20	128 91% full Fluctuating ~	£0	No. The school was expanded in 2017/2018 from 119 to 140 places and is constrained. Intake increasing by 3 per year from 17 to 20, to be completed by September 2024
35	<a href="#">Mary Elton Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Clevedon Learning Trust</a>	Requires improvement 05/03/2020	4-11	60	420 94% full Stable --	£0	No as the site not large enough to accommodate extra capacity
51	<a href="#">St John the Evangelist Church School</a>	<a href="#">Bath &amp; Wells MAT</a>	Good 09/05/2019	4-11	45	315 95% full Stable --	£0	This school site is appropriate to its 315-place intake

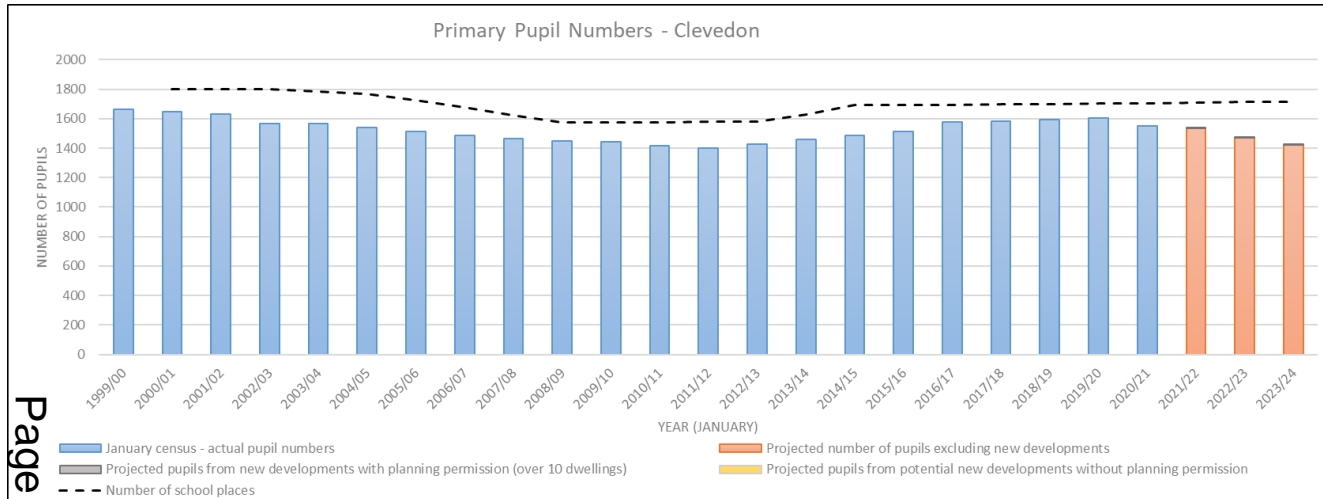
57	<a href="#">St Nicholas Chantry Church of England Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Clevedon Learning Trust</a>	Requires improvement 19/05/2016	4-11	60	420 91% full Fluctuating ~	£0	This school was expanded in 2015 to a 420-place capacity
59	<a href="#">Tickenham Church of England Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Clevedon Learning Trust</a>	Good 15/12/2017	4-11	15	115 77% full Fluctuating ~	£9,742	No as the site is not large enough to accommodate any extra capacity
75	<a href="#">Yeo Moor Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Clevedon Learning Trust</a>	Good 01/11/2017	4-11	60	420 85% full Fluctuating ~	£0	Site has previously accommodated 630 pupils and the supporting infrastructure for a larger school is in place

Page 188	<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>	Predicted demand (number of pupils)					Predicted empty places (negative values = shortfall)					
	School	No. places	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	All Saints Church of England Primary School	140	117	116	114	112	109	23	24	26	28	31
	Mary Elton Primary	420	402	392	375	361	358	18	28	45	59	62
	St John the Evangelist Church School	315	298	294	284	281	270	17	21	31	34	45
	St. Nicholas' Chantry Primary	420	381	369	348	329	316	39	51	72	91	104
	Tickenham Church of England Primary School	105	100	104	96	91	91	5	1	9	14	14
	Yeo Moor Primary	420	355	362	351	340	340	65	58	69	80	80
	New housing pupil estimates		0	0	2	4	4					
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1820</b>	<b>1653</b>	<b>1637</b>	<b>1570</b>	<b>1518</b>	<b>1488</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>332</b>
	<b>% space across the cluster</b>							<b>9%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>18%</b>

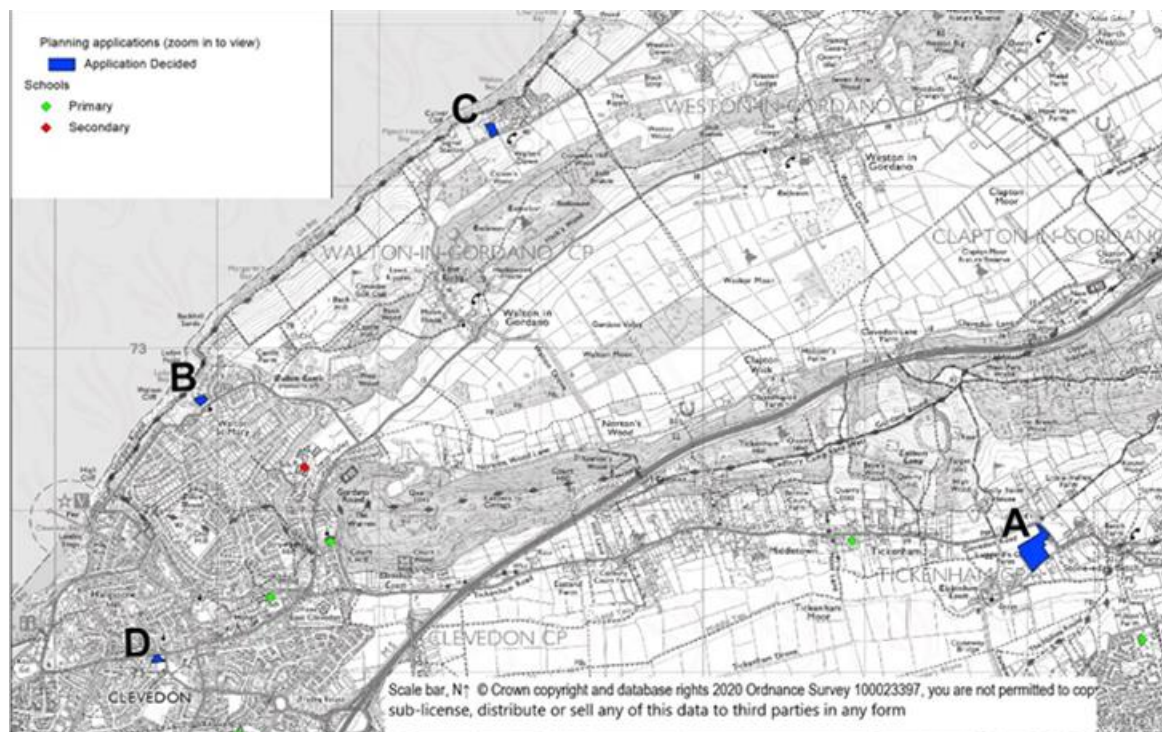


## Clevedon Primary Cluster future projections

All primary schools in the cluster are projected to have decreasing pupil numbers over the next five years, even with the small amount of new housing expected.



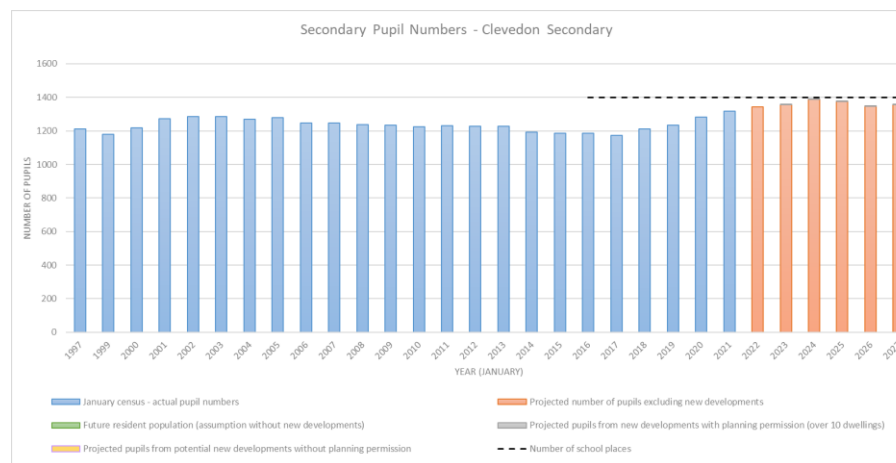
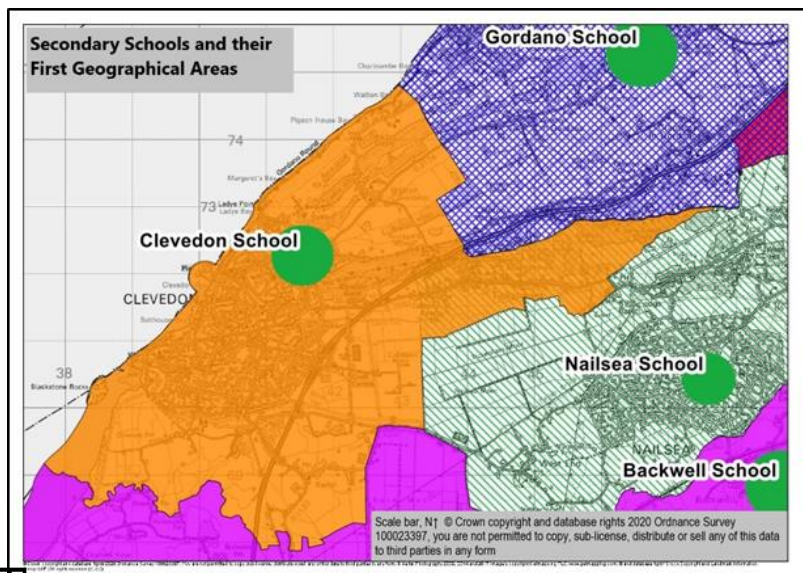
## Clevedon Cluster – new housing



Map Ref	Clevedon	Permission Date	Site	No. of dwell.	Properties occupied
A	16/P/0032/O	23/06/2017	Tickenham Garden Centre, Church Lane, Tickenham	32	0
B	13/P/2400/F	16/10/2014	22 Marine Parade Clevedon	9	9
C	17/P/0720/ CUPA	11/05/2017	Waverley House, Old Church Road, Clevedon	21	14
D	17/P/2435/O	17/01/2018	Land at Court Farm All Saints Lane Clevedon	9	4
			<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>27</b>

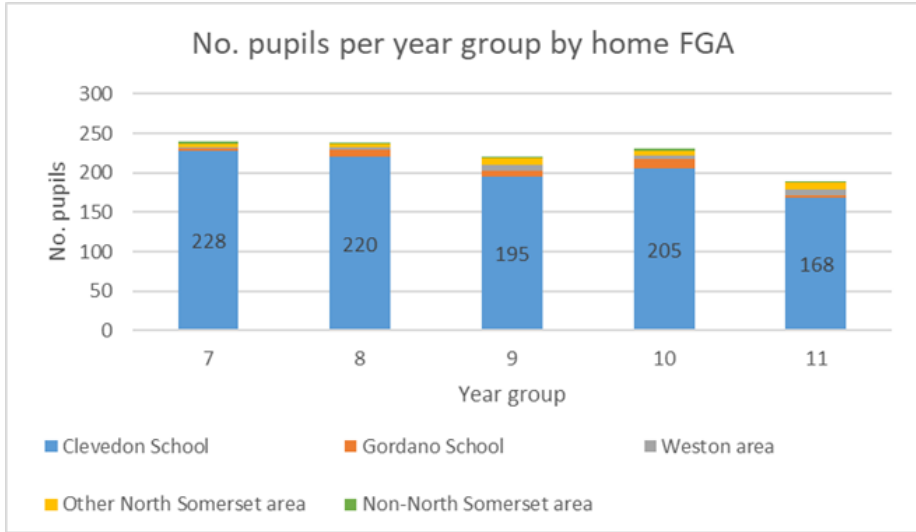
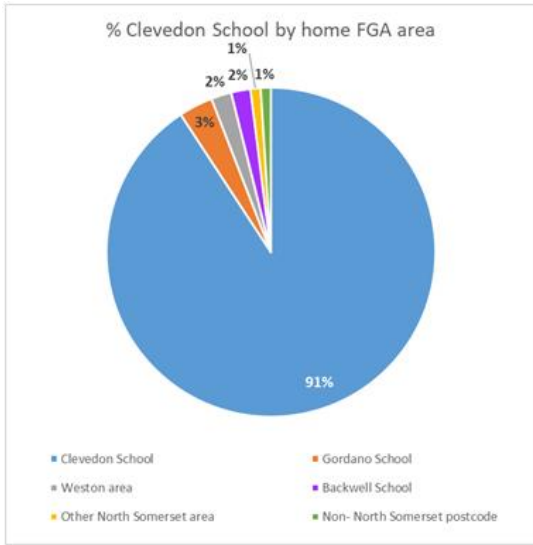
# Clevedon Secondary Cluster – current picture

1 secondary-age school, 1317 pupils, school is 110% full, 240 Year 7 places



Map Report

	School	MAT	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	PAN	No. places % full Trend Y11-7	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
16	<a href="#">Clevedon School</a>	<a href="#">Clevedon Learning Trust</a>	Outstanding 20/10/2011	11-18	240	1200 110% full Fluctuating ~	£16,210	A feasibility study would be required, although the site may be constrained

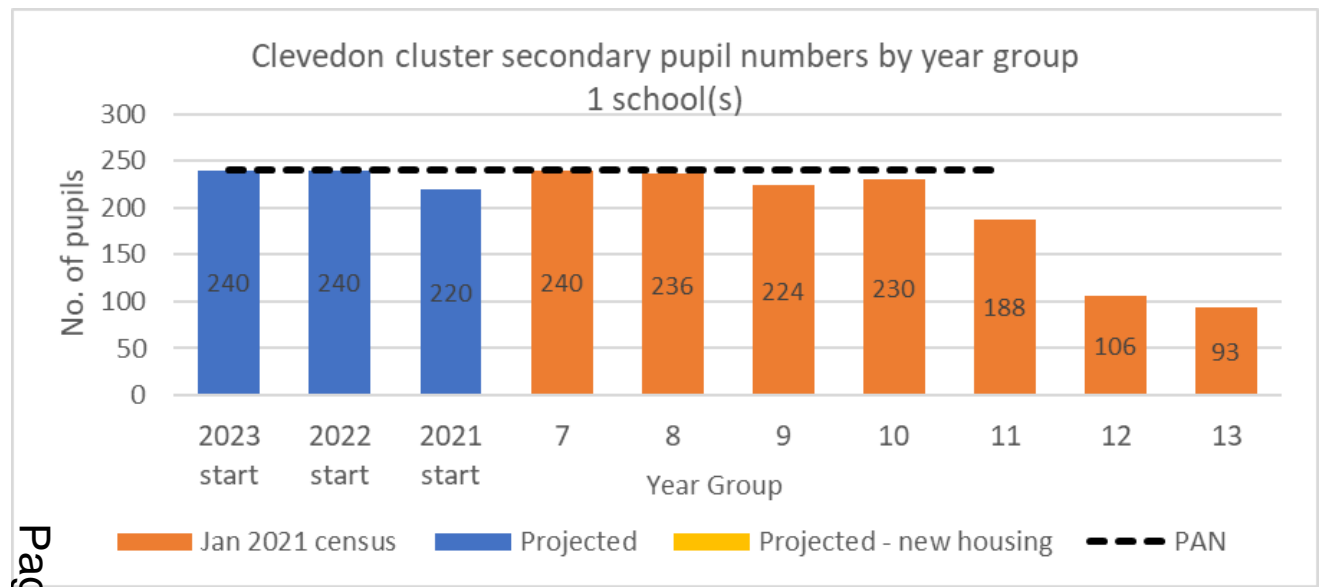


### Clevedon Secondary Cluster – future projections

		Predicted demand (number of pupils)							Predicted empty places (negative values = shortfall)						
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>	<b>No. places</b>														
Clevedon School	1,400	1,267	1,303	1,324	1,332	1,352	1,341	1,306	133	97	76	68	48	59	94
New housing pupil estimates		2	3	3	4	4	4	4							
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,271</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>1,327</b>	<b>1,336</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>% space</b>									<b>9%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>6%</b>

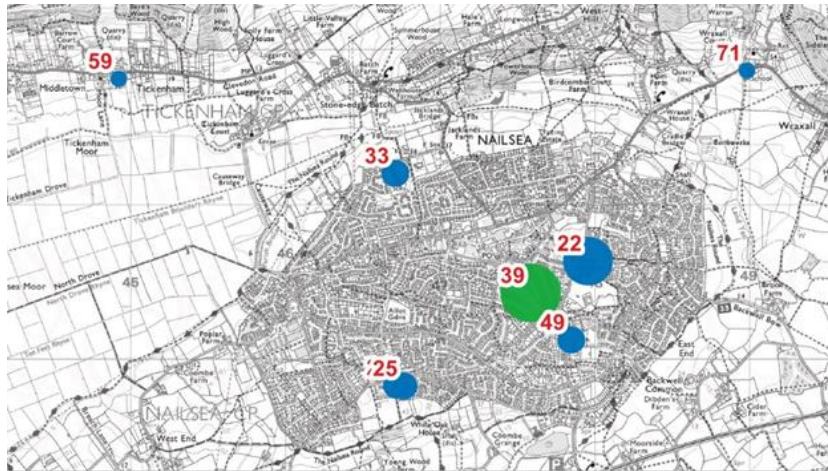
## Clevedon Secondary - future projections

Clevedois projection to have sufficient space for all local children over the next few years.

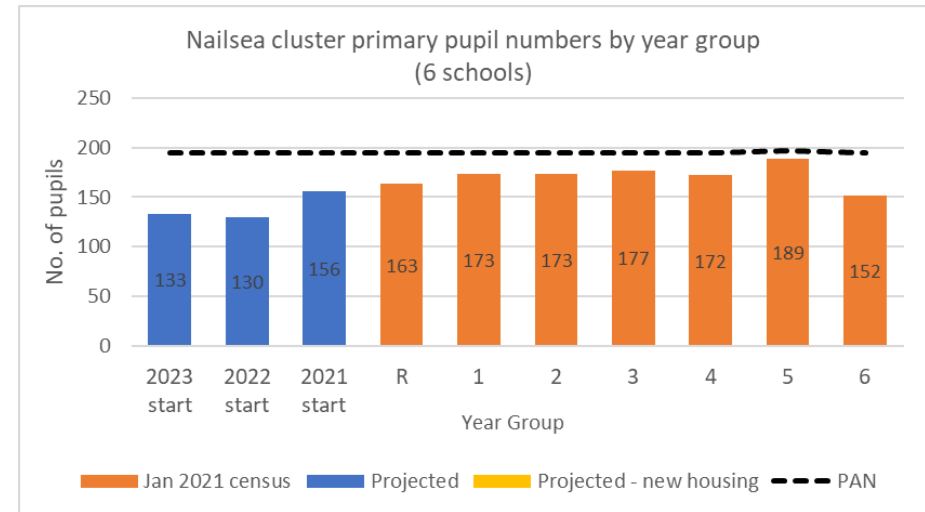


# Nailsea Primary Cluster - current picture

6 primary-age schools, 1199 pupils, schools are 88% full, 195 Reception places



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Page 196 of 176

Map Ref	School	MAT	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	PAN	No. places % full Trend Y6-R	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
22	<a href="#">Golden Valley Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Maintained</a>	Outstanding 12/03/2014	4-11	60	420 98% full Stable --	£0	The current site is too small for expansion, but its location adjacent to Nailsea School's playing fields could offer some opportunities in the future if extra land could be secured
24	<a href="#">Grove Junior School</a>	<a href="#">Lighthouse Schools Partnership</a>	Good 05/07/2017	7-11	60	240 91% full Fluctuating ~	£0	With the provision of some new classrooms this infant and junior school site is capable of expansion back to a 630-place site



25	<a href="#">Hannah More Infant School</a>	<a href="#">Lighthouse Schools Partnership</a>	Good 16/05/2017	5-7	60	180 82% full Decreasing ↓	£0	See Grove Junior above
33	<a href="#">Kingshill Church School</a>	<a href="#">Bath &amp; Wells MAT</a>	Good 11/04/2018	4-11	30	210 70% full Fluctuating ~	£0	A feasibility of the site has shown it capable of expansion to 315 to 420 places, subject to all approvals
49	<a href="#">St Francis Catholic Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Maintained</a>	Serious Weaknesses 30/01/2020	4-11	30	210 84% full Decreasing ↓	£0	A feasibility study would be required
71	<a href="#">Wraxall Church of England Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Lighthouse Schools Partnership</a>	Good 02/10/2015	4-11	15	107 90% full Stable --	£45,116	No as this site is too constrained for expansion

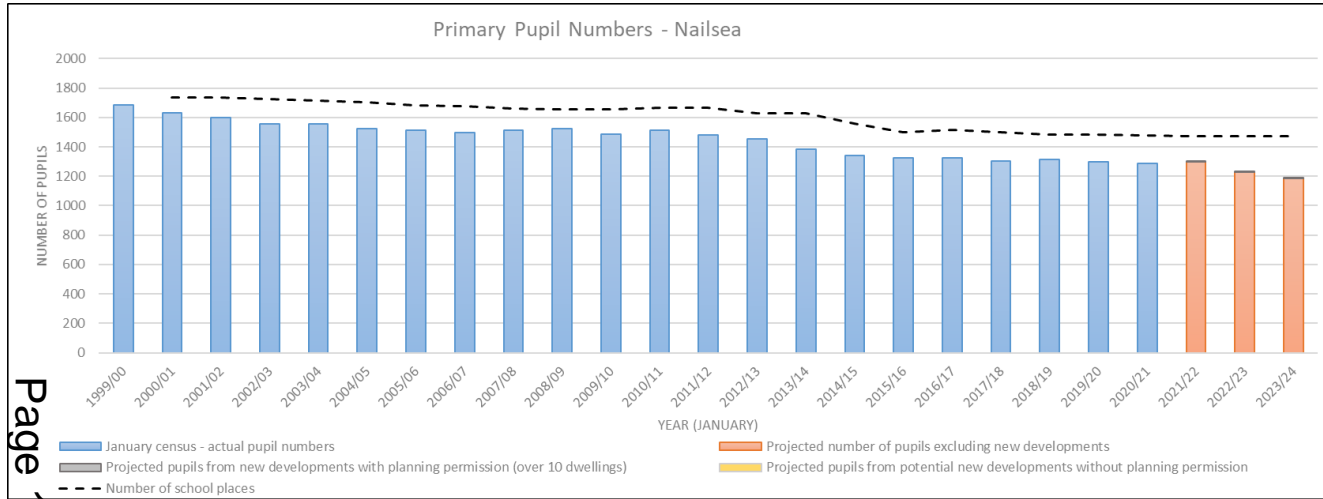
Page 195

<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>	<b>Predicted demand</b> (number of pupils)	<b>Predicted empty places</b> (negative values = shortfall)
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School	No. places	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Golden Valley Primary School	420	413	405	388	374	369	7	15	32	46	51
Grove Junior School	240	215	222	212	199	190	25	18	28	41	50
Hannah More Infants School	180	142	138	126	124	116	38	42	54	56	64
Kingshill Church School	210	139	142	136	136	130	71	68	74	74	80
Wraxall CEVA Primary School	105	96	98	95	96	94	9	7	10	9	11
New housing pupil estimates		0	0	0	0	0					
<b>Total</b>	<b>1155</b>	<b>1005</b>	<b>1005</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>256</b>
<b>% space across the cluster</b>							<b>13%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>22%</b>

## Nailsea Primary Cluster future projections

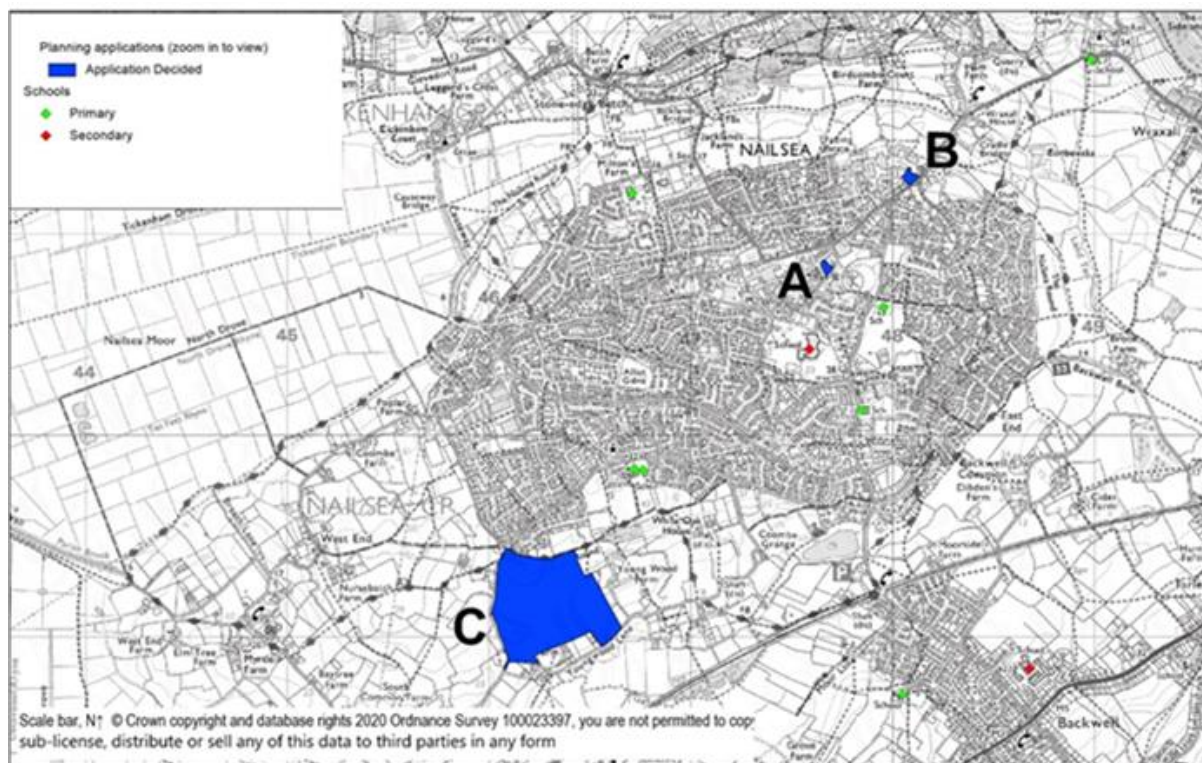
All primary schools in the cluster are projected to have decreasing pupil numbers over the next five years.





## Nailsea Cluster – new housing

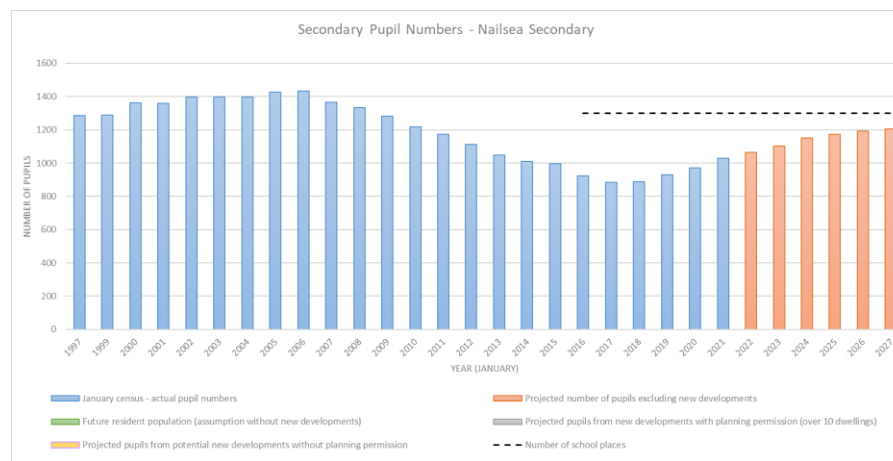
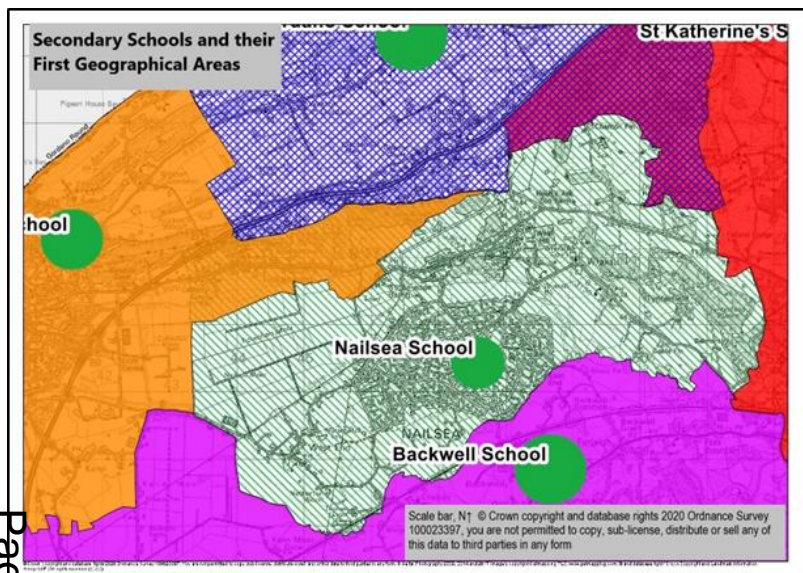
Page 197



Map Ref	Nailsea	Permission Date	Site	No. of dwell.	Properties occupied
A	16/P/0907/F	05/01/2017	Royal Oak Garage 41 High Street Nailsea	10	9
B	17/P/2086/CUPA	27/10/2017	Coates House 4 High Street Nailsea	56	15
C	16/P/1677/OT2	01/11/2019	Land North of Youngwood Lane and east of Netherton Wood Lane, Nailsea	450	0
			<b>Total</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>24</b>

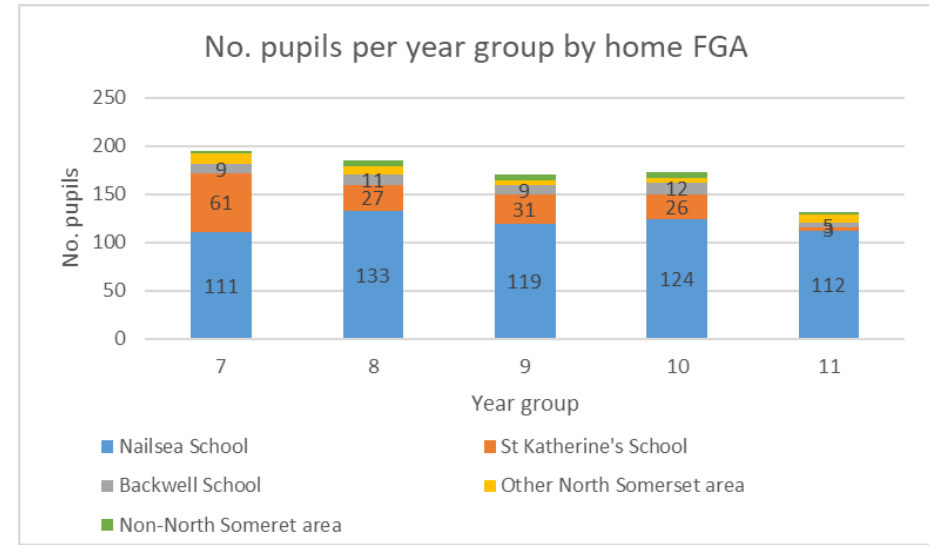
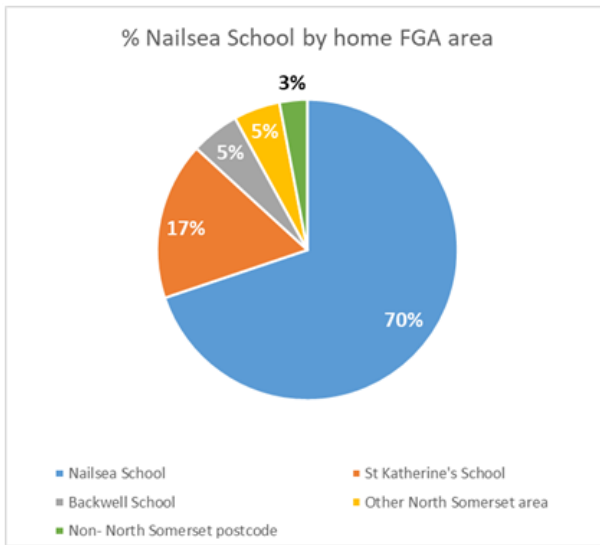
# Nailsea Secondary Cluster – current picture

1 secondary-age school, 1028 pupils, school is 107% full, 210 Year 7 places



Page 198

Map Ref	School	MAT	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	PAN	No. places % full Trend Y11-7	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
39	<a href="#">Nailsea School</a>	<a href="#">Wessex Learning Trust</a>	Requires improvement 12/03/2020	11-18	210	960 107% full Fluctuating ~	£45,473	A feasibility study would be required, although the site may be constrained. <u>It would need to make use of its school field to meet curriculum needs (that is not located with the school) should it need to expand in the future.</u>



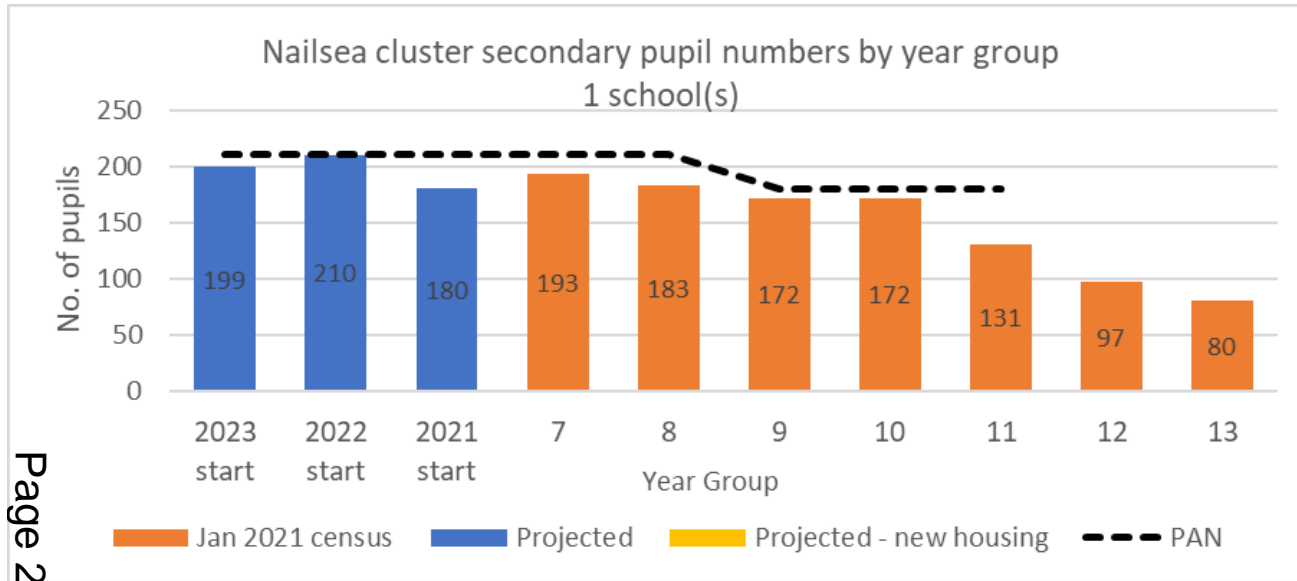
## Nailsea Secondary Cluster – future projections

Age 1990

Pupil Projections	No. places	Predicted demand (number of pupils)							Predicted empty places (negative values = shortfall)						
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Nailsea School	1,300	1024	1063	1104	1151	1174	1192	1204	276	237	196	149	126	108	96
New housing pupil estimates		0	0	0	0	0	0	0							
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,024</b>	<b>1,063</b>	<b>1,104</b>	<b>1,151</b>	<b>1,174</b>	<b>1,192</b>	<b>1,204</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>% space</b>									<b>21%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>7%</b>

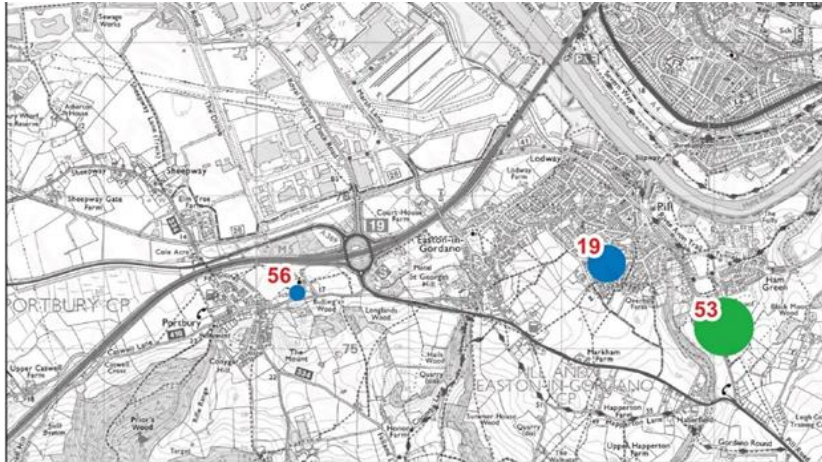
## Nailsea Secondary - future projections

Nailsea's secondary numbers are projected to fluctuate over the next few years, but overall are expected to increase.

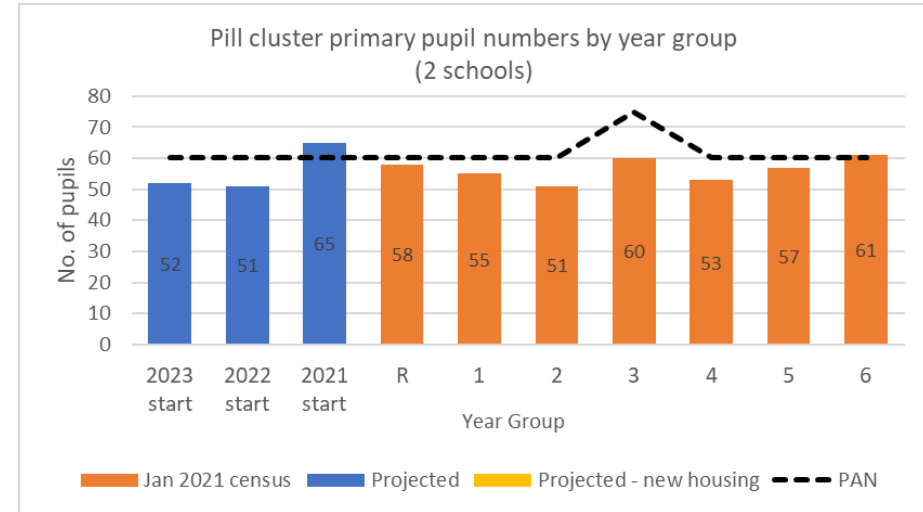


# Pill Primary Cluster - current picture

2 primary-age schools, 395 pupils, schools are 91% full, 60 Reception places



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Map Report

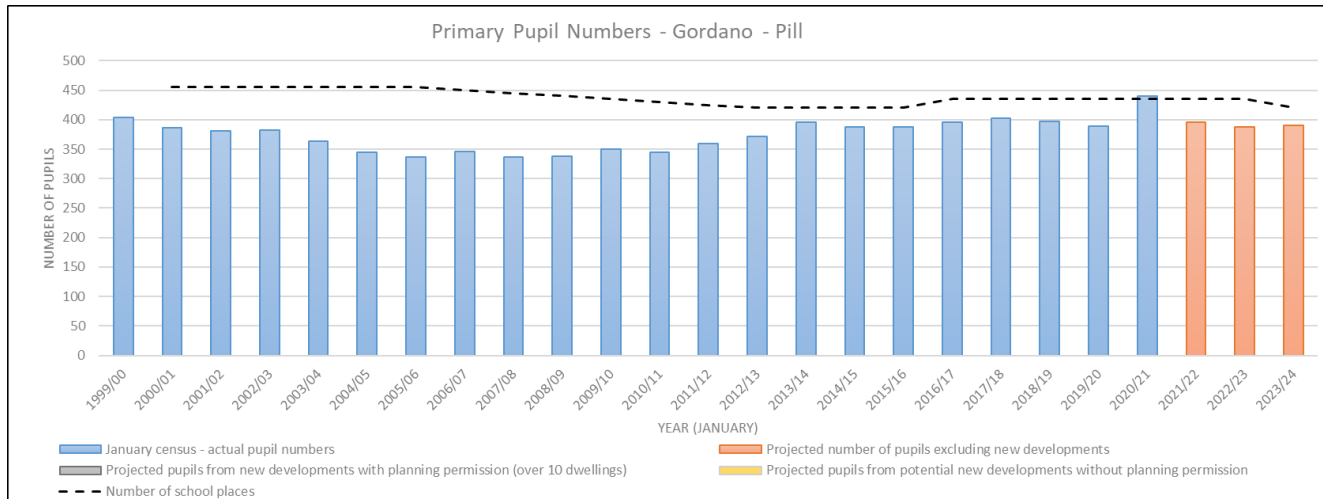
	School	MAT		Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	PAN	No. places % full Trend Y6-R	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
19	<a href="#">Crokerne Church of England Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Kaleidoscope MAT</a>		Good 18/09/2019	3-11	45	315 92% full Stable --	£3,280	A feasibility study would be required
56	<a href="#">St Mary's Church of England Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Lighthouse Schools Partnership</a>		Good 06/06/2019	4-11	15	120 87% full Fluctuating ~	£25,321	A review of the site was undertaken in 2016. Whilst the provision of one extra classroom was possible, the site size is more appropriate to its current intake.



<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>		Predicted demand (number of pupils)					Predicted empty places (negative values = shortfall)				
School	No. places	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Crockerne CE Primary	315	285	289	282	280	282	30	26	33	35	33
St Mary's C E Primary	120	107	106	106	110	101	13	14	14	10	19
New housing pupil estimates		0	0	0	0	0					
<b>Total</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>% space across the cluster</b>							<b>10%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>12%</b>

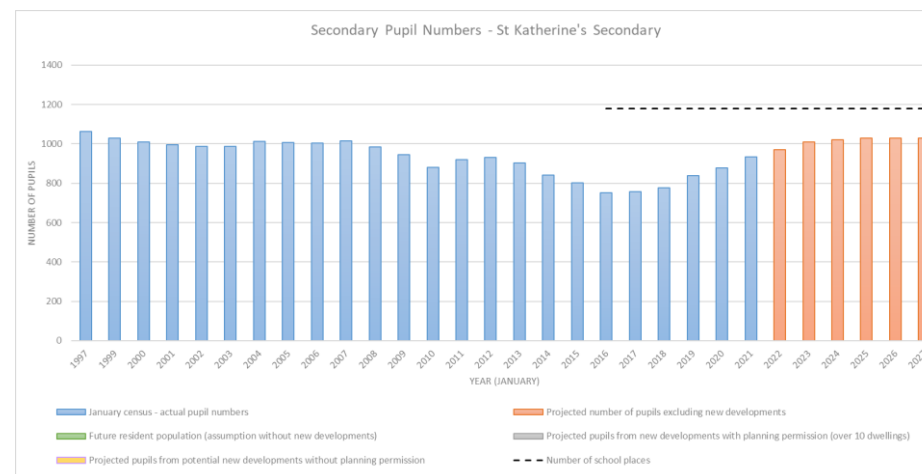
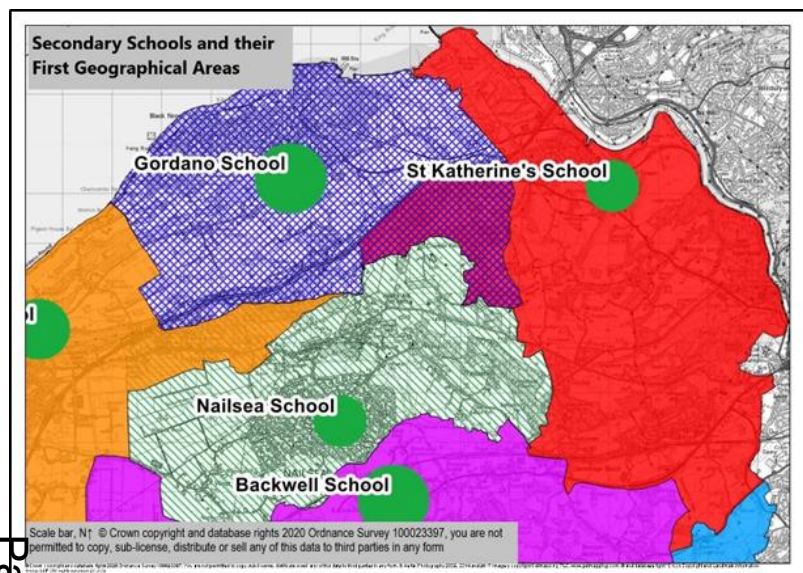
## Pill Primary Cluster future projections

Both primary schools in the cluster are projected to have a slight decrease in pupil numbers over the next five years.



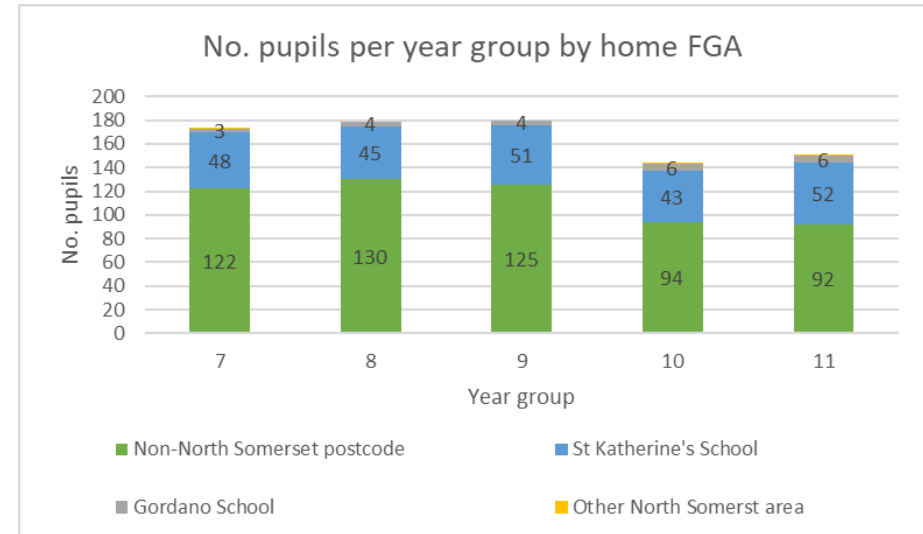
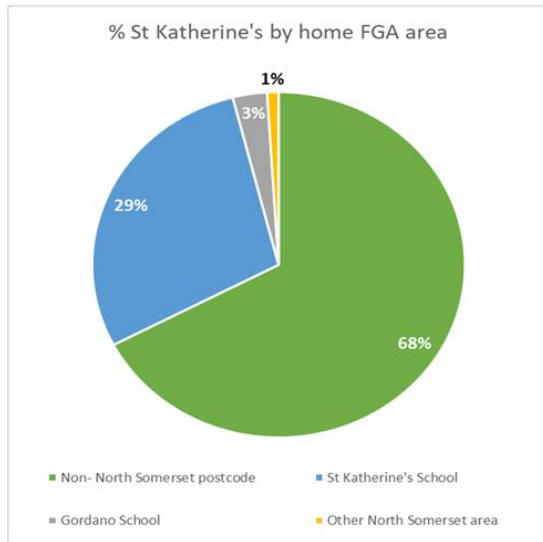
## Pill Secondary Cluster – current picture

11 secondary-age school, 933 pupils, school is 104% full, 180 Year 7 places



Page 203  
Map Ref

Map Ref	School	MAT	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	PAN	No. places % full Trend Y11-7	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
53	<a href="#">St Katherine's School</a>	<a href="#">Cathedral Schools Trust</a>	Requires improvement 15/03/2018	11-18	180	900 104% full Increasing ↑	£24,380	A feasibility study would be required



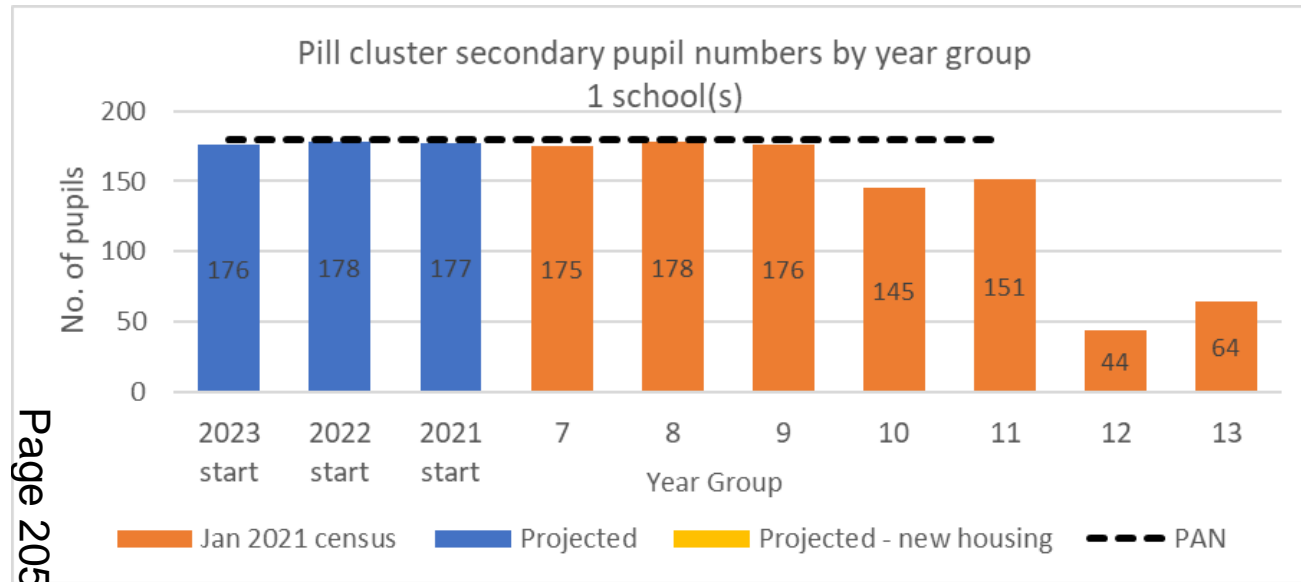
## II Secondary Cluster – future projections

<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>	No. places	Predicted demand (number of pupils)							Predicted empty places (negative values = shortfall)						
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
St. Katherine's School	1,050	939	970	1009	1020	1030	1029	1029	111	80	41	30	20	21	21
New housing pupil estimates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35							
<b>Total</b>		<b>939</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>1,009</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>% space</b>									<b>11%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>



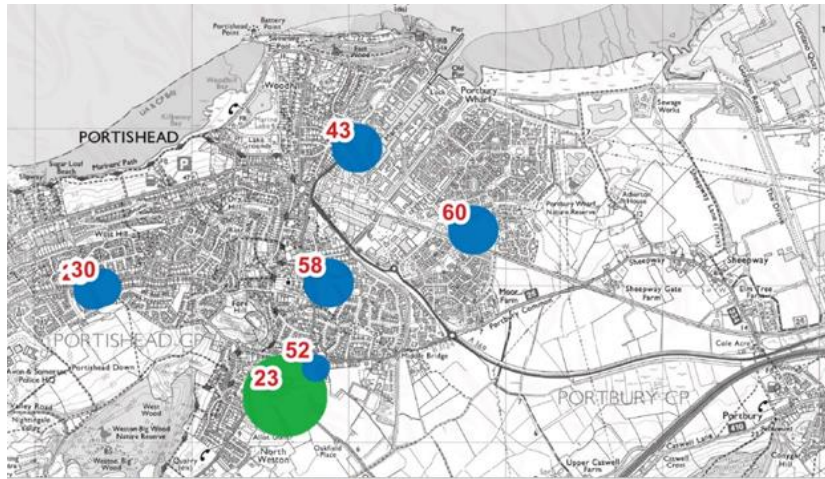
## Pill Secondary - future projections

St. Katherine's pupil numbers are expected to remain stable and close to full over the next few years. However, this is a difficult area to project due to 70% of pupils living outside of North Somerset in Bristol.

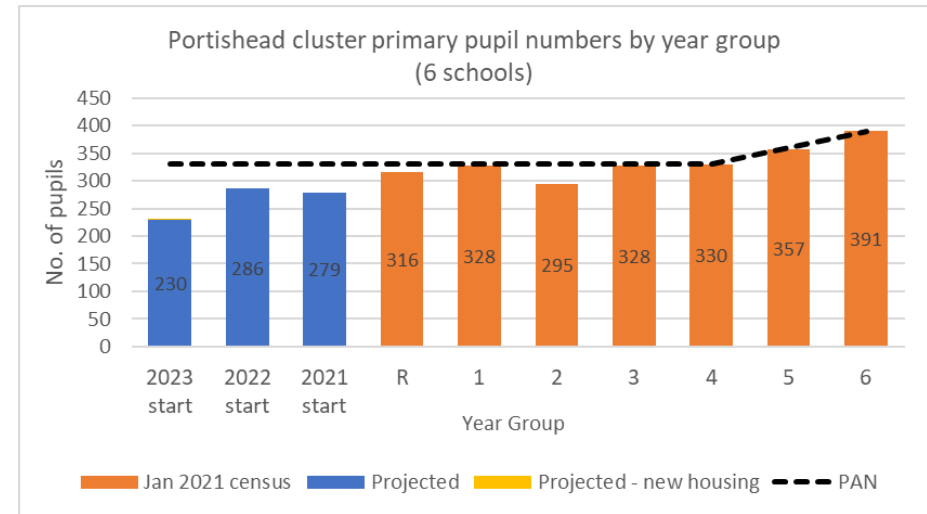


# Portishead Primary Cluster - current picture

6 primary-age schools, 2345 pupils, schools are 98% full, 330 Reception places



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Page 907

Map Ref	School	MAT	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	PAN	No. places % full Trend Y6-R	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
29	<a href="#">High Down Infant School</a>	<a href="#">Lighthouse Schools Partnership</a>	Outstanding 01/10/2008	3-7	90	270 93% full Increasing ↑	£4,480	The infant and junior schools have been remodelled and there are no current plans for further expansion. The schools have extra capacity to accommodate a breach class and this could be utilised again once the present larger cohorts leave in July 2022.
30	<a href="#">High Down Junior School</a>	<a href="#">Lighthouse Schools Partnership</a>	Good 08/05/2019	7-11	90	390 99% full Stable plus breach class	£0	See High Down Infant School above

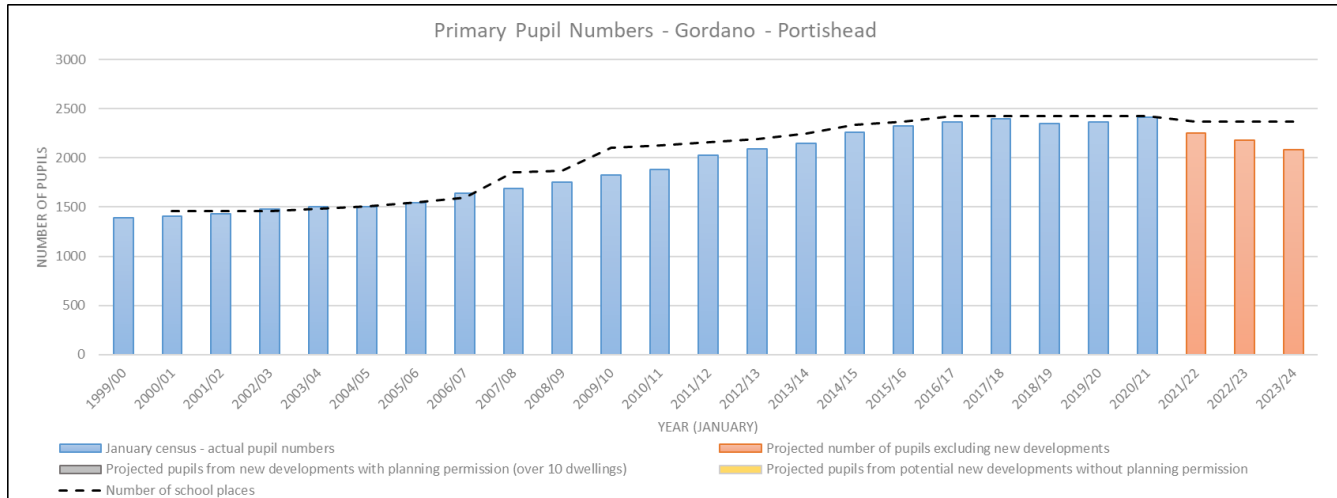
43	<a href="#">Portishead Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Lighthouse Schools Partnership</a>	Good 25/06/2019	4-11	60	450 99% full Stable plus breach class	£0	The school site is of a minimum size for its capacity. The school has extra capacity to accommodate breach classes and this could be utilised again once the present larger cohort leaves in July 2021.
52	<a href="#">St Joseph's Catholic Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Maintained</a>	Good 03/03/2016	4-11	30	210 95% full Fluctuating ~	£0	New pre-school provision is planned to open in September 2021. The school site is appropriate to its 210--place intake.
58	<a href="#">St Peter's Church of England Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Lighthouse Schools Partnership</a>	Good 14/05/2019	4-11	90	630 98% full Stable --	£0	This school was expanded to take up to 630 pupils in 2014. The site is appropriate to this capacity.
60	<a href="#">Trinity Anglican-Methodist Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Bath &amp; Wells MAT</a>	Good 04/10/2018	3-11	60	450 98% full Stable plus breach class	£0	This school was expanded in 2011 from 210 to 420 places. Whilst it has a breach class that will leave the school in July 2021, the accommodation provided to assist this will be utilised to support early year's provision for 2-year olds. There are no current plans for further expansion at this time

<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>	<b>Predicted demand</b> (number of pupils)	<b>Predicted empty places</b> (negative values = shortfall)
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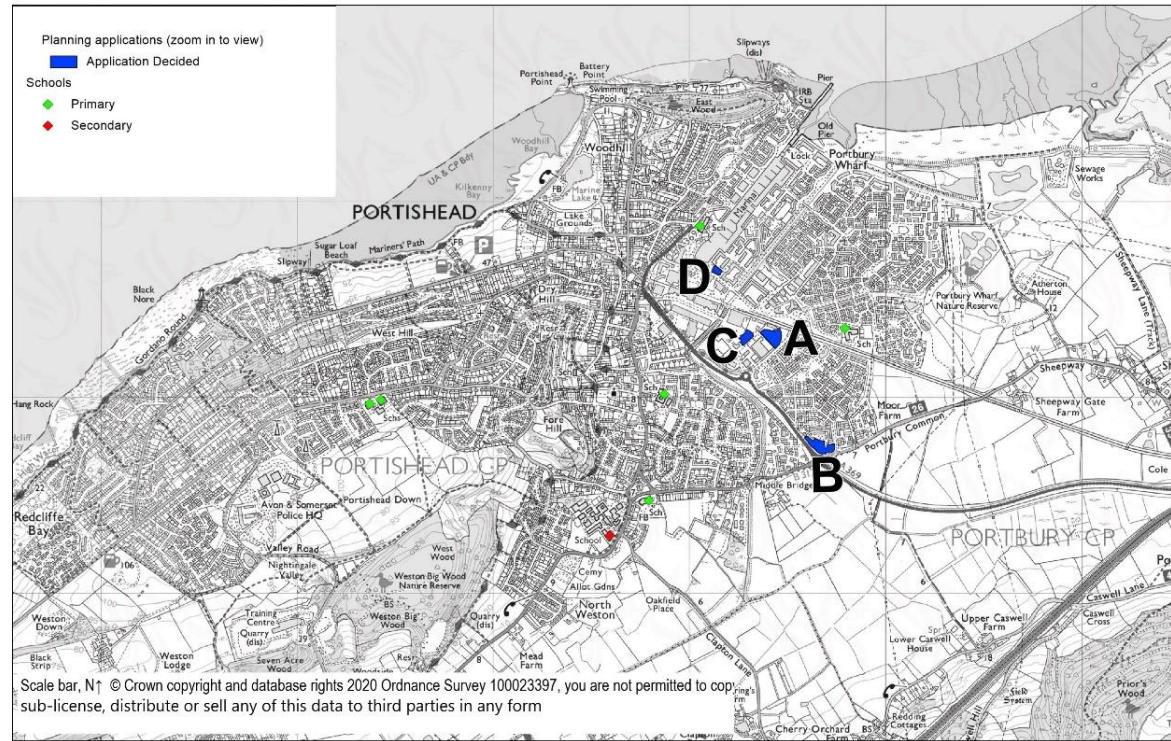
School	No. places	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
High Down Infants	270	258	260	242	207	198	12	10	28	63	72
High Down Junior School	390	388	376	347	348	338	2	14	43	42	22
Portishead Primary School	450	449	409	405	391	382	1	41	45	29	38
St.Peter's C of E Primary School	630	619	606	596	568	558	11	24	34	62	72
Trinity Anglican Methodist Primary School	450	448	410	405	393	382	2	40	15	27	38
New housing pupil estimates		0	7	7	8	9					
<b>Total</b>	<b>2190</b>	<b>2162</b>	<b>2068</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>1915</b>	<b>1867</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>233</b>
<b>% space across the cluster</b>							<b>1%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>11%</b>

### Portishead Primary Cluster future projections

Primary schools in the cluster are projected to have decreasing pupil numbers over the next five years, with a small number of new pupils from new housing.



# Portishead Cluster – new housing



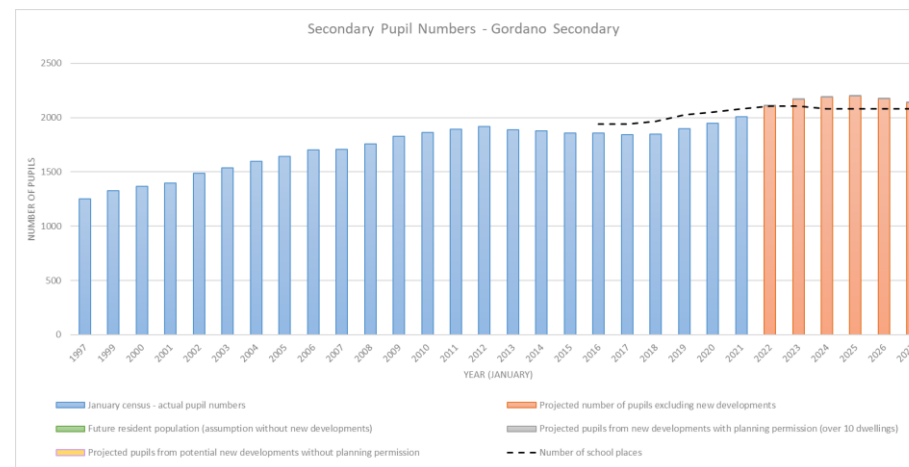
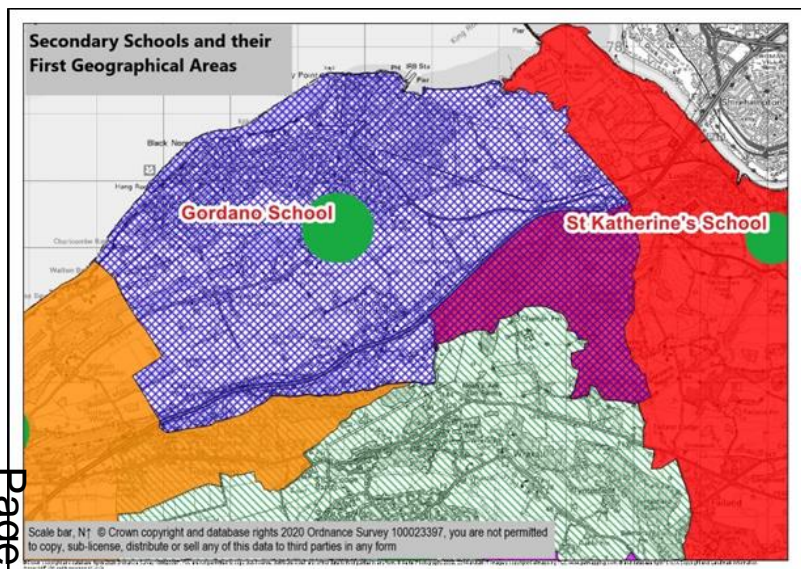
Page 209

Map Ref	Portishead	Permission Date	Site	No. of dwell.	Properties occupied
A	16/P/2066/F	09/08/2017	Land at Harbour Crescent, Serbert Road, Portishead	94	0
B	17/P/1229/F	28/09/2018	Land off Wyndham Way, Portishead	33	0
C	18/P/4438/COA	04/12/2018	Dynamic House, Gordano Gate, Serbet Way, Portishead	22	19
D	18/P/3512/FUL	08/11/2019	Proposed New Building Martingale Way Portishead	29	0
				<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>
					19



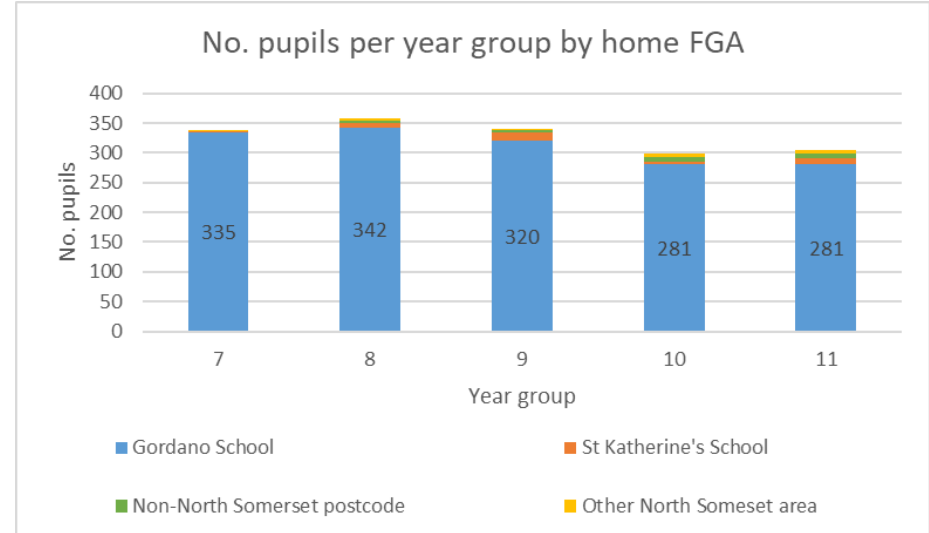
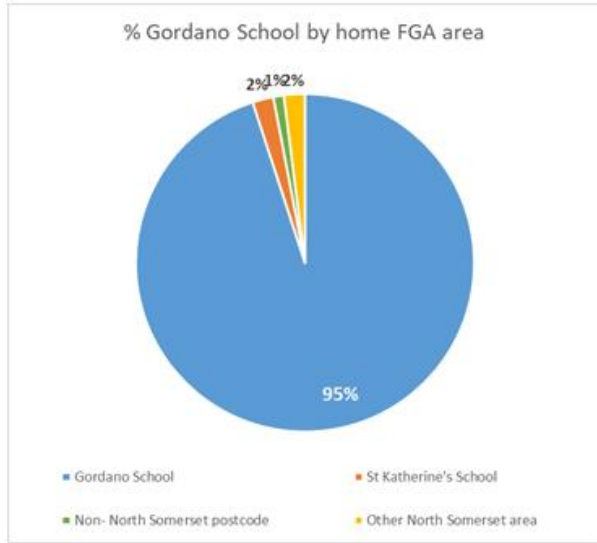
## Portishead Secondary Cluster – current picture

1 secondary-age school, 2009 pupils, school is 122% full, 336 Year 7 places



Page 210

Map Ref	School	MAT	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	PAN	No. places % full Trend Y11-7	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
23	<a href="#">Gordano School</a>	<a href="#">Lighthouse Schools Partnership</a>	Outstanding 25/04/2012	11-18	336	1652 122% full Increasing ↑	£33,808	Gordano was expanded from a 308 to 336 intake from September 2018. A feasibility study would be required to determine if further expansion would be possible.

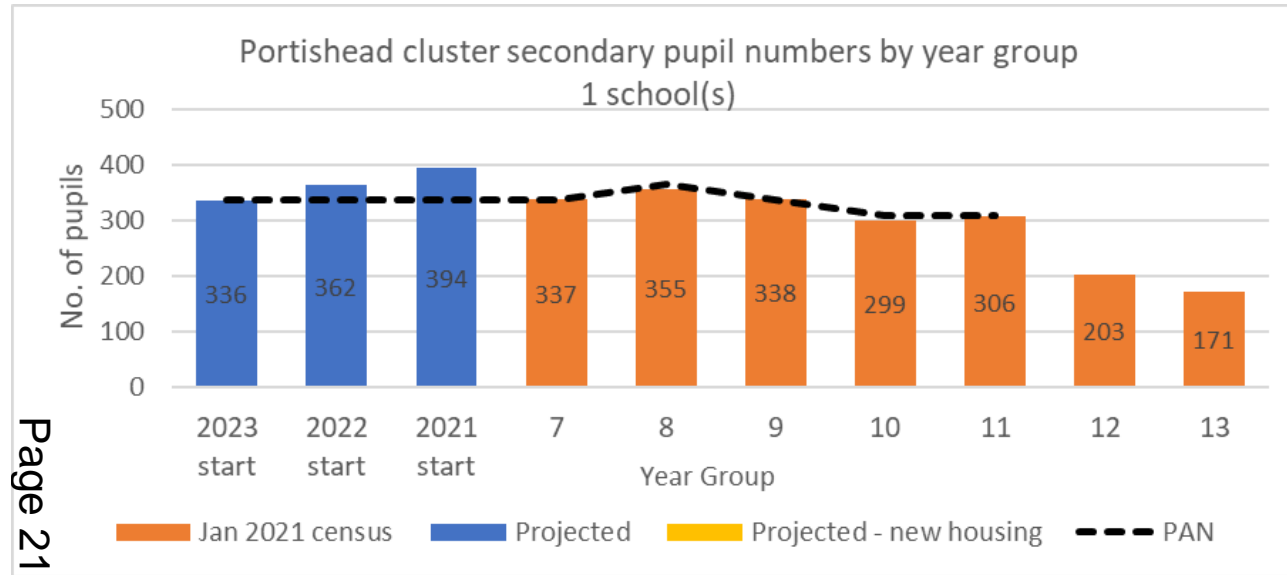


### Portishead Secondary Cluster – future projections

Pupil Projections	No. places	Predicted demand (number of pupils)							Predicted empty places (negative values = shortfall)						
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Gordano School	Growing from 1940 to 2080	2002	2110	2169	2189	2201	2176	2139	50	-30	-61	-109	-121	-96	-59
New housing pupil estimates		0	1	1	1	1	1	1							
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,002</b>	<b>2,111</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>2,190</b>	<b>2,202</b>	<b>2,177</b>	<b>2,140</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>-31</b>	<b>-62</b>	<b>-110</b>	<b>-122</b>	<b>-97</b>	<b>-60</b>
<b>% space</b>									<b>2%</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>-3%</b>

## Portishead Secondary - future projections

Gordano numbers are fluctuating as breach classes in the primary schools move through to the secondary sector.



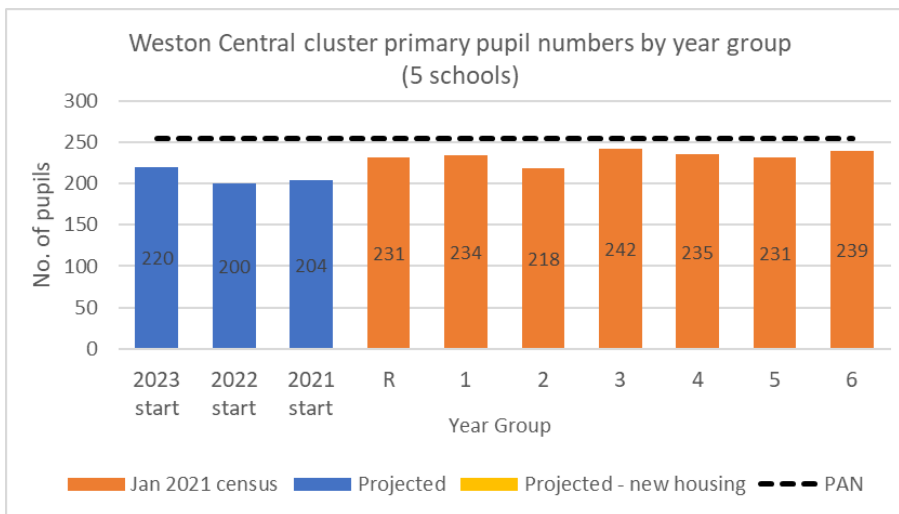


# Weston Central Primary Cluster - current picture

5 primary-age schools, 1630 pupils, schools are 91% full, 255 Reception places



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Page 2 of 2

Map Ref	School	MAT	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	PAN	No. places % full Trend Y6-R	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
2	<a href="#">Ashcombe Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Kaleidoscope MAT</a>	Good 16/01/2013	4-11	90	630 97% full Stable--	£0	School has been expanded to 630 places. The site is appropriate to this capacity.
13	<a href="#">Christ Church Church of England Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Kaleidoscope MAT</a>	Good 09/05/2017	4-11	30	210 98% full Stable--	£0	No as the site is too constrained to enable expansion

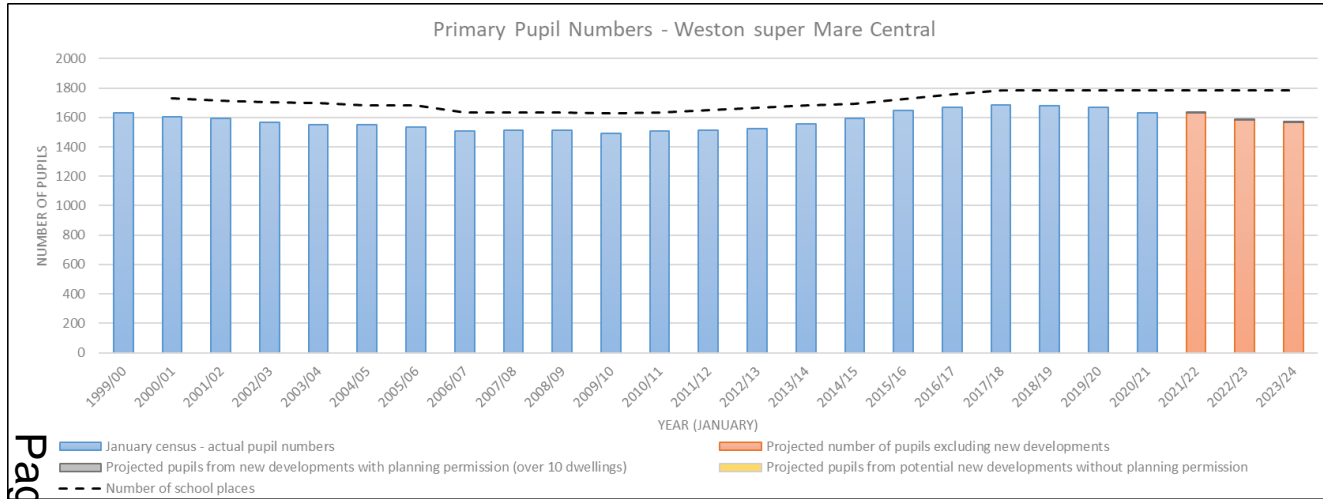
17	<a href="#">Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Maintained</a>	Requires improvement 22/11/2017	4-11	30	210 91% full Fluctuating ~	£0	A feasibility study would be required
38	<a href="#">Milton Park Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Extended Learning Academies Network</a>	Good 08/03/2017	4-11	60	420 83% full Fluctuating ~	£0	No as the site is too constrained to enable expansion
62	<a href="#">Walliscote Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Extended Learning Academies Network</a>	Good 25/04/2014	4-11	45	315 88% full Fluctuating ~	£0	No as the site is too constrained to enable expansion

Page 214

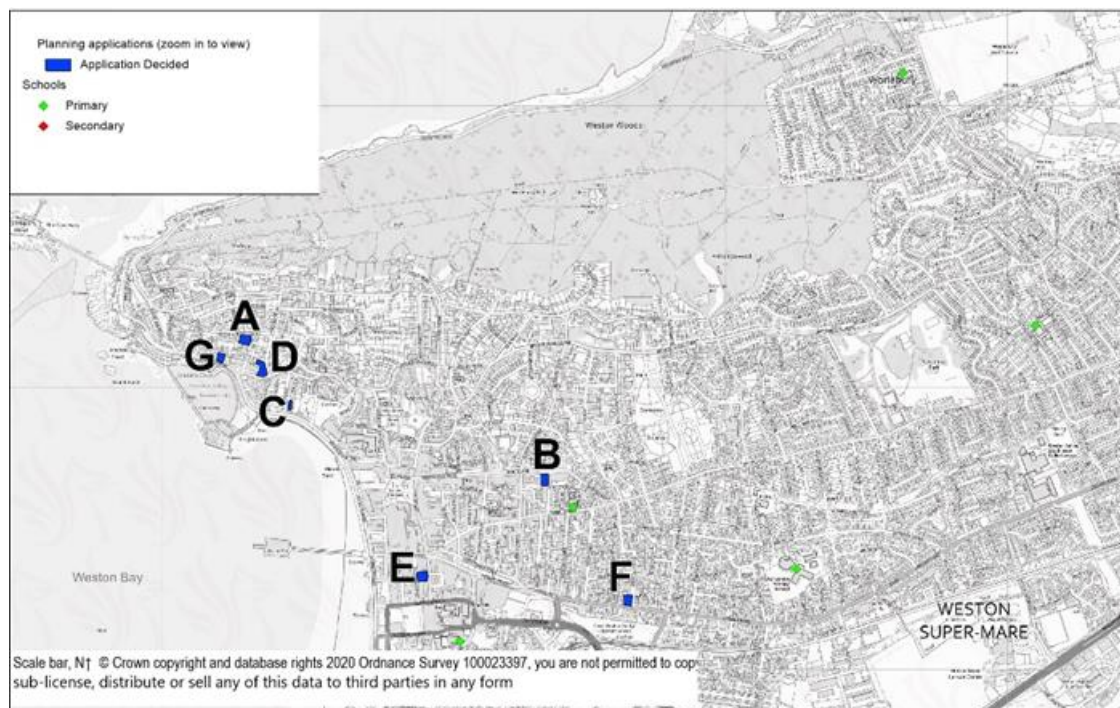
<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>		Predicted demand (number of pupils)					Predicted empty places (negative values = shortfall)				
School	No. places	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Ashcombe Primary	630	627	610	594	584	572	3	20	36	46	58
Christ Church CE VA Primary School	210	206	203	202	202	199	4	7	8	8	11
Milton Park Primary	420	361	342	326	318	306	59	78	94	102	114
Walliscote Primary	315	288	283	273	273	255	27	32	42	42	60
New housing pupil estimates		0	0	1	1	1					
<b>Total</b>	<b>1575</b>	<b>1482</b>	<b>1438</b>	<b>1396</b>	<b>1378</b>	<b>1333</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>242</b>
<b>% space across the cluster</b>							<b>6%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>15%</b>

## Weston Central Primary Cluster future projections

Primary schools in the cluster are projected to have decreasing pupil numbers over the next five years.



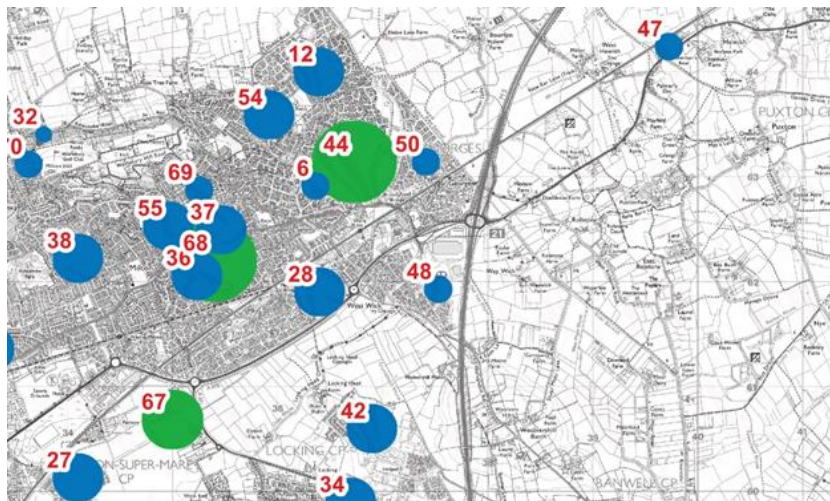
## Weston-super-Mare Central Cluster – new housing



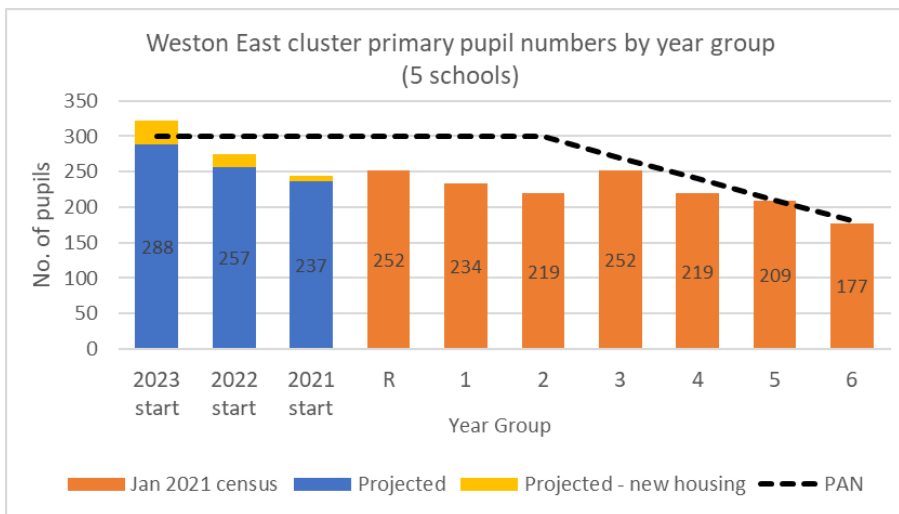
Map Ref	Weston Central	Permission Date	Site	No. of dwell.	Properties occupied
A	14/P/1210/LDE	24/07/2014	Land between Maywood & Pinewood and 12 Atlantic Road South Weston-s-Mare	23	0
B	16/P/0507/F	22/02/2017	Weston-s-Mare Library, Boulevard, Weston-s-Mare	23	15
C	17/P/1628/F	17/10/2017	The Welbeck Hotel, 1 Greenfield Place, Weston-s-Mare	10	0
D	17/P/0527/F	03/11/2017	Bayside Hotel, Weston-s-Mare	27	7
E	17/P/1832/F	29/06/2018	Fairfax House, 17 High Street, Weston-s-Mare	19	0
F	18/P/4822/FUL	05/04/2019	69/71 Locking Road, Weston-s-Mare	11	0
G	18/P/3335/FUL	03/12/2019	Madeira Cove Hotel 32-34 Birnbeck Road Weston-s-Mare	10	0
			<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>22</b>

# Weston East Primary Cluster - current picture

5 primary-age schools, 1562 pupils, schools are 87% full, 300 Reception places



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Page 27

Map Ref	School	MAT	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	PAN	No. places % full Trend Y6-R	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
27	<a href="#">Haywood Village Academy</a>	<a href="#">Cabot Learning Federation</a>	Outstanding 19/06/2019	3-11	60	330 99% full Stable --	£0	No as this new school was build and opened in 2016 on a site appropriate to its size
28	<a href="#">Herons' Moor Academy</a>	<a href="#">Cabot Learning Federation</a>	Good 05/03/2020	3-11	60	420 98% full Stable --	£0	No as this multi-purpose site is constrained.
34	<a href="#">Locking Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Extended Learning Academies Network</a>	Good 19/03/2014	4-11	60	420 77% full Decreasing ↓	£0	The school has been previously expanded from a 315 to 420 place school. The site is appropriate to the size of the larger intake.



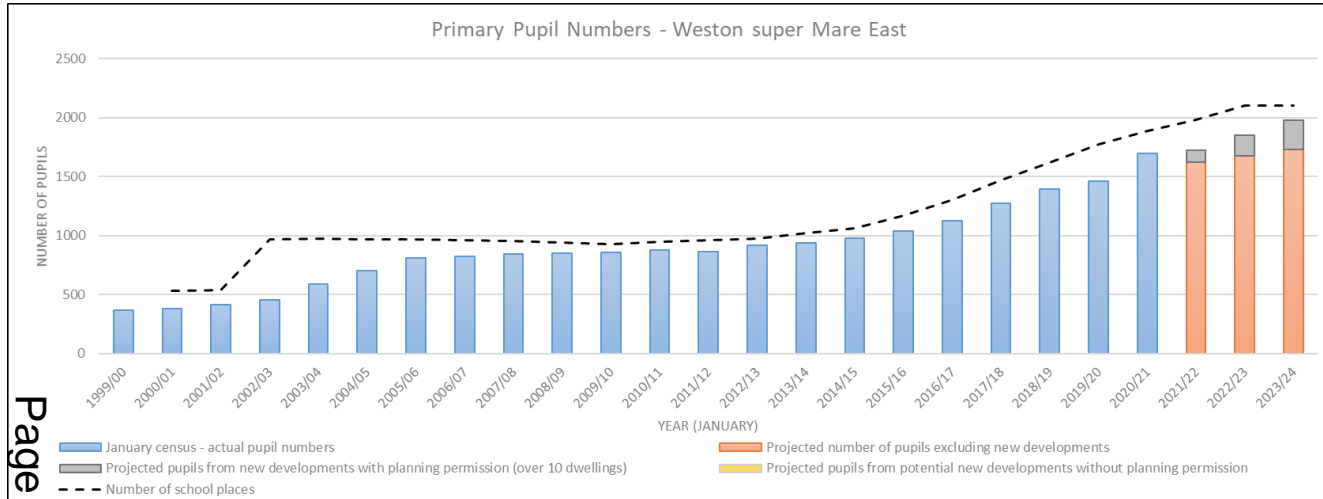
42	<a href="#">Parklands Educate Together Primary</a>	<a href="#">Educate Together</a>		3-11	60	210 53% full Increasing ↑	£0	The site and school buildings have been developed with the core infrastructure for a 630-place school. The school has opened as a 420-place school and will require new classrooms to enable it to expand to meet a higher intake.
47/48	<a href="#">St Anne's Church Academy</a>	<a href="#">The Priory Learning Trust</a>	Good 11/10/2017	2-11	60	420 93% full Fluctuating ~	£41,042	The <a href="#">West Wick</a> school site, that opened in 2014, has been designed with the core infrastructure of a 315-place school site and could accommodate an extra 105 pupils once extra classrooms are delivered.

Page 218

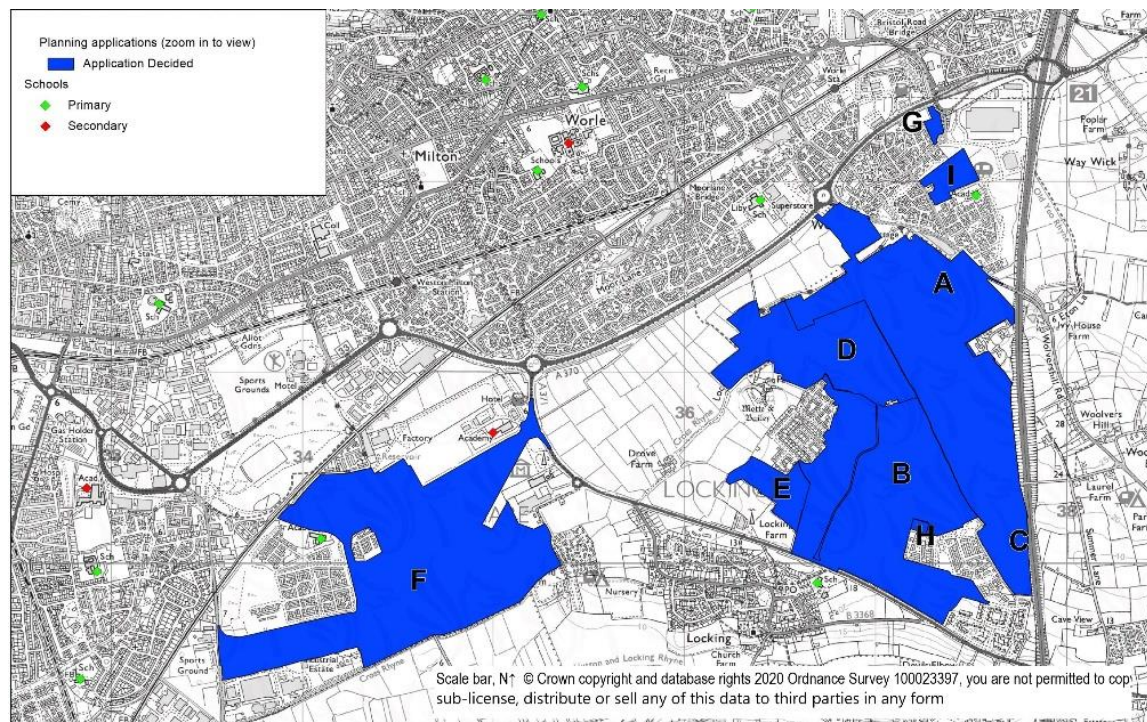
<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>		Predicted demand (number of pupils)					Predicted empty places (negative values = shortfall)				
School	No. places	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Haywood Village Academy	270	320	369	396	401	400	-50	-39	-6	19	20
Heron's Moor Academy	420	419	408	399	397	395	1	12	21	23	25
Locking Primary School	420	350	322	297	277	256	70	98	123	143	164
St Anne's Church Academy	390	399	401	401	412	407	-9	19	19	8	13
Parklands Educate Together Primary	90	80	125	180	240	290	10	25	30	30	40
New housing pupil estimates		0	36	99	176	252					
<b>Total</b>	<b>1590</b>	<b>1568</b>	<b>1661</b>	<b>1772</b>	<b>1903</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>% space across the cluster</b>							<b>1%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1%</b>

## Weston East Primary Cluster future projections

This cluster has new primary schools, serving new developments, that will increase in pupil numbers over the next five years. The remaining primary schools in the cluster are projected to have decreasing pupil numbers over the next five years.



## Weston-super-Mare East Cluster – new housing



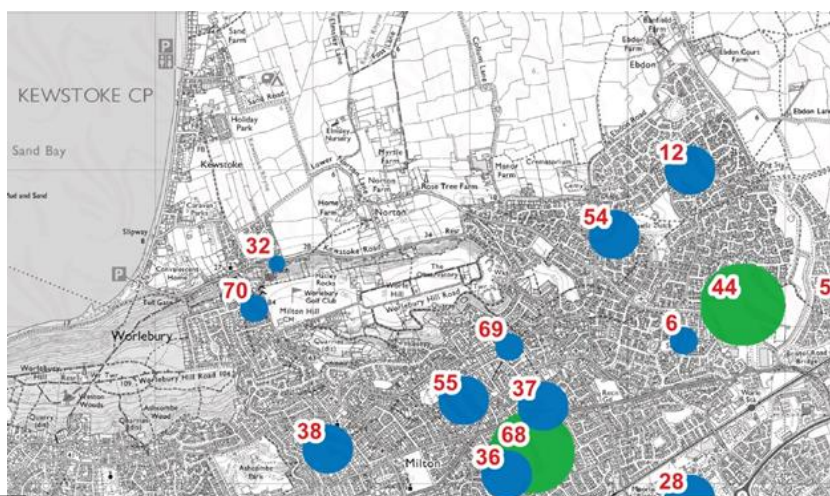
Page 220

Map Ref	Weston East	Permission Date	Site	No. of dwell.	Properties occupied
A	12/P/1266/OT2	08/04/2015	Land South of Churchland Way, Wolvershill Road Banwell	1150	26
B	13/P/0997/OT2	17/07/2015	Locking Parklands, Locking Moor Road, Locking	1200	199
C	16/P/2744/OT2	27/10/2017	Land off Wolvershill Road/Churchlands Way (Parklands Village)	250	0
D	16/P/2758/RG4	12/01/2018	Land to the South of Locking Head Drove Locking	700	0
E	16/P/1881/OT2	17/01/2018	Land West of Locking Parklands Parklands Village Locking	300	0
F	12/P/1510/OT2	17/01/2018	Former Weston Airfield Winterstoke Road WsM (Phase 2)	1650	58
G	17/P/0752/F	08/02/2019	Land North Of Wilson Gardens / Scot Elm Drive West Wick	49	0
H	18/P/3175/FUL	01/04/2019	Phase 3A, Locking Parklands Cranwell Road Locking	36	28
I	19/P/0413/FUL	31/10/2019	West Acre Caravan Park West Acres Farm Wolvershill Road	125	0
				<b>Total</b>	<b>311</b>

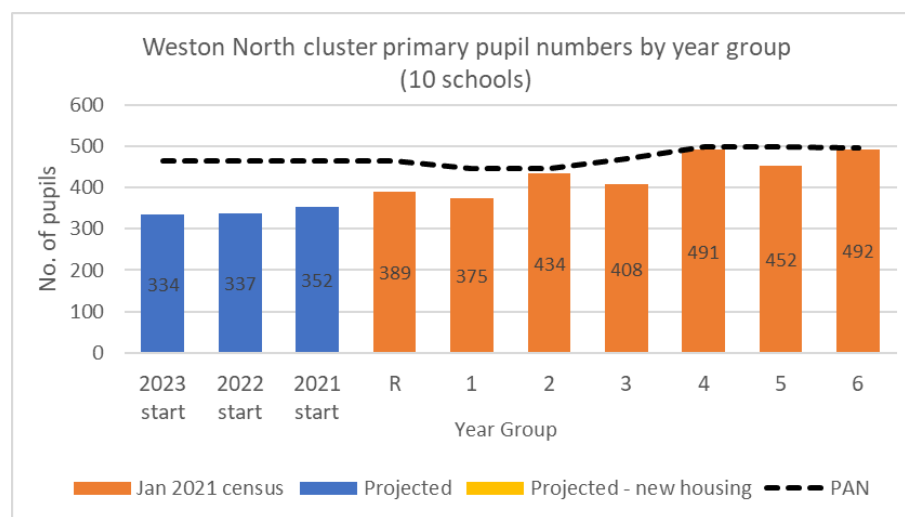


## Weston North Primary Cluster - current picture

10 primary-age schools, 3041 pupils, schools are 92% full, 465 Reception places



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Page 27 of 27

Map Ref	School	MAT	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	PAN	No. places % full Trend Y6-R	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
6	<a href="#">Becket Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Kaleidoscope MAT</a>	Good 16/10/2013	2-11	30	210 89% full Fluctuating ~	£0	A feasibility study would be required
12	<a href="#">Castle Batch Primary School</a>	<a href="#">The Priory Learning Trust</a>	Good 08/11/2017	4-11	60	420 100% full Stable --	£0	A feasibility study would be required

32	<a href="#">Kewstoke Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Maintained</a>	Good 07/06/2018	3-11	15	105 78% full Fluctuating ~	£10,240	No as the site is constrained
36	<a href="#">Mead Vale Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Extended Learning Academies Network</a>	Requires improvement 07/12/2016	4-11	60	378 83% full Fluctuating ~	£0	<a href="#">The Local Authority has supported plans by ELAN to reduce the PAN at Mead Vale from 60 to 30 effective from September 2022. The LA notes that the school site has the capacity to increase its pupil intake back to 60 places per cohort should demand require this in the future</a> <a href="#">A feasibility study would be required</a>
47	<a href="#">Mendip Green Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Extended Learning Academies Network</a>	Good 05/04/2017	5-11	90	630 100% full Stable --	£0	The school was expanded in 2012 to a 630-place school. The site size is appropriate to this intake.
50	<a href="#">St Georges Church School</a>	<a href="#">Bath &amp; Wells MAT</a>	Good 03/04/2019	3-11	30	210 97% full Fluctuating ~	£0	This school site is appropriate to its 210-place intake.
54	<a href="#">St Mark's Ecumenical Anglican/Methodist Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Bath &amp; Wells MAT</a>	Good 24/04/2019	4-11	60	436 97% full Stable --	£0	The school site is appropriate to its 420-place intake
55	<a href="#">St Martin's Church of England Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Kaleidoscope MAT</a>	Good 11/02/2015	4-11	60	510 81% full Fluctuating ~	£11,033	The school was expanded in 2012 to a 630-place school. Whilst the school is now a 420-place setting, its site is capable of taking this higher intake.
69	<a href="#">Worle Village Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Kaleidoscope MAT</a>	Good 26/02/2015	5-11	30	210 87% full Decreasing ↓	£0	No, as the school is on a constrained site

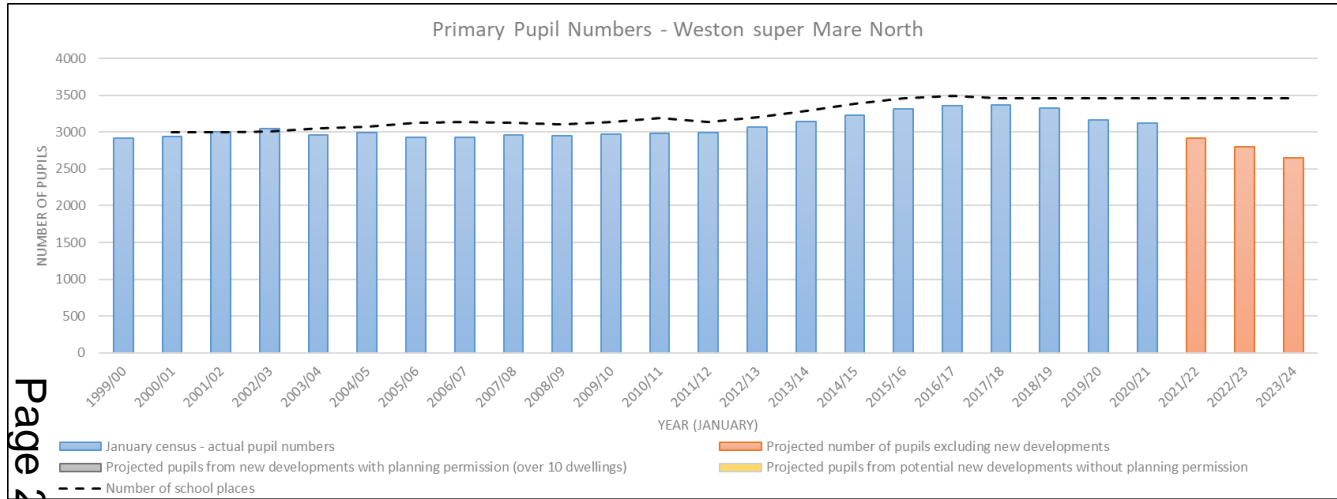
70	<a href="#">Worlebury St Pauls Church of England Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Maintained</a>	Good 19/06/2019	4-11	30	210 88% full Fluctuating ~	£0	This school was expanded in 2011 from a 120 to a 210-place school.
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<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>	<b>Predicted demand</b> (number of pupils)	<b>Predicted empty places</b> (negative values = shortfall)
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School	No. places	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Becket Primary	210	190	186	176	169	160	20	24	34	41	50
Castle Batch Primary	439	417	408	397	379	377	22	31	42	60	62
Kewstoke Primary School	105	89	85	82	78	81	16	20	23	27	24
Mead Vale Community Primary School	420	316	288	272	251	240	104	132	148	169	180
Mendip Green Primary	630	628	614	597	585	574	2	16	33	45	56
St Mark's Primary School	420	420	407	392	376	364	0	13	28	44	56
St Martin's CE Primary School	630 reducing to 420 places	426	375	334	286	277	204	225	236	254	233
St Georges Church School	210	206	200	199	188	185	4	10	11	22	25
Worle Village Primary School	210	176	170	162	153	146	34	40	48	57	64
Worlebury St Pauls CEVA Primary School	210	193	190	187	182	170	17	20	23	28	40
New housing pupil estimates		0	0	0	0	0					
<b>Total</b>	<b>2854</b>	<b>3061</b>	<b>2923</b>	<b>2798</b>	<b>2647</b>	<b>2574</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>790</b>
<b>% space across the cluster</b>							<b>15%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>28%</b>

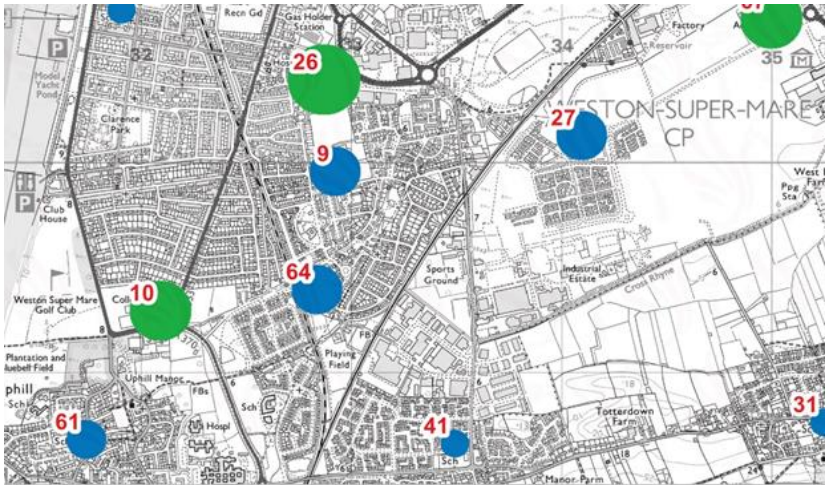
## Weston North Primary Cluster future projections

All primary schools in the cluster are projected to have decreasing pupil numbers over the next five years.

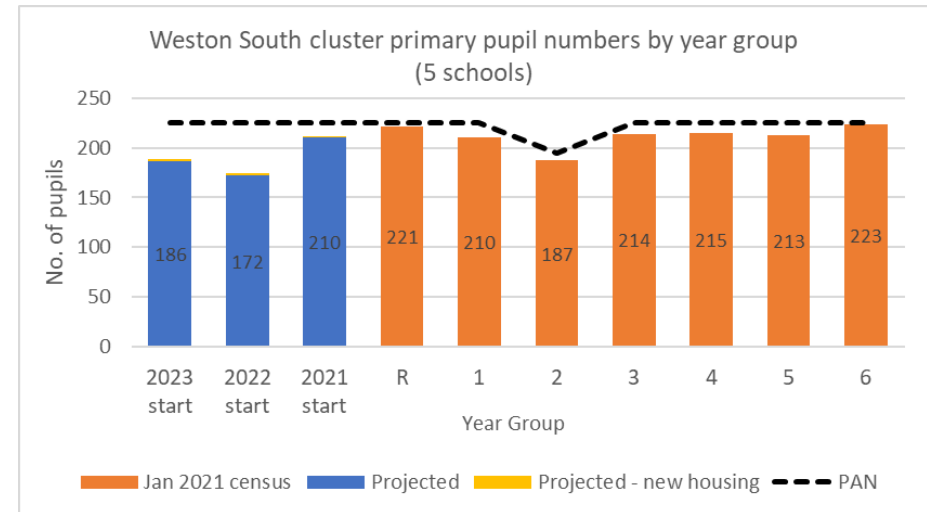


# Weston South Primary Cluster - current picture

5 primary-age schools, 1483 pupils, schools are 96% full, 225 Reception places



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Page 27

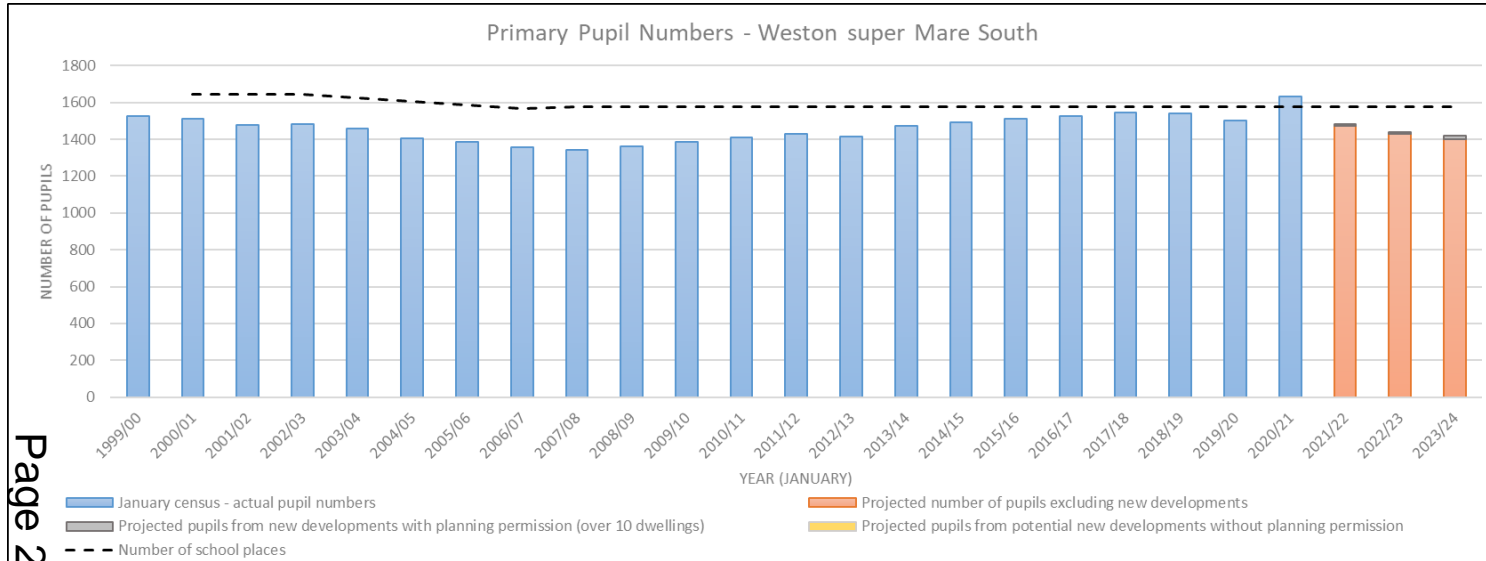
Map Ref	School	MAT	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	PAN	No. places % full Trend Y6-R	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
9	<a href="#">Bournville Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Extended Learning Academies Network</a>	Outstanding 21/05/2015	2-11	60	420 99% full Stable --	£0	School was replaced with a new build in 2008 on a site appropriate to its size
31	<a href="#">Hutton Church of England Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Kaleidoscope MAT</a>	Good 02/07/2014	4-11	30	210 100% full Stable --	£0	The recent partial replacement of this site incorporated the potential for it to expand by another 105 places, although parking and other local constraints may prove problematic

41	<a href="#">Oldmixon Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Extended Learning Academies Network</a>	Good 16/10/2013	2-11	30	210 98% full Stable --	£0	Potential to expand from a 210 to a 420-place school subject to planning permission and other approvals
61	<a href="#">Uphill Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Maintained</a>	Good 26/04/2018	4-11	45	315 97% full Stable --	£0	This site is constrained and suitable for its 315-place intake
64	<a href="#">Windwhistle Primary School</a>	<a href="#">Extended Learning Academies Network</a>	Good 19/03/2014	3-11	60	390 89% full Fluctuating ~	£0	The size of this site is appropriate to its 420-place intake

<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>		Predicted demand (number of pupils)					Predicted empty places (negative values = shortfall)					
Page 226	School	No. places	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
		Bournville Primary	420	418	410	400	390	382	2	10	20	30
	Hutton C/E Primary	210	204	198	190	186	185	6	12	20	24	25
	Oldmixon Primary School	210	198	198	191	185	185	12	12	19	25	25
	Uphill Primary School	315	310	310	304	301	293	5	5	11	14	22
	Windwhistle Primary School	420	368	357	342	336	331	52	63	78	84	89
	New housing pupil estimates		0	6	9	14	19					
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1575</b>	<b>1498</b>	<b>1479</b>	<b>1436</b>	<b>1412</b>	<b>1395</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>180</b>
	<b>% space across the cluster</b>							<b>5%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>11%</b>

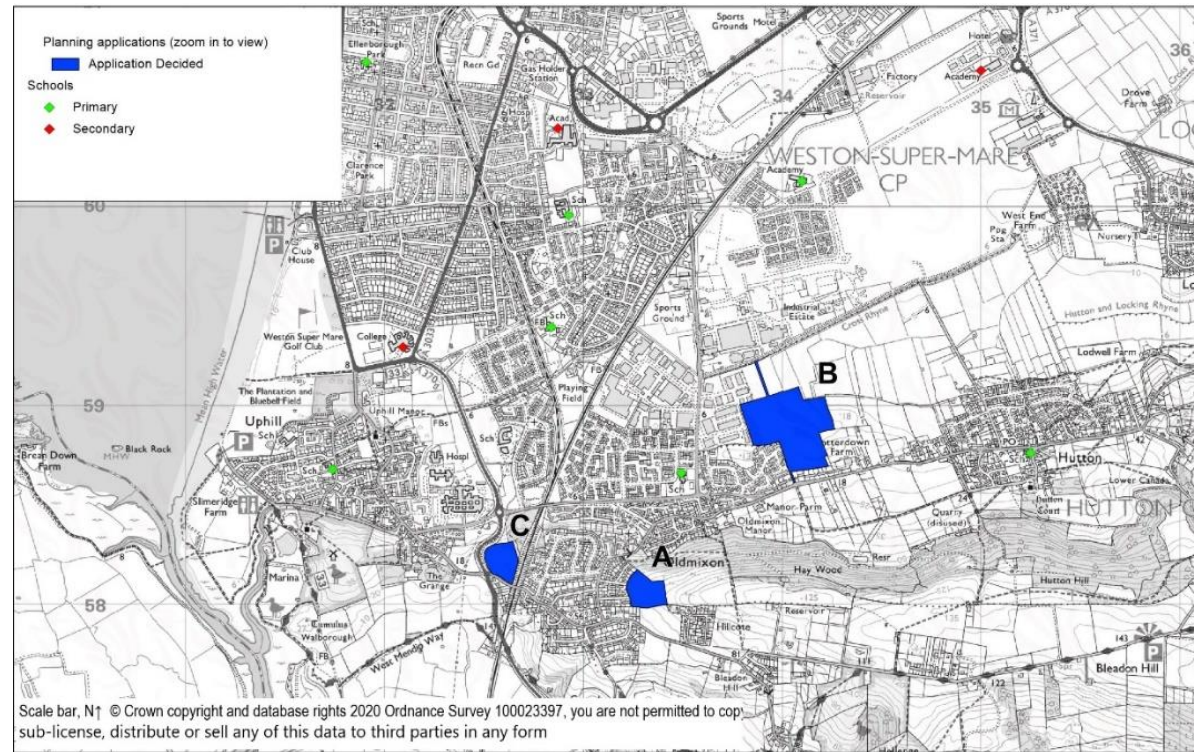
## Weston South Primary Cluster future projections

All primary schools in the cluster are projected to have decreasing pupil numbers over the next five years.





# Weston-super-Mare South Cluster – new housing



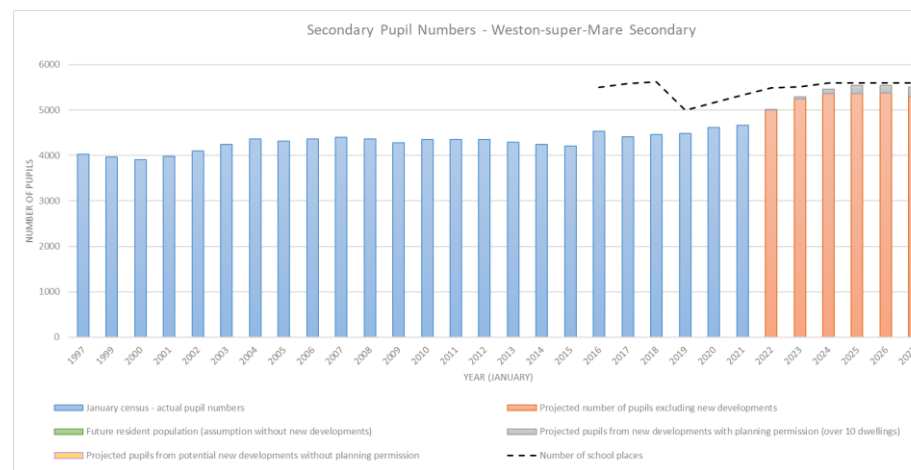
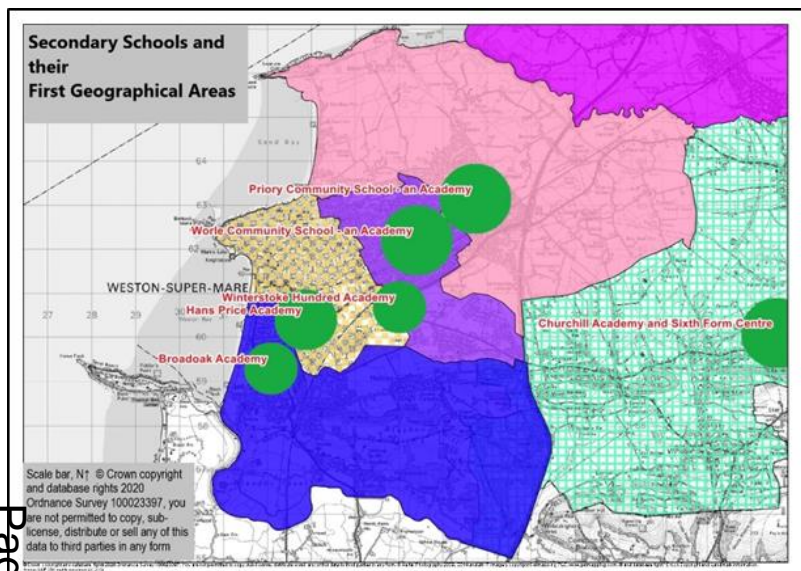
Page 228

Map Ref	Nailsea	Permission Date	Site	No. of dwell.	Properties occupied
A	15/P/0983/O	01/06/2016	Land at Wentwood Drive Weston-super-Mare	50	21
B	16/P/0150/O	10/04/2017	Land North of Oldmixon Road Hutton Weston-super-Mare	130	0
C	17/P/1138/O	22/07/2019	Land adjacent to Bridgwater Road Weston-super-Mare	60	0
			<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>21</b>



## Weston-super-Mare Secondary Cluster – current picture

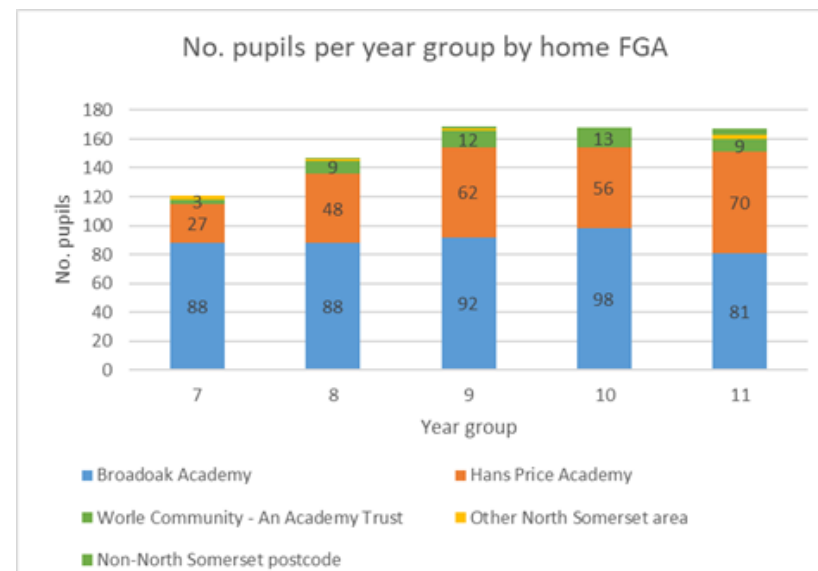
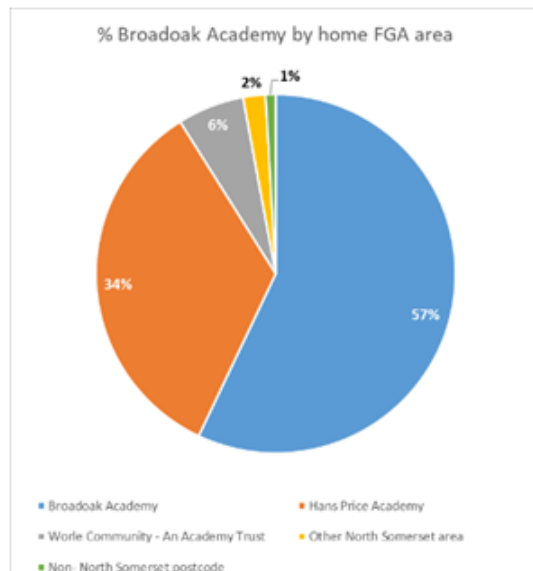
5 secondary-age schools, 4661 pupils, schools are 96% full, 990 Year 7 places

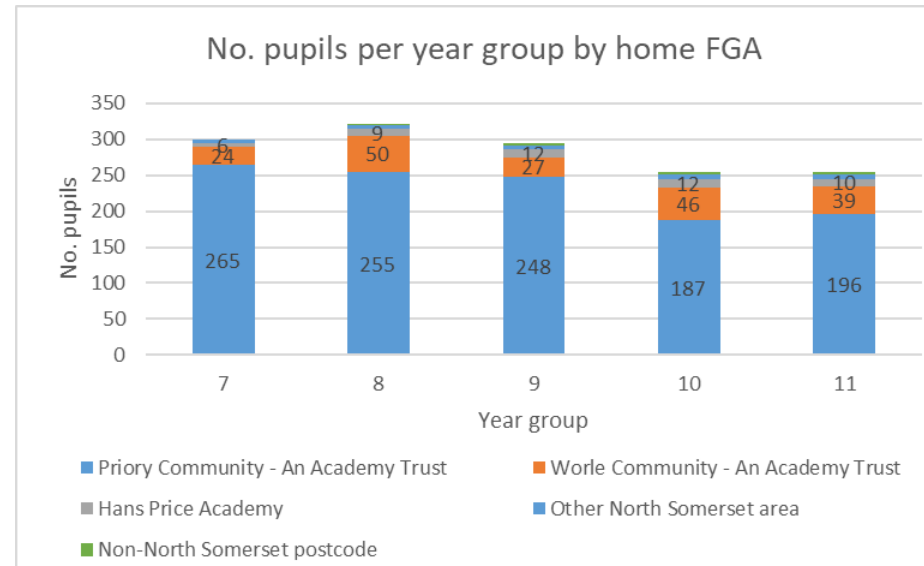
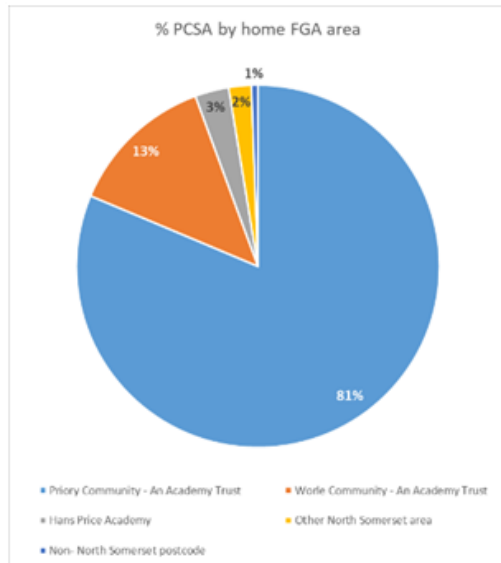
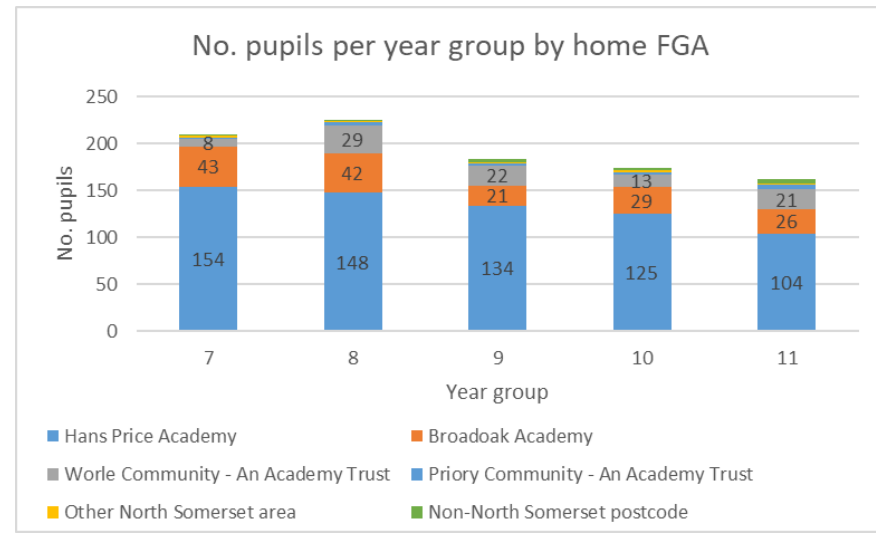
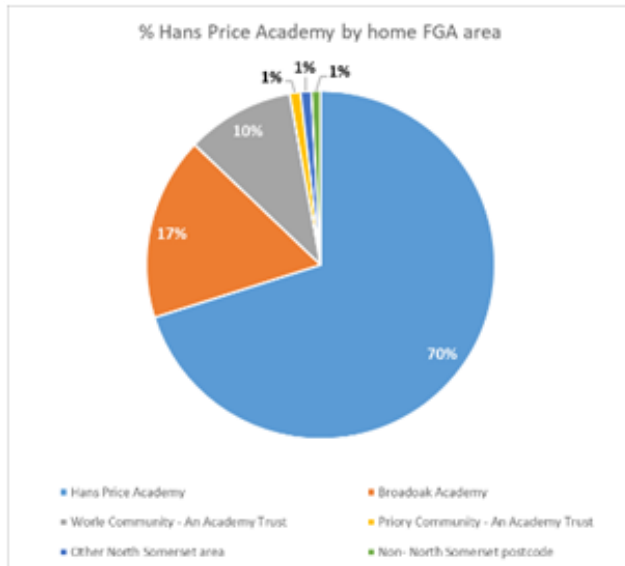


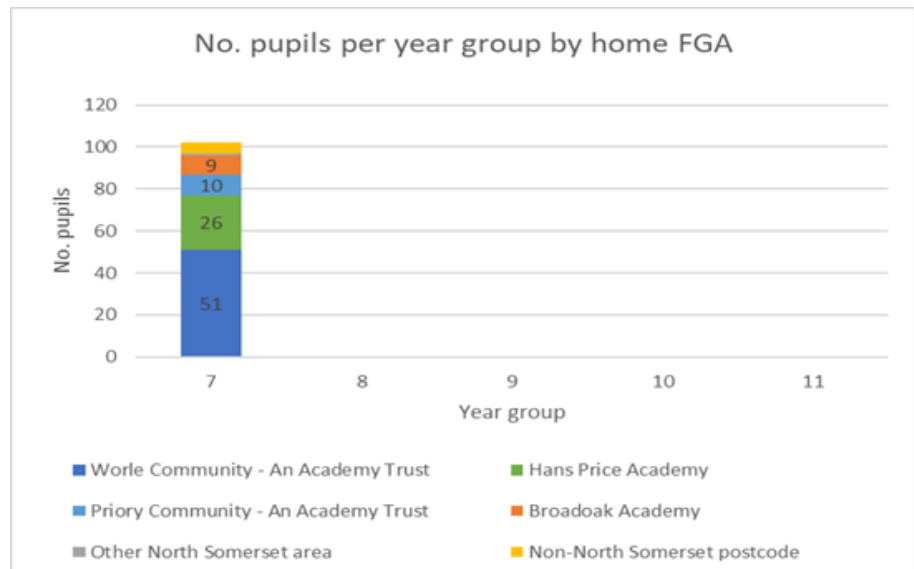
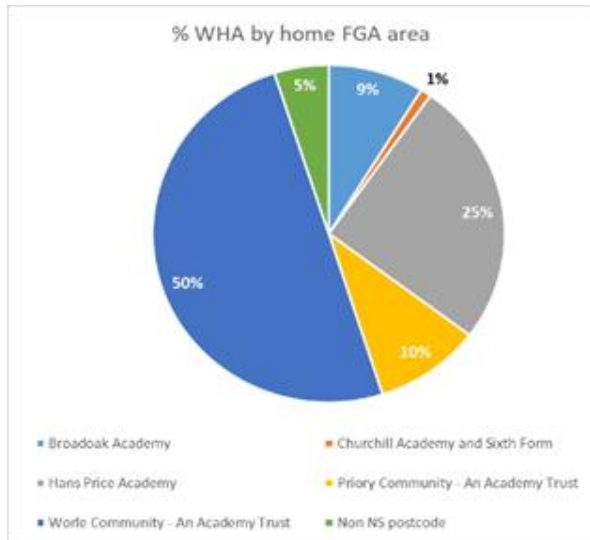
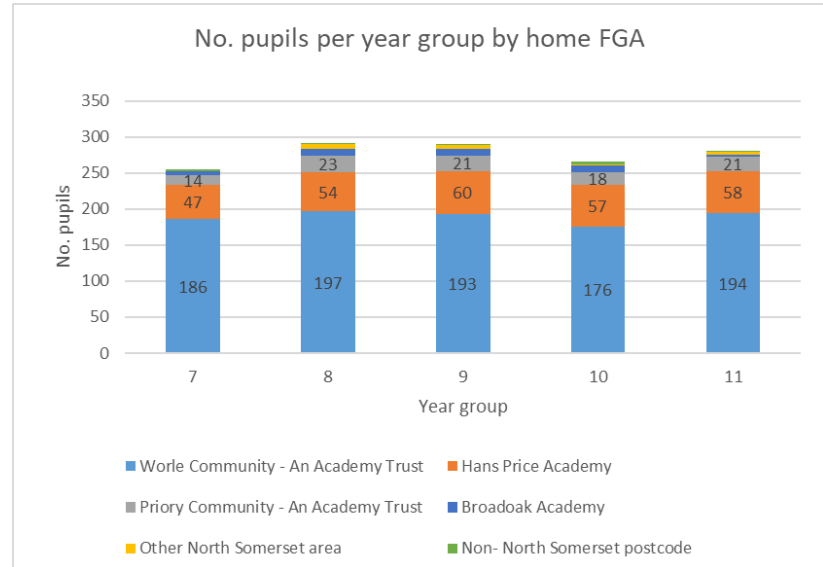
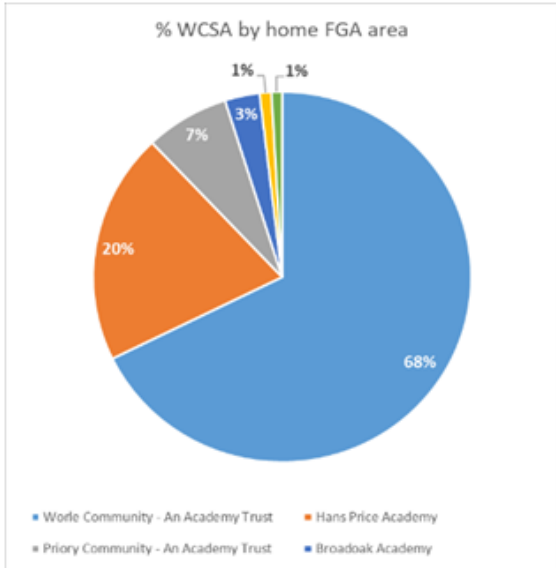
Page 229

Map Ref	School	MAT	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	PAN	No. places % full Trend Y11-7	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
10	<a href="#">Broadoak Academy</a>	<a href="#">Cabot Learning Federation</a>	Requires improvement 16/11/2017	11-16	180	900 86% full Decreasing ↓	£3,971	No, as the site is suitable for a 900-place school
26	<a href="#">Hans Price Academy</a>	<a href="#">Cabot Learning Federation</a>	Good 06/02/2018	11-16	210	1020 94% full Increasing ↑	£0	No, as the site is suited to a 1,050-place school
44	<a href="#">Priory Community School Academy</a>	<a href="#">The Priory Learning Trust</a>	Outstanding 07/11/2014	11-16	300	1442 99% full Increasing ↑	£58,108	This school was expanded from a 256 to 300 intake from September 2018. A feasibility study would be required to

								determine if further expansion would be possible.
67	<a href="#">Winterstoke Hundred Academy</a>	<a href="#">Cabot Learning Federation</a>	Not inspected	11-18	150	0 N/A	£0	A second WHA site at Parklands is currently being progressed, to provide 900 <u>of the school's</u> places and open by September 2023.
68	<a href="#">Worle Community School Academy</a>	<a href="#">The Priory Learning Trust</a>	Requires improvement 05/02/2020	11-16	300	1500 92% full Fluctuating ~	£68,586	A feasibility study would be required







## Weston-super-Mare Secondary Cluster – future projections

		Predicted demand (number of pupils)							Predicted empty places (negative values = shortfall)						
<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>	No. places	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Broadoak Academy	900	787	764	740	714	733	754	777	113	136	160	186	167	146	123
New housing pupil estimates		0	3	5	7	10	12	13							
<b>Total</b>		<b>787</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>% space</b>									<b>13%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>12%</b>

<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>	No. places	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Hans Price Academy	1,050	983	1027	1059	1075	1050	1033	1033	67	23	-9	-25	0	17	17
New housing pupil estimates		0	10	18	17	6	16	39							
<b>Total</b>		<b>983</b>	<b>1,037</b>	<b>1,077</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>1,056</b>	<b>1,049</b>	<b>1,072</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>-27</b>	<b>-42</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-22</b>
<b>% space</b>									<b>6%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-2%</b>

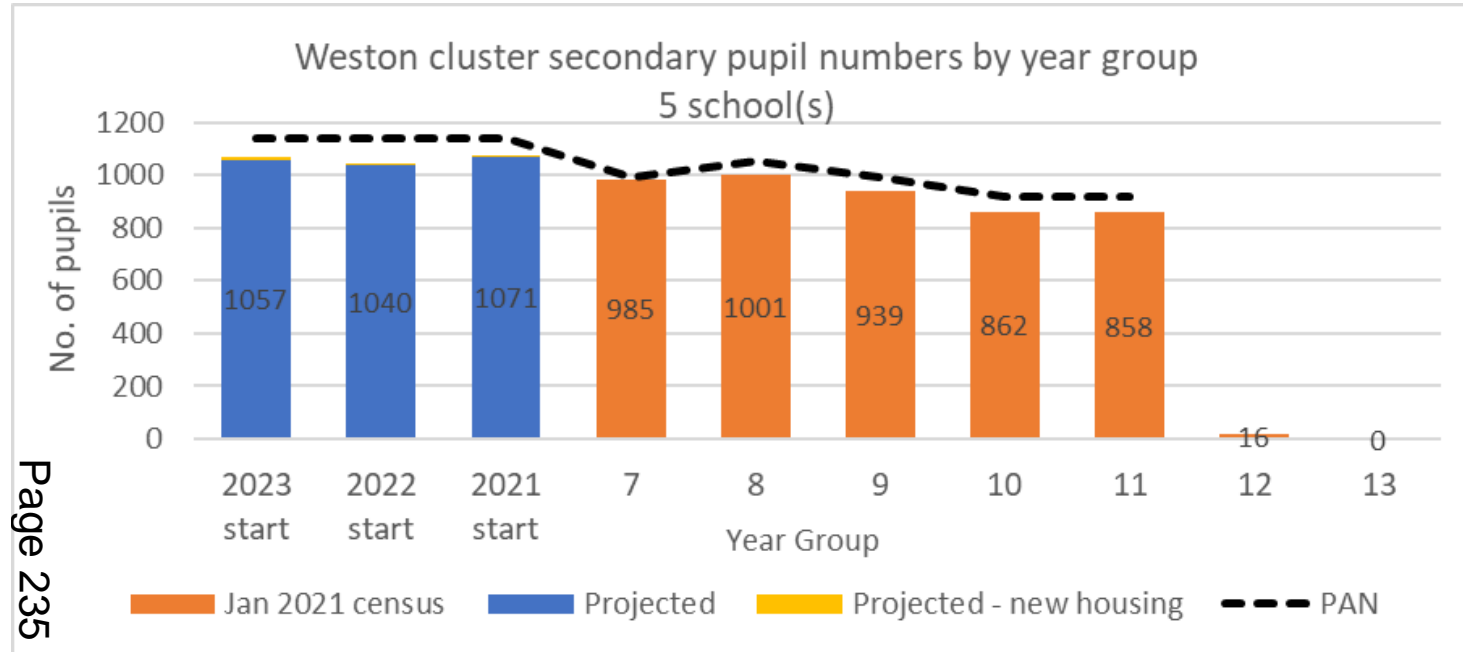
<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>	No. places	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
PCSA	Growing from 1,280 to 1,500	1444	1487	1530	1529	1501	1500	1478	-2	-1	0	1	-1	0	22
New housing pupil estimates		0	0	0	0	0	0	0							
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,444</b>	<b>1,487</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>1,529</b>	<b>1,501</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,478</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>% space</b>									<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1%</b>

		Predicted demand (number of pupils)							Predicted empty places (negative values = shortfall)						
<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>	No. places	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
WCSA	1,500	1393	1404	1413	1401	1348	1300	1218	107	96	87	99	152	200	282
New housing pupil estimates		0	0	0	0	0	0	3							
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,393</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>1,413</b>	<b>1,401</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,221</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>279</b>
<b>% space</b>									<b>7%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>19%</b>

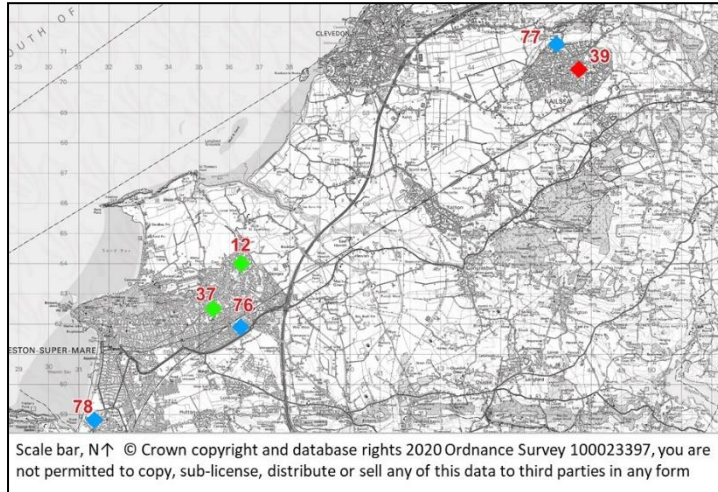
<a href="#">Pupil Projections</a>	No. places	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Winterstoke Hundred Academy	Growing to 950 over 5 years (excluding second site)	129	316	495	644	725	782	781	121	184	155	156	225	168	169
New housing pupil estimates		0	6	28	68	168	149	165							
<b>Total</b>		<b>129</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>% space</b>									<b>48%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>0%</b>

## Weston-super-Mare Secondary - future projections

Secondary pupil numbers across Weston-super-Mare are forecast to grow.



## SEND schools cluster – current picture



Page 236  
Map Ref

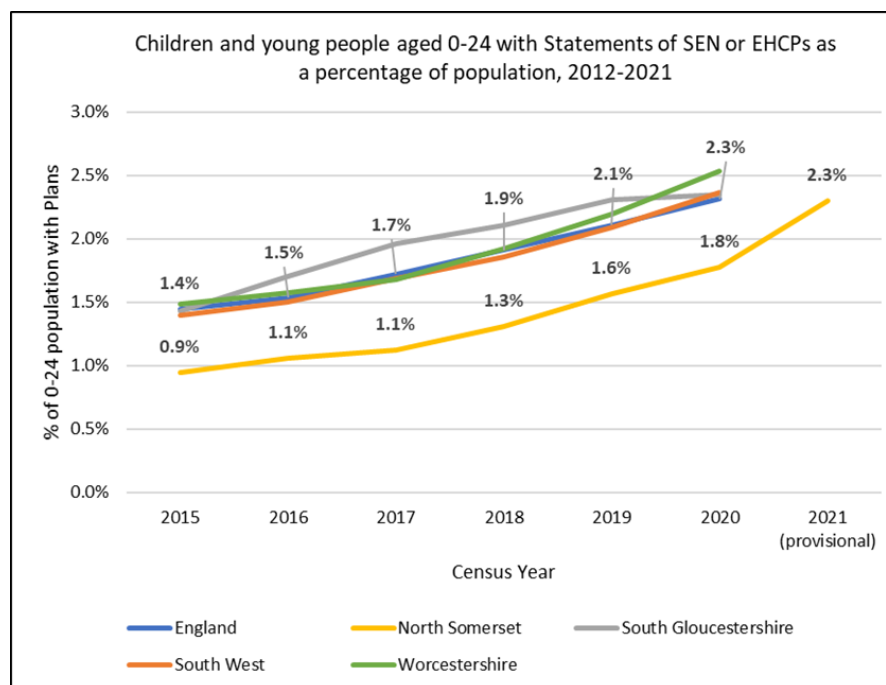
Map Ref	School	MAT	Type of Establishment (name)	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	School Capacity	% full Trend	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
76	<a href="#">Baytree Special</a>	Maintained	Community special school	Good 16/03/2017	3-19	72	100% Increasing ↑	£293,638	There have been 4 recent remodelling projects to provide extra capacity. No further increases are possible on this site. Plans to create a 2nd site are awaiting planning approval following a decision by the Secretary of State to allow a local determination.



77	<a href="#">Ravenswood Special</a>	Maintained	Community special school	Good 28/09/2017	3-19	112 - 119	100% Demand is increasing ↑	£408,594	<a href="#">A small expansion to the school has recently been approved.</a> A review of the vacant VLC site adjacent to Ravenswood may or may not offer options for further expansion
78	<a href="#">Westhaven Special</a>	Maintained	Foundation special school	Good 11/07/2018	4-19	156	100% Demand is increasing ↑	£342,000 + Pathways @ Westhaven £18,405	The school has recently been expanded and remodelled to enable it to accommodate infant and post-16 pupils from 2019 and 2020 respectively. The site is suitable in size for its current provision.
79	New SEMH School (to open in 2023)			n/a		65	Demand exceeds these new places ↑		
Page 287	Nailsea School ASD Resource Base	<a href="#">Wessex Learning Trust</a>	Secondary	Requires improvement 12/03/2020	11-18	10	80%	£22,402	The building has been future proofed to enable further placements
12	Castle Batch Primary School Academy Speech and Language Resource Base	Priory Learning Trust	Primary	Good 08/11/2017	4-11	20	Average pupil numbers (2016-17 to 2020-21) = 16 Currently 75% full.	£34,394	The site is constrained



## SEND Cluster – future projections



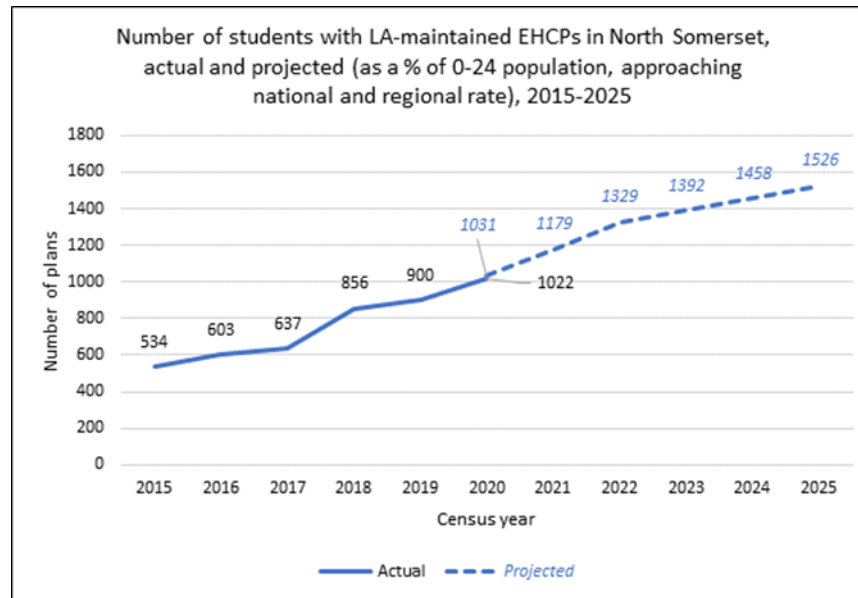
**Sources:** Department for Education, Education, Health and Care Plans: England 2020 (published 7 May 2020) (underlying data), North Somerset SEN2 census data obtained from BIS (provisional data for 2021), and ONS 2018-based population estimates. Actual percentages are shown for England and North Somerset.

Special school places are available only to students with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). School places are granted based on the student’s individual needs, rather than geographic location. Because placement of students with special educational needs is a highly individualised decision, for projecting future demand requires a different approach than is used for mainstream schools.

Estimating demand for future special school places requires analysis of the incidence of EHCPs in the population and of past trends and applying assumptions about future directions of those trends in North Somerset.

Historically, North Somerset has been well below national and regional averages in the incidence of EHCPs (see Figure 1).

The consensus is that North Somerset is experiencing upward pressure in the number of requests for EHCPs and will start approaching the national average over the next few years. Therefore, the size of the cohort of EHCP students in North Somerset was projected by applying a projected national average incidence of EHCPs in the population (ONS estimates) and assuming growth of 0.1% per year (see Figure 2).



**Figure 2. Source:** Department for Education, Education, health and care plans: England 2020 (published 7 May 2020) (underlying data) and North Somerset projected numbers.

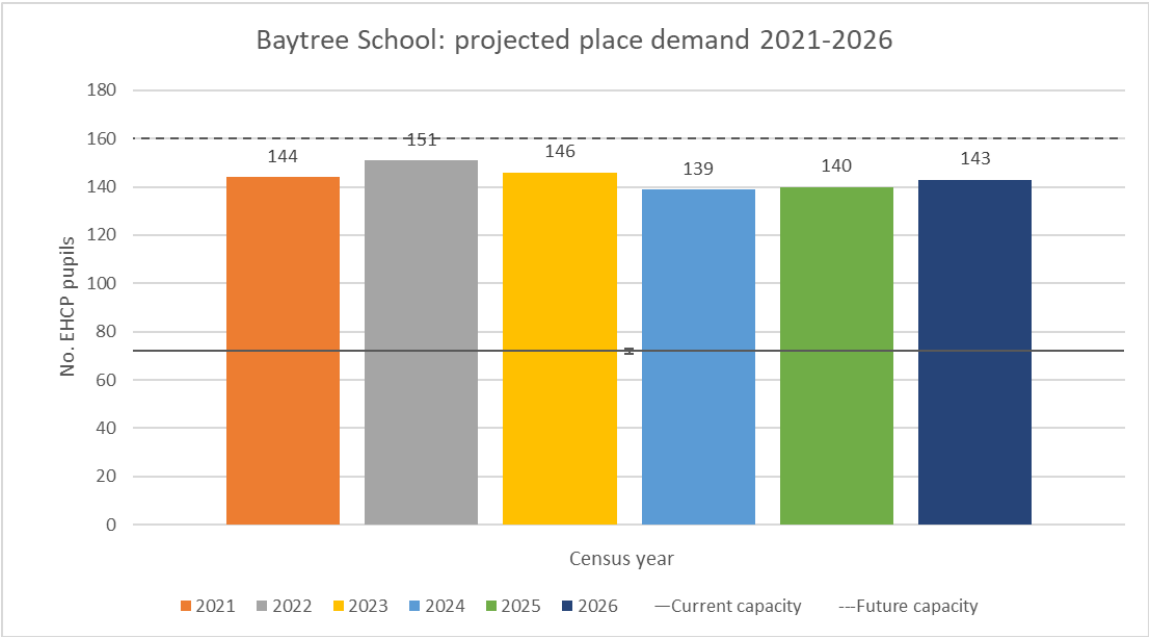
These projected numbers were then cross-checked against estimates independently made by the Education Funding Team and the SEND Team. Both predictions of the size of the EHCP cohort corresponded by 2022, the only difference being the annual rate of increase between 2020 and 2022.

To estimate the primary need makeup of the future cohorts, 2015-2019 SEN2 census data was used to calculate the average relative incidence of each primary need type in the EHCP cohort. These ratios were then adjusted to account for expected changes in the need makeup of future cohorts (i.e., ASD/SLCN and SEMH rising at faster rates than most other needs).

Provision type ratios were calculated for each primary need category using the same census data, with the caveat that these ratios are expected to change in the future as the availability of different provision types changes.

These ratios were then applied to the projected overall number of pupils in North Somerset to give a number of EHCPs and primary need type.

The final step was to allocate the types of need to type of provision, which was done in conjunction with the SEND Team, who have in-depth understanding of the individual children and expertise in special needs. This resulted in the below estimates of demand for North Somerset’s special schools:

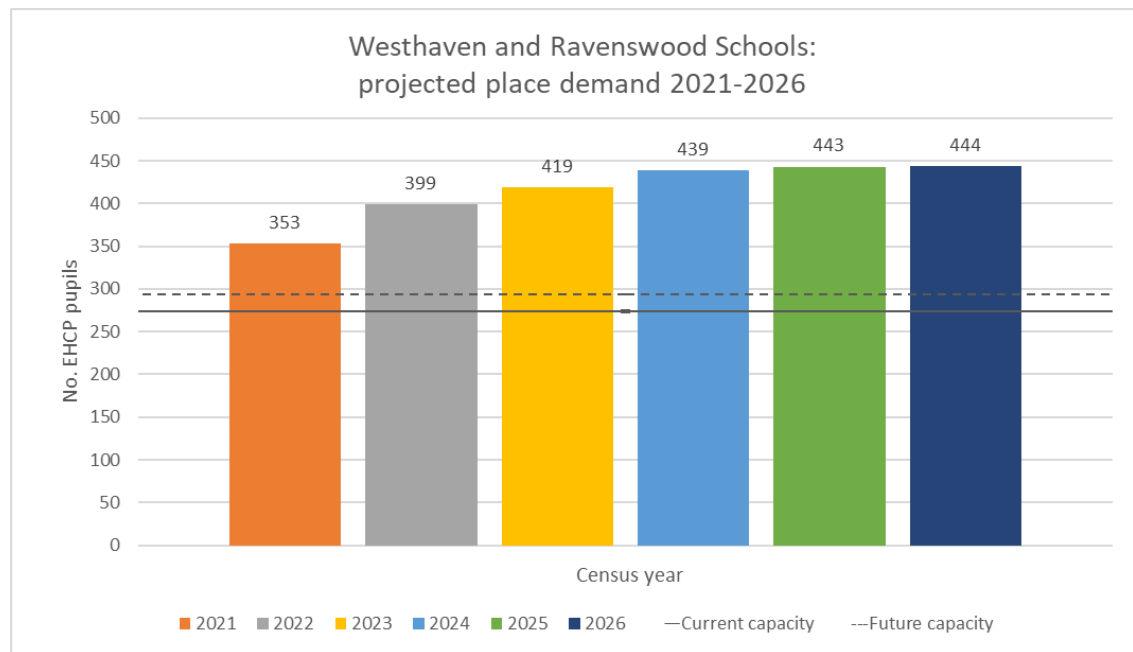


**Baytree School**

Current capacity: 72 students

Future capacity: 160 students

The school is currently full, and demand is already exceeding capacity. Demand in 2021 is expected to be twice the capacity of the current school and remain there (on average) over the next several years.



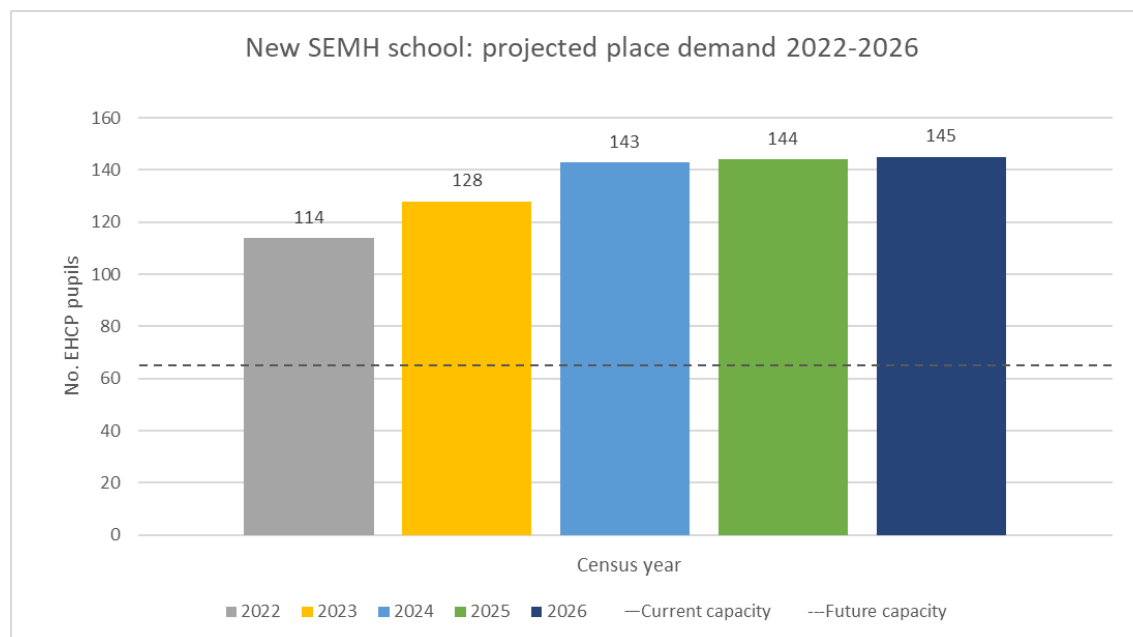
## Westhaven and Ravenswood Schools

Current combined capacity: 268 - 275 students

Future combined capacity: 290 - 296 students

The projected demand for both schools is shown together, as there is currently no significant difference between the primary needs identified for the students attending each school.

Both schools are currently full, and demand already exceeds capacity. Demand in 2021 is expected to exceed capacity by 78 places and increase to approximately 89 places in excess of capacity by 2026.

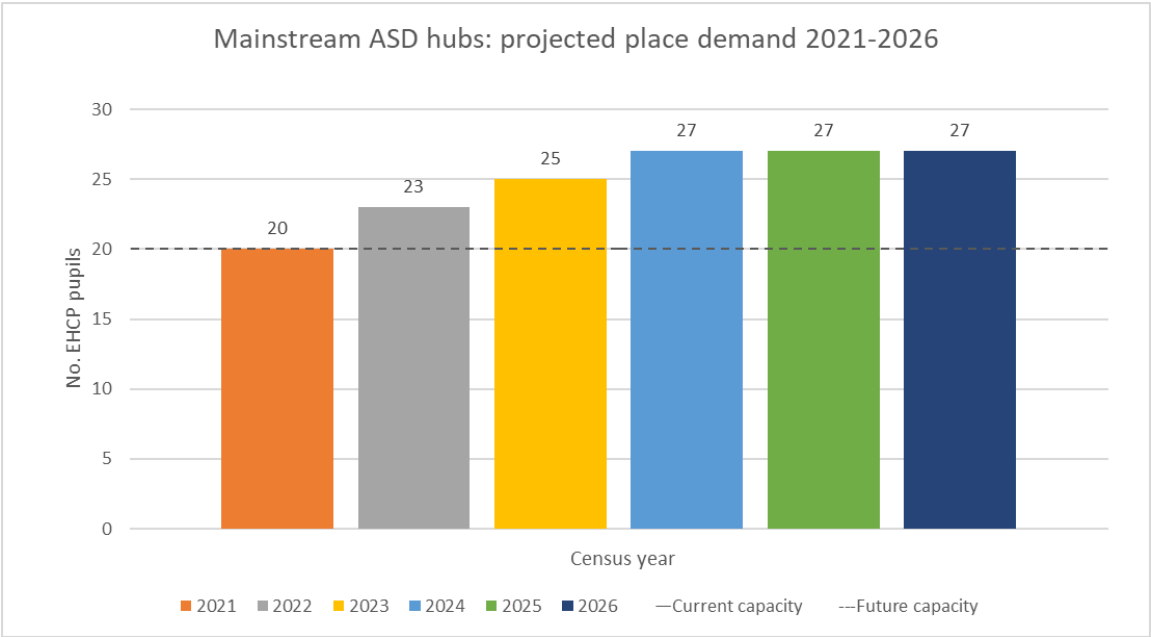


## New SEMH school (to open in 2022)

Future capacity: 65 students

Demand for places at special schools for students with social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH) has been high for the last few census years and is rising faster than any other need category. Much of the projected increase in the EHCP cohort through 2026 is expected to be due to students with this category of need.

Demand for places at North Somerset’s new SEMH school is expected to exceed capacity at opening by approximately 49 places and increase to approximately 80 places in excess of capacity by 2026.



**Mainstream ASD hubs**

Current capacity: 10 secondary pupils at the Nailsea hub

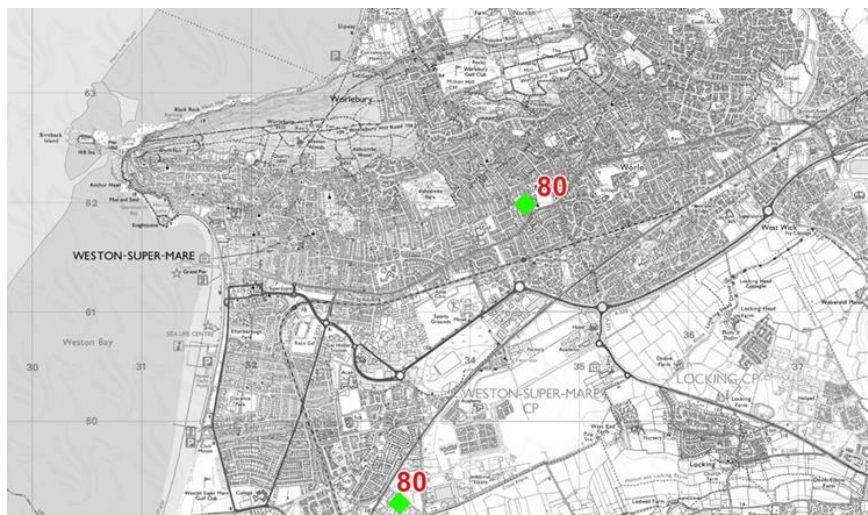
Future capacity: 20 pupils (10 secondary at Nailsea and 10 primary at Mendip Green)

**Castle Batch and Mendip Green Resource Bases**

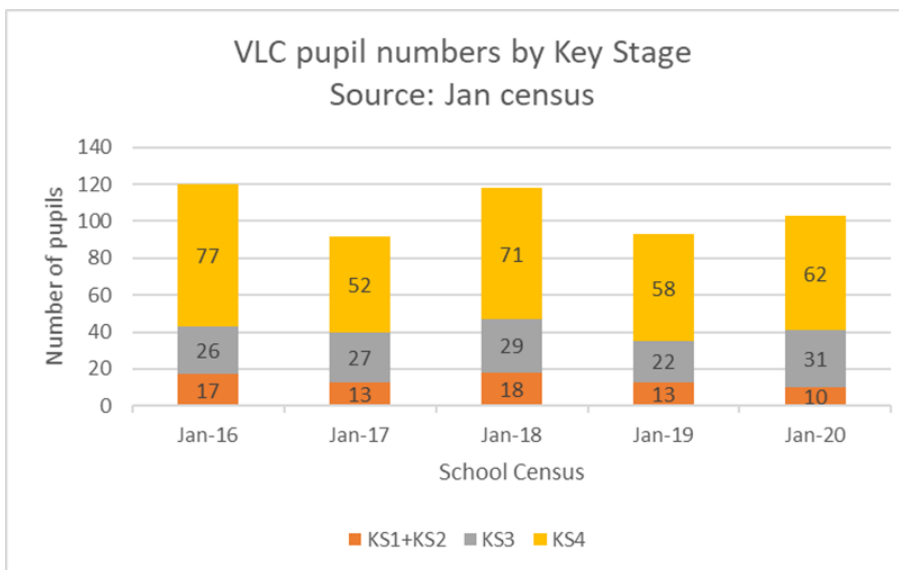
These Resource Bases provide 20 Speech and Language places at Castle Batch and 11 Hearing and Language places at Mendip Green. It is not anticipated that the need in these specialist areas will particularly grow over the next few years, so the provision is deemed to be sufficient.



# Pupil Referral Unit



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Page 245  
Map Ref

Map Ref	School	MAT	Type of Establishment (name)	Latest Ofsted inspection	Age Range	School Capacity	% full Trend	Annual transport costs	Expansion feasible?
80	<a href="#">Voyage Learning Campus (AP)</a>	Maintained	Pupil referral unit	10-01-2017 GOOD	4-16	80	126% Demand is above the capacity of the school	£146,594	The VLC is set across two sites. A new demountable building is being added to the VLCs site in Milton, Weston-super-Mare <b>and will be available from July 2021</b> . The Oldmixon site in Weston-super-Mare is leased.

**Action Plans Detailed By Cluster ~ 2018 – 2021 and 2021 - 2024**

**Backwell Clusters– 2018-2021 actions review**

	Action	Outcome and RAG rating
1	Backwell (Long Ashton) - To complete the increase in provision at Flax Bourton C of E Primary from 105 to 210 places for the September 2019 intake	Completed to time and budget
2	Backwell (Yatton) To progress the creation of a new 210-place primary school at North End, Yatton.  The school will be designed to enable its expansion to a 420-place establishment if/as demand dictates. The Presumption Route Expression of Interest (EOI) suggested an opening date of September 2020	New sponsor confirmed as Clevedon Learning Trust. School building project <u>is complete and, following the granting of in-progress and new school should open, subject to</u> a Funding Agreement, <u>the school will open</u> in September 2021 (a year later than originally planned due to a later start on site following the need to meet conditions as part of the planning approval).
3	To formally review the need for new secondary places across the cluster that may include an expansion of Backwell School or an option to open a new secondary school within another newly created secondary-school cluster area in in the centre of North Somerset if there is enough demand	Not needed in 2018 -21 period. To carry forward to the 2021-2024 Commissioning Strategy
4	To keep primary place provision under review considering the national decrease in new birth verses demand from new residential developments	Not needed in 2018-21 period. To carry forward to the 2021-2024 Commissioning Strategy
5	To work with Backwell School to formally review its FGA area considering new housing villages if developed and if required	Not needed in 2018-21 period. To keep under review as part of the Local Plan developments.

**Backwell Clusters – 2021-2024 actions**

	Action	Deadline for delivery	Progress to date	Overall RAG assessment and success measures
1	Backwell (Yatton) - To open Chestnut Park Primary in Yatton.	1 September 2021	CLT appointed as the school sponsor School buildings <u>are due to</u>	School opens in September 2021 to Reception-aged pupils

			<del>be</del> <u>re</u> <del>com</del> <u>pleted</u> <del>by</del> <u>in</u> <del>January</del> 2021	
2	To work with the Lighthouse Schools Partnership and Yatton Infant and Junior Schools to review demand for places in this part of the village. This may include a reduction in each school's Planned Admissions Number (PAN) to reflect a decline in pupil numbers in this part of the village	September 2023	Awaiting approval of this plan	There are around 5% of surplus places, but each school retains its ability to increase/ <del>decrease</del> its PAN in response to <del>an</del> <u>increase</u> <del>changes</del> in local demand as required
3	To work with the Lighthouse Schools Partnership and West Leigh Infant and Backwell Junior Schools to review demand for places in the village. This may include a reduction on each school's Planned Admissions Number (PAN) to reflect a decline in pupil numbers in this part of the village if new developments are not forthcoming	September 2023	Awaiting approval of this plan	There are around 5% of surplus places, but each school retains its ability to increase/ <del>decrease</del> its PAN in response to <del>an</del> <u>increase</u> <del>changes</del> in local demand as required
4	To review the need for breach secondary places if local demand exceeds supply due to new housing as part of the Local Plan outcomes	Ongoing	Ongoing	All young people living in the Backwell FGA area can be offered a place at bulk Year 7 entry point each year.
5	To formally assess the need for a new secondary school in/close to Yatton and create a new secondary-school cluster in the centre of North Somerset. This may include the allocation in the next Local Plan of a site. Any competition for a sponsor for this new school and funding to progress a new school building would take place outside the life of this plan as demand dictates  To formally review the need for new secondary places across the cluster that may or may not include an expansion of Backwell Secondary School if options to create a new secondary school within another newly created secondary- school cluster are not progressed.	Site to be identified by September 2022	Awaiting approval of this plan	A new site is identified in this physical cluster area in the new Local Plan.  All young people living in new housing created within the existing Backwell and Churchill clusters can have local places offered at the Bulk Year 7 entry point each year.
6	To consider the implications of the new Local Plan (once agreed) on this cluster	Ongoing		To ensure that if new housing growth is agreed, the correct infrastructure for school and early years places is available

## Churchill Clusters– 2018-2021 actions review

	Action	Outcome and RAG rating
1	Churchill (South) To look to progress an increase in provision at Sandford Primary School from a 140 to a 210-place school to meet new demand from developments in Sandford	Not required in 2018-21 period as a planning appeal for a developer was unsuccessful and excess demand from new housing has not materialised.
2	To keep the demand for schools in villages with significant surplus places in the cluster under review and work to remove these if appropriate	Revised PAN for St Andrew's C of E Primary published by 15 March 2019 and agreed in April 2019. In place from September 2019.
3	To review place demand for Churchill C of E Primary School and Winscombe Primary Schools considering new housing developments in these villages	Not needed in 2018-21 period. To carry forward to the 2021-2024 Commissioning Strategy
4	To formally review the need for new secondary places across the cluster that may include an expansion of Churchill Academy and Sixth Form or options to open a new secondary school within another newly created secondary- school cluster area in the centre of North Somerset if there is enough demand	Not needed in 2018-21 period. To carry forward to the 2021-2024 Commissioning Strategy
5	To incorporate the Mendip Springs and wider West of England plans into secondary place planning across the Churchill Cluster	The Joint Area Review Plans were rejected at appeal. Any new provision will form of the new Local Plan, currently under review.

## Churchill Clusters – 2021-2024 actions

	Action	Deadline for delivery	Progress to date	Overall RAG assessment and success measures
1	To keep the demand for schools in villages with significant surplus places in the cluster under review and work to remove these if appropriate	Ongoing		Financially and educationally viable schools in this cluster by 2024
2	To continue to keep under review place demand for Churchill C of E Primary School, Sandford Primary and Winscombe Primary Schools considering new housing developments in these villages	Ongoing		To undertake school expansions if and as required
3	To formally assess the need for a new secondary school in or close to Yatton and create a new secondary-school cluster in the centre of North Somerset. This may include the allocation in the			All young people living in new housing created within the existing Backwell and

	<p>next Local Plan of a site. Any competition for a sponsor for this new school and funding to progress a new school building would take place outside the life of this plan as demand dictates</p> <p>To formally review the need for new secondary places across the cluster that may or may not include an expansion of Churchill Academy and Sixth Form if options to create a new secondary school within another newly created secondary- school cluster are not progressed.</p>			Churchill clusters can have local places offered at the Bulk Year 7 entry point each year.
4	To consider the implications of the new Local Plan (once agreed) on this cluster	Ongoing		To ensure that if new housing areas are agreed, the correct infrastructure for school and early years places is available

### Clevedon Cluster– 2018-2021 actions review

	Action	Outcome and RAG rating
1	Following the completion of building upgrades at All Saints East Clevedon C of E Primary School, to change the school's PAN from 17 to 20 as part of the 2019/20 school admissions consultations	Completed to time and budget
2	To look to progress the increase in provision at Yeo Moor School and St John the Evangelist Primary School if demand due to new housing in the area requires this.	Not required in 2018-21 period.
3	To review the PANs of primary schools in the town if the projections continue to show over-capacity and schools have a consistent surplus of places	Not needed in 2018-21 period. To carry forward to the 2021-2024 Commissioning Strategy
4	To review the need for breach secondary places if local demand exceeds supply	Not needed in 2018-21 period. To carry forward to the 2021-2024 Commissioning Strategy



## Clevedon Cluster – 2021-2024 actions

	Action	Deadline for delivery	Progress to date	Overall RAG assessment and success measures
1	To review the PANs of primary schools in the town if the projections continue to show over-capacity and schools have a consistent surplus of places	Ongoing		Financially and educationally viable schools in this cluster by 2024
2	To review the need for breach secondary places if local demand exceeds supply	Ongoing		All young people living in the Clevedon FGA area able to be offered a place at bulk Year 7 entry point each year.
3	To work with the Clevedon Learning Trust to review the net capacity of the Clevedon School site	September 2022	An NCA review has been initiated by the CLT	All young people living in the Clevedon FGA area able to be offered a place at bulk Year 7 entry point each year.
4	To consider the implications of the new Local Plan (once agreed) on this cluster	Ongoing		To ensure that if new housing growth is agreed, the correct infrastructure for school and early years places is available

## Portishead Cluster– 2018-2021 actions review

	Action	Outcome and RAG rating
1	To review reception-aged demand, especially for the 2019 intake, where demand may or may not exceed place availability	Demand not sufficiently over capacity to support increase at this stage
2	Following significant Council investment, to support Gordano School to admit 336 pupils per cohort incrementally from September 2018 onwards	Building work complete and RSC approval gained for the increase in provision. Higher PAN is in place and operating, alongside a breach class for 2019
3	To work with Gordano and St Katherine's Schools to determine solutions for a possible deficit of secondary places in Portishead during and after the life of this plan if required	Breach classes were put in place for 2019 <u>and 2021</u> . <del>There are ongoing discussions in relation to the 2021 intake.</del> Any excess allocations if a breach is needed and cannot be secured will need to be at a range of other local schools
4	New action – to support St Joseph's RC Primary in the creation of a governor-led early Years nursery on their school site	Planning permission has been granted and building works <u>are complete</u> <del>commenced</del> . The

nursery should open to children in September 2021

### Portishead Cluster – 2021-2024 actions

	Action	Deadline for delivery	Progress to date	Overall RAG assessment and success measures
1	To work with the Gordano School, the Lighthouse Schools Partnership and, if necessary, other local schools to review a potential deficit of Y7 places in 2021 and 2022 as the peak of pupils from the new housing developments in Portishead works through the local school population	September 2021 and September 2022	Conversations with the school and LSP are ongoing	All young people living in the Portishead FGA area able to be offered a place at bulk Year 7 entry point each year and this or another local school
2	To consider the implications of the new Local Plan (once agreed) on this cluster	Ongoing		To ensure that if new housing growth is agreed, the correct infrastructure for school and early years places is available

### Pill Cluster – 2018-2021 actions review

	Action	Outcome and RAG rating
1	To work with Gordano and St Katherine's Schools to determine solutions for the possible deficit of secondary places in Portishead during the life of this plan if required	Demand up to the 2020/21 school year has been met within Portishead. Offers of school places for September 2021 <b>will be were</b> made on 1 March 2021
2	To support St Katherine's School in discussions to review the school's FGA if relevant	St Katherine's continues to serve pupils from Bristol and North Somerset. The projections for the school continue to be stable and strong

### Pill Cluster – 2021-2024 actions

	Action	Deadline for delivery	Progress to date	Overall RAG assessment and success measures
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1	To keep under review demand for YR places in this cluster for the 2021 intake	September 2021		There is a projected surplus of YR places in Portishead for this time. Pupils may need to attend these local schools if demand exceeds supply.
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### Nailsea Cluster– 2018-2021 actions review

	Action	Outcome and RAG rating
1	To consider the expansions of some schools serving the primary population within this cluster if major developments within the town are progressed	Not needed in 2018-21 period. To carry forward to the 2021-2024 Commissioning Strategy
2	To consider new school competitions if new major developments within the town are progressed during the life of this plan	Not needed in 2018-21 period. To carry forward to the 2021-2024 Commissioning Strategy
3	To work with Nailsea School to expand its intake either temporarily or permanently to meet new demographic demands within the town if required	Not needed in 2018-21 period. To carry forward to the 2021-2024 Commissioning Strategy

### Nailsea Cluster – 2021-2024 actions

	Action	Deadline for delivery	Progress to date	Overall RAG assessment and success measures
1	To consider the implications of the new Local Plan (once agreed on this cluster	Ongoing		All young people living in Nailsea can be offered a place at bulk Year R and Year 7 entry point each year

### Weston Clusters – 2018-2021 actions review

	Action	Outcome and RAG rating
1	WsM East - To work with Haywood Village Academy to support the growth of new places across the Haywood Village development area	Complete – the school is full in its open year groups of Years R to 5 and will complete its phased opening to become a 7-year primary school from September 2021
2	WsM East - To support Educate Together who opened a new school – Parklands Educate Together Primary – in temporary accommodation within Locking Parklands in September 2018	Complete – the school moved into its permanent buildings in August 2020



3	WsM East - To work with Educate Together to deliver their permanent school buildings by September 2019	Following a further year delay due to complexities on site with the local housing developer, the new school was handed over to Educate Together in August 2020
4	WsM East - To determine when to progress the creation of a new 630-place primary school (no.3) in the Weston East cluster	Not needed in 2018-21 period. To carry forward to the 2021-2024 Commissioning Strategy
5	WsM Central - To note the need for a new Weston Central Primary School, required after the life of this plan	Not needed in 2018-21 period. To carry forward to the 2021-2024 Commissioning Strategy
6	WsM East and WsM South - To review the need for extra provision at St Anne's Church Academy (West Wick – East), Oldmixon and Uphill Primary Schools (South) to meet demand if required	Not needed in 2018-21 period. To carry forward to the 2021-2024 Commissioning Strategy
7	To review the demand for school places in the Weston Central and Weston North clusters to ensure these clusters reflect the needs of their local pupil populations	A reduction of PAN for St Martin's C of E Primary School from September 2020 onwards formed part of this academy's admissions consultation
Page 253	To determine and commence (funding permitting) delivery options for increased secondary provision in Weston super Mare from 2021 onwards should the Homes Infrastructure Bid (HIF) bid be successful; or 8b below	The HIF bid was successful. Working with the Cabot Learning Federation (CLF), the RSC supported an expansion of Winterstoke Hundred Academy to operate over 2 sites and secure c 900 <u>of these new</u> places on the <u>new</u> Parklands site. The Council is working on the delivery of this project by September 2023/ <u>March 2024</u>
8b	To determine and commence (funding permitting) delivery options for increased secondary provision in Weston super Mare from 2021 onwards, dependent on securing enough basic need and s106 contributions	See 8a above
9	To complete a 300 - place expansion with Priory Community School Academy Trust by late autumn 2018	Complete. The Priory Learning Trust (PLT) received RSC approval for the increase in provision and the higher PAN are in place formally from September 2019.
10	To work with good and outstanding secondary schools in the cluster to consider 'breach' school places if and as necessary	The PLT school also agreed to a breach class of an additional 30 pupils in 2019 into Y7 (330

		overall) at Priory Community School Academy to assist the LA in meeting demand following a decision to close the North Somerset Enterprise and Technology College and defer the opening of Winterstoke Hundred Academy (see 11 below) until September 2020
11	New entry – to work with the RSCs office to secure a new sponsor for the North Somerset Enterprise and Technology College that closed in July 2018 to new pupils and in 2019 to all students.	The CLF was awarded sponsorship for a new 11 – 19 school in 2019 that opened in September 2020. The school will grow incrementally starting with Years 7 and 12 intakes

### Weston Clusters – 2021-2024 actions

	Action	Deadline for delivery	Progress to date	Overall RAG assessment and success measures
1	WsM Central and North - To continue to review the demand for school places in the Weston Central and Weston North primary clusters to ensure these clusters reflect the needs of their local pupil populations	Ongoing	Ongoing	Reductions in PANs are progressed at those schools where demand continues to decline due a reduction in new births in these areas
2	WsM East - To determine when to progress the creation of a new 630-place primary school (no.3) in the Weston East cluster	By September 2024 at the latest	Discussions with the developer are ongoing	Pupils moving into new homes can attend a local primary school
3	WsM Central - To review the need and date of opening of a new Weston Central Primary School if housing developments in the town are progressed	Ongoing	Discussions with the developer are ongoing	Pupils moving into new homes can attend a local primary school
4	WsM East and WsM South - To review the need for extra provision at St Anne's Church Academy (West Wick – East), Oldmixon and Uphill Primary Schools (South) to meet demand if required	Ongoing		Pupils moving into new homes can attend a local primary school
5	To progress the delivery of the expansion of Winterstoke Hundred Academy so the new site can open to pupils from September 2022 or 2023	Ongoing	The school sponsor is engaged in the delivery of the new site and work to submit a	Pupils moving into new homes can attend a local secondary school

			planning application and procure a building contractor is progressing according to the overall timescales for delivery	
6	To encourage local MATs to review their 'catchment' areas for WsM secondary schools now that Winterstoke Hundred Academy has opened to students	By the September 2023 intake	School have been asked to undertake reviews	School FGAs reflect the recent demographic and new site changes
7	To consider the implications of the new Local Plan (once agreed) on this cluster	Ongoing		To ensure that if new housing growth is agreed, the correct infrastructure for school and early years places is available

### Catholic Cluster– 2018-2021 actions review

Age	Action	Outcome and RAG rating
1-255	To work with Catholic school if they feel demand from the Catholic community exceeds the supply of places	<p>There are enough places for Catholic families seeking a church primary school in North Somerset</p> <p>Secondary aged pupils wanting to attend a Catholic faith school will often attend St Bede's Secondary School in Bristol</p>

### Catholic Cluster – 2021-2024 actions

	Action	Deadline for delivery	Progress to date	Overall RAG assessment and success measures
1	To work with Catholic school if they feel demand from the Catholic community exceeds the supply of places			That Catholic Schools are successful in applying for external funding or can open new schools in line with national opportunities

## SEND Cluster– 2018-2021 actions review

	Action	Outcome and RAG rating
	1 To submit the Council's LJAR Action Plan to Ofsted	Complete
	2 To complete the Council's review of SEND/AP provision across North Somerset to inform future delivery options	Initial phase complete. This work is ongoing.
Page 256	3 The relocation and expansion of Baytree Special School to a new site by September 2021 to meet the current and future demand for pupils with Severe and Profound Learning Difficulties (funding and planning permissions permitting)	Planning permission has been granted, subject to <del>SoS review and</del> planning conditions being met. The latter outstanding actions are in progress. <u>The SoS has agreed that planning can be determined locally.</u> A recent TVG application was unsuccessful. Council <del>will consider a granted</del> an award of contract and allocation of budget proposals in February 2021 if external decisions allow
	The endorsement or progression of plans for new provision to meet increased; Complex and/or Complex and Severe Learning Difficulties/Mental Health Support.  A new SEMH school will be the focus of the Council's Wave 13 Specialist and AP Free School submission	Wave 13 Free School Bid made and successful  DfE/LA sponsor interviews took place in January 2020 and Learn@MAT were appointed sponsor in July 2020. Working with the DfE to deliver their project with the new school to open in September 2023
	5a To endorse a Free School bid for the delivery of Alternative Provision support and/or a new special school; or to progress future Alternative Provision delivery options at existing schools as determined following the conclusions of the Council's review of SEND/AP provision across North Somerset	A 10-place secondary-aged Resource Base for High-Functioning pupils with autism at Nailsea School was approved, following consultation, by RSC and opened to pupils in September 2020.  Building changes were also in place by this date.
	5b To endorse a Free School bid for the delivery of Alternative Provision support and/or a new special school; or to progress future Alternative Provision delivery options at existing schools as determined following the conclusions of the Council's review of SEND/AP provision across North Somerset	Consultations for a 10-place primary-aged Resource Base for High-Functioning pupils with autism at Mendip Green Primary commenced in October 2020 and was approved by the

		RSCs office in January 2021. The base should open in September 2021
6	<p>To support the provision of foundation-stage education on the Westhaven Special School site.</p> <p>NEW ACTION:</p> <p>To support the school's proposal for the provision of 6<sup>th</sup>-form education on the Westhaven Special School site.</p> <p>To adjust the schools Place Value numbers to reflect the inclusion of accommodation previously used by the VLC</p>	<p>Consultations were successful and the first Infant-aged pupils were admitted to Westhaven in September 2019. Planning permission for new buildings were agreed, and these opened in September 2020. The Executive also approved the school's expansion to cover the education of students aged 16 – 19. From September 2020 the school is now a 4 – 19 special school with a Place Value of 156.</p>
7	To support the creation of a short-stay residential unit/unit for independent training on Special School sites as appropriate/funding permits	Not progressed due to a lack of funding. To carry forward to the 2021-2024 Commissioning Strategy
Page 257	To oversee the addition of specialist provision in new/existing mainstream schools as funds permit to meet the defined needs of SEND pupils attending mainstream provision	Not progressed due to a lack of funding. To carry forward to the 2021-2024 Commissioning Strategy
9	To strengthen the remit and decision-making authority of the Out of School Panel	A new methodology and allocation matrix is being used and is making good progress
10	To review top-up funding (TUF) and measure the effectiveness of its use by schools	<p>Ongoing. New criteria have been produced for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 academic years.</p> <p>Guidance has been shared with schools.</p> <p>Funding changes were implemented in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 school budget arrangements.</p> <p>TUF was also under further review for the 2020/21 school year.</p>

11	To develop and implement and Alternative Provision Charter and Protocol to be followed by all schools and partners in North Somerset (Fair Access Protocol)	Protocol in place
12	To provide clarity around the role and remit of the Tuition Service	This is ongoing
13a	To refocus the role of the Voyage Learning Campus and secure agreements to reintegrate pupils from the VLC back into mainstream settings as soon as possible and as appropriate	Progress is being made. More mainstream schools, however, need to be prepared to accept students.  A review of the 3 VLC sites was undertaken and the schools, from February 2020, now operates across 2 sites
13b	New entry – to deliver a double-demountable building onto the VLC site in Milton to help meet extra demand for pupil referral places	Planning permission was granted in August 2020 and the new building <u>was on site is expected to be on site and operational by Easter 2021 in May 2021 to be operational by July 2021.</u>
15a	To consider the creation of a short-term provision to meet the needs of those pupils unable to attend mainstream school, either full or part-time	Not progressed due to a lack of funding. To carry forward to the 2021-2024 Commissioning Strategy
15b	To develop a Commissioning Plan for Alternative Provision	Not progressed due to a lack of funding. To carry forward to the 2021-2024 Commissioning Strategy
16	To develop support for providers and resources to enable schools to work together to meet the needs of pupils in relation to behavioural needs and trauma attachment support	SSF supported a transfer of funding from the Schools to the High Needs Block. Regrettably this was not validated by the DfE. Continued work is being done to try and Progress a solution for this
17	Work with all establishments offering or capable of offering post – 16 provisions across North Somerset to ensure the most effective outcomes for young people aged 16 - 25	Not progressed due to a lack of funding. To carry forward to the 2021-2024 Commissioning Strategy
18	To support the Integrated Transport Unit (ITU) in their review and implementation of any changes to Home to School Transport arrangements, especially for pupils with SEND	The ITU continue to work with parents and schools to deliver sustainable and affordable home to school transport options. To-date the demand for HTST exceeds the available budget
19	To deliver extra accommodation at Baytree Special School to facilitate extra admissions in September 2018	Complete – permanent extra facilities were delivered



20	New entry – to deliver an expansion of Ravenswood Special School from c 112-119 places c 134 - 140 places by September 2021	A consultation to expand the school commenced in November 2020 and <u>was approved by the Executive on 28</u> a decision is expected by April 2021

## SEND Cluster – 2021-2024 actions

	Action	Deadline for delivery	Progress to date	Overall RAG assessment and success measures	
Page 259	1	To deliver the expanded Baytree School in Clevedon for 65 pupils. The site has a built-in capacity to expand to 85 places when required	September 2023	Planning approval has been granted, subject to SoS approval, certain planning conditions being met. To-date there are no JR inquiries	All possible procedures have been correctly followed. External influences will dictate next steps
		Subject to 1 above, to review the capacity of the current Baytree site to secure extra places. The site could accommodate around 75 extra ambulant pupils with PSLD	September 2024		The site could accommodate around 75 extra ambulant pupils with PSLD
	3	To deliver c 28 extra places at Ravenswood, subject to consultation, by expanding the school permanently into parts of the now-redundant VLC site in Nailsea	September 2021	Consultations to commence in November 2020	The school expansion will be approved by the Executive in April 2021 and extra pupils admitted from September 2021
	4	To review the uses of the now vacant VLC site in Nailsea. In the future it could have other uses (see Action 10 below)	September 2022	Discussions with the DfE are ongoing	Some SEMH provision in North Somerset on a temporary site from September 2022
	5	To work with the DfE who plan to deliver the SEMH Learn@MAT school for 65 learners at Churchill to open in September 2023	September 2023	Work with the DfE and Learn@MAT is progressing	Learn@MAT can open their permanent site for SEMH provision in North Somerset in September 2023

			according to the DfEs timetable	
6	<p>Review the need for more places for pupils with MLD. This could include the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new site and 65-place school – location to be agreed</li> <li>• A land swap with an existing school if primary demand were to continue to reduce and the creation of new schools in areas of residential growth could be progressed (caveats permitting).</li> <li>• A further expansion of Ravenswood School onto the VLC's vacant land in Nailsea</li> </ul>	September 2024, subject to funding		More pupils can be offered MLD school places locally and the reliance on out-of-district placements is reduced
7	To deliver the ASD primary-aged hub at Mendip Green Primary, to open in September 2021	September 2021	A consultation to create the hub commenced in October 2020 and was approved by the local RSC's office in January 2021. Site alterations are progressing to be in place by September 2021.	The Resource Base opens to primary-aged pupils in September 2021
8	To review the success of the ASD hubs at Nailsea School and Mendip Green with an option to create an ASD hub for primary and secondary provision in vacant classrooms across every cluster over the next 10 years	Ongoing, subject to funding and by 2030	One of the two new hubs is operational	Schools offer their vacant accommodation and there are ASD Resources Bases in every cluster
9	To look at the provision of facilities at the VLC with an option to seek out funding for the co-location of facilities onto a new single site in or close to Weston super Mare, funding permitting	September 2024	None to date	The school can move to a new single site from September 2024
10	The creation of Behavioral Hubs in vacant classrooms across every cluster over the next 10 years	Subject to funding	Funding permitting	There are Behavioural Resources Bases in every cluster

Page 260



11	<p>To review the use of the vacant VLC site at Nailsea. This could include options such as shown below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all or parts of the site could be transferred to the ownership of Ravenswood to enable the school to expand to accommodate extra pupils – up to 200+. There is excess demand for more MLD places across North Somerset.</li> <li>• the site could be developed to create options for the potential development of residential units/assisted living for young adults aged 19 – 25 as part of their transition from teenage years into adulthood. This could include a transition unit attached to Ravenswood School so that students could be supported whilst at school.</li> <li>• the site could be used to support the creation of an on-site Children’s Home for TBA pupils aged 8? – 19. Traditionally the view has been that the incidence of needs has been too low to efficiently provide for residential provision locally, but the current spends, and placement figures suggest that this position may be changing.</li> <li>• <u>the land could be used to create a new small Residential School and an expansion of Ravenswood. A new entrance for Ravenswood could utilize 50% of the site, with opportunities for the remaining 50% to be agreed.</u></li> <li>• <u>The land could be developed to support a new provision for young people with anxiety as a transition from mainstream to specialist placements or as a short-term offer before returning to mainstream settings</u></li> <li>• The land could be made available to a local partner provider and NSC commission places as required</li> </ul>	Subject to funding	Funding permitting	More pupils can be offered local SEND places and the reliance on out-of-district placements is reduced
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## Appendix 2

### Draft Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy 2021 – 2024

#### SEND Priorities

#### 1. Background

1.1 The Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy provides a summary of the relevant legislation and the roles and responsibilities of the Council, together with links to the Council's Corporate Plan and the People & Communities Directorate Plan. The Council's vision is to provide places for learning that provide opportunities appropriate to the needs of all members of the school and early years community.

1.2 North Somerset works to the principles that children are best supported when they live with their families and that all should expect a good/outstanding quality of education. Education should be based around the needs of the child, and where this can and should be supported within mainstream education, this ought to be the case. Many children and young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities are educated in mainstream settings. Others require specialist facilities only available in Special Schools or other forms of alternative provision. All pupils' needs are different. Some may require specialist support due to their different needs such as:

- Communication and Interaction - Children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) have difficulty in communicating with others. This may be because they have difficulty saying what they want to, understanding what is being said to them or they do not understand or use social rules of communication. The profile for every child with SLCN is different and their needs may change over time. They may have difficulty with one, some or all of the different aspects of speech, language or social communication at different times of their lives.

Children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), are likely to have particular difficulties with social interaction. They may also experience difficulties with language, communication and imagination, which can impact on how they relate to others.

- Cognition and Learning - Support for learning difficulties may be required when children and young people learn at a slower pace than their peers, even with appropriate differentiation. Learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs, including moderate learning difficulties (MLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD), where children are likely to need support in all areas of the curriculum and associated difficulties with mobility and communication, through to profound and multiple learning difficulties

(PMLD), where children are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment.

Specific learning difficulties (SPLD), affect one or more specific aspects of learning. This encompasses a range of conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.

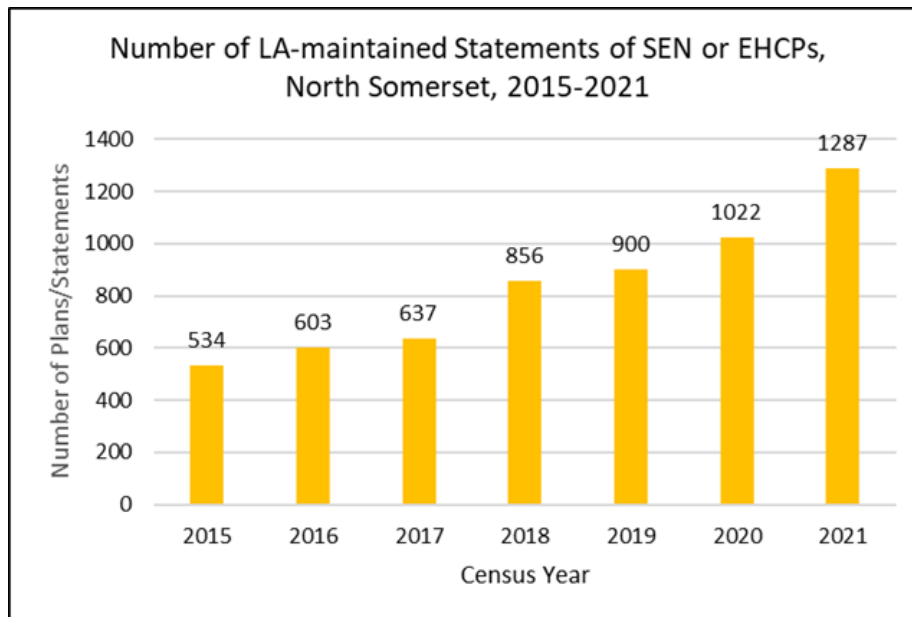
- Social Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties (SEMH) - Children and young people may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves in many ways. These may include becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as displaying challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. These behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harming, substance misuse, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained. Other children and young people may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder.
- Sensory and/or physical needs - Some children and young people require special educational provision because they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided. These difficulties can be age related and may fluctuate over time. Many children and young people with vision impairment (VI), hearing impairment (HI) or a multi-sensory impairment (MSI) will require specialist support and/or equipment to access their learning, or habilitation support. Children and young people with an MSI have a combination of vision and hearing difficulties

1.3 The Education Provision in North Somerset - A Commissioning Strategy~ 2018 – 2021 set out the delivery plans for SEND between 2018 – 2021 as below:

- To secure a 2nd site for Baytree Special School, increasing places for pupils with Profound and Severe Learning Difficulties from 72 to 120 places by the 2021/22 school year -
  - *The school will now cost in the region of £14.6m (£1m approved plus £13.6 provisionally added to the P&C 2021/22 Capital Programme ~~to be considered~~ by Council in February 2021), to be open by September 2023. The school will have the capacity to grow to c150 - 160 places as required over its 2 sites.*
  - *The planning application ~~was has been~~ referred to the SoS for Homes, Communities and Local Government (HCLG) as the planning rules require Council's to do so if they propose to allow major development in the Green Belt or when there is an objection from the Environment Agency (EA) and the site is in a flood risk area. The SoS ~~can either~~ decided d not to intervene and leave it to the Council to decide the application ~~or alternatively he can call a public inquiry. If he does that the application will not be decided until after the public inquiry. The latter takes around a year.~~*

- To expand Westhaven Special School to accommodate 18 infant-aged and 10 post-16 pupils by September 2020 ~ *complete*. *This statutory change also facilitated the increase of an additional places following a site review that incorporated buildings previously used by another setting. The school now has a Place Value of 156.*
- To create a 10-place primary phase High-Functioning Autism Resource Base at Mendip Green Primary School to open in September 2021 ~ *following a supportive consultation, a request for approval was approved by the South West Headteachers Board in January 2021 as part of the approval process within the Regional Schools' Commissioner's office (RSC)*
- To create a 10-place secondary phase High-Functioning Autism Resource Base at Nailsea Secondary school to open in September 2020 ~ *complete*
- To deliver breach admissions to the maximum levels allowed by legislation/can be accommodated on site without going against health and safety advice ~ *ongoing with breach admissions at Westhaven, Baytree and Ravenswood schools in 2020 and 2021*
- Work with the DfE to deliver a 65-place SEMH School in Churchill by September 2021 (funding and timescales with the DfE/ESFA) ~ *Learn @MAT was announced as the sponsor in July 2020 and the DfE are progressing the design stage of the build, to be available from September 2023*
- To deliver extra accommodation at the VLC site in Milton to meet the needs of pupils requiring specialist intervention support – *a planning application has been approved and it is hoped the building ~~will be~~ was on site by ~~Easter 202~~ May 2021 and should be available for pupils from July 2021*
- New addition – to expand Ravenswood Special School to accommodate an additional c 28 – 38 pupils by September 2021 ~ *a consultation took place in term 2 (2020) and a Public Notice was published in February 2021. ~~A decision to this supported request will be submitted to the~~ The Council's Executive approved the change on 28 in April 2021*

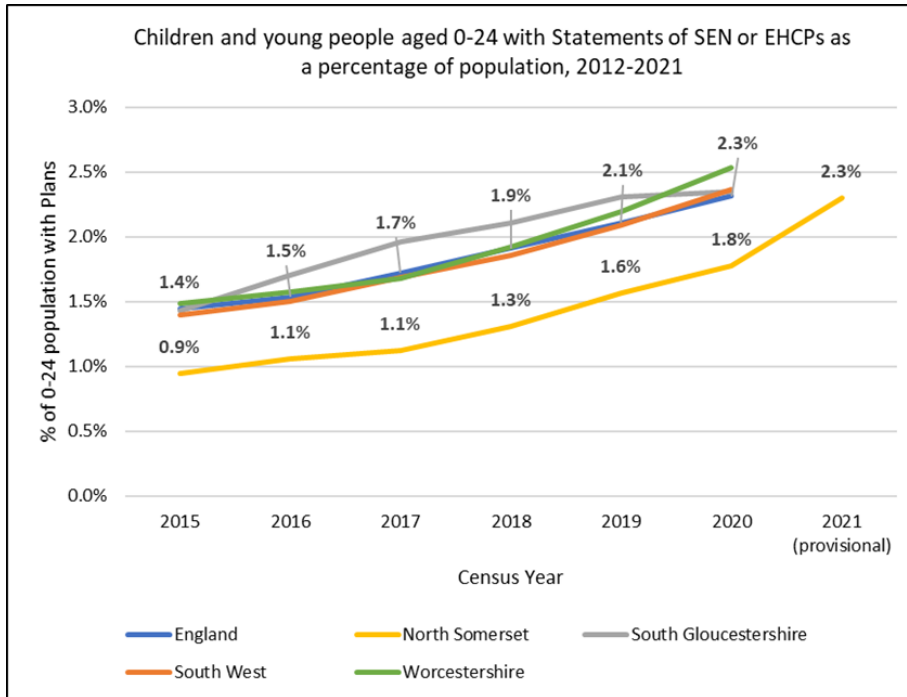
1.4 North Somerset is experiencing an historically high demand for specialist educational provision in its schools. The number of North Somerset children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) has risen from 534 in January 2015 to 1,287~~022~~ in January 2021<sup>19</sup>. This represents an increase of ~~149~~149% over the last five years.



Sources: Department for Education, Education, Health and Care Plans: England 2020 (published 7 May 2020) (underlying data); North Somerset SEN2 census Data obtained from North Somerset Business Intelligence Service (BIS) (provisional data for 2021). Source: Department for Education, Education, Health and Care Plans: England 2020 (published 7 May 2020) (underlying data).

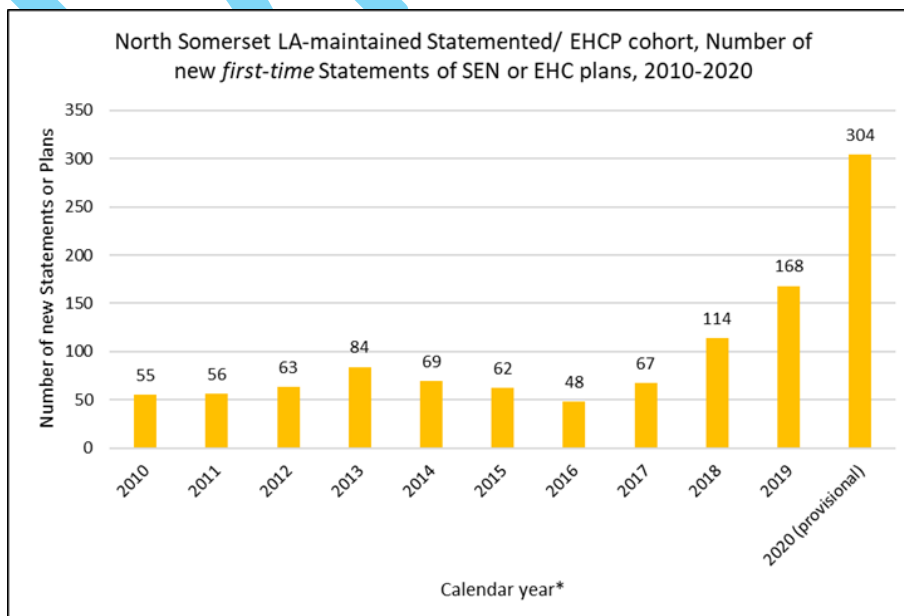
1.5 Historically, North Somerset has been well below national and regional averages in the incidence of EHCPs in the 0-25 population. However, there is a consensus that the authority will start approaching the national average as the volume of EHCP assessments and issued Plans continues to increase.

1.6 The graph below shows the rate of EHCPs in the 0-24 population for national, regional and North Somerset in each census between 2015 and 2021. It is evident that although the incidence of EHCPs in North Somerset has risen at a similar rate to national and regional (+0.2% per year, every year since 2016), it has not yet increased enough to reach the national level. Regardless of whether the national incidence rate continues to climb or begins to level off, absent of a major policy change from Government, North Somerset is extremely likely to continue to face a similar level of increased demand over the next few years.



**Sources:** Department for Education, Education, Health and Care Plans: England 2020 (published 7 May 2020) (underlying data), North Somerset SEN2 census data obtained from BIS (provisional data for 2021), and ONS 2018-based population estimates. Actual percentages are shown for England and North Somerset. **Sources:** Analysis of DfE statistics (Education, Health and Care Plans: England 2020) and ONS population estimates. Actual percentages are shown for England and North Somerset.

1.7 Additionally, the number of children and young people in North Somerset obtaining new first-time EHCPs each year has more than doubled trebled over the last decade. In 2020, with the number poised to ~~hitting~~ hitting an all-time high by the end of 2020, currently at 221-304 as at November 2020 May 2021. In 2019, North Somerset issued 168 for new first-time plans (compared to an average of 63 per year between 2010 and 2017).





Source: Department for Education, Education, Health and Care Plans: England 2020 (published 7 May 2020) (underlying data); North Somerset SEN2 census data obtained from BIS (provisional data for 2021).

\* Data for each calendar year is reported in the following year's SEN2 census (e.g., 2020 data was reported in the January 2021 SEN2 census). Source: ~~ibid~~.

- 1.8 EHCP assessment activity (the total number of assessment cases handled during the calendar year, including refusals and cases pending at year end) has also substantially increased and is not expected to decrease in the near future. In 2015, the SEND Team handled ~~re were~~ a total of 1429 assessment cases processed for EHCPs; by ~~2019~~2020, ~~there were a total of this number~~ had risen to 468-45549 – over three times the 2015 level. The assessment request refusal rate is also falling: from 40.8% in 2017 to ~~26.298.05~~26.298.05% in ~~2019~~2020. Consensus among local area officers is that the refusal rate is likely to remain low as North Somerset approaches the national incidence of Plans in the population.
- 1.9 Conservatively assuming a 0.1% pa increase in the national rate of EHCPs, and assuming that the increase in demand that North Somerset is experiencing is likely to result in it reaching the national rate over the next few years, it is estimated that the number of North Somerset pupils with ECHPs is likely to reach over 1,500 by 2025.
- 1.10 As of Census Day 2020, ~~1~~ only 727% of the ~~1,022-287~~ pupils with EHCPs were educated within North Somerset, with the remaining 355239 young people educated outside the area, receiving alternative provision, or without a school place. It is North Somerset's aspiration to provide 'local schools for local children' by securing appropriate provision for pupils with EHCPs in mainstream and special schools as close to home as possible where practicable.
- 1.11 The table below shows the estimated number of the projected EHCP cohort that are likely to need places in North Somerset schools and out-of-area settings from 202~~19~~20-2026 (based on placement trends observed in ~~the~~ previous ~~five~~ years' SEN2 census data):

### Projected NS EHCP pupil demand by provision

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Current capacity	Potential capacity
Baytree	151	146	139	140	143	72	160
Ravenswood/Westhaven	399	419	439	443	444	268 - 275	290 - 296
New SEMH School	114	128	143	144	145	0	65
NS mainstream hubs – Mendip Green x2/ Castle Batch/Nailsea	23	25	27	27	27	41	51

Secondary							
NS mainstream	233	244	255	256	258		
NS other (AP, EHE)	22	24	24	25	25		
OOO specialist	72	77	80	80	81		
OOO non-specialist	43	47	49	49	49		
NS Post-16 mainstream	224	233	245	246	249		
OOO Post-16 special	47	51	56	56	56		
<b>Total projected EHCP students</b>	<b>1328</b>	<b>1394</b>	<b>1457</b>	<b>1466</b>	<b>1477</b>		

1.12 Against this backdrop of increasing demand, ~~there were numbers of available local places were set at 296 available places~~ across the ~~three~~3 North Somerset Special Schools (excluding our Pupil Referral Unit) as at September 2018. With the changes currently implemented as at September 2020, our three special schools will be admitting c364 pupils (with schools breaching their admissions up to the maximum amount permitted). Nailsea School ~~also~~ opened its Resource Base for an additional 10 pupils in September 2020 ~~too~~.

If the SEMH school is able to open in September 2023, 65 new places will be created. The delivery of a 2<sup>nd</sup> site for Baytree Special School, subject to approval, will provide an additional 48 places overall, although the sites could grow to a maximum capacity of 85 places in Clevedon and 72 in Weston (157 overall), subject to consultations. It may be possible to expand Ravenswood Special School, subject to a review of the site, sufficient capital resources and a successful consultation. A first phase expansion consultation for Ravenswood has just completed and received excellent support.

Delays or refusals to the expansions of Baytree Special School and the new SEMH school would reduce the numbers of new places available locally for pupils with profound or behavioral needs by between 130- 150 learners (when both sites are at full capacity). Demand for placements outside the district will continue to rise if further placements are not be found locally.

1.13 There has been a significant increase in the numbers of pupils with complex social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs. Schools are increasing becoming unable to continue to accommodate many of these children within mainstream settings. As a result, and following a successful Free School bid in 2018, the Council is working with the DfE to deliver a new 65-place SEMH school by, we hope, 2023.



Alongside this new provision there is a need for 'move in, move out' support to assist pupils who require short-term interventions either before being fully integrated back into their mainstream provision, or in preparation for fully specialist support at the SEMH or other settings. The Council will work with the SEMH Sponsor, colleagues at the VLC and with local MATs to ascertain how best to provide for this need locally. One aim could be to have SEMH hubs attached to primary and secondary schools in every school cluster.

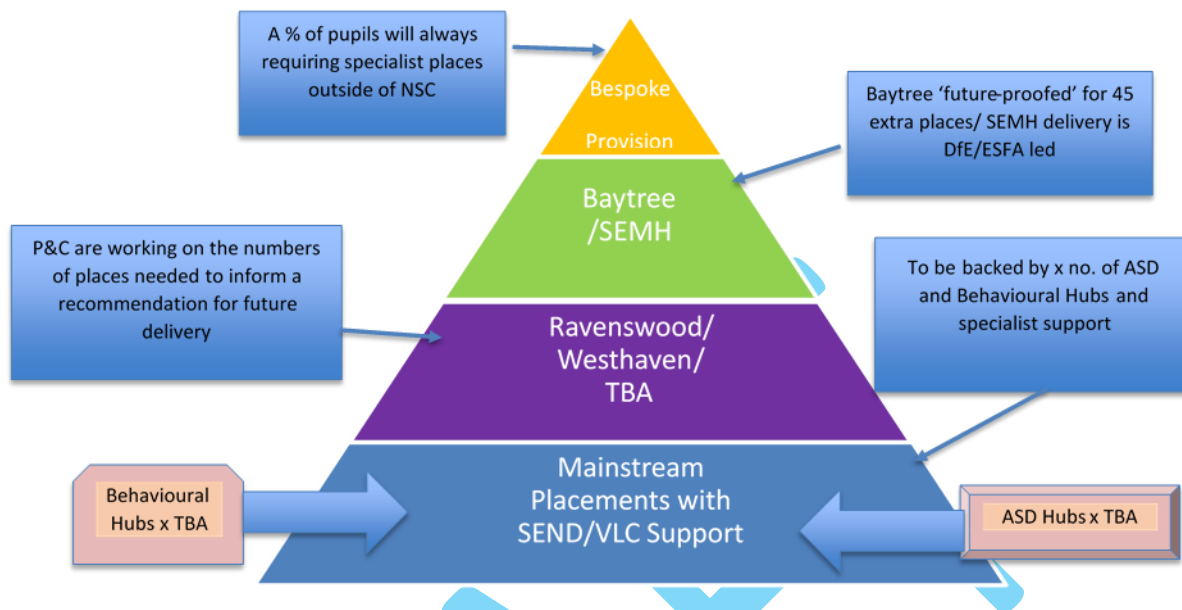
1.14 Covid -19 requirements and the end of a current lease agreement means that a review of the two buildings used by the VLC may now be required. The co-location of buildings to serve the range of support provided by the VLC, which could be expanded to include short term placements for students remaining on roll in mainstream settings, proactive Thrive or SEMH interventions, placements for PEX students, as well as medical tuition across the primary and secondary age-range, would be best provided together in a part of the district where the majority of the students reside. The review should look into the option of a new site with significant co-located indoor and outdoor facilities, noting that this could only be progressed if significant capital funding were to be made available.

1.15 Funding for maintained special schools comes from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). This funding stream is experiencing unprecedented levels of increasing demand, driven by significant increases in the number of children with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) who require specialist provision. In the previous school year 2019/20, this manifested itself, for example, in a 30%+ increase in estimated spending on placements in independent non-maintained special schools. At this stage, the DSG deficit is expected to reach at least -£6.25m by the end of the 2020/21 financial year. Whilst some additional funding has been provided by the Department for Education, it is not expected this will be sufficient to offset increases in demand and the reduction in the amount of funding that will be transferred from the Schools Block of the DSG.

The need for additional local provision is proven, and financial modelling indicates that providing local places in maintained special schools is much more cost effective than provision in independent non-maintained special schools. In addition, it is likely that there will be some transport cost reductions, although the extent of these will be dependent on individual children.

1.16 There is no specific capital funding regularly paid to Local Authorities to create places for pupils with SEND.

1.17 A pyramid of provision is being developed and work to determine exact numbers and locations of all necessary extra facilities is a priority going forward, ready for the consultation and updating of the next Commissioning Strategy. Much of what's needed for SEND pupils will, however, be required before the current plan's expiry in 2021.



1.18 North Somerset held an Inclusion Summit on 30 November 2020 with a focus on provision for North Somerset's most vulnerable children and young people - those with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and those who have been permanently excluded (PEX) from schools. The Summit brought together all the organisations and groups within North Somerset with the resources, power and influence necessary to bring about an improvement in systems and provision to meet the needs of these young people: education, health, police, probation, the Local Authority. It was recognised that these are our children and we all have a shared responsibility for them and that the interest of the child and the family should be placed at the centre of the provision. The Inclusion Summit's ideas will now be taken forward by the Children's Improvement Board and the Education Excellence Partnership Board, where work will continue to develop and strengthen the contributions from different services and groups to develop provision, which is designed to meet the needs of these young people and their families.

The SEND Summit Recommendations were as below:

- i. Develop a stronger approach to multi-agency and cross Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) working
- ii. Develop a stronger system-wide awareness of the implications of childhood trauma for the ration of provision and discussion and debate about the nature of best practice
- iii. Take collective responsibility for the development of new provision focused on data informed patterns of need
- iv. Further clarify and strengthen the Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) process to include communications with parents and the

respective roles and responsibilities of all parties, the writing of realistic and clear plans with and alongside a deepening understanding of the relevant laws and guidance, and what constitutes a reasonable set of expectations

- v. Recognise and prioritise the importance of early intervention
- vi. Take steps to secure greater consistency of commitment to, and provision, for high quality practice in mainstream schools in relation to the needs of the target group
- vii. Secure a stronger formal commitment to the inclusion agenda from all stakeholders
- viii. Create a North Somerset cross—phase community of expert SEND practitioners tasked with the development of best practice, recognition and building on the considerable local expertise that currently exists
- ix. Co-ordinate the work of the Children’s Improvement Board (CIB) and the Education Excellence Partnership Board (EEPB) to ensure this agenda is taken forward with a conscious focus on system leadership and system improvement

1.19 To enable a strategy for SEND for the next ~~10-?~~ years to be formed, the following Principles and Actions could be recommended for adoption – these are first thoughts only:

- Principle 1 – Our default position will be to support Inclusion in a mainstream setting where it meets the needs and best interests of the child, noting that this needs to come with the right level of support (financial and social). This will always be the first consideration in any pupil placement
- Principle 2 - The Council will work to a Community Base Model – supporting a ‘Local (nearest) School for Local Children’ where appropriate. Children are best served when they can live at home with their families. Where there is more than one school or base able to meet a pupil’s assessed needs available locally, there is an expectation pupils’ will attend their nearest school
- Principle 3 - We will work with schools and the RSC to ensure parity of provision across similar settings so that pupils can access a good/outstanding school in buildings and surroundings that enhance their learning opportunities
- Principle 4 - Equality of opportunity for all – schools will ~~not be consistent in their -share separate~~ messages for those seeking school places and will not treat applications from those with additional needs unfairly who may have different needs. No family should be encouraged to look to other institutions to meet mainstream placements where their local or preferred school should be able to accommodate their needs. All mainstream school should be able to provide inclusive education regardless of their size or location
- Principle 5 – we will ensure the sizes of our special schools allow for effective management, stress-free environments and maximum opportunities. For most schools this will mean a maximum size of

between 150 and 200 places. Pupils should be taught in classes of between 6 – 8 pupils per class when their needs are profound, or between 8 – 12 per class where needs are complex. Most mainstream settings should be able to include pupils with SEND within their existing class bases.

- Principle 6 – The LA is the Commissioner of school places. It will actively advise schools and other establishments of the provision that is needed, and will share plans for expected future needs with a wide range of potential providers
- Principle 7 – all partners (education, health, care) should make adequate and appropriate contributions to the costs of placements or of other support needed to secure children’s attendance in order to meet all needs identified in Education, Health and Care plans
- Principle 8 - Top-up funding is only used as an intervention where mainstream schools are supporting additional needs as part of a Graduated Response. Special schools and specialist hubs should receive appropriate place funding by default.
- Principle 9 - we should ensure that children and young people with SEND gain maximum life chance benefits from educational, health care and social care and have the opportunity to achieve their full potential
- Principle 10 – we will use quantitative and qualitative needs analysis to identify current and future needs and unmet needs of children and young with SEND and their families and to understand what is important to children, young people and their families
- Principle 11 – we will aspire to enable children, young people and their families to have a choice relating to the education they can access within the local area
- Principle 12 – Schools placements should be as close to a student’s home as possible and where home to school transport is offered, it should be sustainable. Students should be able to sustainab, i.e., taxi, mini-bus, public transport, etc. All ly-travel to a placement should comply with within the DfFE regulations and the adopted North Somerset Council Home to School Transport Guidance

1.20 To support these principles, the following actions may be needed – subject to consultation and approval:

- Action 1 - Support for the family is part of the solution for many pupils. It can remove barriers to learning and ensure the pupil is ready to learn at the start of the school day. Schools are a key part of the North Somerset Early Help offer and they work with families to prevent their needs escalating, referring to services at a higher level of need where this is necessary
- Action 2 - Training and Support – the Council will, funding permitting, work with Teaching Schools and Specialists (including our special schools) to provide training and support to help mainstream school staff understand

the develop the skills necessary to accommodate fully the needs of pupils with SEND within their settings and after school. This may include:

- Support to develop HLTA specialists to work with pupils with behavioural challenges
  - Short-term intervention and reintegration programmes within Hubs attached to mainstream schools, supported by the VLC, MATs who are specialists in Inclusion and our SEMH colleagues
  - Advice and guidance to teachers about how to integrate specialist techniques into their lesson deliveries that engage those who may be disenfranchised with more standard approaches
  - Assisted technology and telecare support, engaging with schools and parents, to prepare pupils in school for their transition to adult independence where possible
- Action 3 – the LA will promote the many opportunities available for employment working alongside pupils with SEND. This will include the promotion of higher-level qualifications to those working with SEND pupils so staff are fully equipped and experienced in what can make a difference to a pupil's outcomes. The LA will employ Advisory Teachers who will work alongside schools experiencing challenges so that strategies to meet the needs of the child can be deployed
  - Action 4 – Mainstream schools should be encouraged not to remove a pupil with SEND or behavioural difficulties from their roll. They should instead work with the LA to identify suitable Alternative Provision until a more suitable school is identified or is available unless they are able to evidence that, with appropriate help and support via the Graduated Response approach, the needs of the child can no longer be met. All pupils should have had the opportunity to attend a specialist hub and the school or MAT should be able to show that staff have received appropriate support and guidance before any 'off-rolling' is supported. Schools who are not Inclusive will be reported to the RSC.
  - Action 5 – The LA will review the use of Top-Up Funding and will consider how a link to the achievement of specific outcomes may better support meeting children's needs within school. This will help advise on the best practice with using high needs funding within schools.
  - Action 6 – the LA will specify its requirements and required outcomes when commissioning all new schools or pupil placements. This may require challenging conversations with education providers to ensure we have an appropriate mix of provision in North Somerset.
  - Action 7 – the LA will undertake a review of parent's preferences for specialist particular schools or setting types in order to inform our commissioning of local school places
  - Action 8 – The LA will consider any investment or 'Invest to Save' proposals where the outcome supports inclusion or the local delivery of SEND provision
  - Action 9 – the LA will review the outcomes of the existing Resource Base Hubs to inform future delivery options



- Action 10 – The LA will embed the impacts of transport in the EHCP process to ensure there are no detrimental impacts when commissioning or managing a placement
- 1.21 Capital schemes to support extra SEND provision during the life of this plan could be:
- Action 1 - To deliver the expanded Baytree School in Clevedon for 65 pupils. The site has a built-in capacity to expand to 85 places when required
  - Action 2 – to review the capacity of the current Baytree site to secure extra places. The site could accommodate around 75 extra ambulant pupils with PSLD
  - Action 3 – deliver c 28 – 38 extra places at Ravenswood, ~~subject to Council approval~~, by expanding the school permanently into parts of the now-redundant VLC site in Nailsea
  - Action 4 – continue to review the uses of the now vacant VLC site in Nailsea. Whilst initially this site may have some temporary usage, in the future it could facilitate new provision (see Action 10 below)
  - Action 5 – to look at the provision of facilities at the VLC with an option to seek out funding for the co-location of facilities onto a new single site in or close to Weston super Mare, funding permitting
  - Action 6 – review the need for more places for pupils with MLD. This could include the following options:
    - A new site and 65-place school – location to be agreed
    - A land swap with an existing school if primary demand were to continue to reduce and the creation of new schools in areas of residential growth could incorporate the move (and expansion) of an existing provision. This would be subject to developer approval, confirmation such a move would not compromise future developer contributions and sufficient and funding
    - A further expansion of Ravenswood School onto the VLC’s vacant land in Nailsea
  - Action 7 – to work with the DfE who plan to deliver the SEMH Learn@MAT school for 65 learners at Churchill to open in September 2023
  - Action 8 – to seek to deliver a temporary provision for SEMH pupils, either at the vacant VLC site at Nailsea or, with the support of other schools, at another site within the district by September 2021
  - Action 9 – review the success of the ASD hubs at Nailsea School and Mendip Green Primary with an option to create an ASD hub for primary and secondary provision in vacant classrooms across every cluster over the next 10 years
  - Action 10 – The creation of Hubs to support short-term placements for those with behavioural challenges in vacant classrooms across every cluster over the next 10 years
  - Action 11 - to review the use of the vacant VLC site at Nailsea. This could include options such as:

- all or parts of the site could be transferred to the ownership of Ravenswood to enable the school to expand to accommodate extra pupils – up to 200+. There is excess demand for more MLD places across North Somerset.
- The site could be developed to create options for the potential development of residential units/assisted living for young adults aged 19 – 25 as part of their transition from teenage years into adulthood. This could include a transition unit attached to Ravenswood School so that students could be supported whilst at school.
- Traditionally the view has been that the incidence of needs has been too low to efficiently provide for residential provision locally, but the current spend and placement figures suggest that this position may be changing. The site could be used to support the creation of an on-site Children’s Home for TBA pupils aged 8? – 19.
- The land could be developed to support a new provision for young people with anxiety as a transition from mainstream to specialist placements or as a short-term offer before returning to mainstream settings
- The land could be used to create a new small Residential School and an expansion of Ravenswood. A new entrance for Ravenswood could utilize 50% of the site, with opportunities for the remaining 50% to be agreed.
- The land could be made available to a local partner provider and NSC commission places as required

**Review:**

~~Do you agree that finding additional SEND places will be a priority for the 2021 – 2024 strategy?~~

~~Do you agree that the principles and actions in 1.19 above are the right values and next steps?~~

~~Do you agree that the actions shown in 1.20 above are the right priorities for exploration and delivery, subject to funding?~~

~~Do you agree that the capital schemes identified in 1.20 will start to address some of the identified needs across North Somerset?~~

~~Is there anything you or your organisation could do to support these principles and aims?~~

## Appendix 3

**Draft Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy 2021 – 2024****Developer Contributions and School Place Planning, including New School Competitions**

- 1.1 The Council's Regulation 123 List sets out that development contributions for education will be sourced through the following mechanisms:

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	Section 106 planning obligations (s106)
<input type="checkbox"/> Early years' provision and children's centre services except at Strategic Development Areas. <input type="checkbox"/> Primary school provision, except at Strategic Development Areas. <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary school provision, except at the Weston Villages.	<input type="checkbox"/> Early years' provision at Strategic Development Areas. <input type="checkbox"/> Primary school provision at Strategic Development Areas. <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary school provision at the Weston Villages. <input type="checkbox"/> Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision.

"Strategic Development Areas" are defined as follows:

- The Weston Villages, as defined in the Weston Villages Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), available at <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Weston-villages-supplementary-planning-document.pdf> or as amended through subsequent planning policies; and/or
- Individual development sites of 500 or more dwellings; and/or
- Any other strategic sites or Strategic Development Areas identified in an appropriate planning policy by North Somerset Council.

At the present, no further strategic sites have been identified as meeting the criteria of this final bullet point.

The Regulation 123 List is no longer a legal requirement; however, a decision has been taken by North Somerset Council's Investment and Infrastructure Board that it will continue to be used as the framework for development contributions and should only be breached when there is an exceptional reason for doing so.

The effect of the table above is that primary source of developer funding for education is the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which is paid on a per sqm fixed tariff basis by almost all residential developments, where they are not self-build or affordable housing.



All contributions are paid to the Council and not to schools or academies. The use of the funding is also determined by the Council.

- 1.2 The Council implemented the CIL on 18 January 2018. Whereas with s106, specific education contributions are allocated to specific school projects, such as a new primary school in a significant housing development, CIL is not specifically tied to one site or location. Instead, the control of the use of the funding is within the Council and an internal business case must be agreed in order for funding to be allocated to a project.

The CIL tends to be a more regular form of income than S106 contributions, because almost all residential developments will contribute, however the income can take several years to accumulate. This means that the Council will operate a programme approach, looking ahead and programming funds to meet the emerging needs where specific locations may come under pressure either from a small number of large planning applications, or from a large number of smaller developments.

The Council will continue to seek S106 planning obligations from sites that meet the definition of Strategic Development Areas, or where there is otherwise an exceptional case. S106 obligations can be sought when:

- Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms
- Directly related to the development
- Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development

- 1.3 The government are, at the time of updating this strategy (~~February-May~~ 2021), proposing an overhaul of the current planning system in England. Whilst there have been many changes and additions to planning regulations over the years, the legislative basis of the current system dates from post war Britain and the enactment of the Town and Country Planning Act in 1947.

The intended outcome of the current review is to create a reformed system to 'streamline and modernise the planning process, improve outcomes on design and sustainability, reform developer contributions and ensure more land is available for development where it is needed'.

The Changes to the current planning system consultation, that ended in October 2020, cover four specific areas:

- The standard method for assessing housing numbers in strategic plans
- Delivering First Homes
- Supporting small and medium-sized developers
- Extension of the Permission in Principle consent regime

The White Paper: Planning for the future had a deadline of 29 October 2020 and received over 44,000 responses. Whilst the changes are mainly technical, from a planning policy perspective, there are implications which relate to or have implications for housing, transport, design, climate change, infrastructure delivery etc. The ability for Council's to secure sufficient

resources to deliver the infrastructure required to meet the needs resulting from the development alongside the regular requests from developers to review their contributions due to viability concerns is a conundrum the consultation is hoping to resolve with the introduction of a new Infrastructure Levy.

- 1.4 The Council can request land and infrastructure to support school and early years places where the parcel of land is proportionate to the level of need from that development and meets the other s106 tests set out above. Where there is a particular need for land, this may also be a justifiably exceptional need for a deviation from the Regulation 123 List guidance as to the division of CIL and s106. Whilst land for primary schools can often be assigned, land for secondary schools has to be negotiated across developments with different developers. As the numbers of pupils with SEND are significantly lower than those requiring mainstream places, a development would have to cover a significant area of the district to enable the Council to claim a sufficient area of land to be suitable for a new school whilst being proportionate to that development. For this reason, with the exception of the Parklands site, there are no secondary or SEND land allocations in the current Sites and Policies Plan although this, we hope, will be addressed in the new Local Plan. North Somerset Council does not currently accept land in lieu of CIL payments, however it is within the powers of the Council to introduce such an option, subject to the introduction of a formal policy to that effect.

The Children's Services Directorate are due to meet with our Place Directorate colleagues to ensure that site allocations can form part of the next Local Plan. Working with our Integrated Transport Colleagues (ITU), we will press for a plan that encourages sustainable communities where the local mainstream school is accessible to the majority of pupils without the need for home to school transport. Our aspiration is to plan the numbers and locations of new developments around new and existing infrastructure to reduce the carbon transport footprint and have local sustainable schools for pupils as far as possible.

- 1.5 All new schools must be academies. When considering new school place provision, North Somerset Council will either establish a new academy or free schools via the national Presumption Route or Free School guidelines or, where appropriate, work with its partners to expand consistently good or outstanding popular schools. This may include, if permitted and where appropriate and supported by developers, moving and/or expanding (size and age-range) these schools onto new nearby sites where this is possible within national guidelines. Alternatively, the Council may work with good/outstanding Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) to support their Free School bids where they meet with the Council's strategic plans. Occasionally the DfE exceptionally opens Free School bids to Councils for targeted applications, such as the 2018 SEND bidding round.

It is possible that where a new school is needed, its provision within a new development may detrimentally impact on the numbers of places at other

nearby schools who may be seeing falling rolls due to demographic changes in their area.

- 1.5 A Decision to request an Expressions of Interest process for a new school is made by the Executive Member for Children’s Services and Lifelong Learning, having regard to the recommendations of the Children & Young People’s Services (CYPS) Policy and Scrutiny Panel or its Steering Group. The Council takes all necessary steps to ensure that the widest possible range of groups or organisations that might be interested in establishing the new school are aware of the opportunity to do so, and that they have enough time to develop proposals.

Whilst the Council will oversee the new school Expression of Interest process and is responsible for the delivery of a new school site and payment for its buildings and set-up costs, decisions as to whether the academy can open are made by the DfE/Secretary of State.

**Review:**

~~Do the arrangements for developer contributions work well for the Council and local schools?~~

~~Do you support the creation of new schools for new communities and the Council working towards carbon neutral home to school accessibility for students and families?~~

~~Are the Council's arrangements for securing new academies via national guidelines still fit for purpose?~~

**2 School Place Planning**

- 2.1 North Somerset Council has clear strategies for school place provision. Organisational and building changes will be progressed where they meet pupil demand, contribute to school standards, help to meet the Council’s carbon footprint reduction requirements and provide, where appropriate, community facilities to support national and local agendas.

Effective planning will:

- Provide schools and other education providers with the information necessary to enable them to make informed decisions about how they will provide sustainable, inclusive and improving education, achieve the highest possible standards and ensure the full participation of all learners, especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.
- Add diversity and choice. The Council will support plans to provide new and expand quality learning provisions, working to provide schools and other facilities that meet the needs of learners irrespective of the type of provision.

- Plan to provide new school places in areas of residential growth and, on occasions, suggest or support a decrease in the capacity of a current educational provider in an existing area to ensure the overall viability of both establishments. This may include a potential reduction in size of an existing provider in the short or longer term, or the relocation of schools into areas of growth where the Council has some freedoms over the use of funding allocations and the needs of the community can be better managed through this change. This is to ensure that new schools become central to a significant new development, whilst noting that some demand for the existing provider may remain as is or decline.
- Encourage all existing settings to provide the maximum number of places possible within the existing capacities of their sites. The Council will challenge schools and academies (academies via the SofS/RSC) to admit more pupils where it considers the establishment has the capacity to do so and the projections support a sustainable increase in class structures.
- Challenge schools in areas of residential growth who wish to reduce their PAN when either the projections or the Local Plan indicated future growth and these places will be needed in the future.
- Where financially possible, provide learning facilities fit for 21st century living, teaching and learning. This includes developing sites and buildings that promote active activities such as walking, cycling or scooting to school, having production kitchens on site, promoting school allotments and other measures to help tackle childhood obesity. The Council will use its capital resources wisely to meet the needs of learners. (This may necessitate making difficult decisions about the viability of some sites where other local facilities can meet the demand for places. It will look to secure resources generated from closing a facility or site to be used to update other provisions for a greater number of learners where it is able to do so).

2.2 The following principles are applied by the Council when reviewing the type of mainstream and specialist provision in North Somerset:

- a) Expansion of schools –When reviewing demand for school places, it will consider the numbers of pupils in and around the locality of the school, standards and Ofsted ratings, as well as demand for school places. Where there is a need for extra places due to new housing and the creation of a new community, an existing school will only be supported for expansion if there is insufficient demand to create a new school within the area of demographic growth, supporting the principle of ‘local schools for local children’.

Where there is an interim need for extra places at a school for ‘bulk’ admissions, provided notification of an increase in potential offers is received in good time to administer the locally agreed co-ordinated admissions scheme, ‘breach’ increases in admission levels can be implemented.

The Council supports partnership working and would hope that the needs of the area are considered by schools and partners when planning school expansions.

All plans (LA or academies/academy trusts) should be shared with other responsible bodies before implementation.

- b) New housing developments – new housing developments are likely to require a need for the expansion of existing schools or the provision of new facilities. It is expected that this infrastructure will normally be funded/part-funded through either s106 contributions or the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

The Council will:

- consider the expansion of existing schools/academies where standards were consistently rated as good or outstanding at their last inspection by Ofsted, where the most recent Progress 8 score was at least the national average, where the school or Trust are in good financial health and have the capacity to make the change and, where a school is designated as having a religious character, the trustees of the school and appropriate religious authority (in the case of church schools the diocese or relevant diocesan board), does not object to the proposed change. This may include increases in cohort sizes on the existing school site and/or the expansion of cohorts and/or an age range on a new or existing site;
- establish new academy free schools via national guidelines. There is an expectation that any new sponsor is part of an academy chain rated good/outstanding, where the majority of schools' most recent Progress 8 scores were at least the national average and where the Trust is in good financial health and has the capacity and experience to make the change;

- c) Surplus places – the Council plans to meet its sufficiency duties within school place planning clusters (as defined by the Council) whilst allowing for the movement of pupils from school to school. It will base capacity needs on pupil projections and previous admission trends.

The Council will work to an aspiration that there should be no more than between 5 – 7 % surplus places across individual schools or the wider planning areas to meet the needs of static and growing communities. This is to ensure there are places available to those seeking school allocations outside the normal school admissions rounds whilst enabling schools/communities in areas of residential growth to benefit from extra resources should they need to grow.

Surplus places in one planning area can mean that resources for areas of growth cannot be claimed. This acts against the need of the Council and schools to provide places for local pupils. Where the numbers of surplus places in a school are, or are predicted to be, in excess of 15% the Local Authority will discuss with the Governors of the school/its MAT Trust Board actions to remove these places. The Council expects academies and other own-admission authority schools to act to reduce long-term surplus places by reducing their admission levels/re-designating surplus accommodation as appropriate, and to act in the interests of the wider community.

The Local Authority will suggest that MAT Trust Boards review the viability of their schools that have more than 25% surplus places, especially where standards are low or where floor standards necessitate a review of provision. It will recommend and work with academies to review their provision to ensure that place availability is appropriate to local need.

The Council will work with schools and MATs to ascertain if surplus school capacity can be used to create specialist Hubs to support the inclusion of pupils with SEND within mainstream settings

- d) School Closure – the Local Authority will not normally consider its schools for closure unless standards are low (below floor targets) or it is in an Ofsted category, surplus places are in excess of 25% and all measures taken to improve the teaching and other facilities available to children and their families have failed. The decision to close a school where all the above apply may be taken in extreme circumstances following sensitive consultation.

The Local Authority will consider a move to academy status of an LA school where there is evidence of capacity for sustainability and improvement. Where a school is judged to be 'Inadequate' the Secretary of State may direct the Local Authority to close the school. The Secretary of State can direct a Local Authority to cease to maintain a school where that school is eligible for intervention by virtue of it being inadequate only. This will usually be done where there is no prospect of the school making enough improvements. Before this power can be exercised, the Secretary of State must consult:

- the Local Authority and the governing body of the school;
- in the case of a Church of England school or a Roman Catholic Church school, the appropriate Diocesan Authority;
- in the case of any other Foundation or Voluntary school, the person or persons by whom the foundation governors are appointed;
- such other persons as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.

If the direction to close a school has been given, the Local Authority will be expected to meet any costs of terminating staff contracts and make appropriate arrangements for the pupils continuing education, whether in a replacement school, or through transition to an alternative school.

#### Power to Make an Academy Order

Section 4 of the [Academies Act 2010](#) permits the Secretary of State to make an Academy Order in two circumstances: firstly, on the application of a school's governing body under section 3; or secondly, if the school is eligible for intervention within the meaning of Part 4 of the 2006 Education and Inspection Act.

The Education & Inspection Act 2006 requires that a Local Authority, or governing body, that is considering proposing the closure of a rural primary school **must** consider the following matters, when formulating their proposals:

- The likely effect of the discontinuance of the school on the local community.
- The availability, and likely cost to the Local Authority, of transport to other



schools.

- Any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase.
- Any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school.

- e) As required by Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI), the Local Authority must monitor the progress of all LA maintained schools who receive a 'Requires Improvement' judgement for a 2<sup>nd</sup> time to secure rapid improvement within an agreed timescale. This work will be overseen by the Education Excellence Partnership Board. The Council will consider issuing a Warning Notice if significant improvements are not made within agreed timescales.
- f) Size of provision – all new provision for the primary age in North Somerset (school or building) will preferably be through all-through primary schools or part of an all through school. Unless set in a rural location (where a 105-place school is part of an academy chain), all schools will normally enable at least one form of school entry (30 places per year group and 210 places overall) or two forms of entry (60 places per year group and 420 places overall). Where there is evidence of demand a 525 or 630 place school will be provided.

The Council would normally only support the expansion of secondary provision up to a maximum of 1,700 places across the 11 -16 age range (2000 – 2200 places overall) if there is local demand.

- g) Special Educational Needs and Disabilities - the LA recognises the good work of teachers in enabling pupils with a range of learning difficulties to achieve the highest possible standards within mainstream schools. It also recognises however that the effective inclusion of pupils with complex difficulties is a significant challenge to school staff and is committed to maintaining and enhancing the support available to mainstream schools.

Where a child's needs cannot be met at a mainstream school, and their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) states they would be better served by attending a school for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), a local SEND place will be sought. The Council is committed to increasing the availability of local places and has supported expansions in all three special schools, subject to having sufficient space on site to meet pupil needs. A new SEMH school will open in September 2023.

The Council is promoting the inclusion of specialist hubs attached to mainstream settings. This is to support the delivery of expert support as an integral part of meeting a pupil's needs, with the aim of enabling their integration or re-integration into mainstream settings as soon as it is appropriate. [A secondary-aged Autism Spectrum Disorder \(ASD\) Hub opened in September 2020 and a primary ASD hub is due to open in September 2021.](#)

The LA makes every effort to place children in local schools but does recognise that there are a small number of pupils whose needs are so severe and complex



that they require provision that is only available in maintained or Independent schools outside North Somerset.

The Tuition Service caters for all age groups from Key Stages 1 - 4 who are out of school. Programmes are delivered:

- In the community - Where tuition is not possible in the home, or if it is not advisable if a student is becoming isolated, then tuition may be arranged in the community. An emergency contact form is completed if a tutor is to act 'in loco parentis' in such cases. Tuition could be arranged in Public libraries, Community centres, Museums etc.
- In school - It may be determined that tuition should be provided at a VLC school building either in small groups or on a 1 to 1 basis. The service aims to provide a core curriculum to GCSE or other accredited qualifications and to plan for Post 16 progression. They support and advise students in making decisions about their future.
- At Home - on occasions lessons take place online in the home for an agreed number of hours depending on health and circumstances, subject to regular review.
- Through reintegration packages within the student's mainstream school.

The service concentrates on delivering core subjects such as English, Maths and Science with a range of accredited qualifications. It also offers GCSE ICT, Art, Functional skills and BTEC Diplomas, which are studied in mainstream schools. They plan and support post 16 progression. Curriculums are mainly designed to meet the needs of an individual basis, considering the needs of the young person and the school. Input and advice are also taken from parents/carers and other external organisations and professionals.

Students referred with acute illnesses and high levels of anxiety can continue to cover most of the curriculum they would normally manage in a mainstream school through detailed curriculum planning.

Progress and achievement are governed by the diverse complex medical needs of the students referred. Needs against ability is carefully assessed to enable students to access a balanced curriculum. In many cases, each learner has a bespoke education package.

The focus of Tuition Service is to work with students, families and other professionals to overcome barriers to prepare the student for a return to mainstream provision.

- h) Secondary provision – the core principles for new secondary provisions are that:

- the local school should be the natural and easy choice for parents providing good /outstanding education, high standards of care and an environment that enables all children to flourish and contribute to the economy;
- for new housing developments or where significant numbers of pupils are transported to school(s) and a new school would be viable, the local authority will investigate and promote the provision of a new academy(ies) to meet community's needs;
- where possible, pupils should be able to walk or cycle to a school within the statutory distance from their home address;
- schools must welcome and provide effectively for all children across all cohort settings
- schools must prepare children and young people to be responsible residents who are able to contribute positively to the broader community and economy
- all schools should foster strong, cohesive communities so that the local area benefits from a secondary school at their heart, contributing to their community
- in order to provide the best education for the 11-16 population, secondary schools should not normally serve fewer than 6 forms of entry (up to 180 pupils per year group) or more than 12 forms of entry (up to 360 pupils per year group). Where there is evidence of local demand, larger provision could be considered

All established schools should look to offer places to their intake PAN as the cohort moves into other year groups

- i) School Planning Areas - North Somerset Council will use its school planning areas as agreed with the DfE to monitor and manage school place provision.
- j) Pupils entitled to free home to school transport assistance will be supported with their travel arrangements provided they are attending the nearest appropriate school to their home address and they fulfil the statutory requirements for assistance. This may or may not relate to the First Geographic Area determined by a school within their own admission arrangements. Details of the Council's home to school transport policy are available at <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/support-pupils-students/home-school-transport/about-home-school-transport>
- k) The Council will encourage the establishment of pre-school provision for 2- and 3-year olds onto school sites where there is need and where it is financially and physically possible. This will be through:
  - Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) provisions
  - A change of lower age range of the school to accommodate younger pupils
  - A locally based school provider i.e. Governing Body led provision

2.3 The Council is a commissioner of places and operates within a complex and changing children's services environment. Its aspiration is to secure 'local

schools for local children' whereby pupils should be able to attend a local school that enables them to achieve their potential. This aspiration also covers the needs of pupils with SEN and Disabilities. The Council will look to allocate a place within the Council's area or at the closest establishment offering appropriate education to their home where possible. Provision covers the impact of new development on facilities for early years/children's centre facilities, primary, secondary, post-16, Special Education Needs and Disabilities, transport to school and youth facilities. Full details of how the Council claims development contributions can be found within the Council's Development Contributions Supplementary Planning Document at <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/planning-building-control/planning-policy/supplementary-plans-guidance/adopted-supplementary-plans>

- 2.4 The council's current development plan sets out a requirement for 20,985 new homes to be built by 2026. The Site Allocations Plan was adopted in April 2018 and this document allocated sufficient sites to meet the requirement, as set out in the table below.

Location	Total sites identified in Site Allocations Plan	Built by 2017	Residual at 2017
<b>Developments identified in the North Somerset Site Allocations Plan (SAP)</b>			
Weston Villages	6,500	835	5,665
Weston urban area	6,479	3,096	3,383
Portishead	3,421	2,878	543
Clevedon	768	401	367
Nailsea	1,267	203	1,064
Service villages	2,412	784	1,628
Other areas	1,438	650	788
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,285</b>	<b>8,847</b>	<b>13,438</b>

- 2.5 Work has now commenced within the council to produce a new Local Plan, which will cover the fifteen-year period from 2023 to 2038. ~~Plan preparation is at an early stage, and as such no specific locations for the growth that will be required during this period have been confirmed.~~ A consultation on how the housing growth should be broadly distributed was held from November-December 2020 within the Choices for the Future consultation. Following this consultation a report was taken to the Councils Executive Committee in April 2021 which set out a spatial strategy for further testing and assessment to inform the Consultation Draft of the plan which will be prepared and developed in 2021 with a consultation at the end of the year. Officers are reviewing the responses to this Choices consultation, and a draft plan will be prepared in 2021 to identify specific locations and sites for development.

Except for agreed nil Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) areas (see below), there is an expectation that all developers will be expected to provide a contribution towards the cost of infrastructure within their development

proposals. For mainstream and SEND school and pre-school places, home to school transport and other children's services such as youth and Children's Centre provisions, infrastructure related costs permitted by law will be collected through Section 106 agreements (s106) and/or through a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). CIL is a tariff of charges that will be applied to new developments to help fund infrastructure to support growth. For most developments, this will be the means through which they contribute to the delivery of the school places needed because of new housing.

- 2.6 The Council, working with academies/schools/PVIs, will encourage these providers to be flexible in their place capacities, utilising opportunities to increase provision to meet developer need as and when appropriate. As businesses, adjusting to meet current need may not form part of the long-term business plans of these organisations.

On occasions the Council may need to work with schools and academies to decrease place availability. Many schools are reluctant to show a decrease in places available, even when their capacity is often less than the maximum numbers of pupils who could attend the school should they be full in all cohorts. The changing role of the Council makes implementing choices strategically in one area to benefit another even more challenging, especially as institutions will normally concentrate on introspective planning school by school or within their own Multi-Academy Trust.

- 2.7 Decisions as to whether the Council will ask for a contribution (full or part) towards the provision of necessary infrastructure will be considered on a case by case basis. This is because the need for new or expanded provision will be dependent on factors such as:

- i. The availability of existing infrastructures and whether if it can meet the projected requirements of the new development in full or in part
- ii. Whether 'works in kind' will deliver for the community more effectively

The Council will aim to collect all Children's Services s106 contributions, where possible, at the start of a development or as soon as possible thereafter. This is to enable the Council to have facilities in place as soon as reasonably practicable once the new dwellings are starting to be delivered. Where a developer can prove that this will affect the viability of the development, exceptions may allow funding to be released across the development (in percentages to be agreed on a case by case basis). This flexibility does not apply to CIL payments, which must be made within 60 days of commencement of a Full or Reserved Matter consent.

Developer contributions are payable to the Council and not to schools or academies. They are paid to meet need as a result of a development and not to resolve historic condition or suitability issues in schools.

2.8 Where school sites have already been identified in the Sites Allocation Plan to meet the education needs of a new development and these are in the ownership of the Council, or where expansions to existing provision have been recently assessed and can be seen to accommodate an expansion without compromising the education already being provided, there is an expectation that developers will make financial contributions to the Council to fund all or part of the cost of new schools/pre-schools/community resources as appropriate to meet the infrastructure needs generated by their development.

Where sites have already been identified in the Sites Allocation Plan to meet the education needs of a new development but are not owned by the Council or the developer, the Council will expect the developer to pay/to contribute towards the cost of the purchase of necessary site(s) and to make financial contributions to fund all or part the cost of new schools/pre-schools/community resources where appropriate to meet the infrastructure needs generated by their development in proportion to the above conformity tests. Where the site is in an area subject to CIL, this may need to form part of the development negotiations.

Where sites have already been identified in the Sites Allocation Plan to meet the education needs of a new development and are in the ownership of the developer, there is an expectation that developers will provide the allocated land (at their cost and meeting the requirements identified in this plan) and make financial contributions to fund all or part of the cost of new schools/pre-schools/community resources where appropriate to meet the infrastructure needs generated by their development. Again, where the site is in an area subject to CIL, this may need to form part of the development negotiations.

Where no sites have been identified in the Sites Allocation Plan to meet the education needs of a new development and where expansions to existing provision cannot be seen to be accommodated without compromising the education already being provided, the Council will expect the developer to make financial contributions to fund all or part of the cost of new schools/pre-schools/community resources where appropriate to meet the infrastructure needs generated by their development including a sum towards a possible future land purchase. If this cannot be agreed, the education service may need to object to the development.

In all cases, the conformity tests must be met.

**Review:**

**~~Are the principles held by the Council to secure sufficient places right?~~**

**~~How do organisations feel they are able to support the principles outlined above, especially where the Council is no longer the decision maker for c 78% of schools?~~**

### **3. People and Communities Directorate Requests**

- 3.1 The Children's Services Directorate will seek (externally and/or internally as appropriate) education contributions in all cases where the schools serving the development are estimated to have a deficit of places of fewer than a 5% surplus. This is because the Council needs to ensure there are 5% of places available to support migration to the area and parental preference. Most schools in the North Somerset area are either operating at or close to capacity, or at a level that is sustainable in terms of their revenue funding resources. In some cases, where schools have reduced their intake due to a fall in demand, but new developments may necessitate a reversal in the reduction, a contribution towards the reinstatement of classrooms and supporting infrastructures may be required and requested.

Without the provision of additional places at schools close to a new development, it will be necessary for the Council to transport pupils to schools further from their home address, and beyond the statutory walking limit. In working towards being carbon neutral by 2030, the Council will look to create new provision where practicable so that local schools are available nearby for pupils.

- 3.2 For primary school places, in general, where the needs of the development cannot be met in full or in part at the local school, (external and internal) contributions will be requested from developers as below:

- ✚ For developments where the need for a new 210-place or larger school is shown, land and the delivery of the school and pre-school to the Council's specifications and based on the DfE's Building Bulletin BB103. This will include a site to meet at least the mid-range size in accordance with BB103 plus the necessary increases in site size for the pre-school and any shared community facilities (if appropriate). The site may also need to allow for the provision of sports pitches and outdoor space to meet the needs of the school and the community it serves (if appropriate).
- ✚ Where a development is planned to grow in phases, the Council will look to the developer to provide land and the infrastructures needed for the larger school (including playing fields) and pre-school and any shared community facilities (if appropriate). Whilst the full hall, staff room and other infrastructure requirements must be provided at the outset, the Council will agree to the delivery of additional classrooms at later stage provided these have been allowed for in the capacity of the initial provision and the design of the site.
- ✚ For developments where fewer than 210 primary-aged children are generated, the Council will expect:



- The developer to pay for the necessary extra class bases and the additional infrastructure needs required for either 105 or 210 new places at the nearest North Somerset good/outstanding school to the development (the appropriate school) so it can operate within BB103 guidelines and supporting building bulletins and early years guidance
- Where the nearest appropriate school is in excess of 2 miles as a safe walking route from the development, or the route to school is deemed to be unsafe, the Council will expect the developer to contribute towards the cost of home to school transport (as assessed) for a period of at least 7 years from the start of the new development or to pay for the route to school to be made safe to enable pupils to travel to school sustainably.
- ✚ Where appropriate, contributions from multiple developments may be combined and resources pooled to create a new mainstream and SEND school places to serve a range of new communities.

For all new schools, the developer will be expected to pay for the Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment (FFE) at a rate of £10k per class base. Where new class bases at an existing school are to be created within existing accommodation, the same contribution may also be required for FFE.

3.3 For secondary school places, in general, where the needs of the development cannot be met in full or in part at the local school, (external and internal) contributions will be requested from developers as below:

- ✚ For developments where the need for a new 900-place or larger provision is shown, land and the delivery of the extra places and pre-school, if required, to the Council's specifications and based on the DfE's Building Bulletin BB103 and supporting building bulletins. This will include a site to meet at least the mid-range size in accordance with BB103 plus the necessary increases in site size for the pre-school and any shared community facilities (if appropriate). The site will need to allow for the provision of sports pitches and outdoor space to meet the needs of the academy and the community it serves
- ✚ Where a development is planned to grow in phases, the Council will look to the developer to provide land and the infrastructures needed for a larger school (including playing fields) and for the pre-school and any shared community facilities (if appropriate). Whilst the full hall, staff room and other infrastructure requirements must be provided at the outset, the Council will agree to the delivery of additional classrooms at later stage provided these have been allowed for in the capacity of the initial provision and the design of the site
- ✚ For developments where fewer than 900 children are generated, the Council will expect:



- The developer to pay for the necessary extra class bases for whole tutor group increases in capacity (30 extra pupils per year group) and the additional infrastructure needs required at the nearest good/outstanding North Somerset secondary school able to expand so it can operate within BB103 guidelines.
- Where the nearest appropriate school is in excess of 3 miles as a safe walking route from the development, or the route to school is deemed to be unsafe, the Council will expect the developer to contribute towards the cost of home to school transport (as assessed) for a period of at least 7 years from the start of the new development or to pay for the route to school to be made safe to enable pupils to travel to school sustainably.
- ✚ Where appropriate, contributions from multiple developments may be combined and resources pooled to create a new mainstream and SEND school places to serve a range of new (and existing) communities

For all new secondary and SEND schools, the developer will be expected to pay for the Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment (FFE) at a rate of £10k - £15k per class base (dependant on the faculty to be expanded). Where new class bases at an existing school are to be created within existing accommodation, the same contribution may also be required for FFE.

3.4 As nationally reported, as at January 2020/2021, 0.91.3% of North Somerset's primary-aged pupils and 0.61.1% of its secondary-aged pupils have an Education and Health and Care (EHCP) Plan. This compares with 1.8% of primary and secondary pupils across England (see Department for Education, Special Educational Needs in England: January 2020, available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england-january-2020> (underlying data)). These children are educated, wherever possible, in a provision and location that best meets their specific needs. A developer contribution is calculated based on applying these percentages to the primary and secondary pupil yields resulting from the development and multiplying the result by the average capital cost for SEND pupils.

[Building Bulletin](#) 104 outlines the range of requirements for such specialist facilities. The percentage of SEND pupils is reviewed annually.

3.5 Details of the Councils SEND Strategy can be found in Appendix 2. Currently, children with additional needs may be educated at their local school or at a specialist provision located within or outside of North Somerset. Where the needs of the development cannot be met in full or in part within North Somerset, contributions will be requested as below:

- ✚ For mainstream schools, the developer is to pay for nurture group facilities and/or specialist equipment (hearing loops etc.) to meet the

requirements of pupils with additional needs to study alongside their peers.

- ✚ For specialist provisions, the developer is to pay for the necessary extra class bases and additional infrastructure needs for whole tutor group increases in capacity (6 – 10 extra pupils per class group) at the nearest good/outstanding North Somerset school able to expand so it can operate within BB104 guidelines.
- ✚ Due to the needs of the pupils attending specialist provisions, the Council will expect the developer to contribute towards the cost of home to school transport (as assessed) for a period of at least 7 years from the start of the new development.
- ✚ Where appropriate, contributions from multiple developments may be combined and resources pooled to create a new school to serve a range of new communities.

- 3.6 The Council will only expand schools that are not classed as good or outstanding by Ofsted and achieving the appropriate Progress 8 scores in exceptional circumstances. This will normally be where the school has the capacity to improve or it is to be supported by another good/outstanding school on its journey to good/outstanding within its Multi-Academy Trust (MAT).
- 3.7 Contributions to cover the Supervision of Works (Clerk of Works) on the above schemes will be requested at a rate of 1.75% of the gross construction costs.
- 3.8 Revenue funding and procurement set up costs will be requested when a development requires a new school. The amounts required will be calculated on a scheme by scheme basis dependant on the size of the school. Such contributions will be used to assist the new academy and Council in cover pre-opening expenses but will normally be in the same region as the funding made available to promoters via the DfE's Free Schools process – see [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/901034/A\\_guide\\_to\\_new\\_special\\_free\\_school\\_revenue\\_funding\\_2020\\_to\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/901034/A_guide_to_new_special_free_school_revenue_funding_2020_to_2021.pdf)
- 3.9 Demand for nursery/pre-school facilities will be made with reference to an audit of childcare provision for 0–4-year olds in the area of the proposed development. If the audit shows there are insufficient places, then a request will be made for the provision of early year's facilities. The Council has a statutory duty to ensure enough provision and will seek contributions for developers/set planning conditions to ensure enough places across the Council's area.

The Statutory Framework for Early Years Foundation Stage sets standards for provision and states that any buildings used for childcare must have 3.5m<sup>2</sup> per child younger than 2 years, 2.5m<sup>2</sup> for 2-year olds and 2.3m<sup>2</sup> for 3 – 5-year olds. The Council will use developer allocations to provide accommodation and commission places from schools and the PVI sector. The Council will also explore options for the developer to deliver the provision, for

example through community or commercial-based providers at bespoke accommodation provided by the developer as part of employment-led obligations.

Pre-schools or nursery classes will be included on all new primary and secondary school sites where practicable. Where the needs of the development cannot be met in full or in part within that area, contributions will be requested as below:

- ✚ The developer to provide at least two nursery classes with supporting facilities for 2- and 3-year olds built to the DfE's Statutory Guidance for Early Year Foundation Stage requirements at any new school for each 210-place equivalent new provision in their development area. The provision may be overseen by the school or a Private, Voluntary or Independent (PVI) provider.
- ✚ The developer to provide for at least one, preferably two nursery classes for 2- and 3-year olds with supporting facilities built to the DfES Statutory Guidance for Early Year Foundation Stage at the nearest good or outstanding North Somerset school able to expand to include this provision. The early years setting may be overseen by the school or a Private, Voluntary or Independent (PVI) provider. Where appropriate, contributions from multiple developments may be combined and resources pooled to create a new early year setting to serve a range of new communities.
- ✚ Where the needs of the development cannot be included as part of a school and/or the need for early years places exceeds the places available locally, the developer must include the availability of early years facilities as part of their business requirement offer for their development. The size and nature of this provision will be assessed in accordance with conformity tests. Where appropriate, contributions from multiple developments may be combined and resources pooled to create a new early year setting to serve a range of new communities.

- 3.10 Where additional places are required before the delivery of extra accommodation, a contribution towards the cost of home to school transport for pupils from the development may be requested in line with the conformity tests for a period of at least 7 years.

Details of the current home to school transport arrangements can be found at: <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/support-pupils-students/home-school-transport>

North Somerset Council has a policy of supporting local schools for local children where appropriate and will in all cases seek to avoid transporting children if a local school place can be provided. In particular at primary age, the Council will prioritise options to deliver school places within a safe walking

distance of a maximum two miles of new housing and will seek contributions for new provision within that area rather than ongoing transport obligations.

School places can only be deemed to be 'available' to development residents if accessible via a Safe Route to School. Determination of whether a route is safe lies with the Integrated Transport Unit. Where places are available (or are made available) at a school within the required distances but routes are not deemed to be safe, developers will be asked to carry out or fund improvements to walking routes to bring them up to the necessary standard, both within and outside of their development site. Where additional provision is made within a new development, a key starting point of the design of the site should be to ensure Safe Routes to School.

In the event that a local school place is not available and arrangements to secure an increase in local provision cannot be secured or is not appropriate locally, the Council will seek to place pupils at the next nearest school with a vacancy. If this school is more than the statutory walking distance (2 miles for pupils under 8 years of age, or 3 miles for pupils aged 8 and above), costs will be sought to compensate the Council for any travelling expenses to the nearest setting with a vacancy for a period of up to at least 7 years.

It is estimated, with pre Covid-19 prices, that the annual cost for providing transport to enable a primary aged pupil to attend a school more than 2 miles from their home could be up to £30,400 per annum (£160 per day x 190 days), although this is dependent on the number of pupils and resulting mode of transport that is appropriate. This can be reduced when multiple pupils can benefit from a single transport route and the average cost per head has been calculated as £1735.88. In the case of secondary age pupils, the cost of public transport (if reliably available) currently stands at approximately £800 per school year per pupil if a pupil is offered a school place more than 3 miles from their home address.

If it is necessary to provide a taxi/minibus/coach, the cost can range from the provision of taxi at the cost £13.8k to a minibus at the cost of £25k per annum to a 53-seater coach at a cost of £49k per annum dependent on the journey. The average cost per head is £681.00

All journeys and needs and the resulting costs are determined on a case by case basis.

- 3.11 North Somerset Council is under a statutory duty to secure access for young people to sufficient educational and recreational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being (Education Act 1996. S507B). It is the Council's duty to ensure that any barriers to accessing such facilities are removed, and that factors such as availability of transport, income, health and disability, gender or sexuality do not prevent young people from accessing opportunities. This duty is primarily focused on the 13-19 age group, but also

includes young people with learning disabilities from 13-24 and recognises the need to provide a range of activities suitable for children of all ages.

- 3.12 The Council also has a statutory duty to provide Family Centre facilities offering support to families from ante-natal onwards. The number of children likely to need these services will be based on the pupil yields at the Early Years' stage; however, the contribution required will be calculated on the existing provision in the area and if/ how this will need to be expanded to meet the additional need. This could be supporting new classes or programmes, or for larger developments a physical expansion to a building may be required.

Demand for Family Centre Services will be made with reference to an audit of childcare provision in the area of the proposed development. If the audit shows there is a need, then a request will be made for the additional facilities.

Development contributions in the form of the CIL may be used to support this work, subject to the Council's prioritisation of funds received.

- 3.13 In all the above cases, contributions will be assessed to meet the conformity tests. A table of the s106 contribution rates determined based on published data as at November-June 2020 and to be used from September 2021 is shown below. -(Following the cancellation of the 'School capacity survey: 2020' due to coronavirus (COVID-19), it has not been possible for the DfE to produce the 'Local authority school places scorecards 2020' and they will therefore not be published in 2021).

North Somerset would seek to increase its claims from 1 September 2021 to match the most recent national averages based on benchmarking data and DfE Scorecard information. The cost multipliers are expected to be updated annually to reflect these changes and inflation.

The table below is an example of the data as at May 2021 and does not reflect inflation for 2021 at the time of publishing. The latest rates will be available on request from [school.organisation@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:school.organisation@n-somerset.gov.uk)

-	<u>New School - National Average cost per place (2019)<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Expansion - National Average cost per place (2019)<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Average National New &amp; Expansion cost per place</u>	<u>Historic NSC Cost Multiplier per pupil £ under review</u>	<u>New Build difference to historical data</u>	<u>Expansion difference to historical data</u>	<u>Average difference to historical data</u>
<u>Primary</u>	<u>£17,268</u>	<u>£20,508</u>	<u>£18,888</u>	<u>£12,257</u>	<u>£5,011</u>	<u>£8,251</u>	<u>£6,631</u>
<u>Secondary</u>	<u>£24,929</u>	<u>£23,775</u>	<u>£24,352</u>	<u>£18,469</u>	<u>£6,460</u>	<u>£5,306</u>	<u>£5,883</u>
<u>Early Years<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>£17,786</u>	<u>£21,124</u>	<u>£19,455</u>	<u>£12,625</u>	<u>£5,161</u>	<u>£8,499</u>	<u>£6,830</u>
<u>SEND<sup>3</sup></u>	<u>£84,473</u>	<u>£65,739</u>	<u>£75,106</u>	<u>£68,000</u>	<u>£16,473</u>	<u>-£2,261</u>	<u>£7,106</u>

Source data:

1: Primary and Secondary data <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-school-places-scorecards-2019> - No cost data was collected in 2019 as the Capital Spend data collection was removed from the SCAP survey



pending the introduction of the Capital Spend Survey. The most recent cost data available is the 2018 Capital Spend data as used in the 2018 Scorecard. For the 2019 Scorecard, this data has been adjusted for inflation (rebased to 1st quarter 2020 prices).

2: Send data <https://ebdog.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/F07125-National-School-Delivery-Cost-Benchmarking-Primary-Secondary-and--SEN-Schools-Final-June-2019-v6.7a.pdf>

3: Early years data – Primary scorecard data with an uplift of 3% <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-school-places-scorecards-2019>

-	New School– National Average cost per place <sup>1</sup>	Expansion – National Average cost per place <sup>1</sup>	Average National New & Expansion cost per place	NSC Cost Multiplier per pupil £ <b>under review</b>
Early Years*	tbc	tbc	tbc	£12,625
Primary	£17,268	£20,508	£18,888	£12,257
Secondary	£24,929	£23,775	£24,352	£18,469
SEND** <sup>2</sup>	£84,473	£65,739	£75,106	£68,000

In the event that it is not possible to determine whether an expansion or a new school will need to be provided, an average cost will be applied as the cost per place multiplier. These figures do not include costs associated with land acquisition.

- 3.14 The DfE consulted in October 2020 on draft guidance to create a possible national methodology for matching housing developments and pupil data. This could provide pupil yield factors for all local authorities in England, for the purposes of securing developer contributions towards education. This could be used to:
- ✚ Set local authority-wide average pupil yield factors according to development characteristics such as tenure mix and dwelling sizes, only differentiated at district/borough level (in two-tier areas) when analysis shows substantial variations across the wider local authority area;
  - ✚ Apply a ‘net’ pupil yield factor to development proposals, which discounts the average proportion of pupils who move within the same lower super output area (and can be assumed not to require new school places), unless LAs can evidence that vacated properties will be backfilled by more families moving into the area;
  - ✚ When assessing existing school capacity for the purposes of calculating developer contributions, trends of admissions from outside a school’s catchment area (where it has one) should be disregarded and these places considered available, unless displaced admissions cannot be accommodated elsewhere within the planning area; and
  - ✚ In seeking developer contributions for education, include the pupil yield from affordable housing as well as market housing

The outcome of this consultation may determine future allocations.

**Review:**

~~Do you support the principle of 'local schools for local children' and the strategies and process for securing extra places as indicated above?~~

~~Should the Council increase its requirements for pupil place capital contributions from developers to match the national average?~~

~~What priority should the Council give to the allocation of CIL contributions for educational delivery alongside the allocation of resources to other Council priorities?~~

#### **4. Projection and School Building Methodology**

4.1 The Business Intelligence Unit oversees pupil projections for North Somerset. The numbers of pupils generated from new homes is dependent on the size, types of homes supplied and the rate of build. For homes in new estates, primary school pupil yield is normally expected to peak within 5-10 years of the completion of any new development. Secondary school demand will normally peak around 4-5 years later.

The calculations used to assess developer contributions take account of pupil intake and the number of pupils estimated to be on roll. The Council uses the DfE cost indicator, which is subject to change as the rate is amended by the DfE, to determine contributions.

Details of the latest methodology is available at <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/pupil%20projections%20for%20north%20somerset%20schools%202019%20to%202023.pdf>

4.2 School buildings should be built to the highest standards possible. This will be in accordance with BB103 for mainstream and BB104 for special schools and other relevant national standards.

When looking at the new sites:

- they should be a rectangular plot, the sizes of which should be appropriate for the different sized schools and/or where other facilities available from the site are added;
- they should be of a suitable shape to incorporate buildings, hard/soft play areas, shared facilities, parking, community access etc., whilst meeting the needs of the surrounding buildings and any necessary planning conditions;
- they must be in accessible location and have at least two separate approaches and not be located at the end of a cul-de-sac;
- they must have discreet access to shared facilities (internal and external);



- they should have appropriate access/egress/parking facilities/surrounding road infrastructure must comply with North Somerset Council requirements/current policies and traffic impact assessment needs and the site should facilitate the provision of 'Safe Routes to School';
- land must be delivered in virgin state without contamination, well drained and free of constraints including noise and air pollution and archaeological interests;
- developers should not use the school land as a solution to their wider developer infrastructures such as for drainage routes or swales;
- they should have suitable topography for the school's needs;
- they should have access to services including broadband fibre connections that must be available, with all costs to facilitate their supply met by the developer;
- they should have appropriate road and travel infrastructures to and from the school must be provided by the developer.

School sites must have the following:

- The building must, as a minimum, comply with the mid-point of BB103 requirements. The building must also comply with BB102.
- A full production kitchen must be delivered in accordance to NSC specifications to meet the needs of the delivery of meals to all pupils on the site (school/pre-school as appropriate).
- External wall construction needs to be robust and suitable for a school environment where balls etc. can be kicked against walls without detriment to the finish.
- ICT – A suitable connection to building via the appropriate connection (i.e. fibre) to be installed to enable connection to broadband services.
- The toilets should allow for privacy and be age appropriate with the correct numbers in accessible locations for all ages of pupil. Good access to washing facilities should be available. There should be no urinals. Toilets should be constructed in an open and unisex manner, to prevent potential for bullying. Toilet cubicle doors should be full height and each one to be ventilated adequately. Toilet facilities for disabled pupils should be provided in the same location to the ambulant disabled persons standard.
- Nursery toilet door heights to be confirmed with the end user prior to construction commencing.
- Facilities for nursing mothers should be available on all new school sites.
- Areas for quiet reflection and prayer should be made available on all new school sites.
- Floor finishes – barrier matting must be included at every external door location and suitably sized. The type of matting should be either recessed in mat wells or of an agreed alternative design.

- Under floor heating is the preferable system (i.e. normally no radiators in classrooms or circulation spaces), noting that PE stores need to be excluded to enable mats to be stored.
- The site generally should be free from both underground and over-ground services. In particular, the site should not have restrictive services such as power, gas, water sewerage, archaeological constraints etc. that impinge upon the site development. The site should however be provided with services such as power, water, telecoms, drainage – to enable the construction of a school. The services to be terminated within the site boundary in a location that is within 20m of the likely position of the new school building.
- In seeking to become carbon neutral by 2030, school buildings should promote the latest low energy sustainable heat, facilities and light options and provide for sustainable modes of travel to and from and within the site. This will include electronic charging points for vehicles, sufficient cycle and scoot parking and changing rooms and showers for those who travel sustainably.
- The site should not be below a flight path for aircraft either taking off or landing at Weston.
- No site should be with the HSE restricted zones for high pressure gas storage units or pipelines.
- If there are rhymes or other water courses, the site should be transferred only once the requisite maintenance works have been completed to the satisfaction of the Environment Agency or Internal Drainage board as applicable. Maintenance access to the watercourse should be excluded from the transferred land or appropriate measures put in place to enable access without impinging upon the site area and use.
- Sites should not be affected by ecological or conservation constraints. Prior to transfer, the site should be subject to an ecological survey and the results issued for acceptance by the local authority.
- Sites should not be affected by Archaeological constraints. Prior to transfer, the site should be subject to an Archaeological Desktop survey. If it is recommended that trial trenches should be dug, these should be completed prior to transfer, at the cost of the contractor. The NSC Archaeological Officer will need to approve that the site can be constructed upon, following receipt of the survey and trial trench findings.
- The site should be sited such that it is not affected by noise from adjacent highways or industrial sites. The contractor to provide noise assessments prior to transfer to demonstrate that the site is suitable.
- The surrounding development should be designed to provide at least two entrances to the site that are suitable for school coaches (52-seater), refuse and general deliveries. The surrounding road infrastructure should also suit parking for parents who drive to school and drop/collect children, without adversely affecting the residents. Due cognisance of the relevant Supplementary Planning Document – North Somerset Parking Standards, should be complied with.

- All internal and external doors should be installed with integral anti-finger trap designs. Examples of such doors are Leaderflush Shapland Sentinel or Hazlin Safehinge.
- The site should not normally be with Environment Agency flood zone 3a or 3b classification. If it is appropriate mitigation measures should be in place without cost to the Local Authority or school.
- On completion, the contractor to provide the required maintenance contract for the duration of the defect's correction period at no cost to the school or North Somerset Council. The rationale being that warranties must remain valid and no complications regarding liability.

4.3 Where significant numbers of new school places are required, often at the start of a major new development, the Council will ask for the schools within the new housing areas to be 'future-proofed' and built to enable a phased increase in provision to be added at a later stage. For example, a one or two-form entry school may need to be built with the full future capacity hall, staff rooms, main group rooms etc. appropriate to the capacity of a larger school. This would enable further class bases and other supporting facilities (such as a pre-school; sixth form facilities) to be added at a later stage in the development, without When considering a 'local school' for primary schools, this will normally be a school within 2 miles (as a safe walking route) from the child's home. Many parents of primary aged pupils expect a school place for their child within an 800m walking and 1600 cycle/scooting distance from their home (although this is not a legal entitlement).

4.4 When negotiating agreements with developers, the Council will, if possible, ensure input from the promoter of the (new) school into its design and final specification. All buildings should meet national requirements as well as North Somerset bespoke specifications.

**Review:**

~~**Are there any further factors the Council should be considering when determining projection need and securing sites and financial contributions for new schools or expansions to current provisions?**~~

## **5 New Schools and Competitions**

5.1 The Education Act 2011 gives Local Authorities 'a critical new role as strengthened champions of choice, securing a wide range of education options for parents and families, ensuring there are sufficient high-quality school places, co-ordinating fair admissions, promoting social justice by supporting vulnerable children and challenging schools which fail to improve.'

There is an expectation that within the schools' system, academy status will be the norm and that where there is a need for a new school, the first choice

will be a new Academy or Free School. Where the Local Authority is unable to identify a suitable sponsor to open a new school, it will be 'able to contact the Secretary of State for Education so that together such a sponsor can be found.

- 5.2 Local Authorities have a statutory duty under section 14(3A) of the Education and Inspections Act 1996 to exercise their functions with a view to securing diversity in the provision of schools, and in increasing opportunities for parental choice when planning the provision of school places. In ensuring that there are enough schools in its area, the Council will always promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential.
- 5.3 The Council wants every North Somerset child to be educated in learning facilities where they can be inspired to learn and develop educationally, morally and emotionally in safe, secure and physically and financially robust establishments. Whilst the condition and suitability of academies is a matter for these schools or their Multi-academy Trust, where the Council does have influence, it is vital that schools/academies should be central to the communities they serve, providing genuinely personalised learning experiences for their pupils; engaging environments for parents, carers and the local community; and providing a wide curriculum of learning that leads to high standards and good behaviour within specialist facilities.
- 5.4 In all cases and where practicable and needed, for all new schools delivered by the Council, it will seek to maximise the community use of school facilities outside of school hours to meet the needs of the local community and provide a revenue stream for the school.
- 5.5 In addition to creating the right internal accommodation to meet curriculum needs, the Council expects all new schools/ school expansions in areas of design significance to be important buildings, contributing to their urban environment. This can add to the cost of a new building and should be a financial consideration when allocating resources to build any new school.
- 5.6 The Council has a range of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) that provide guidance on North Somerset Council's policy requirements. These include, for example, design standards; parking requirements; and the provision of informed Travel Plans. They can be viewed on the Council's website at: <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/planning-building-control/planningpolicy/supplementary-planning-advice/adopted-supplementary-plans/supplementary-plans-adopted/>. New school buildings will be expected to comply with these standards where reasonably practical, and/or to provide explanation where those standards cannot for some reason be met.
- 5.7 All new schools/academies should be community resources that are committed to work together as well as extensively and effectively with

parents, other providers and wider children's services. They should deliver with other partners a wide offer of teaching, learning and other services; meeting additional pupil and family needs; ensuring that problems are identified and addressed universally; maximising pupil and family learning improvements; and making the greatest use of their community resource to ensure collective accountability in the local area.

5.8 North Somerset Council will seek to ensure that all learning establishments within the Council's area are committed to working together to meet the best interests of children and families. It will lead and facilitate this ethos, sometimes acting as a brokerage service, and ensure that any new education partners subscribe and commit to North Somerset Council's learning principles. The Council will ensure that, where possible, schools should facilitate access to wider community resources.

5.9 When considering new school place provision, North Somerset will:

- establish new academy free schools via national Presumption Route Free School guidelines - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/establishing-a-new-school-free-school-presumption>
- where appropriate, work with its partners to expand consistently good or outstanding popular academies and schools. This may include increases in provision on an existing site and/or an expansion of age range on a new or existing site or a transfer and expansion onto a new site, all within national guidelines. Where a school expands and transfers to a new site, the Council will expect to secure the previous site location in exchange
- work with good/outstanding Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) to support their Free School bids where they are consistent with the Council's strategic plans.

5.10 Where a new school is needed and more than one provider asks for the Council's support with their bid, providers will be expected to submit Local Intentions of Interest to the Council. These will be considered by the Council in accordance with the guidelines outlined below. The Council will support the group that best matches its strategic obligations. The preferred sponsor will be notified of the Council's support.

(The Council's decision not to support a Free School submission by a MAT will not stop that organisation from progressing with their application to the DfE's Free School Unit).

5.11 The Council will work with developers and support them, where possible, in providing new school buildings and community resources to the Council's specifications as part of their infrastructure obligations.



- 5.12 New School Competitions – a decision to request an Expressions of Interest (EOI) process for a new school will be made by the Executive Member for Services & Lifelong Learning, having regard to the recommendations of the CYPs Policy and Scrutiny Panel.

The Strategic Planning & Governance Service/Pupil Places and Planning Team will oversee the EOI process. Whilst it is recognised the Secretary of State is the Decision Maker, officers will review all submissions. The application process will normally include written submissions and interviews with strong applicants able to show that they can fulfil the criteria, such as that shown in Addendum A attached. Officers will make recommendations of support to the DfE. The regulations prevent the publication or sharing of the Council's preferred sponsor. Details of this organisation will normally be included with the submission of all Expressions of Interest sent to the Secretary of State following the Council's conclusion of its EOI process only. Secretary of State decisions are normally made in around 6 weeks. It is anticipated the whole process will take around 6 – 9 months to complete.

- 5.13 The Council will take all necessary steps to ensure that the widest possible range of groups or organisations that might be interested in establishing the new school are aware of the opportunity to do so, and that they have sufficient time to develop proposals. Local good or outstanding academies that are interested in submitting a proposal to run a new school will need to have, or will need to acquire, both Academy status and sponsor approval. The Department's list of approved sponsors can be accessed on the DfE website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-sponsor-contact-list>.

The Department for Education will also play a role in generating interest from high quality proposers – by posting details of new academy/free school proposals on its own website, encouraging key stakeholders to do the same and by sign-posting proposals to existing sponsors or potential sponsors who we are aware are keen to operate in that region.

All presumption projects will be assigned a lead contact in the DfE at the point the local authority notifies the department of its intention to run a presumption competition. The lead contact will help, advise and challenge all stakeholders to ensure that the new school will operate successfully from day one. The Council will include this contact in all stages of the EOI, including the interviews and assessment of potential sponsors.

In expressing an interest, it is expected that potential promoters will be able to satisfy the requirements of the competition brief. Addendum A provides an example of the most recent local competition for a 210-place primary school.

- 5.14 Local Authorities are required to include the following details in their Presumption proposals:

- Type of school
- Character/Ethos of school
- Phase and age range (will it include nursery / sixth form provision?)

- Opening date
- Final capacity
- Proposed Published Admission Number (PAN) and number of forms of entry on opening, and expected rate of growth
- Proposed admission arrangements, including catchment area if applicable
- Details about transport
- Reasons the new school is required (e.g. due to a new housing development)
- Profile of the area, including data about Free School Meals (FSM); Looked After Children (LAC) and Previously Looked After Children (PLAC); Black and Minority Ethnic (BME); Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND); Key Stage 2 outcomes
- Is the school expected to provide community use / will there be any shared facilities?
- Details of the site / building, including details of the ownership
- Details of pre-opening revenue funding to be provided by the local authority
- Details of post-opening diseconomies of scale funding to be provided by the local authority, including underwriting of places and how many years this will be for
- Timelines for the project, including deadline for proposals
- Process the local authority will follow when assessing proposals
- How to apply (including application form)
- Local authority contact details

- 5.15 In moving to a commissioning role, it is not appropriate for any added members of the CYPS Policy and Scrutiny Panel to take part in the Panel discussions and decisions. Added members are however welcome to address the Panel within the arrangements made for public discussion (Standing Order SS09).

The same will also apply to any Member who has a personal interest in providing a new school. If a personal interest, the Member may speak and vote on the matter. If a prejudicial interest is declared, the Member should leave the Chamber whilst the matter is being dealt with but may first make a personal statement on the matter as if they were a member of the public addressing the meeting under the Public Participation Procedure. The Member must immediately leave the meeting at the start of debate on the agenda item.

If the Member leaves the Chamber in respect of a declaration, he or she should ensure that the Chair is aware of this before he or she leaves because it should be recorded in the Minutes.

- 5.16 All proposals received will be assessed and the Council will advise the DfE of their preferred sponsor. The Secretary of State for Education will take the Council's assessment into account, along with any additional relevant factors. The Secretary of State reserves the right to overrule any local process and agree a sponsor from the Department's list of approved sponsors on the basis that there may be further evidence about a proposer, or proposers, which means that none of those put forward are suitable. The national intention is to ensure that the school is always established by the best proposer possible.



As part of the planning process for new schools, the Council will also undertake an assessment of the impact of the proposal, both on existing educational institutions locally, and in terms of impact on particular groups of pupils from an equality's perspective. This is to enable the Secretary of State to meet the duties under section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 and under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. In the unlikely event that the Secretary of State has concerns about the level of analysis, the Council may be asked to undertake further work on their impact assessment.

In accordance with the regulations the Council will await the Secretary of State for Education's decision before formally making public the outcome of their assessment or the result of the EOI process.

- 5.17 The Council is responsible for providing the site for the new school and meeting all associated capital costs. It is also required to meet the revenue costs of the new provision by making provision in its growth funds to support increases in pupil numbers relating to basic need.

From April 2013 the Schools Budget has been responsible for funding all pre-opening and all post-opening start-up costs associated with establishing new presumption route provisions (to meet basic need) in academies and free schools. The latest policy for calculating these resources was agreed by the Strategic Schools Forum (SSF) in February 2021. The policy is reviewed regularly. The funding for new growth forms part of the overall North Somerset allocation and as new places are provided, the funds available to other schools and academies could be adjusted accordingly.

The latest guidance is available at: <https://www.supportservicesforeducation.co.uk/Page/10238>

- 5.18 Expanded site Intentions (size and age range) – where local places are needed and this can be addressed by the expansion of an existing school on the existing or onto a new site, where more than one establishment may be deemed appropriate for expansion, a decision to request Local Intentions of Interest for providing new school places may be progressed. Any such decisions will also be discussed with the Regional Schools Commissioner who will often be the decision maker if the expanding school is an academy.

Expressions of Interest will need to follow the principles of new school competitions as shown in Addendum A and will need to show:

- how well the additional places are located to meet growth and, in the case of Special School provision, whether the school is able to meet the needs of the additional young people requiring a Special School place;
- standards in the school - it is expected that schools that expand will be Outstanding or Good \* with appropriate Progress 8 scores;
- the capacity of the school to provide suitable accommodation on the site, within existing space and within planning/building constraints or to be able

to move to a new site and continue to meet its communities needs and those of an extended school population without detriment to its current local community;

- the popularity of the school;
- the potential of any expansion to create overprovision or reduce diversity of provision in an area;
- where a school moves onto a new site and does not retain the current locations provision, the school/MAT is prepared to relinquish all control of their current site to make this available to the Council in exchange.

\* Where no solution to a requirement for additional places can be found that meets this criterion, consideration will be given to expansion solutions where a school can evidence sufficient leadership capacity and standards are improving towards good.

5.19 In such cases as in 5.18 above, the Council will oversee consultations and publish any statutory proposals to expand and/or relocate a community, community special or VC school. Whilst non-academy Foundation and Trust schools can oversee their own statutory consultations, the Council may oversee these on behalf of the governing body if requested. Foundation and Trust Schools will need to follow the guidelines outlined by the DfE in their publication Making Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools - [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/756572/Maintained\\_schools\\_prescribed\\_alterations\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/756572/Maintained_schools_prescribed_alterations_guidance.pdf) The Council's Executive Committee is the decision maker for these proposals

5.20 For academies, in agreed circumstances the Executive Member for Children Services & Lifelong Learning may decide to support a proposal made by the Trustees of an Academy if their proposal meets the strategic aims of this strategy and of the Council.

The Academy would be expected to follow the making Significant Changes to an existing Academy Guidance issued by the DfE– see [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/847451/Significant\\_change\\_and\\_academy\\_closure\\_151119.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/847451/Significant_change_and_academy_closure_151119.pdf) The Regional Schools' Commissioner is the decision maker, having regard to the determination of the local Headteachers Board.

5.21 The Council will support the schools and academies in their requests provided they match its strategic obligations.

## **Review**

~~How do you feel you are able to support the principles outlined above when the Council is seeking new or expanded school, especially when the duty to secure places remains with the Council but it is no longer the decision maker for c 78% of schools?~~

North Somerset Expression of Interest response evaluation matrix			Sponsor Name:		Total Score	0
Section	Criteria	Satisfactory (1-3)	Good (4-6)	Outstanding (7-9)	Score	
A	DfE Approved Sponsor	Yes/No				N/A
B	Organisation's knowledge and experience of the local area in relation to their plans to establish this particular school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visited local area and site, general understanding of the Yatton community</li> <li>Understand how to write and manage an ongoing travel plan which responds to the particular needs of a site by identifying travel issues and solutions and delivers a range of initiatives which promote various forms of sustainable travel and road safety.</li> <li>A commitment to engage with the Modeshift STARS cycle in order to achieve accreditation at bronze level from the DfT's national travel awards for the new school site in Yatton.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visited local site, has a good understanding of the local area and has researched local, sociodemographic and educational information</li> <li>Inclusion of a current example of an ongoing travel plan which responds to the particular needs of a site by identifying travel issues and solutions and delivers a range of initiatives which promote various forms of sustainable travel and road safety.</li> <li>A commitment to engage with the Modeshift STARS cycle in order to achieve accreditation at silver level from the DfT's national travel awards for the new school site in Yatton.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visited local area and site, has an excellent understanding of the local area and socio-demographic and educational information</li> <li>Reference to local services to support families in the locality and community facilities</li> <li>Evidence of meeting with the local community and an understanding of their aspirations of the new school</li> <li>Inclusion of multiple current examples of ongoing travel plans which successfully responds to the particular needs of sites by identifying travel issues and solutions and delivers a range of initiatives which promote various forms of sustainable travel and road safety.</li> <li>A commitment to engage with the Modeshift STARS cycle in order to achieve accreditation at gold level from the DfT's national travel awards for the new school site in Yatton.</li> </ul>		
C	Sponsor's vision and how it meets the requirements in the published specification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A clear vision for learning and teaching, and show how success will be measured</li> <li>A clear commitment to partnership working with parents and other key multi agencies including supporting a child's development in their early years</li> <li>Explanation of how the school will engage with, inspire and motivate its pupils and staff so that they achieve the highest possible standards and outcomes</li> <li>Explanation of how full participation of all learners will be enabled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An inspiring, aspirational, clear and succinct vision, clearly showing what the school's ethos and key features will be</li> <li>Aspirations for community joint working to provide positive opportunities for all stakeholders</li> <li>Examples of success measuring techniques</li> <li>Examples of sponsor engaging, inspiring and motivating pupils and staff</li> <li>Examples of full participation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A creative and innovative vision that will enhance education within the community</li> <li>Case studies showing positive impact of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>successful community joint working which provides positive opportunities for stakeholders</li> <li>teaching and learning success</li> <li>achieving high standards and outcomes</li> <li>positive impact of full participation</li> </ul> </li> <li>letters of support from partners</li> </ul>		
D	How educational offer/curriculum plan meets the requirements in the specification	<p><b>Curriculum:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An operational plan that covers the key areas to deliver provision and outcomes</li> <li>Within the curriculum the following areas are noted - PHSE, PREVENT, safeguarding and welfare and British values</li> </ul> <p><b>Measuring Performance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategies for measuring pupil performance are identified</li> <li>Engage and motivate pupils and staff to achieve national standards and outcomes</li> </ul> <p><b>Staffing Structure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structure that will deliver the planned curriculum within the expected income levels</li> </ul> <p><b>Ensuring Inclusivity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A vision of welcoming SEND and vulnerable children from the local area to be admitted to school</li> <li>Enable the full participation of all learners</li> <li>A programme of enrichment and extended services for all pupils</li> </ul> <p><b>Early Years:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vision statement that shows continuity between EY and KS1</li> <li>Plan for involving parents in the learning, effective communication with parents and carers</li> <li>Recruitment of quality staff with the commitment to EYFS curriculum</li> <li>An equal opportunities policy which allows learning for SEND groups</li> </ul>	<p><b>Curriculum:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a broad and balance curriculum plan in line with national guidance</li> <li>within the curriculum the following areas are taught - PHSE, PREVENT, safeguarding and welfare and British values</li> </ul> <p><b>Measuring Performance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategies for measuring pupil performance effectively and setting challenging targets</li> <li>Engage and motivate pupils and staff to achieve good standards and outcomes</li> </ul> <p><b>Staffing Structure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>that will deliver a broad and balanced curriculum within the expected income levels leading to good teaching</li> </ul> <p><b>Ensuring Inclusivity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A vision of welcoming SEND and vulnerable children from the local and the wider area to be admitted to the school</li> <li>Enable the full participation of all learners within the full broad and balanced curriculum</li> <li>A programme of enrichment and extended services for all pupils with an emphasis on those with SEND</li> </ul> <p><b>Early Years:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vision and ethos statement that show continuity between EY and KS1</li> <li>Plan for involving parents in the learning, effective communication with parents and carers and home visits for new starters</li> <li>Recruitment of quality staff with the commitment to EYFS curriculum which ensures independent learning</li> <li>An equal opportunities policy which allows learning for SEND groups in both indoor and outdoor learning environments</li> </ul>	<p><b>Curriculum:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An ambitious broad and balanced curriculum plan in line with national guidance</li> <li>within the curriculum the following areas are an integral part - PHSE, PREVENT, safeguarding and welfare and British values</li> </ul> <p><b>Measuring Performance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Innovative strategies for measuring and tracking pupil performance effectively and setting challenging and aspirational targets and will engage inspire and motivate its 'pupils and staff so that they achieve the highest possible standards and outcomes</li> </ul> <p><b>Staffing Structure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flexible staffing structure that will deliver a planned curriculum for the 21st century within the expected income levels with a focus on outstanding teaching which includes effective performance management</li> </ul> <p><b>Ensuring Inclusivity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A vision and ethos of welcoming SEND and vulnerable children from the local and the wider area to be admitted to the school</li> <li>Enable the full participation of all learners within the full broad and balanced curriculum and ensuring that the needs of the most vulnerable learners are met</li> <li>A full programme of enrichment and extended services for all pupils with an emphasis on those with SEND</li> </ul> <p><b>Early Years:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vision and ethos statement that shows continuity between EYFS and KS1 based on child centred approach</li> <li>Clear direction of involving parents in the learning, effective communication with parents and carers and home visits for new starters</li> <li>Recruitment of high quality staff with a passion and commitment to EYFS curriculum which ensures independent and stimulating learning</li> <li>An effective Equal opportunities policy which allows learning for SEND and vulnerable groups in both indoor and outdoor learning environments</li> </ul>		
E	Evidence of how the sponsor would meet the capacity and capability requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proven ability within a MAT to run schools that are financially robust and deliver good educational outcomes</li> <li>Members of staff with recognised qualifications in managing school finances, school leadership, project management, marketing, human resources, safeguarding and health and safety</li> <li>Evidence that governance arrangements and structures of existing MAT schools are delivering good outcomes within a financially robust setting</li> <li>Evidence of the capability and capacity within the sponsor's organisation to deliver a new school that is financially robust with the capacity to deliver good education</li> <li>Commitment to the principal of local schools for local children and to meet the demand for school places for pupils from the local new developments</li> <li>Evidence of successfully delivering a school building project</li> <li>Evidence working in partnership with other local schools, MATs and the local authority</li> <li>Able to provide high quality education in alternative accommodation, being flexible and innovative in the use of resources</li> <li>Evidence of working with local councils, sharing data as requested to enable performance to be monitored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proven ability within an established MAT structure to open a new school in an area of residential growth with phased growth that are financially robust and delivered good educational outcomes</li> <li>Experienced members of staff who have overseen the opening of a new schools with recognised qualifications in managing school finances, school leadership, project management, marketing, human resources, safeguarding and health and safety</li> <li>Evidence that the governance arrangements and structures of the sponsor's previously opened new school is delivering good outcomes within a financially robust setting.</li> <li>Evidence that the sponsor has the capability and capacity within their organisation to deliver a new school that is financially robust with the capacity to deliver good education without detriment to other schools within your MAT</li> <li>Fully embrace the requirements of the s106 agreements, meeting the demand for school places for pupils from the developments and local community</li> <li>Able to evidence working in partnership with other local schools, MATs and the local authority when opening a new school that has not resulted in a large-scale relocation of existing pupils from other local schools</li> <li>Evidence of working with a local authority to successfully deliver a new schools that meet the 21st century needs of pupils</li> <li>Experience of providing high quality education in alternative accommodation and be prepared to be flexible and innovative in the use of resources</li> <li>Evidence of working with local councils, sharing data as requested to enable performance to be monitored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proven ability, within an established MAT structure, to open a significant number of new schools (4+) in areas of residential growth that have had a phased growth and have been financially robust and delivered outstanding educational outcomes</li> <li>Highly experienced members of staff who have overseen a significant numbers (4+) of new schools with recognised qualifications in managing school finances, school leadership, project management, marketing, human resources, safeguarding and health and safety</li> <li>Robust governance arrangements and structures in the sponsor's previously opened new schools, opened in areas of residential growth that are delivering outstanding outcomes within a financially robust setting.</li> <li>Demonstrable evidence of the capability and capacity within the sponsor's organisation to deliver a new school that is financially robust with the capacity to deliver outstanding education without detriment to other schools within the MAT</li> <li>Evidence of other schools in the MAT fully embracing the principle of local schools for local children and meeting the demand for school places for pupils from local new developments and the wider community</li> <li>Evidence of working in partnership with other local schools, MATs and the local authority when opening a significant number (4+) of new schools that have not resulted in a large-scale relocation of existing pupils from other local schools</li> <li>Evidence of working with a local authority to successfully deliver new schools that meet the 21st century needs of pupils and can offer their facilities to the local community</li> <li>have experience of providing high quality education for the residents generated from any new development in alternative accommodation before the opening of the new permanent school buildings and are prepared to be flexible and innovative in the use of resources</li> <li>have evidence of co-equal partnerships with local Councils, working with and sharing data as requested by the Council to enable the LA to monitor their performance</li> </ul>		
F	Funding and Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have evidence of robust financial arrangements across your multi academy trust</li> <li>Willing to pay all reasonable costs in relation to the transfer of land</li> <li>Provision of 2 years company financial accounts (or alternative if not trading as a trust for more than 1 year).</li> </ul> <p>The score of 0 - 5 as a result of "Audit West's" financial assessment analysis that looks at balance sheet and profit or loss ratios to analyse the financial position of an entity. Including the comparison to industry averages and analyses trends of ratios over a three year period. Trends that improve over a period of time are scored higher than those that do not improve.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have evidence of robust financial arrangements across your multi academy trust has enabled another school to benefit from the financial and other resources of the wider trust to secure its own financial viability</li> <li>Willing to pay all reasonable costs in relation to the transfer of land</li> <li>Provision of 2 years company financial accounts (or alternative if not trading as a trust for more than 1 year).</li> </ul> <p>The score of 6-10 as a result of "Audit West's" financial assessment analysis that looks at balance sheet and profit or loss ratios to analyse the financial position of an entity. Including the comparison to industry averages and analyses trends of ratios over a three year period. Trends that improve over a period of time are scored higher than those that do not improve.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have evidence of robust financial arrangements across your multi academy trust have enabled growing schools to benefit from the financial and other resources of the wider trust to secure its own financial viability</li> <li>Willing to pay all reasonable costs in relation to the transfer of land</li> <li>Provision of 2 years company financial accounts (or alternative if not trading as a trust for more than 1 year).</li> </ul> <p>The score of 11-15 as a result of "Audit West's" financial assessment analysis looks at balance sheet and profit or loss ratios to analyse the financial position of an entity. It also compares to industry averages and analyses trends of ratios over a three year period. Trends that improve over a period of time are scored higher than those that do not improve.</p>		
G	Impact and Equalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate a commitment to promoting equality and diversity and eliminating unlawful discrimination and harassment for all students and staff</li> <li>Demonstrate a commitment to engage and support protected characteristic groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Able to provide case studies demonstrating a significant commitment to promoting equality and diversity and eliminating unlawful discrimination and harassment for all students and staff</li> <li>Able to provide case studies for engaging and supporting protected characteristic groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Able to provide case studies demonstrating a significant commitment to promoting equality and diversity and eliminating unlawful discrimination and harassment for all students and staff across multiple schools</li> <li>Able to provide case studies that show a positive impact on protected characteristic groups</li> </ul>		

Where the evidence and argument submitted by potential sponsors is considered to be inadequate, the scoring will be assessed as 0

## Appendix 4

**Draft Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy 2021 – 2024**

**Capital Funding**

- 1.1 Capital allocations for new school places come to the Council from a range of sources including: Basic Need; Targeted Basic Need; s106 contributions/Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Free School Bids. The Department for Education (DfE) may also allocate bespoke funding for priority areas as national priorities dictate. There have not been any Targeted Basic Need funding opportunities open to councils for a while.
- 1.2 Whereas the Local Authority (LA) receives a Capital Maintenance Allocation to cover urgent health and safety and condition needs of community and Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools, and Voluntary Aided (VA) schools are supported by the Locally Coordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP), all schools have ear-marked Devolved Capital (DC) paid to them to meet the improvement needs of their sites. Smaller academies/academy chains can bid for funds from the Academies Condition Improvement Fund whilst larger academy chains qualify for School Condition Allocations.

The Council's Capital Maintenance Allocation for the 12 LA schools for which the Council is now responsible (as at January-May 2021) from allocations received over the past 3 financial years is as below:

2018/19 £	2019/20 £	2020/21 £	2020/21 'Uplift' £
600,767	384,833	370,543	172,087
600,767	384,833	542,630	

This fund is currently based on a formula that reflects the numbers of pupils in schools. As school convert to academy status, the overall pot is reduced.

The latest individual school DC allocations in 2020/21 and 2021/22 are as below:

	£ (2020/21)	£ (2021/22)
Banwell Primary	6,036	5,991
Churchill C of E Primary	6,059	6,131
Golden Valley Primary	8,613	8,635
Kewstoke Primary	4,952	5,087
Sandford Primary	5,676	5,681
St Andrew's C of E Primary	6,543	6,418
Winscombe Primary	6,385	6,407
Wrington C of E Primary	6,284	6,283
Baytree Special	6,221	7,417

Ravenswood Special	7,881	<u>10,049</u>
VLC – Milton and Oldmixon sites	6,565	<u>8,581</u>
Westhaven Special	8,253	<u>11,695</u>

Capital Maintenance Allocations for the 2021/22 financial year were announced on 28 April 2021. North Somerset's grant has remained as £370,543.00. This includes a transitional protection payment of £71,996.

Funding will be allocated to school schemes based on the priorities shown in 2020 condition surveys of the school estate that, as at May 2021, are being finalised.

The recent site assessments for these schools show condition needs amounting to £10,159,805 excluding M&E assessments.

Capital Maintenance allocations will not normally be allocated to those maintained schools who have indicated an intention to transfer to academy status unless there are urgent health and safety needs that must be addressed with urgency.

Section 6 of the Academies Act 2010 provides that 'Local Authorities must cease to maintain a school on the date which it opens as an academy.' The Council will not include schools that are known to be converting to academy status in its Schools Capital Maintenance Programme even though, for many, if they had not converted before the start of a new financial year, the Council has received an element of maintenance funding for them as part of its Capital Maintenance Funding received from the DfE's national grant distributions. This is because the funding from the DfE does not cover the extent of work required across the school's capital buildings stock that far exceeds the annual allocations.

Where there are health and safety needs that must be addressed with urgency in most cases a contribution towards updates will be discussed with the school and the new Trust.

- 1.3 Whilst the Council was granted a total basic need allocation of £31,641,935 between the 2018/19 and the 2019/20 financial years, the allocations for the 2020/21, ~~and~~ 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years have ~~both~~ all been announced as £0.

Basic need is paid to support the provision of new mainstream school places, whether at academies or LA maintained schools. There is an expectation that Council's contribute c30 - 40% of their funds to each project. Council funding is rarely allocated to school projects.

- 1.4 The Council was allocated £788,484 between the 2018/19 and the 2020/21 financial years to support adaptations/expansions to its Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision. This was further enhanced by £181,508 and £363,016 across this period (£1,325,007 in total). ~~The further payment of this grant in the future is unknown and cannot be relied upon.~~ This money is intended to create new SEND places.



A further year's allocation of this grant of £1,152,776 was announced in April 2021 although it has been made clear future allocations cannot be relied upon.

The DfE have provided guidance on how the funds should be spent. The 'Government's vision for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities is the same as for all children and young people - that they achieve well and lead happy and fulfilled lives.' The Children and Families Act 2014 places important statutory responsibilities on local authorities for supporting children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities. This is a vital role that local authorities retain in an increasingly school-led education system and one that requires long-term strategic planning, informed by detailed local knowledge enhanced through consultation with parents and carers, and good relationships with local schools.

The capital funding is not ring-fenced, and local authorities can use it as they see fit. There is an expectation that local authorities will seek to use this funding in a way that helps them manage the cost pressures on their high need's revenue budgets and should ensure they are considering any resulting savings when developing their Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Management plans. For this reason, this strategy recommends that use of this grant should be prioritised as below:

- To increase the availability of new SEND places across North Somerset, especially where this can contribute towards the availability of more local places to meet increasing demand and reduce the High Needs Block overspend
- To update current sites to meet the needs of existing pupils that could not be made if this fund were not available, such as making reasonable adjustments

Suggested types of work include, but are not limited to:

- projects that enable and/or increase access to mainstream placements for pupils with high needs (who might otherwise have required more specialist provision);
- projects that increase the local availability of high needs places to help reduce out of area placements and associated transport or residential costs, and/or reduce reliance on more expensive provision where local provision can be provided at less ongoing cost;
- projects that adapt, re-model or improve existing high needs places to make them suitable for a wider range of pupil needs. This could be achieved through:
  - Expansion(s) to existing high needs provision, including at the same site or at a different site.
  - Reconfiguring provision to make available space for additional places or facilities

- Re-purposing areas so that they meet the needs of pupils with SEND
- Investment in accessibility to improve access to existing provision
- Other capital transactions that result in new (additional) places or improvements to facilities
- Supporting or contributing to the cost of creating a whole new special school.

The funding is not intended for individual mobility equipment such as wheelchairs, or for maintenance work, which should be covered by Devolved Formula Capital funding, the Condition Improvement Fund or School Condition Allocations. The funding is provided for capital purposes only and cannot be used for revenue expenditure of any kind, such as training or staff costs.

1.5 The Council was successful in a Wave 13 Free School bidding round in May 2018 and Learn@MAT was announced in July 2020 as the sponsor to run a new Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) school from a Council-owned site in Churchill. In addition to gifting its land, the Council will be expected to pick up any abnormal project costs not covered by the Education, Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA). These could run into hundreds of thousands of pounds.

1.6 Capital allocations have previously been prioritised based on the following priorities:

- Invest to maintain
- Invest to grow (population)
- Invest to grow (economic)
- Invest to save (reduced costs)
- Invest to save (generate income)

For the Council's Capital Maintenance allocations, the priority will continue to be to:

- Invest to maintain to resolve:
  - Urgent emergency health and safety requirements
  - Projects identified as potentially resulting in school closure if they are not progressed

For basic need and SEND allocations:

- Invest to grow (population) to meet sustained increases in pupil population need

North Somerset Council has clear strategies for school place provision. Organisational and building changes to address basic need will only normally be progressed where they contribute to school standards; provide, where appropriate, community facilities to support national and local agendas; and meet pupil demand.



- 1.7 The Council has provided every North Somerset pupil with a local school place that asked for one. Our ability to continue to provide local places for local pupils will be dependent on having capital resources to facilitate this.

The delivery of new school places is dependent on the provision of sufficient land and capital allocations appropriate to new place needs. Securing sites of sufficient size for a proposed new school and clear of physical constraints is complex. Whereas land for new primary schools can often be given as part of s106 agreements in larger developments, land for new secondary and specialist SEND provision can be more difficult to obtain as the allocation of a significant school site may not always be proportionate to the level of appropriate developer contribution. Expansions of current schools may not always be possible due to the physical constraints of their sites. In certain cases, capital to secure a school site may be needed. The cost of a site is often dependent on its perceived value and the Council has no capital fund available to purchase land for school purposes. In addition, the cost of providing the buildings needed to deliver the extra places may often exceed the funding available. Whilst compromises are made, additional resources are often needed. Delays in the delivery of schemes may be necessary whilst additional funds are secured, although delays often result in increased costs too.

There is a significant risk that the capital funds needed to progress all the schemes contained within the commissioning strategy will not be found. School schemes need to be assessed against other council priorities. Officers continue to work to secure capital allocations from developers and through external funding sources as available, but often these do not cover the full cost of a project. Compromises need to be sought, but with increased costs to meet green agenda and other new planning requirements, there is a risk that some schemes will not be affordable, and pupils will need to be transported to other schools both inside and outside the district.

- 1.8 The Council only retains influence over its remaining 17 LA schools for whom it is the Decision Maker (5 community; 3 Voluntary controlled; 5 Aided and 4 special schools (5 sites)). This will continue until they convert (or not) to academy status.

For all other schools, decisions are taken by the Regional Schools' Commissioner (RSC) and the Secretary of State (SofS) /Department for Education (DfE). In these circumstances the Council is a consultee, although officers maintain open dialogue with the RSCs office and DfE officials so the Council's position and recommendations can be shared. This makes planning (and paying) for the Council's statutory duty to secure sufficient school and early years places complex.

- 1.9 In meeting new demand, business cases may need to be developed to support Council borrowing. The dilemma members may need to consider is that whilst a business case for need may show significant revenue savings over time, with the exception of home to school transport costs, most revenue savings will be beneficial to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and not to the

council budgets responsible for meeting the borrowing costs. The highest capital need for the Council is within the High Needs area for additional SEND places. With the High-Needs block of the DSG expected to have a -£7.57m overspend by the end of the 2020/21 financial year, the Strategic Schools Forum (SSF) and the Council may look to secure savings to this budget before any 'invest to save' schemes can be progressed.

**Review:**

~~Do you feel the funding currently available to progress school-based projects is sufficient to meet new demand?~~

~~Do you feel that 'invest to save' schemes should be progressed as part of the strategy to reduce the overspend on the High-Needs block? If so, who should be contributing to the up-front funding required?~~

DRAFT

## Summary of eConsult Responses

## Appendix 8

<p>Please provide your comments on the strategy and the stakeholder group that you are representing</p>	<p>Based on the information given in respect of the Public Sector Equality Duty in the Equality Impact Assessment included in the consultation documents, do you have any concerns about equality impacts that you would like to raise?</p>	<p>If you answered 'Yes' and wish to expand upon your response and/or make additional comments, please use the space below (including details of the Protected Characteristic(s) category you wish us to consider).</p>
	No	
<p>There are some good ideas but it is not inclusive and fails to represent the real perspective of certain groups of people within North Somerset. It would be helpful if there could be more opportunities to comment as a whole community (virtually or in a socially distanced way).</p>	Yes	<p>I feel that the proposed strategy is not inclusive and goes against the equality act. Whilst there are good recommendations it is somewhat short sighted and as such fails to be inclusive of the</p>
<p>Churchill Academy &amp; Sixth Form remains supportive of the local authority's commissioning strategy and the principle of local schools for local children. With regard to the specific proposals for the Churchill clusters, we note the demographic projections and agree that the commissioning strategy accounts for projected numbers. Churchill Academy &amp; Sixth Form would welcome a feasibility study for the expansion of our school on our existing site. With regard to the 2021-24 actions linked to the Churchill cluster, our Trust believes that an expansion of Churchill Academy &amp; Sixth Form on our current site would be a more cost-effective, efficient and sustainable solution to provide school places for young people living in new housing within our cluster, than a new secondary school in Yatton. We remain open to discussions with the local authority around this possibility.</p>	No	
<p>A very comprehensive document, covers all aspects of education provision with a significant amount of data supporting the strategy. I am a resident and school governor.</p>	No	
<p>I am the Headteacher of a Maintained Primary School</p>	No View	
	No	

<p>Extend Learning Academies Network</p> <p>There is recognition of increased need and the majority planned and proposed will go some way to reduce the impact of SEND on mainstream schools, which is good. However, North Somerset Council has a duty to secure sufficient suitable education opportunities to meet the reasonable needs of all young people in their area. It is essential that this happens, the provision for SEND pupils is not fit for purpose and does not currently meet need. Out of county placements are expensive and are not in the interests of most pupils. The proposals for the expansion of current special provisions will not meet the increase in need. Placing further pressure on mainstream budgets to meet the needs of children with EHCs.</p> <p>The increase in the number of children deemed SEMH will not be met by the new provision of 65 places. This document mentions the growing population and increased demand for SEMH provision – is it sensible to still be looking at only 65 places (age 4-16 years, that makes about 5 places per school year – the facility will be at, or above capacity when it opens, which isn't until 2023)</p> <p>Improved financial planning is required to ensure that the increase in spending to accommodate children with SEN outside of mainstream, but not in special provisions, is minimised and funding is directed to expanding or creating new specialist provisions.</p> <p>Statement supporting the development of school buildings to provide learning facilities fit for 21st century living, teaching and learning is concerning when there are buildings in urban situations that are not necessarily fit for purpose.</p> <p>Given the falling roll (which is predicted to last some years) within North Somerset and the emergence of areas that have a significant surplus of school places. NSC should consider relocating an existing school to the new site thus negating the need for redundancies and other expensive cost reduction measures, which are publicly funded. In addition, the sale of any land/buildings could be used to subsidise a new building or be used by the council to provide enhanced educational facilities, such as SEND provision.</p> <p>Do you agree that the actions shown in 1.20 above are the right priorities for exploration and delivery, subject to funding?</p> <p>Action 1 mentions the need to support families. This is much needed, some schools already provide this (some more than others) Training need to be provided so all schools catch-up and realise the potential of Early Help and Teams Around the Family. We know that where and when these work, they reduce issues in school. There are schools within NS that have little or knowledge of this.</p> <p>Our Trust has a lot of expertise in many of the proposed areas, there are opportunities within these new plans and proposals for us to work collaboratively with other schools and trusts to develop understanding and skills, which we can deliver via the Beach training Hub</p> <p>As a Trust we would be welcome the opportunity to get on board and be part of the solution by working with NSC opening hubs or specialist provision to meet need</p>	<p>No</p>	
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<p>Do you agree that North Somerset Council has assessed its role in school place provision correctly? - Yes</p> <p>Were you aware of the above plans and do you have any comments to make about their delivery in relation to school place planning? - Yes I was aware of the plans. Only comments would be that it is unclear what consideration has been given to anticipating the proportion of families moving into the developed areas who may have SEN and require/request special school places. I am also unclear whether any of the housing will be sufficient to meet the independent needs of young adults with complex physical needs.</p> <p>Have we recorded the data above correctly and are there any changes needed to existing or new partnerships needed going forward? - I think so. However It is unclear in the current Board arrangements who holds schools and MATs to account over the identification of and meeting the needs of children with SEND. Governors and Trusts may hold headteachers to account but Governors and Trusts are not monitored or held to account other than via Ofsted. Could it be considered that someone sits on the Education Excellence Board to act as a critical friend and hold them to account if this does not already happen?</p> <p>Do you agree with the Operational Principles and Procedures outlined above ? - Yes</p> <p>Were you aware of the new places provided and to be delivered between 2018 – 21 and of the future for delivery? - Yes, mostly as a partner organisation but I am not sure this information has all been available to the general public or parents of children with SEND. It is also not clear whether this is sufficient allocation of spaces needed or when all of these places will actually be available. It would be good to see a clearer offer of local provision available on the Local Offer and the future plans?</p> <p>Are there any partners we have failed to list above ? No</p>	<p>No</p>	
<p>The strategy overlooks a prime factor in the provision of quality education in the parts of Weston that are going to suffer due to the housing generation in other areas. Such large building developments and the building of new primary schools within these areas are going to have a huge impact on pupil numbers for established schools where building development is not taking place. The strategy doesn't take into account the business strategies that are going to be used in order to make classes and staffing viable i.e. an increase in mixed classes with larger numbers due to budget constraints and lower income for AUP.</p> <p>Is it the view of the strategy to amalgamate lots of smaller schools into larger schools eliminating the 'village community school'?</p> <p>I do acknowledge that this trend is also affecting larger schools in a similar situation.</p>	<p>No</p>	

<p>I represent St. Martin's C of E Primary School as Chair of Governors.</p> <p>The main focus of the consultation appears to be about the expansion of school provision in line with the expansion of new homes, particularly now in the "Parkland" / "Weston Villages" areas.</p> <p>There does not appear to be any thoughts to the impact to schools where there are potential drop offs of local demand, as is likely to effect Worle and the inner areas of WsM. It seems to me that rather than invest in building new facilities for Special Needs, that thought should be given to converting one of the existing schools that has seen a drop of in numbers that could meet this need.</p> <p>I was encouraged at the commitment to building "Greener" schools, but not sure how that is to be delivered to older buildings like St. Martin's, I would like to see provision for grants to help older schools invest in greener energy such as Solar Panels for Electricity and Heating as well as improved insulation.</p>	<p>No View</p>	
<p>I respond to the consultation on behalf of Lighthouse Schools Partnership (MAT of 24 schools in North Somerset and Bath and NE Somerset). We are broadly in favour of the Council's draft commissioning strategy. North Somerset typically understands its responsibilities and relationship with schools well and makes every effort to establish strong relationships with providers.</p> <p>We have several specific points to make in response to elements of the draft document:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We do not feel that there is a case for an additional secondary school at Yatton. The provision of an additional primary school has already led to a gross overprovision of school places and consequent inefficient use of public funds. Any future need for secondary school places should in the first instance be addressed by negotiation with local secondary schools. As Backwell School is the local provider, this process should begin there.</li> <li>2. Related to the above point, the council's 'local schools for local children' policy can lead to perverse financial decisions. Avoiding a transport cost of thousands can lead to spending of millions of pounds of public money to build and sustain a new school. As the success of our large schools (such as Gordano and Backwell) show, larger organisations can be both financially efficient and high achieving.</li> <li>3. The demographic projections forecast sharp declines in the primary school population. We ask that the council works with groups of school in MATs (and beyond MATs in clusters) to manage places provision so that where necessary schools and Trusts can plan to reduce Planned Admission Numbers to match likely demand. Where it is predictable that existing PANs would yield inefficient class sizes, the overall number of places in a cluster should be reduced. The council should work positively with schools and Trusts who are willing to voluntarily reduce PANs.</li> <li>4. Where new housing development is taking place, the council should give consideration to the use of Community Infrastructure Levy as an alternative to Section 106 contributions to ensure that all developments make contributions to local services. The council should hypothecate such funds to education purposes so that existing provisions can benefit.</li> </ol>	<p>No</p>	

## Summary of Email Responses

Just a quick note re the Education consultation in Noticeboard today, a very minor error in the scheme of things on p15. Mendip Green have been missed out of the list of ELAN schools. As I say minor but thought we would let you know.

### **Response to North Somerset Education Provision**

#### **Commissioning Strategy**

**March 2021**

There is clear evidence that housing both existing and planned, will increase and so will the population in North Somerset in the future. This will, by default, increase the number of places required for pupils with SEN(D) in the area.

I firmly believe in the principle of local schools for local children and that long journeys to non-residential placements for pupils with SEN(D) can be not only distressing and counter-productive, but also inevitably incur costs to the Local Authority which could be significantly reduced by in-Authority provision. It must be conceded, however, that for a small minority of pupils, their needs can be best met in placements out of the Local Authority area.

There are clear plans for a new Baytree Special School and provision at Westhaven Special School has already been extended. The co-location of the VLC sites onto a new single site in or near to Weston super Mare may allow for an increase in pupil numbers but the commissioning strategy papers are silent on any potential increase.

Extending the provision at Ravenswood Special School is an extremely exciting possibility and the development of independent living skills has long been the vision of the Governing Body at the school. This is the moment for the Local Authority to be decisive and bold in its undertaking to develop the remaining portion of the vacant VLC site in Nailsea. There is a significant amount of new housing planned for Nailsea which would create new CIL / s106 monies which could be used to fund the development.

The most straightforward of the options would be to transfer ownership of the whole site to Ravenswood which would enable the school, in new buildings, to increase the teaching spaces in the school. This would help meet the immediate and projected demand in places for pupils with SEN(D), who otherwise would have to attend more costly placements out of the area. There would be a significant long-term gain for pupils, families, carers and for the Local Authority.



I would encourage the Local Authority to decide that this is the moment to embrace a more wide-reaching alternative. The Staff at Ravenswood have already demonstrated, through consistent “GOOD” evaluations from OFSTED that they have the expertise required to meet the needs of their pupils, some of whom display extremely challenging behaviours. They have been extremely quick to grasp the opportunities recently created in the ex-VLC building kitchen area to

- provide pupils with the opportunities for Work Experience
- respond to ASDAN certification requirements
- encourage independent living skills
- increase social and inter-personal skills and confidence
- boost the self-esteem of the most vulnerable young people in society

I would encourage the Local Authority to decide that a strategic decision to transfer the whole site to Ravenswood is the correct way forward and that the site should be developed in the following ways, in a two storey building with disabled access to the upper floor

- **on the ground floor a sports hall facility** as the school has not had such a facility since it was opened in 1970 and the use of the dining hall as an indoor PE space is really not suitable
- this would enhance not only the physical and mental well-being of the pupils but would also encourage the healthy adoption of sporting activities into adult life
- with the correct design, this could be made available to the general public and become a revenue stream with the possibility of work experience for pupils
- **on the ground floor an independent living unit** which would provide some transition for pupils, supported by staff at the school which
- is more likely to succeed as the Staff at the school have an excellent working knowledge of the pupils and superb relationships with pupils, carers and families
- **on the upper floor**, teaching spaces to accommodate the increased pupil numbers and thereby reduce the reliance on out of area placements with the cost, stress and anxieties that these journeys can cause
- **on the upper floor**, breakout rooms for one-to-one interventions

In conclusion, having read through the Commissioning Strategy, I would encourage the Local Authority to bravely embrace the plans above and develop a long-term and permanent solution to the increased need in the area.

Just a few points

Are there any plans for a Voyage Learning site in the North of the Authority.

Page 29, 1.3.14 should it say the board is chaired 'currently' by ..

I didn't read the Acts!!!

Section 1.58 do DC's qualify as partners?

And I note with interest Appendix 1 that a Yatton secondary school site to be identified by Sept 22, - I agree and will 'watch this space' with interest!!!

Wearing my clerk to governors hat, rather than my parish council one, might I ask when/how/to whom this consultation has been notified to schools and governing bodies?

Is it possible to remedy what I take to be the inadvertent exclusion of Wraxall CofE Primary School from the list of schools in the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP) Backwell hub at Paragraph 1.3.2 on Pages 15-16 of the Commissioning Strategy document?

P7 Review: Do you agree that North Somerset Council has assessed its role in school place provision correctly?

Yes

P30 Review: Have we recorded the data above correctly and are there any changes needed to existing or new partnerships needed going forward?

Answer – not in a position to say.

P51 Review: Do you agree with the Operational Principles and Procedures outlined above ? Yes

Should they be updated in any way?

No. It is unfortunate that Local Authorities are obliged to give land for new schools, even though these new schools must be academies and will not come under Local Authority control. Since that is the case then the procedures are correct.

P58 Review: Were you aware of the new places provided and to be delivered between 2018 – 21 and of the future for delivery?

We were aware in general terms of some of the provision but not all.

If not, how can the Council better update the community about current and potential plans?

Information could be included on the NSC website.

P58 Review: Are there any partners we have failed to list above?

Not aware of any.

#### Questions from Appendix 2

Review: Do you agree that finding additional SEND places will be a priority for the 2021 – 2024 strategy?

Yes, although finding places wherever there is a shortfall is also a priority.

Do you agree that the principles and actions in 1:19 above are the right values and next steps?

Generally yes. However principle 4 is not easy to understand. What does this mean “schools will not share separate messages for those who may have different needs”?

Principle 12 is probably impractical. If students require Home to School transport then it will be sustainable if that is what is provided by NSC. Perhaps Principle 12 should concentrate on requiring Home to School Transport to be sustainable, including taxis.

If Home to School Transport is not required then transport may well not be sustainable. Parents may not want their children to walk alone to school but may not be prepared to walk with them. Students with SEND may not be able to use public transport, and public transport may well not be available for these journeys. If parents drive their children to school then this may well not be sustainable.

Do you agree that the actions shown in 1.20 above are the right priorities for exploration and delivery, subject to funding?

Yes, although Action 7 seems to be at odds with Principle 1 in 1.19. NSC and the Education, Health & Care Plan generally specify whether children with SEND should attend a mainstream school or an SEND school. So parents would not have a choice of school.

Do you agree that the capital schemes identified in 1.20 will start to address some of the identified needs across North Somerset? Yes

Is there anything you or your organisation could do to support these principles and aims?

Not really, other than by replying to this consultation.

#### Questions from Appendix 3 Place Planning Developer Contributions

P4 Review: Do the arrangements for developer contributions work well for the Council and local schools?

With S106 funding, when new schools are planned in a new development, it is sometimes the case that the school is not available for the children of the first residents in the development. This is not ideal. Either these children have to change schools when the new school is ready, or if these children stay at the other school they will have less opportunity to make friends with other children on the new development who attend the new school.

Clearly the arrangements for developer contributions do not work well for providing SEND schools.

Do you support the creation of new schools for new communities and the Council working towards carbon neutral home to school accessibility for students and families? **Yes.**

Are the Council's arrangements for securing new academies via national guidelines still fit for purpose?

**It is unfortunate that Local Authorities are obliged to give land for new schools, even though these new schools must be academies and will not come under Local Authority control. It is of course true that developers are required to provide land for new schools in new developments. But in other cases, eg where a new special school may be required which does not directly arise from a new development it would be fairer for the local authority to be paid for the land by an academy chain or the local authority could maintain ownership of the land and the academy chain could be required to pay rent to the local authority.**

P13 Review: Are the principles held by the Council to secure sufficient places right? **Yes**

How do organisations feel they are able to support the principles outlined above, especially where the Council is no longer the decision maker for c 78% of schools?

**Organisations could support planning applications for school expansion where this is needed for local children.**

**Are you suggesting that support includes financial support? Perhaps Town Councils or other partner organisations could be asked for financial contributions towards local school buildings.**

P20 Review: Do you support the principle of 'local schools for local children' and the strategies and process for securing extra places as indicated above? **Yes**

Should the Council increase its requirements for pupil place capital contributions from developers to match the national average? **Yes**

What priority should the Council give to the allocation of CIL contributions for educational delivery alongside the allocation of resources to other Council priorities?

**Difficult! Always a balancing act obviously, but could the allocation of CIL money be related to the degree of need/shortfall of capacity in a location?**

P24 Review: Are there any further factors the Council should be considering when determining projection need and securing sites and financial contributions for new schools or expansions to current provisions?

**Not aware of any.**

P30 Review How do you feel you are able to support the principles outlined above when the Council is seeking new or expanded schools, especially when the duty to secure places remains with the Council but it is no longer the decision maker for c 78% of schools?  
This is difficult to support. It would be fairer if new schools were able to become Local Authority schools, but the government would have to change its policy for this to happen.

#### Appx 4 Capital Funding

Review: Do you feel the funding currently available to progress school-based projects is sufficient to meet new demand?

No, clearly not. In the list of Local Authority schools some school buildings are very old, in poor condition and expensive to maintain. The Government should provide more funding.

Do you feel that 'invest to save' schemes should be progressed as part of the strategy to reduce the overspend on the High-Needs block? Yes

If so, who should be contributing to the up-front funding required?

It is difficult to see where else this could come from, other than NSC. Dioceses could also be asked for up-front funding for church schools.

We thought it was very positive to have some advance planning for SEND provision & additional SEND school places in North Somerset. Our only concern would be are we being ambitious enough with Hubs - inclusion within mainstream to get more provision within the community.

Will the new housing within the Local Plan will be designed and be sufficient to meet the independent needs of young adults with complex physical needs.

## Notes of Public Consultation Zoom Meeting

**Monday 15 March 2021 @ 18:00**

### **Present:**

(SV) – North Somerset Council  
(FW) – North Somerset Council  
(WP) – North Somerset Council  
(EW) – North Somerset Council  
(JA) – North Somerset Council  
WG – North Somerset Councillor  
JG – Governor Banwell School  
KW – Parent of a SEND child and Weston College  
SH – Head Teacher Kewstoke School

**SV** opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, and everybody then introduced themselves and their interest in the consultation.

**SV** presented a PowerPoint summary of the Commissioning Strategy to achieve the following:

- Share a brief overview of the draft Education Provision in North Somerset – A Commissioning Strategy 2021 – 2024. This also included a section around our equalities duties.
- Check for any inaccuracies
- Answer any immediate questions

### **Questions & Answers**

During the presentation, the following points were raised:

1. **SH** asked about the priorities in the plan and whether they were weighted in any way. **SV** responded that it would be on a case by case basis, but funding would be relevant as to whether a project is deliverable, if there is developer funding, how it aligns on higher level strategies and whether it meets the Council's aspiration to be carbon neutral by 2030.
2. **KW** asked whether post 16 data could be included with the SEND data and what was the strategy around post 16? Also, if this is a projected area of growth, could the document include and focus on the knock-on growth for Weston College and all other providers. **WP** agreed to take on board these comments and to see if it were possible to include additional data around this in the document.
3. **SH** wanted to know whether the future Baytree places had been included in the projections and was concerned that we still have a greater need for SEND places than there are available. She was keen to see how interventions for short term places may work. It will be important to review the difference they will make to needs in the future. Is the strategy of hubs making a positive difference? **KW** commented on the Nailsea Hub and felt personally that it was worth investing in. It was felt that personal opinions of parents were important and that enabling SEND pupils to be educated within the local authority area spreads funding and helps more children.

4. **KW** mentioned that she is a VLC Governor and feels that additional work with VLC pupils and short-term intervention to get them back into mainstream school is important. How can this be enhanced, and should this also be included in the document? **WP** confirmed that they are currently looking at ways to do this, primary outreach support with staff going into schools or pupils going to the VLC for a couple of sessions a week. Secondary pupils going to the VLC for a term or so to get targeted help on their specific needs. Working to go through the inclusion panel and outreach work with the SEMH school too.
5. **WG** wanted to know whether this strategy would inform the Local Plan. **SV** confirmed that the Local Plan is a Council Strategic plan and a legal requirement. The Commissioning Strategy is not a legal requirement and many of the plans for new school places are as a result of the Local Plan. It does raise a question of how reactive or pro-active the school plans should or can be – should we say please build here as more children are needed to fill this school, or please don't build here as we don't have enough school places. The Children's Services Directorate are working with planners to ensure they are aware of where we need new schools (funded by S106/CIL) and where we need children.

19:05 **SV** thanked everyone for joining the meeting and asked them to make further contact with herself, or **JA** if they had any further observations or questions that they would like to raise, and if not already done, please respond to the online consultation.



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## North Somerset Council

### Report to the Executive

**Date of Meeting: 23/06/2021**

**Subject of Report: Adoption of Local List nomination criteria & procedure**

**Town or Parish: North Somerset**

**Officer/Member Presenting: Councillor Mark Canniford**

**Key Decision: No**

### Reason:

The proposal does not have a significant effect on the communities living or working in two or more wards and will not incur expenditure/savings of £500k or over

### Recommendations

To adopt the criteria and procedures within the North Somerset Local List management brief for the addition of locally important heritage assets onto the Local List for North Somerset.

#### 1. Summary of Report

The purpose of the report is to provide key information on the management of North Somerset's Local List as to how heritage assets will be nominated and reviewed against the selected criteria for addition to the North Somerset's Local List.

The report shows detail of the work undertaken to date and the results of a public consultation on the selection criteria.

#### 2. Policy

A local list is a tool to allow Council and Committees to give further considerations within the planning system to locally important heritage assets.

The adoption of a Local List is both supported by central government and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Chapter 16, paragraph 185 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that:

*Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats.*

The Local List forms part of North Somerset Council plan to provide a positive strategy to conserve our historic environment.

The adoption of a heritage asset to a formal Local List will identify them as recognised heritage assets by the Council as having heritage significance; they are then considered to be material considerations in the planning process under paragraph 197 of the NPPF.

The adoption of the procedure and criteria of the Local List will also allow the Council to meet the policy aims in Policy CS5 of the North Somerset Core Strategy (adopted 2012) which states that - *The Council will conserve the historic environment of North Somerset, having regard to the significance of heritage assets such as conservation areas, listed buildings, buildings of local significance, scheduled monuments, other archaeological sites, registered and other historic parks and gardens.*

Policy DM7 (Non designated heritage assets) within The Development Management Polices: Sites and Polices Plan Part 1 (adopted July 2016) will then become effective towards any heritage asset adopted as part of North Somerset Council's Local List.

### **3. Details**

North Somerset Council has a rich and varied historic environment with many heritage assets listed as part of the statutory list by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). However, there are many other heritage assets which are important to the understanding and appreciation of North Somerset's heritage and are of value to the local street scene, wider landscape and local communities.

North Somerset Council, with assistance from Historic England, local interest groups, Town and Parish Councils and the public, is compiling a 'Local List' in order to highlight buildings, structures and archaeological sites which are of local importance.

The criteria and procedure set out in the North Somerset local list management brief details the process in which heritage assets are nominated and then assessed against the selected criteria by our independent panel for possible adoption on to the Local List.

### **4. Consultation**

A public consultation was held from 01/03/21 to 12/04/21 through e-consult only due to restrictions in place from the Covid-19.

The aim of this was to consult the general public on the selected criteria for the Local List to ascertain if they felt it was robust enough in covering the wide range of heritage within North Somerset.

85% of respondents felt the criteria met the needs of the range of heritage within North Somerset.

15% felt it did not meet the needs. This was largely due to misunderstanding of the consultation and a desire to add extra things to the Local List. Unfortunately, this cannot be the case as they have to meet the guidelines as to what constitutes a heritage asset as set out in the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG).

For the full list of consultation comments received on the consultation please see Appendix 2.

## **5. Financial Implications**

### **Costs & Funding**

Funding of £2,800 has been secured through the Great Weston Heritage Action Zone from Historic England to support the work. The funding will allow the online publication of an accessible handbook and second handbook/update to include results of first year of nominations.

It will also cover the cost of a conference in Weston Museum (Feb or March 2022) on Local list development, and any training costs associated with the panel.

There is a possibility of a minimal increase in planning fees as a result from processing of applications for Planning Permission or for pre-application enquiries.

## **6. Legal Powers and Implications**

There are no legal implications foreseen. Local Listing is controlled through planning policy and not cover by legislation.

## **7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

The designation of the North Somerset local list management brief is not expected to have an effect on climate change and no permitted development rights are affected on any building added to the list that would prevent owners making their assets more energy efficient.

## **8. Risk Management**

The council should be mindful that there will be assets within its ownership that may be nominated by third parties and considered to be of sufficient heritage value to be placed on the Local List. In the event that the council wishes to adapt or develop Locally Listed buildings to meet a strategic service objective or to progress the capital strategy for investment in assets, then this will need to be properly considered as part of the planning process.

## **9. Equality Implications**

There are no implications foreseen, no permitted development rights are affected on any building added to the list that would prevent owners making changes to the asset in regard to accessibility needs. The designation process has included a full public consultation process.

## **10. Corporate Implications**

The North Somerset Local List management brief is consistent with the Corporate Plan objectives to protect the built environment.

There will be additional pressure on staff resources due to the initial set up for nomination to the Local List, the addition of information to the Historic Environment Record database, and possible extra requests for pre-application advice on land or built structures which are added to the Local List, but it is not considered that this will be significant.

## **11. Options Considered**

The adoption of North Somerset Local List management brief is optional but is an aspiration of the Great Weston Heritage Action Zone from which we have significant funding to aid with implementation of the Local List.

It is also endorsed by Central Government to aid local communities in protecting the heritage of their areas they consider important to them and their communities.

### **Author:**

Kate Hudson-McAulay, Conservation and Heritage Officer  
Cat Lodge, Senior Archaeologist  
Cara McMahon, HAZ Officer

### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1: North Somerset Local List management brief. pp 5-8  
Appendix 2: Local List E-consultation full report. pp 9-14

### **Background Papers:**

Historic England Local Heritage Listing HEAN7  
North Somerset Council Local List Handbook

## Appendix 1: North Somerset Local List management brief.



### North Somerset Local List Management Brief:

#### Introduction

North Somerset Council has a rich and varied historic environment with many heritage assets listed as part of the statutory list by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). However, there are many other heritage assets which are important to the understanding and appreciation of North Somerset's heritage and are of value to the local street scene and wider landscape.

North Somerset Council, with assistance from local interest groups, Town and Parish Councils and the public, is compiling a 'Local List' in order to highlight buildings, structures and archaeological sites which are of local importance.

Heritage helps to provide a sense of local identity, and heritage assets can be added to a local list which relate to the distinctiveness of a particular area.

This document sets out the procedure for adding assets to the North Somerset Local List and how this will be managed.

#### The Purpose of a Local List

A Local List is a way for local communities and North Somerset Council to celebrate the unique history that makes this area special. This can include historic buildings, archaeological sites or parks and gardens, identifying heritage assets which are not of national significance. Only nationally important heritage assets are protected by legislation currently and these assets are given a protection level appropriate to their significance. These levels are as follows:

- Scheduled Monuments
- Grade I
- Grade II\*
- Grade II

North Somerset is rich in historic buildings, structures, archaeological sites and gardens, with more being discovered as a result of new development within the area. Inclusion of these locally important assets on a Local List will give the Council and communities the opportunity to give these assets consideration within the planning process.

The Local List will demonstrate what the community and Council feel are important heritage assets in terms of local distinctiveness.

## The Value of the Local List

A Local List gives the Council and local community the chance to recognise buildings or other heritage assets that are of important to the history of their place and that these need to be regarded with care in planning decisions. This will benefit both owners and developers in the better understanding of opportunities and constrains of the local area.

The Local List are now a national priority with the announcement made on 23rd October 2019 by Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick with the following press release.

*'Local people will be empowered to nominate heritage buildings which are important to them and reflect their local area and identity in the most ambitious local heritage campaign for 40 years, launched today.'*

## Associated Local and National Policy

Local Lists are suggested within the Government's National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) to include non-designated heritage assets which merit consideration within the planning process. This is supported by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to help recognise local distinctiveness.

North Somerset Council has an adopted policy within the Local Plan which includes non-designated heritage assets to ensure they are taken into consideration within the planning process.

## Criteria for adoption to the Local List

The criteria for the Local List are based on the four conservation principles laid out by Historic England:

- **Aesthetic (Designed and Casual)**  
- the visual elements of an asset. It does not have to be 'beautiful' to be of value.
- **Communal (Commemorative or Social)**  
- the meanings of a place, and how people relate to it through experience or memory
- **Historical (Associative or Illustrative)**  
- how a place in the present can connect us to past people, events and aspects of life
- **Evidential**  
- the potential of a place to provide evidence about past human activity

The Local List will include these conservation principles in the criteria for an asset being included on the list. It will also focus on local rather than national importance.

## Criteria for assessing heritage assets for inclusion within the Local List

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION
AGE	The age of an asset helps to distinguish the period in which it was built. This can tell us more about how people lived, and what materials and technology were available to them at this time.



<b>RARITY</b>	The asset in question maybe not be nationally rare, therefore not eligible for national listing or scheduling, but it may be rare for the local area and would be valuable to the local list.
<b>VISUAL/AESTHETIC INTEREST</b>	Local areas are often set apart by design that was developed through the use of local materials, giving areas their characteristics and sense of local importance.
<b>GROUP VALUE</b>	Certain assets types or streetscapes are valuable due to their connection with each other or are part of a designed (planned) layout. For example, an historic farmstead and its associated farm buildings have more value as a group, and we can understand more about how these places functioned historically from that group.
<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST</b>	Archaeology can range from buried remains to built structures and can also include some landscapes. These can offer an extraordinary insight into the historic development of a particular area such as why some earlier settlements developed into the towns and villages we know in North Somerset today, and how others just disappeared.
<b>HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION</b>	Some historic assets are considered important due to their connection with important figures or events. This is often linked into Blue Plaque schemes. Buildings or assets related to a local person or event of importance may be added to the local list.
<b>DESIGNED LANDSCAPE INTEREST</b>	Designed landscapes such as parks and gardens which are celebrated locally and are of high quality can be added to the local list.
<b>SOCIAL AND COMMUNAL VALUE</b>	Assets which add to the collective memory of a local place can be valuable in understand the social value and the sense of community in the local area.

### Methods of proposing buildings for local listing

Members of the public can nominate a local heritage asset for local listing through the Know Your Place website, where they can upload relevant information and a photograph.

They can also fill out an application to nominate a local heritage asset, which is included in the North Somerset Local List Handbook, and email this to [DM.Archaeology@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:DM.Archaeology@n-somerset.gov.uk).

Once received this will then be collated by the Heritage Officers and distributed to the panel every 3 months in the first year, moving to every 6 months after the initial launch. Once the panel has come to a decision on which assets should become part of the local list for North Somerset, the Heritage Officers and serving Heritage Champion will review these and propose a final list for adoption to the Executive Members.

### Proposed review panel for buildings nominated for local listing

The panel below have been chosen for their range of expertise to review all nominations for local listing.

Panel Member Name	Area of expertise
Bob Hardcastle	Architect
John Tranter	Architect
Kath Campbell-Hards	Historic Building Surveyor
Jane Hill	Archaeologist

Nick Corcos	Archaeologist
Gregg Beale	Heritage Consultant
Sharon Poole	Social History
Steve Poole	Social History
Rob Iles	Historic Environment
Specialist members	Organisation
Ros Delany	Avon Gardens Trust
Anne Hills	Avon Gardens Trust
Steve Grudgings	Avon Industrial Buildings Trust
Hamish Orr-Ewing	Avon Industrial Buildings Trust

The panel is entirely voluntary and will meet on a 3-monthly basis for the first year. Following this the panel will sit on a 6-monthly basis. They must agree to follow the written Code of Conduct. The Panel may be reviewed at any time to reflect the amount of nominations to the list received from the public.

We reserve the right to request a new panel member when additional technical expertise is required as set out at the SPEDR meeting 22/04/2021

If a panel member steps down from their post every effort will be made to replace them with a member from the same professional field to ensure the panel is as diverse in expertise as is practically possible.

#### Approach to reviewing nominations for Local List

As funding for the launch of the Local List has been provided to North Somerset Council by Historic England through the Great Weston Heritage Action Zone (GWHAZ) the first areas open to nominations will be Weston-super-Mare, Worle and Uphill.

After this, nominations will be open for heritage assets across the rest of the district to ensure the legacy of the GWHAZ is rolled out for North Somerset as a whole. It is possible that a thematic approach will be used to ensure a variety of heritage assets are assessed for inclusion on the Local List.

#### Letter of confirmation

Although there is no legal change to the asset by adding it to the Local List, we intend write to the owners of the assets which are added to the Local List for North Somerset.

## Appendix 2: Local List E-consultation full report

### Responses to Local List Heritage Handbook & Nomination Criteria e-consultation

This consultation was undertaken in e-consult format and due to Covid restrictions and was live between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021. This report summarises the responses received.

Details can be found here: <https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/locallist/consultationHome>

#### Question: Do you think the handbook is easy to understand? Yes/No

Yes	33	85%
No	6	15%
Total	39	100%

#### If you selected 'No', why not?

Too many subsections, needs indexing too
Bit wordy. Could just be bullet points
I'm not sure it carries enough information for the lay person to understand what you require. For example, in the description for Social & Commercial Value there is not much of a clue that when you get to the nomination form that you will be asked for "Known Person". Is the person the asset?
Too long, too technical and is a draft so no sites mentioned to consider
Most reads quite well, but I struggled with the 4 conservation principles. Aesthetic (Designed and Communal) is a phrase not commonly used to most of us! Commemorative, Social, Associative or Illustrative are all abstract. all the things with a blob are complicated and will put people off. In contrast, those with a - are much more tangible eg visual aspects of an asset These explain it much better and all the blobs could be deleted.
Yes but... I think it underplays some of the issues of nominating someone else's property which can affect their freedom of use.
Historic England's Advice Note 7 Local Heritage Listing: Identifying and Conserving Local Heritage ( <a href="http://historicengland.org.uk">historicengland.org.uk</a> ) article 34 states that "all parts of the community should be encouraged to participate, to ensure that a wide range of voices and histories is reflected in the local heritage list." The title of the handbook North Somerset Council's Local List handbook gives no indication of the subject. It would be better to call it North Somerset Council's Non-Designated Heritage Asset List handbook. The handbook and associated Nomination Forms assume a knowledge of the subjects and the terms used. As they are intended for members of the public, they both need greater clarity, to be in plain English, and there needs to be a glossary of terms, eg Non-designated heritage asset

The criteria for the Local List is based on the Conservation Principles from Historic England and are outlined below:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Age</b>	The age of an asset helps to distinguish the period in which it was built. This can tell us more about how people lived, and what materials and technology were available to them at this time.
<b>Rarity</b>	The asset in question maybe not be nationally rare, therefore not eligible for national listing or scheduling, but it may be rare for the local area and would be valuable to the local list.
<b>Visual/Aesthetic Interest</b>	Local areas are often set apart by design that was developed through the use of local materials, giving areas their characteristics and sense of local importance.
<b>Group Value</b>	Certain assets types or streetscapes are valuable due to their connection with each other or are part of a designed (planned) layout, for example a historic farmstead and its associated farm buildings have more value as a group, and we can understand more about how these places worked historically from that group.
<b>Archaeological Interest</b>	Archaeology can range from buried remains to built structures and can also include some landscapes. These can offer an extraordinary insight into the historic development of a particular area such as why some earlier settlements developed into the towns and villages, we know in North Somerset today, and how others just disappeared.
<b>Historical Association</b>	Some historic assets are considered important due to their connection with important figures or events. This is often linked into Blue Plaque schemes. Buildings or assets related to a local person or event of importance may be added to the local list.
<b>Designed Landscape Interest</b>	Designed landscapes such as parks and gardens which are celebrated locally and are of high quality can be added to the local list.
<b>Social and Communal Value</b>	Assets which add to the collective memory of a local place can be valuable in understand the social value and the sense of community in the local area.

**Question: Do you think the criteria covers the range of heritage in North Somerset?  
Yes/No**

Yes	32	85%
No	6	15%
Total	38	100%

**If you selected 'No', why not?**

I've put no to write in this box.

It probably does cover everything but I feel that the descriptions need to be more grounded. Social and Communal Value is the least understandable to me
Nothing here covers sites like The Tropicana which should be restored as an outdoor swimming pool
I'm not sure if I'm correct here, but if road signs are not covered by the Local List then I think they should be. Also ancient trackways or green lanes should be included if not already included
Nailsea Town Council responds that the criteria covers the range of heritage in North Somerset but more emphasis could be given to listing.
The categories are, for obvious reasons, generic and abstract. However, I struggle to see which ones would cover features along the banks of the Land Yeo, which is a key part of the story of the village. Where do the various memorials fit and can you include landscape issues such as former mining activity and ancient woodland?

**Is the description explaining each of the criteria easy to understand? Yes/No**

Yes	29	79%
No	8	21%
Total	37	100%

**If you selected 'No', why not?**

Pretty easy, but I would define 'asset' so that people don't get fixated on buildings.
I've put no to write in this box.
It probably does cover everything, but I feel that the descriptions need to be more grounded. Social and Communal Value is the least understandable to me
Too long and technical so irrelevant to ordinary people
I struggle with Group Value. I am not sure it needs separate identity. A group of 3 buildings, say, is good because they are old and rare, for example. It was the only criterion that I did not immediately agree with.
Remember that archaeology might be on the shore or only visible at low tide, you should therefore include this in one of the categories above
There needs to be more clarity on how an assets rarity is determined.
The categories are, for obvious reasons, generic and abstract. However, I struggle to see which ones would cover features along the banks of the Land Yeo, which is a key part of the story of the village. Where do the various memorials fit and can you include landscape issues such as former mining activity and ancient woodland?
It appears that some of the questions in the Nomination Forms are best answered by specialists or Local History Societies or Heritage Groups, e.g. how does a member of the public easily and accurately assess rarity, or key features or materials adding to the overall appearance. So, it may be better to have separate forms for Local History Societies or Heritage Groups and another for members of the public, or to encourage members of the public to seek advice from them.

**Are there any additional criteria you wish to suggest? Yes/No**

Yes	9	25%
No	26	75%
Total	35	100%

**If you selected 'Yes' please tell us which additional criteria should be included:**

I would specifically mention assets associated with military history, as there are no doubt quite a number of neglected / at risk sites in the county.
--

Environmental
A category that that local people can nominate sites that they want included and a category to remove and/or improve existing developments that local people don't like or didn't want to be changed in the first place. An example of this would be the unwanted destruction and removal of the beautiful Italian Gardens. Another example is the shocking waste of money which has resulted in Dolphin Square becoming nothing more a derelict eyesore. Shame on you.
Will there be an exhibition of the final plan for last minute comments?
you might wish to highlight more modern examples of heritage, the 1960s are now seen as vintage, will this be the same with the 4 decades which follow
as above- road signs such as the old cast iron direction signs and mile markers
Consideration should be given to building listings, conservation areas and blue plaques.
It may be that the criteria above will cover the topics that I have suggested and that it is my understanding that is at fault!
I believe that the approach would be enhanced by the inclusion within one or more of the categories (or a new category) with details regarding key individuals who have contributed to the management and upkeep of the buildings and landscape during the life of the asset.
Creeks and waterways
Should include Industrial archaeology, if this is intended to be covered by 'Historical Association', this should be made clearer.

### Do you think there is anything missing from the document?

Yes	17	48%
No	18	52%
Total	35	100%

### If you selected 'Yes' please tell us what is missing?

A statement preventing people from submitting invaluable heritage assets, you only discuss how to submit which will allow anyone and everyone to submit their property in order to foil planning applications which are needed to deal with the housing crisis. I believe it is important to make clear the criteria minimums for a building to become listed as the document appears currently it suggests any property could be listed. I am all for protecting the property's as need protecting yet using this as a backdoor method to prevent housing is just cruel and bias and has no regard for the needs of North Somerset. It should be clear that locally listing is for protecting properties of historic or town importance and should not be submitted in order to proven planning in the surrounding area.
1. An index 2. Maps! Put each area on a map, on a different page 3. Make it more visually exciting
Not at the highest level, but a few examples of what constitutes 'an asset' might help coverage.
Yes. Environmental impacts. Historically import environmental area
The option to nominate a site online. Having to email a copy of the form is a pain and will put many people off bothering.
1) Clarification over whether you can nominate someone else's property .....and what happens if you do. Do you give the owner the opportunity to stay off the list (to go Ex-directory!) if they want to? One can imagine how - when published - this becomes a document used by families to explore their local heritage. Certain property owners might be significantly disadvantaged if "bus loads of tourists" keep turning up outside their door and making excessive demands for access to a property.

2) On the Nomination Form, the questions are quite specific and if the nominee doesn't have the detailed information, you will get lots of empty boxes. Do you need a sentence that explains how you should complete as much information as you can and provide estimates for dates and other items if you are uncertain. Presumably you will cross check information before publishing
More examples?
Creeks and waterways
A few examples may help

**Do you have any further comments on the Local List Handbook?**

As a person interested in local history, I think this is a very good idea!
I disagree with the concept of 3 volunteers this allows people who specifically aim to list buildings in order to foil planning applications to gain significant power. i would suggest a larger board is required to get a more communal decision.
It looks a bit "dry" and isn't a celebration. Make it more visually exciting, have maps and photos in it and divide it up by area.
Only that I would be happy to serve on the Local Panel.
1) Clarification over whether you can nominate someone else's property .....and what happens if you do. Do you give the owner the opportunity to stay off the list (to go Ex-directory!) if they want to? One can imagine how - when published - this becomes a document used by families to explore their local heritage. Certain property owners might be significantly disadvantaged if "bus loads of tourists" keep turning up outside their door and making excessive demands for access to a property.
2) On the Nomination Form, the questions are quite specific and if the nominee doesn't have the detailed information, you will get lots of empty boxes. Do you need a sentence that explains how you should complete as much information as you can and provide estimates for dates and other items if you are uncertain. Presumably you will cross check information before publishing
1. This whole process only has value if the property listed actually gets special consideration applied when planning applications are made. A property of historical interest near to me in Nailsea is being turned into flats, the special features were ignored in favour of NSC build build build planning process where residents opinions count for nothing. Your document says on the one hand for an owner it has no planning impact then goes on to state later that it needs to be taken into consideration in the planning process, which is it? It either has standing when planning is considered or it doesn't, it can't be both. 2. I know it's a draft document but there are numerous grammatical mistakes throughout, probably where spell check has changed a word and it has not been read back to check the context. The pages are not numbered but for example have a look under the heading "What does the local list mean in planning" there are 5 or 6 incorrect words, Polices instead of Policies, States for status, weight for weighed etc. "How do we decide what goes on the local list", the last sentence makes no sense, it needs a thorough proof read please.
I think this is a good idea and stops important assets 'slipping through the net'
Presumably it ticks the consultation box but nothing will change - the council will continue to ignore local wishes and will waste money on developments and/or changes that it wants to make instead of things that local people want done.
I wasted some time trying to nominate a site in the How can I get involved ? section. The 2 links were hard work ! I have now spoken with Kate and realise that the process is not yet at the stage of requesting site. When you do the final one - the questions must be as friendly and simple as possible. Where is the site / What is it called



From the list of criteria explain how it achieves the criteria. This questionnaire is quite friendly, so I am sure you have the technique to achieve it
Might be worth listing what is already on any protected heritage list in an appendix. I know we already have some listed buildings, areas etc, but I can't tell if you want to have them on this as well?
I am pleased that our council is looking at a future plan and involving residents to comment. There are many obvious things that need doing and have been on the agenda for years without much progress. Pot Holes must be our priority. Fly Tipping and Faster broadband. The High Street has become a rather boring mix of Shoe, Phone and Coffee houses. Window Shopping is now a thing of the past it seems and this is why the town gets less busy each year in my opinion.
when can we see a sample list to see which the council feel should be included in each category ?
you give the impression that you want sites at this stage but on checking with NSC you don't want them yet; you should have made the purpose and timescale clearer
I am uncomfortable with the idea that Person A can nominate Person B's property as an asset, in a way that will subsequently have implications for subsequent planning decisions. Many noteworthy buildings are working farms which will have to evolve in order to survive as businesses.
Taking the opportunity to highlight assets for the interest of children would be a good idea such as a trail based approach or "treasure hunt" or other fun thing.
Pleased to see this initiative
<p>The draft handbook refers to buildings several times when it should always refer to assets, as they will not necessarily be buildings.</p> <p>The draft handbook states that "members of the public can nominate a building for local listing through the Know Your Place". There is no further explanation in the weblink on how to do this. The list of relevant information at the next paragraph is not consistent with the Nomination Forms, which appear to be intended for a professional or specialist to complete.</p> <p>It is recommended that the Nomination Forms be designed to be easy to process and easy to complete, including on-line, eg a multiple choice for asset type, condition, age and rarity. The handbook should include examples of possible answers to questions. Is there a maximum or preferred file size for photographs that can be uploaded when submitting on-line?</p> <p>It may be helpful to consider having an additional explanatory information leaflet, such as that published by Bromsgrove District Council - see <a href="http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/media/2130461/Local-heritage-list-flyer-18-07-16.pdf">www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/media/2130461/Local-heritage-list-flyer-18-07-16.pdf</a></p> <p>There is the inconsistent use of title case eg Local List</p>
Despite the assurances given in the Handbook property owners would be very reluctant to have their property included as it may affect their ability to extend/alter their building & it may affect re-sale. Owners should be given the right of refusal to have their property listed.

## **North Somerset Council**

### **Report to the Executive**

**Date of Meeting: 23 June 2021**

**Subject of Report: Budget Monitor Month 12 Out-turn Report**

**Town or Parish: All**

**Officer/Member Presenting: Ash Cartman, Executive Member for Finance**

**Key Decision: Yes**

**Reason:** Financial values contained throughout the report, including virements, are in excess of £500,000

### **Recommendations**

The Executive is asked to;

- i. Note the revenue and capital out-turn positions for 2020/21 as detailed within the report
- ii. Approve the amendments to the revenue budget as detailed in Appendix 1
- iii. Note the general revenue reserve balance of £9.053m at 31 March 2020, and also the transactions to / from earmarked reserves as set out in Appendix 4
- iv. Approve the amendments to the capital programme as detailed in Appendix 6

### **1. Summary of Report**

This report builds upon previous reports considered by the Executive over the past 12 months and provides a summary of the council's financial performance for the 2020/21 financial year in respect of both its revenue and capital budgets, including an overview of how the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted on the council's finances.

It aims to inform Members of the key components within the out-turn position together with the associated impact upon the level of general reserves as well as the transfers into, and out of, the council's earmarked reserves.

The report also provides a link between the revenue monitoring reporting framework presented to the Executive throughout the year and the annual statutory accounts which will be published on the council's website once finalised.

## **2. Policy**

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

The 2020/21 revenue and capital budgets have been set within the context of the council's medium-term financial planning processes, which ultimately support the Corporate Plan. That being said, the 2020/21 financial year has been one of extreme challenge as everyone has been dealing with the effects of the global pandemic, and this event has clearly impacted on the council's planned financial strategy.

## **3. Details**

### **3.1. Introduction and context**

The council's revenue budget for 2020/21 was approved in February 2020 and although it was considered robust and deliverable at that time, it was predicated on an operational and financial environment that very quickly changed following the first outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Covid-related impacts, risks and forecasts have been assessed and incorporated into the council's monthly monitoring processes throughout the year to ensure that all impacts were quantified and compared to the amounts of known resources. This provided an assurance framework to the corporate leadership to support and enable strategic decisions to be made knowing that they could be funded without serious impact on the council's overall financial sustainability.

Significant levels of additional resources have been allocated to the council throughout the year and these have also been closely monitored and considered when bringing together the overall financial position. It has been important to understand the purpose and nature of this funding at the outset to determine how the council should reflect these monies within its budget or other financial records, particularly as a lot of this funding has been given to deliver national government objectives within a local setting.

Previous reports have detailed the turbulent events of the council's Covid journey and have shown that it has faced an extremely challenging financial outlook at the same time that it has responded to the very real impacts of coronavirus on individuals, services and businesses within our communities.

We can see that Covid-19 has impacted on the majority of the council's existing services in some way or another, as well as on a significant number of providers and suppliers, who have either requested additional support or who have been required to implement some form of change to service delivery.

The scale, breath and pace of change over the past year has been tremendous and the council has adopted an agile approach, and in some cases, has had to stop or reduce some services, whilst at the same time standing up new services to reach those in urgent need. The council has also worked closely with other partners and stakeholders, such as town and parish councils, voluntary and charitable organisations, health partners and the police to name just a few.

Although this has been a year of profound change, risk and uncertainty, the financial impacts as detailed throughout the report show that the council has managed to deliver within its overall resource envelope and achieve a balanced budget.

The final out-turn position for the year does however recognise that the council still faces uncertainty and risk in some areas and it also needs to support economic recovery in the months ahead, and so has set aside Covid funding within reserves to smooth the financial impact for some of these known issues, further details are provided within the report.

### 3.2. Revenue Budget Out-turn – summary and headline messages

Shown below is a summary of the council's revenue budget out-turn position at the end of the 2020/21 financial year – although there are movements and variances compared to the base budget in both the directorate budgets and the financing budgets, the Net Revenue Budget presents a balanced budget position, as the council's resources match the net expenditure there will be no transfer required from either the General Fund Working Balance, or the council's Risk Reserve.

As previously advised, the financial monitoring continues to be reflected in the same format used throughout the 2020/21 financial year, which was prior to the council-wide restructure, the purpose being to enable consistency of understanding. The council's budget monitoring reporting arrangements will reflect the new format and naming conventions from 1 April 2021.

Revenue Budget Monitoring Summary 2020/21				
	Original Revenue Budget £000	Month 12 Out-turn		
		Revised Revenue Budget £000	Provisional Out-turn £000	Provisional Variance £000
People & Communities;				
Adult Social Care	68,893	80,959	82,200	1,241
Children & Young People	30,867	32,546	31,843	(703)
Housing	1,519	1,465	1,308	(157)
Schools & Dedicated Schools Grant (*)	0	0	0	0
Development & Environment	35,414	49,433	49,568	134
Corporate Services	7,621	8,534	8,766	232
Public Health & Regulatory Services	912	1,886	1,626	(260)
Corporate & Capital Financing	20,844	24,074	23,043	(1,031)
Contribution into Covid Reserve	0	860	860	0
Contribution into Capital Risk Reserve	0	0	1,483	1,483
<b>Total Revenue Budgets</b>	<b>166,069</b>	<b>199,757</b>	<b>200,696</b>	<b>939</b>
General Fund Financing Budgets	(166,069)	(199,757)	(200,696)	(939)
<b>NET REVENUE BUDGET TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

	£000
DSG Deficit at 1 April 2020	(3,847)
- Net movement during 2020/21 - Schools Block	278
- Net movement during 2020/21 - High Needs Block	(3,581)
<b>DSG Deficit at 31 March 2021</b>	<b>(7,150)</b>

(\*) Schools budgets are funded by a specific grant from the Department of Education and any surplus or deficit at the end of the financial is transferred into a reserve held on the balance sheet, it is not included within the general fund balance. Further information on the movements in-year are included in para. 3.4.7.

It is important to note that the council's approved base budget at the start of the financial year was £166.069m and this has increased by £33.688m to £199.757m as a result of additional funding being allocated by the government.

A schedule of grant funding is shown within Appendix 3 and includes both ring-fenced funding for areas such as Infection Control, discretionary business rate grants and outbreak management control and compliance activities as well as a general grant to cover wider Covid impacts.

The council has increased its expenditure budgets within the directorates to match the associated Covid related out-turn expenditure position in each of these areas to avoid distorting the final position.

### 3.3. Revenue Budget Out-turn – Covid-19 impacts

The first section of our reporting seeks to provide an overview of how Covid has impacted on each of the directorate budgets during the year, whether this be as a result of additional expenditure, losses in income or delays to the delivery of planned savings. The information noted below has been extracted from each directorate position to enable a council-wide 'Covid' position to be understood.

Each of these outcomes have either been funded through specific Covid related grant income allocations or by utilising the general Covid grant and to ensure that these pressures they do not adversely impact on the out-turn performance, the directorate budgets have been increased by way of a budget virement (as shown in Appendix 1).

#### 3.3.1. Adult social services

In Adult Social Care, Covid financial impacts have been significant. In total, an additional £12.4m of additional pressures have been identified, which have been funded either by earmarked government grants or the general Covid grant.

The vast majority of the areas shown below represent payments made directly to adult social care providers, such as care homes and domiciliary care providers, who have been impacted significantly, to support them with exceptional additional costs.

Area	£000s	£000s
Infection Control Grants	6,914	
Rapid Testing Grant	982	
Workforce Capacity Grant	446	
<b>Sub-total - spend funded by ring-fenced grants</b>		<b>8,342</b>
Temporary fee uplifts and exceptional payments to providers		2,147
Future Covid Recovery Plan		1,530
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)		277
Estimated losses in income		150
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL PRESSURES</b>		<b>12,446</b>

It is also worth noting that, particularly in the first six months of the financial year, the national NHS Hospital Discharge Programme funded hospital discharge packages because of earlier discharge from hospital and expected delays in carrying out both care and financial assessments. This is likely to mean that 2021/22 will see an increase in costs to the council of these packages once we return to pre-Covid funding arrangements.

### 3.3.2. Children's services

In Children's Services, the main areas of Covid financial impact involved placements for looked after children and support to families with children with disabilities, and £472k of the general Covid support grant was used to support these areas. In addition, £522k of government grant has been distributed to families most in need to support them with the cost of food, utilities and other essentials.

Area	£000s	£000s
Covid Winter Grant scheme	522	
Children's Well-Being for Return to Education	19	
<b>Sub-total - spend funded by ring-fenced grants</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>541</b>
Placements and support to families with disabilities		472
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL PRESSURES</b>		<b>1,013</b>

A number of areas, such as the Music Service and Nurseries also suffered from income losses, although much of this was offset following claims to the government, i.e. £317k from the Sales, Fees and Charges Compensation Scheme and £203k from the Coronavirus Job Retention ("Furlough") Scheme.

### 3.3.3. Place

The financial impact of Covid has been significant in the Place (was Development and Environment) directorate. In total, an additional pressure of £12.3m has materialised which has been funded by either earmarked government grants or the general Covid support government grant.

Area	£000s	£000s
Local Authority Discretionary grants to business	2,050	
Local Restrictions Support grants	285	
LA Additional Restrictions grants	6,211	
Self-Isolation Support grants	84	
Re-Opening High Streets Safely Grant	191	
Bus Operators Grant	86	
Emergency Active Travel Grant	72	
Home to Schools Transport Grant	809	
Covid Travel Demand Grant	39	
National Leisure Recovery Fund	189	
<b>Sub-total - spend funded by ring-fenced grants</b>	<b>10,016</b>	<b>10,016</b>
Support package to leisure & playhouse providers		1,209
Waste & highways costs to maintain service levels		275
Reduction in sales, fees & charges income		787
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL PRESSURES</b>		<b>12,287</b>

As can be seen from the table above the two major impacts include £8.6m paid to both businesses and individuals to help them survive through various stages of the pandemic and £1.4m paid to leisure providers to help them survive through various closure periods and reduced capacity due to social distancing.

It should be noted that in addition to the income losses noted above a number of areas, such as libraries, halls, events and the Bay Café also suffered from income losses during the course of the year, although some of this was offset following claims to the government, i.e. £2,362k was recovered from the Sales, Fees and Charges Compensation Scheme and a further £209k from the Coronavirus Job Retention (“Furlough”) Scheme.

### 3.3.4. Corporate services

The Covid impacts within the Corporate Services budgets were not as significant as in other areas of the council however, a lot of officer time and capacity was spent on administering the numerous mandatory and discretionary financial support packages to both businesses and individuals, which were critical in helping them survive through the various stages of the pandemic.

Area	£000s	£000s
Emergency Assistance for Food and Essential Supplies	143	
<b>Sub-total - spend funded by ring-fenced grants</b>		<b>143</b>
Reductions in rental and service charge income		824
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL PRESSURES</b>		<b>1,013</b>

As can be seen from the table above the council extended its Welfare provision during the year and supported more individuals and families with food and essential supplies, £143k of these costs were funded using the grant given by the government.

In addition a number of areas, such as land charges, car parking, central services and property related services suffered from income losses during the course of the year, although a large proportion of this was offset following claims to the government, i.e. £1,208k from the Sales, Fees and Charges Compensation Scheme and a further £10k from the Coronavirus Job Retention (“Furlough”) Scheme.

It should be noted that property related activities were specific exclusions of the Sales, Fees and Charges Compensation Scheme and so these impacts have been funded by the council using the general Covid support government grant.

### 3.3.5. Public health and regulatory services

Officers within the public health and regulatory services directorate were very much at the forefront in terms of leading the council’s response to the pandemic through each of its various phases during the last year, and although there were no material Covid impacts or changes in relation to the substantive budget position, the directorate was responsible for managing a series of new ring-fenced grant allocations distributed by the government.

As can be seen from the table below these grant allocations largely focused upon providing resources to support planning for local outbreaks of the coronavirus and containing its spread, through both enforcement measures as well as developing a range of targeted



interventions. Funding was also given to supporting those individuals who were considered as clinically extremely vulnerable.

Area	£000s	£000s
Covid Local Outbreak Management Plan	144	
Local Authority Compliance and Enforcement grant	93	
Contain Outbreak Management Fund	576	
Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Individuals grant	91	
Community Testing Fund	69	
<b>Sub-total - spend funded by ring-fenced grants</b>		<b>973</b>
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL PRESSURES</b>		<b>973</b>

The grant allocations in respect of outbreak management planning and compliance were much larger than shown in the table above however, the grant conditions do not require all of the monies to be spent by the end of the financial year meaning that balances can be carried forward to fund future outcomes.

### 3.3.6. Capital financing and non-service budgets

During the year the council has incurred additional expenditure when responding to the pandemic, largely relating to cross-cutting or council wide functions such as rolling out a new ICT platform to facilitate home-working on a large scale, arranging access to services such as Zoom and making changes to buildings to ensure compliance with safe social distancing measures. There were also additional costs incurred with contractors to support delivery of the business rates grants schemes, many of which have been in operation for most of the financial year.

The government has issued some new burdens funding towards these costs and the remaining balance of £833k has been funded using the general Covid support government grant. The grant also contributed towards the increased cost of the Coroners Service which is a joint arrangement managed by Bristol City Council on behalf of the four unitary councils in the region.

Area	£000s	£000s
<b>Sub-total - spend funded by ring-fenced grants</b>	0	<b>0</b>
Council-wide corporate costs		833
Increased cost of coroners' service, managed by Bristol CC		197
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL PRESSURES</b>		<b>1,030</b>

Other material movements to note within the out-turn position relate to reductions in income linked to planned returns on investment balances. Whilst the council's cash-flow positions remained buoyant throughout the course of the year despite the extreme volatility faced by many of its services and income streams, the wider economic situation impacted on the money markets which meant that interest rates fell to record levels, and even tipped into periods when negative rates were offered to councils who wanted to place funds. The out-turn shows a short-fall of £475k for the 2020/21, although it should be noted that this is likely to remain a key risk going forwards into 2021/22.

### **3.4. Revenue Budget Out-turn – other key service issues**

As in previous years all elements of the council's operational revenue budgets have continued to be monitored and reviewed and this section of the report provides an overview of the main highlights of the year and so largely focuses on those issues which are not directly related to the pandemic. That being said, it is not entirely possible to classify all budget movements into separate Covid / non-Covid categories.

The council's annual budget processes are underpinned by a series of core assumptions and factors and so it is important to be aware of all material issues within the revenue budget in order to understand the potential impact that these may have in future years.

#### **3.4.1. Adult Social Care**

Aside from Covid, there was a "business as usual" / underlying core overspend of £1.240m within the Adult Social services budgets, which includes an estimated £330k of planned Medium Term Financial Plan savings that have been delayed as a result of later implementation due to internal or external capacity issues.

There are a number of other issues that make up the overspend, including a £2.3m increase in spend on residential and nursing care packages with Exceptional Special Needs (ESN), which more than offsets the £2m reduction in demand for basic residential and nursing care packages associated with the pandemic.

ESN packages arise where a premium is paid on top of the basic rate – this could be where clients require additional support, where the home does not accept the basic rate or where Covid has meant that client is unable to move from their original hospital discharge placement, which may have been originally commissioned at a higher rate. It is important to note that the client income contribution rate for ESN packages is significantly lower than for basic packages which means that this has also led to a significant reduction in income levels compared to the budgeted position.

During the year there has also been an increase in spend on domiciliary care and supported living, offset by a reduction in spend on short-term placements and an increase in non-client income.

The overspend in relation to individual care packages is being partially offset by savings in areas such as contracts and commissioning and early intervention and prevention.

It is also worth noting that the out-turn position reflects accounting adjustments that revise down the total income received by £400k in relation to credit loss allowance and debt impairment. These provisions are prudent given the current circumstances however will continue to be monitored in the future to determine if they are still required.

Looking ahead, the Covid-19 pandemic and underlying business as usual activity has served to heighten a number of risks in the adult social care budget; the key ones being:

- Suppressed demand for services in 2020/21 due to CCG funding of hospital discharge cases and voids in care homes
- Agreement of a business case to secure long-term funding for the new hospital discharge arrangements
- Ongoing need for increased ESN related packages
- Increased costs in, and financial stability of, the care market

- Potential increased demand for support, especially for mental health and carers' support
- Capacity to deliver transformation and MTFP savings
- Underlying levels of outstanding debt

### **3.4.2. Children's Services**

The overall position in Children's Services, after use of the general Covid Support Grant, is an underspend of £703k. This is predominantly reflective of overspends in relation to families with disabled children and legal costs (£401k and £171k respectively), which are more than offset by staffing and travel savings, spending deferrals and, for the first time in many years, an underspend in relation to placements for children looked after.

Key risks looking ahead are that some of the increases associated with Covid are sustained beyond the time period of the corresponding funding, that some of the 2020/21 mitigations / underspends described above cannot be sustained into 2021/22, and that the number of children looked after increases following the easing of lockdown measures.

In addition, there are further targeted savings of £1.5m included within the 2021/22 approved budget, largely related to reducing the costs of placements for children looked after, and, whilst, progress to date has been excellent, this area has some inherent risk in terms of delivery.

### **3.4.3. Development and environment**

The overall position in Development and Environment (or Place), after use of the general Covid Support Grant, is a net overspend of £135k.

The key variances are as follows:

- £121k underspend - Highways Operations – arising from a combination of vacant posts and reduced maintenance delivered due to capacity
- £288k overspend - Concessions – increase in bad debt provision due to a rise in debt levels and contribution to reserves to fund a new lease arrangement
- £150k overspend - delayed delivery of MTFP savings
- Various salary underspends linked to difficulties in recruiting or vacant posts being held due to service closures e.g. Libraries

Looking forward, the key risks for 2021/22 include the ongoing demand for home to school transport. Although the service did achieve a balanced budget for 2020/21 it should be noted that £809k of ring-fenced Covid funding was received to facilitate social distancing during journeys. Whilst it can clearly be demonstrated that the service incurred a range of additional costs, at times it was difficult to identify only the Covid-related incremental costs from the overall costs meaning that an aggregated approach was taken. It should therefore be recognised that the underlying demand for transport may result in a new pressure when additional funding expires.

New MTFP savings of £1.8m have been incorporated within the budget for 2021/22 and as always, there is a delivery risk associated with these especially since some capacity is still being utilised to deal with the impacts of Covid.

Another key change is that waste services will be delivered through a local authority trading company from 2021/22 as approved at Council in September 2020. The North Somerset

Environment Company Limited (NSEC) has been formed and the existing waste revenue budgets will be re-based in order to recognise and meet the costs of the new service. Although there is likely to be an impact within the revenue income and expenditure budgets as a result of these changes, these will be smoothed over future financial years meaning there will be no net impact in either the 2020/21 or 2021/22.

That being said, whilst the budgeted impacts can be smoothed it should be noted that the risk profile of waste services has changed, specifically those risks associated with the income generated from the sale of recycling materials, as this risk now sits with the council. The market can be volatile and is also dependant on the quality of materials processed by NSEC, and so additional monitoring will be undertaken in this area.

#### **3.4.4. Corporate services**

The overall position for Corporate Services, after use of the general Covid Support Grant, is a net overspend of £231k. Whilst this budget variance is not material in total, there are numerous movements which make up this sum, some of which are considered to be one-off in nature, whilst others may continue into future years.

The main variances are as follows:

- £288k – net increase in insurance costs including contribution towards a provision for a legacy issue
- £136k – shortfall in recharges to the capital programme, as a result of staffing vacancies and diverting other members of the team to work on Covid-related activity
- £ 81k – non delivery of legacy MTFP savings
- £ 90k – continuation of First Steps programme, which provides support and advice to residents in respect of council tax and welfare issues
- £ 37k – increase in members costs
- £ 39k – increase in external audit fees

Many of these variances were offset with mitigations and savings arising in other areas of the budget, notably as a result of holding staffing vacancies, reductions in the costs of energy and maintenance within office accommodation budgets and also reductions in travel related costs.

The majority of these variances are one-off and are not expected to continue into the future, funding has been included within the 2021/22 budget to enable the continuation of the successful and valued First Steps programme however, the council will need to consider the ongoing impact of items such as the increased costs of external audit within its MTFP considerations, should these costs continue to increase as expected.

#### **3.4.5. Public health and regulatory services**

The council's public health budgets are funded from a specific grant from Public Health England and have continued to operate within a financial ring-fence during 2020/21, which means that any underspending of these budgets must be transferred into an earmarked reserve and only spent on public health related activity in the future. The out-turn position for the year was an underspend of £389k, which has increased the balance held in the reserve to £765k.

Staff within regulatory services made a significant contribution towards the council's Covid compliance and enforcement activities, much of which was prescribed by the government and funded through a series of specific grants which meant that some of the budgeted costs were funded in other ways. Vacancies were also held during the year; environmental health related areas encountered recruitment difficulties, discussions with other neighbouring authorities have shown this to be more of a national issue rather than a local one and so an alternative solution will need to be identified in the coming months to alleviate service pressures.

#### **3.4.6. Corporate, capital financing and non-service budgets**

The most significant under spend reflected within the Non-Service out-turn position relates to the council's £900k contingency budget, which has no direct spending plans linked to it at the start of each year. This means that the council has the ability to use this funding to offset adverse variances elsewhere within its budget should the need arise, or to allocate sums to specific spending plans or priorities if required. No such allocations were made during 2020/21.

#### **3.4.7. Schools and the Dedicated Schools Grant**

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is a ring-fenced grant, which must be used in support of the schools' budget. The majority of the funding is for academies and is paid direct to them by the Department for Education (DfE), using the formula agreed by the Strategic Schools Forum (SSF) for funding all schools in North Somerset, whether they be maintained or not.

At the end of the 2019/20 financial year there was a deficit of £3.847m, during 2020/21 this has increased to £7.150m; although this includes a £278k underspend from the Schools Block which is likely to be spent within that block during 2021/22, rather than offset the overall deficit.

The deficit relates to spending on the "High Needs Block", which funds education for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and reflects the 140% increase in the number of children and young people with the Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) from 2015 to 2021.

Medium term measures to mitigate spending increases include the implementation the Specialist and Alternative Provision Review, and Education Commissioning Strategy, which includes the following key projects: -

- The submission and progression of a bid to the DfE as part of the Wave 13 SEND and AP Provision Free School Bid, for a 65-place Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Special School within North Somerset
- The commencement of the programme and statutory process to deliver an expansion to Baytree Special School to a new site with facilities for 65 new places for pupils with severe and profound learning disabilities.
- Expansions to Westhaven and Ravenswood Special Schools
- The commencement of the programme and statutory process to deliver two new Specialist Units (for up to 20 pupils) to meet the needs of high functioning pupils with autism on mainstream school sites
- Further plans to deliver Specialist Units on mainstream schools' sites

Recent modelling, which takes into account forecasts for the increasing number of young people requiring specialist provision, indicates that, in the absence of a further exceptional funding injection from the government, there is little prospect of reducing the overall deficit, although it is possible that the in-year deficit could be eliminated by 2023/24.

Officers discussed our deficit management plan with officials from the DfE at the end of July 2020. They raised no concerns about our approach and, in particular, were supportive of our intention to lead and organise an Inclusion Summit, to include various partners, in order to develop a strategy and plans to ensure that more children and young people with SEND can remain in mainstream schools with appropriate levels of support. This Summit took place earlier this year and there was significant commitment from all parties; implementation plans are now being drawn up.

### **3.5. 2020/21 Savings proposals**

Included at Appendix 2 is a schedule of the budget reductions totalling £5.235m, which were incorporated into the 2020/21 base budget, together with an assessment showing the status and progress for each of the savings plans. Despite the ongoing challenges faced over the past year, these items remain a feature within the monthly budget monitoring processes and are regularly reviewed by directorate leadership teams. The out-turn assessment indicates that approximately 85% of the planned savings were largely delivered in year or mitigated with other measures, which is only marginally lower than achievement of 90% in the previous financial year.

### **3.6. Reserves – general revenue reserves**

The council's general reserve balance at the start of the year, often referred to as the Working Balance, was £9.053m which equates to approximately 5.45% of the original net revenue budget. This reserve is not usually held to fund spending priorities, instead it seen as a working balance to cover unforeseen or unavoidable financial risks.

It has been anticipated in monitoring reports throughout the year that the only draw on these reserves would be the requirement to fund any residual over spend remaining at the end of the financial year however, as noted from above, the council has managed to achieve its aim of balancing its budget for the year and so the closing balance at the year-end remains unchanged.

Although the optimum level of general reserves to hold is a subjective decision for each council to consider dependent upon many risk factors, a general rule of thumb, widely supported by external auditors, indicates that a minimum level should equate to between 4-6% of the authority's revenue budget thus the current level of £9m is within desired levels.

However, it should be noted that the council will continue to face a range of risks and uncertainties, including those in respect of the Covid-19 emergency, and so this reserve may be required in the future to fund any residual impacts not covered by other government allocations or from sums set aside within earmarked reserves. Should that be the case then the council would need to ensure that balances do not fall below the levels set out in the reserves policy.

### 3.7. Reserves – other usable reserves (ear-marked)

In addition to the general reserve balance the council also has a series of reserves which it can use to support spending within the revenue or capital budget, smooth impacts across financial years or hold to cover future financial risks. These are known as ‘usable’ reserves and are held on the council’s balance sheet.

Ear-marked reserves are largely created in order to;- provide resources for a range of one-off programmes, invest in planned future expenditure or service improvements, deliver the outcomes required by unconditional service related grants received from the government and / or external partners, or to provide the council with cover from potential financial risks.

Their planned use is part of an effective strategic financial plan although it should be noted that;

- some of these reserves are more ‘general’ in nature whereas other reserves are ‘earmarked’ and held for specific purposes
- some of these reserves are more regulated and need to follow prescribed guidance, whereas other reserves have a degree of flexibility or choice

Directors manage these resources alongside revenue budgets and routinely share details of the planned transfers between reserves and their revenue budgets within the monthly budget monitoring framework, and these have been included within each of the published reports over the past year.

An updated summary combining all of the council’s usable reserves is provided at **Appendix 4**, which reflects the opening balance at the start of the financial year, together with movements into, or out of the council’s revenue budget, and the final balance held in the reserve at the end of the financial year.

At an overall level the schedule shows a positive or healthy position in that the overall level of usable reserves held by the council has increased from £65.682m to **£101.344m** over the year. However, given the context of the pandemic it is extremely important to understand the significance of the balances held in some of these reserves at the year-end, any regulatory framework surrounding them, as well as their planned future use, which means that they are currently fully allocated, and therefore not available to fund new pressures, initiatives or priorities within the revenue budget.

An overview of material items transferred into reserves at the end of the year is shown below;

- **Covid-19 response – £6.5m** - since the start of the pandemic the government has provided a range of unallocated funding packages to local government in order to help defray some of the pressures experienced within their financial plans and revenue budgets. A proportion of this funding has been applied to finance impacts within the 2020/21 revenue budget whilst other sums have been transferred into earmarked reserves to fund plans and initiatives which will be delivered in future years.
- **Place contracts reserve - £6.8m** - a large proportion of the services provided by the Development and Environment (or Place) directorate are delivered through material third party contracts, such as highways, street cleansing and grounds maintenance, and waste collection and disposal. All contracts are procured, monitored and



reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure that an efficient and effective range of services are delivered, at a price which supports value for money considerations. Changes in contract provision were approved during the financial year although the financial impacts may arise over the period 2021-2024 and so an earmarked reserve has been created to smooth costs across this period.

- **Collection fund smoothing reserve - £17m** – as noted in para 3.8 below, the council is required to account for an unusual situation within its revenue budget at the end of the 2020/21 financial year. The council has been awarded a Section 31 grant to compensate it for changes to the national business rate relief scheme, which resulted in a significant loss of business rate income previously due to the council. Due to the accounting arrangements associated with the Collection Fund, the loss of income will be recognised in a future financial year, whereas the S31 grant has been received in the current financial year, and so the grant has been transferred into the smoothing reserve so that it can be applied at the appropriate time. These monies cannot be used for any other purpose.
- **City-Region Deal reserve - £5.3m** - the City-Region Deal reserve is a technical reserve used to account for the council's share of resources which will be pass-ported into the accountable body for use at a later date.
- **Capital grants and receipts - £5m** - the council holds a variety of assets, the majority of which are either operational and used to deliver services or held as a long-term investment to generate capital appreciation, or alternatively, deliver a return into the annual revenue budget. Capital receipts are generated when the council sells an asset - although there may be timing differences linked to asset sales and capital expenditure, all of the council's capital receipts have been allocated as funding for schemes and projects within the approved capital programme.

In addition to revenue grants, the council also receives capital grants which are ring-fenced to fund projects and schemes within the capital programme, meaning that they cannot be reallocated for alternative purposes.

The schedule also shows that the council brought **£20.582m** of reserves back into the revenue budget during the year to finance both revenue and capital expenditure. The majority of this spend was planned on approved projects and key priorities although some covered risks and unavoidable costs, further information is shown below;

- **Covid-19 emergency response – £5.9m** – these monies were given to the council at the end of March 2020 and represented the first tranche of unallocated Covid support funding. Three further tranches were awarded during the year and all 4 sums amounted to £14.6m in total. The council has applied the majority of this funding to specific pressures within the revenue budget in-year or allocated to specific projects for delivery in the future.
- **Schools reserves** – these reserves and balances are held by schools and cannot be reallocated for alternative purposes, £1.6m was drawn down and transferred to the schools at the start of the year, although a proportion was subsequently retained.
- **Directorate reserves** – these reserves are held by directorates and contain funding for a range of specific projects and planned initiatives such as housing surveys, investments in digital capabilities and improvements to the council's website,

replacement system for children's services or supporting place-making and growth agendas. £3.6m was drawn down and transferred to the revenue budget over the course of the year progressing these plans despite the pandemic.

As in previous years the Finance Strategy Board have undertaken a review of earmarked reserves as part of their closure of accounts work-plan in order to ensure that all reserve balances are appropriately held and are still aligned to key council priorities. Whilst noting that the level of reserves has significantly increased, the review highlighted that the majority of reserves were in fact contractually committed, allocated to agreed projects and programmes or being held to cover risks and uncertainties associated with the pandemic - no changes were proposed as a result of this review.

### **3.8. Collection Fund**

The council annually levies charges on both residents and businesses through council tax and business rate demands and this locally generated income is used to help pay for services. The budget for the 2020/21 financial year shows that the council expects to receive approximately £150m of income from these sources, which equates to 90% of the original net revenue budget.

The income is recognised within the council's accounts as a 'precept' which is drawn against the collection fund, which is a ring-fenced arrangement used to administer all related income on behalf of the following parties;

- Business Rates – North Somerset Council (49%), Avon Fire Authority (1%), Central Government (50%)
- Council tax – North Somerset Council, Avon Fire Authority, Police & Crime Commissioner for Avon & Somerset, Town and Parish Councils

The accounting arrangements for the collection fund are more complex and are actually different to other parts of the council's budget and mean that the council will levy and receive the same fixed annual budgeted sum each year, irrespective of any in-year movements which have arisen during the course of the year. All surplus or deficit positions generated, are transferred into an 'unusable' reserve, shared proportionately across all of the preceptors, and then reflected as an actual transaction within the accounts in subsequent years.

This means that although we have been closely monitoring the financial performance of the collection fund during the year to understand the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has had, impacts will largely feature in future years. The out-turn positions for each of the areas are noted below.

#### **Business rates**

The out-turn position in respect of business rates income shows that there is a deficit of £25.412m at the end of the 2020/21 financial year, and the council's share of this is £12.452m. This is an improvement compared to the previously reported £28.515m position and is largely due to the government announcing it would not permit appeals for reductions to rateable values if the reason was due to Covid. The council previously forecast potential losses of almost £3m for such appeals.

It should be noted that a significant proportion of the income short-fall relates to the award of relief granted to businesses who operate within the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors at the start of the pandemic period.

The government has been clear that this was a national policy decision which will be fully funded and so the council will receive 100% reimbursement for all relief awarded under the policy. The reimbursement mechanism used by the government is via a Section 31 Grant, which has been recognised as income during the 2020/21 financial year.

However as noted above, the business rate deficit on the collection fund will not show in the council's annual accounts until the 2021/22 financial year, and so the council has transferred all of the Section 31 retail relief grant income into an ear-marked usable reserve at the year-end in order to smooth the accounting impacts across both financial years.

### **Council tax**

The out-turn position in relation to council tax shows an in-year loss of £3m compared to budgeted position at the start of the year. The losses relate to a range of baseline assumptions including lower cash collection rates, slower delivery of anticipated increases in the tax base, and an increase in the amount of discounts and reliefs awarded to households.

The council's share of annual deficit in respect of council tax is £2.501m and this does include the application of the £1.492m of Hardship Funding grant given by the government, which enabled some council tax payers to receive an additional discount of up to £150 on their annual bill.

### **Covid Funding**

Although both elements of the collection fund are anticipated to show losses at the end of the financial year the Government has confirmed that '**Covid- related**' losses in this area will not entirely fall on council budgets during the current or next financial year, but will instead be spread over the following three years, and then funded through a specific Covid collection fund losses grant. A sum of £0.727m has been received which will potentially cover the losses over the next three years although it should be noted that this sum was predicated on an indicative estimate made by the council in January 2020 and there remain a significant range of variables and uncertainties before it can be determined whether this sum will be sufficient.

### **3.9. Support provided to businesses and individuals**

Whilst the majority of the report provides details of transactions that have been reflected within the council's revenue budget over the course of the past year, it should also be recognised that the council has also received significant sums of additional Covid monies which have been used to fund responsibilities undertaken on behalf of central government, notably the payment of grants to individuals and businesses.

The government has provided unprecedented levels of financial support in this area to help reduce the financial hardships suffered by many through periods of lockdown or as a result of restrictions and adherence to national guidance and self-isolation.

As previously noted, Appendix 3 provides a list of total additional grant funding allocated to the council and the summary highlights those sums which were part of the national framework and only passported to councils so that they could re-distribute the funding for the government.

As such, these transactions do not form part of the council's accounts as they have been accounted for on an agency basis but, have been included for completeness to enable an understanding of the financial challenges faced across the district as a result of the Covid-19 emergency, and also to provide an understanding of the practical challenges which the council overcame in order to develop new service provisions and processes at a time of real need.

### **3.10. Capital Budget Out-turn**

**Appendix 5** presents Members with a detailed schedule showing all of the schemes included within the council's approved capital programme, which includes the budget for the current year and the following four financial years. This shows that the council's overall programme currently totals £357.974m, £66.419m of which relates to the 2020/21 financial year.

The capital summary shows that the council has spent £41.895m during 2020/21, which equates to 63% of its budget for the year, although has placed commitments for schemes totalling a further £5.923m which would increase the spending to 72% of the annual budget.

This is lower than in previous years and is evidence that the pandemic impacted on the delivery timescales associated with some capital projects, particularly at the start of the process when there were more uncertainties associated with lock-down and social distancing measures. Officers are currently reviewing how much of the unspent balance will be required in future years and as a result this some budgets will be 'slipped' and included within next years' programme in line with delivery and completion of the schemes.

Capital expenditure incurred during the year will be transferred to the council's balance sheet as a long-term asset if it has been spent on increasing our asset base, for example, expenditure incurred on fitting out the FoodWorks facility or monies spent on increasing or enhancing our infrastructure network.

Expenditure incurred during the year which has not resulted in a council owned asset will be charged to the revenue budget as a technical accounting adjustment, for example, projects relating to the expansion of academy schools to deliver more school places, or capital grants given to housing association providers.

In addition to the capital expenditure costs, the schedule also provides details of how these schemes have been funded and what types of resources have been used. The largest proportions of the programme has been funded following the award of external grants and contributions (£34.922m), capital receipts from the sale of assets (£2.433m), deposits and reserve balances brought forward from previous years (£1.250m) and by increasing the council's long-term borrowing (£3.290m).

Whilst this summary provides information in respect of the final out-turn position for the year, the underlying financial monitoring and governance processes have highlighted increasing areas of risk in some areas. The council recognises the benefits of delivering major capital investment within communities across the district but does however note that such projects may be impacted by a range of issues, some of which could result in a future budget pressure. As a result the council has sought to establish a capital risk related reserve in order to provide resilience in this area and this is included within the table at Appendix 4.

### 3.11. Capital Budget Amendments

Appendix 6 details changes to the approved capital programme reflecting re-phasing of capital works, new projects, and other decisions recommended for approval by the Investment & Infrastructure Board or the Section 151 Officer. This is an ongoing process and forms part of the governance arrangement and so these changes do require formal approval through this report.

### 3.12. Statutory Reporting of the Revenue Out-turn Position

Each year the council is required to publish details of its financial activities within the annual Statement of Accounts, so that they are available for review by members of the public and other interested parties, and also for inspection by external auditors.

The deadline for publication of the Accounts is usually 31 May however due to the Covid-19 emergency, this requirement has again been deferred until 30 September 2021, as it is recognised that councils currently have other priorities to consider at this time. Finance officers are continuing to progress and it is anticipated that the councils' full set of draft accounts for 2020/21 will be published on the website by 30 June 2021.

Local authorities in the United Kingdom are required to prepare their formal accounts in accordance with 'proper practices'. This is defined, for the purposes of local government legislation, as meaning compliance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code), which is issued by Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

The Code specifies the principles and practices of accounting specifically for local authorities, and does include differences to other organisations, although the statutory accounts are still required to provide a true and fair view of the financial position, and also reflect a summary of the transactions of the council during the course of the year.

As a result of the specific legislation the council's 'statutory accounts' **do** include transactions and adjustments which are not fully reflected within the monthly budget monitoring reports presented to Members, as they are technical in nature and **do not** directly impact on the council taxpayer. Examples of such adjustments include items such as depreciation of the council's asset base, the profit or loss on the disposal of fixed assets, and the impacts of the annual changes and revaluations within the council's pension fund liabilities.

A specific change to highlight to Members in respect of the 2020/21 financial year is the accounting treatment for specific or ring-fenced grants, because throughout the year the council's budget monitoring has reflected the Covid-related grant income within its financing budgets, whereas these sums will be reflected within the directorate income totals within the statutory accounts in line with the regulations. The purpose of separating out the grant income and expenditure within the monthly budget monitoring reports was to improve the transparency of Covid-related financial transactions within our budgets, as they could easily have been missed if they were 'netted off' against each other within a single total. Being open is a core component of the council's vision.

**Appendix 7** provides a summary of the council's revenue budget out-turn position for 2020/21 which is displayed in the standard monthly budget monitoring presentation, as well as the format required within the statutory accounts. This enables a comparison of the different reporting formats and provides a reconciliation between the two.

The financial summary shows that the council;

- has achieved a balanced position on its revenue budget for the year which means that no transfers to or from the General Revenue Reserve are required (see column 1),
- has made a net contribution into its reserves of £30.070m (see column 2)
- has reflected a net surplus of £15.537m when providing services within its Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at the end of the year (see column 6).

Column 5 shows that £14.533m of this relates to technical adjustments which have been reversed out within the council's unusable reserves using statutory mechanisms to avoid a financial impact on the council taxpayers of the area, some of the more significant items are listed below;

<b>Technical adjustment</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
Annual depreciation and impairment charges and revaluation changes on the council's asset base	23,558	
Net reduction in the value of the council's investment properties	862	
Net loss on the disposal of non-current assets, includes schools transferring to academy status	7,353	
Capital expenditure charged to the revenue budget under statute	4,575	
Capital grants and contributions received and used to finance spend	-32,316	
Transfer of Dedicated Schools Grant deficit to unusable reserves	-3,303	
Transfer of Collection Fund deficit to unusable reserves	-14,919	
Adjustments relating to pensions	-6,377	
Adjustments relating to debt charges and capital spend	5,764	
All other technical adjustments (net)	270	
<b>TOTAL TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS</b>		<b>-14,533</b>

#### **4. Consultation**

The report has been developed through consultation and engagement with the council's corporate leadership team, directorate leadership teams and with nominated budget managers.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

Financial implications are contained throughout the report.

#### **6. Legal Powers and Implications**

The Local Government Act 1972 lays down the fundamental principle by providing that every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial

affairs, although further details and requirements are contained within related legislation. The setting of the council's budget for the forthcoming year, and the ongoing arrangements for monitoring all aspects of this, is an integral part of the financial administration process.

## **7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

The council faces a wide variety of climate change and environmental impacts whilst delivering its many services to residents, some of which have a direct or indirect financial impact or consequence. These are considered by service managers when creating and monitoring their budgets and may be referenced or noted, where appropriate, throughout the report or associated appendices.

## **8. Risk Management**

The council faces a wide variety of risks whilst delivering its many services to residents, some of which may have a financial consequence or impact. The most significant financial risks associated with delivery of 'business as usual services' for the 2020/21 revenue budget were contained within the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) approved by the Executive in February 2020 however, clearly some of these risks have been overtaken by the council's response to the pandemic and so have been regularly reviewed by the corporate leadership team and the S151 Officer throughout the year.

The main risks, which are highlighted below, were considered as part of the 2021/22 budget setting process in assessing the levels of reserves which may need to be held. They will also need to be re-considered when monitoring the current year's budget and when formulating the next iteration of the MTFP and setting the 2022/23 budget. It is worth noting that the likelihood of these materialising is greater following Covid and the potential amounts could be significant.

- The sufficiency and sustainability of the adult social care market and the council's ability to meet increasing costs
- Increased demand for support for social care in both adults and children's services and in services for children and young people with SEND, including areas such as Exceptional Special Needs placements and home to schools' transport services
- Agreement of a business case to secure long-term funding for the new hospital discharge arrangements
- Any other unfunded and on-going impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic in relation to increases costs and lost income, e.g. concessions and property related income
- Capacity to deliver transformation and MTFP savings projects
- Ongoing reduction in interest rates
- Costs and funding pressures in relation to existing capital projects within the approved programme
- Any appeals or legal challenges

## **9. Equality Implications**

The 2020/21 revenue budget incorporates savings plans approved by Members in February 2020 all of which are supported by an equality impact assessment (EIA). These EIAs have been subject to consultation and discussion with a wide range of stakeholder groups to ensure all risks have been identified and understood.

## **10. Corporate Implications**

There are currently no specific corporate implications within the report. The relationship between the budget process and its continued ongoing monitoring arrangements have to be fully integrated if the council is to achieve the required financial outcomes it requires. Members will be aware that robust financial management and strong internal controls will play a key part in delivering successful service outcomes as well reducing financial risk.

## **11. Options Considered**

N/A

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### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 Revenue Budget Monitoring Summary 2020/21

Appendix 2 Monitoring of the 2020/21 MTFP Savings Proposals

Appendix 3 Summary of Covid Grant Funding

Appendix 4 Summary of Usable Reserves

Appendix 5 Monitoring of the Capital Programme

Appendix 6 Summary of Changes to the Capital Budgets – to be approved

Appendix 7 Reconciliation of the Revenue Budget Out-turn Statement 2020/21

### **Background Papers:**

- Executive, February 2020 - Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy reports, which incorporate the 2020/21 revenue and capital budgets
- Executive, September 2020 to March 2021 – Budget Monitoring reports



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**NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL - 2020/21 BUDGET MONITORING  
FINANCIAL SUMMARY - AS AT 31 MARCH 2021**

	REVISED BUDGET				PROVISIONAL OUT-TURN				PROVISIONAL VARIANCE			
	Expenditure £	Income £	Reserves £	Net £	Expenditure £	Income £	Reserves £	Net £	Expenditure £	Income £	Reserves £	Net £
<b>Service Expenditure Budgets;</b>												
People & Communities;												
Adult Social Care	113,527,768	(33,920,968)	1,351,981	<b>80,958,781</b>	113,430,552	(32,741,938)	1,511,080	<b>82,199,694</b>	(97,216)	1,179,030	159,100	<b>1,240,914</b>
Children & Young People	40,159,624	(7,380,716)	(233,354)	<b>32,545,555</b>	40,336,082	(8,520,451)	27,735	<b>31,843,365</b>	176,457	(1,139,736)	261,089	<b>(702,189)</b>
Housing	2,829,352	(1,282,378)	(81,853)	<b>1,465,122</b>	3,383,829	(2,468,023)	390,221	<b>1,306,027</b>	554,477	(1,185,646)	472,074	<b>(159,095)</b>
Schools & DSG	51,366,178	(51,366,178)	0	<b>0</b>	55,136,590	(54,447,446)	(689,144)	<b>0</b>	3,770,412	(3,081,268)	(689,144)	<b>0</b>
Sub total - People & Communities	207,882,922	(93,950,239)	1,036,774	<b>114,969,457</b>	212,287,054	(98,177,859)	1,239,891	<b>115,349,086</b>	4,404,131	(4,227,620)	203,118	<b>379,630</b>
Development & Environment	65,000,002	(15,750,990)	184,480	<b>49,433,492</b>	66,095,460	(24,178,206)	7,651,210	<b>49,568,464</b>	1,095,458	(8,427,216)	7,466,730	<b>134,972</b>
Corporate Services	101,169,881	(92,316,176)	(319,376)	<b>8,534,329</b>	101,228,124	(92,800,803)	338,486	<b>8,765,807</b>	58,243	(484,627)	657,862	<b>231,478</b>
Public Health & Regulatory Services	12,733,146	(10,503,255)	(343,526)	<b>1,886,365</b>	12,098,093	(10,900,202)	428,235	<b>1,626,126</b>	(635,053)	(396,947)	771,761	<b>(260,239)</b>
Corporate & Capital Financing	27,949,484	(5,575,790)	2,560,000	<b>24,933,694</b>	23,064,609	(6,062,235)	6,901,389	<b>23,903,763</b>	(4,884,875)	(486,445)	4,341,389	<b>(1,029,931)</b>
Contribution into Capital Reserves	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	1,482,197	<b>1,482,197</b>	0	0	1,482,197	<b>1,482,197</b>
<b>Total Revenue Budget</b>	414,735,436	(218,096,450)	3,118,352	<b>199,757,337</b>	414,773,339	(232,119,306)	18,041,409	<b>200,695,442</b>	37,904	(14,022,856)	14,923,057	<b>938,105</b>
General Fund Financing Budgets;	1,492,597	(201,641,934)	392,000	<b>(199,757,337)</b>	1,402,310	(196,450,673)	(5,647,079)	<b>(200,695,442)</b>	(90,287)	5,191,261	(6,039,079)	<b>(938,105)</b>
<b>Total Revenue Budget Resources</b>	1,492,597	(201,641,934)	392,000	<b>(199,757,337)</b>	1,402,310	(196,450,673)	(5,647,079)	<b>(200,695,442)</b>	(90,287)	5,191,261	(6,039,079)	<b>(938,105)</b>
<b>NET REVENUE BUDGET TOTALS</b>	416,228,033	(419,738,384)	3,510,352	<b>0</b>	416,175,649	(428,569,979)	12,394,330	<b>0</b>	(52,383)	(8,831,595)	8,883,978	<b>0</b>

**NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL - 2020/21 BUDGET MONITORING  
FINANCIAL SUMMARY - AS AT 31 MARCH 2021**

	VIREMENTS IN 2020/21				BUDGET VIREMENT CATEGORY / REASON				REVISED BUDGET			
	Expenditure £	Income £	Reserves £	Net £	1-C19 Grants £	2-C19 General £	3-C19 Reserves £	4-Non-Covid £	Expenditure £	Income £	Reserves £	Net £
<b>Service Expenditure Budgets;</b>												
People & Communities;												
Adult Social Care	10,395,542	140,000	1,530,001	<b>12,065,543</b>	8,342,522	2,574,000	1,530,000	(380,980)	113,527,768	(33,920,968)	1,351,981	<b>80,958,781</b>
Children & Young People	1,488,391	52,089	138,291	<b>1,678,772</b>	541,032	472,000	245,000	420,740	40,159,624	(7,380,716)	(233,354)	<b>32,545,555</b>
Housing	(160,287)	106,194	0	<b>(54,093)</b>	0	0	0	(54,092)	2,829,352	(1,282,378)	(81,853)	<b>1,465,122</b>
Schools & DSG	174,075	(174,075)	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0	51,366,178	(51,366,178)	0	<b>0</b>
Sub total - People & Communities	11,897,721	124,208	1,668,292	<b>13,690,221</b>	8,883,554	3,046,000	1,775,000	(14,332)	207,882,922	(93,950,239)	1,036,774	<b>114,969,457</b>
Development & Environment	14,627,817	(1,085,821)	477,690	<b>14,019,686</b>	10,017,217	2,270,747	1,664,000	67,722	65,000,002	(15,750,990)	184,480	<b>49,433,492</b>
Corporate Services	1,434,559	13,121	(533,889)	<b>913,791</b>	142,894	824,287	0	(53,390)	101,169,881	(92,316,176)	(319,376)	<b>8,534,329</b>
Public Health & Regulatory Services	1,314,480	(229,535)	(110,750)	<b>974,195</b>	974,195	0	0	0	12,733,146	(10,503,255)	(343,526)	<b>1,886,365</b>
Corporate & Capital Financing	1,169,816	(139,850)	3,060,000	<b>4,089,966</b>	0	1,889,966	2,200,000	0	27,949,484	(5,575,790)	2,560,000	<b>24,933,694</b>
Contribution into Capital Reserves	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Net Revenue Budget</b>	30,444,393	(1,317,877)	4,561,343	<b>33,687,860</b>	<b>20,017,860</b>	<b>8,031,000</b>	<b>5,639,000</b>	<b>0</b>	414,735,436	(218,096,450)	3,118,352	<b>199,757,337</b>
General Fund Financing Budgets;	0	(33,687,860)	0	<b>(33,687,860)</b>	(20,017,860)	(8,031,000)	(5,639,000)	0	0	(200,149,337)	392,000	<b>(199,757,337)</b>
<b>Total Revenue Budget Resources</b>	0	(33,687,860)	0	<b>(33,687,860)</b>	<b>(20,017,860)</b>	<b>(8,031,000)</b>	<b>(5,639,000)</b>	<b>0</b>	0	(200,149,337)	392,000	<b>(199,757,337)</b>
<b>NET REVENUE BUDGET TOTALS</b>	30,444,393	(35,005,736)	4,561,343	<b>(0)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	414,735,436	(418,245,787)	3,510,352	<b>0</b>

1 - Budgets increased to reflect ring-fenced / specific grant income received by the council and allocated to services - grant income shown within Financing budgets

2 - Budgets increased to reflect Covid related pressures - see Para 3.3 - funded from general Covid grant income which is shown within Financing budgets

3 - Budgets increased to reflect transfers into reserves - funded from general Covid grant income which is shown within Financing budgets

4 - Other cross directorate budget virements

**MONITORING OF 2020/21 MTFP SAVINGS PROPOSALS**
**APPENDIX 2**

Ref	Proposal	Saving incl within Budget £000	RAG rating	Notes
<b>- D&amp;E Service reviews, contracts, income and efficiencies</b>		<b>-1,335</b>		
DE1	Concessionary Fares - reduction in costs to reflect current demand assumptions	-50	G	Achieved 2020/21
DE2	D&E Staffing review	-100	G	Achieved 2020/21 although vacancy rates were higher due to Covid, will need to be reviewed in 2020/21
DE3	Events programme to become cost neutral or minimal support	-25	G	Achieved 2020/21 although events were cancelled due to Covid, will need to be reviewed in 2021/22
DE7	Introduce break-even policy for Building Control	-30	R	Deferred - capacity required to deliver Covid impacts
DE8	Introduce Green waste charging	-450	A	Introduction of new scheme deferred until April 2021 however MTFP saving achieved through alternative mitigation
DE10	Parking review	-150	R	Financial impact mitigated in year through release of corporate growth, will be partially offset in 2021/22 through development of resident parking zones
DE11	Review Community Transport services	-5	G	Achieved 2020/21
DE12	Reduce Supported Bus services subsidy	-50	G	Achieved 2020/21
DE14	Review consultant spend and contractual agreements	-50	G	Achieved 2020/21
DE17	Revisit safe Home To Schools Transport routes	-50	A	Partially achieved in 2020/21
DE18	Safer roads initiatives (additional sites meeting relevant criteria)	-20	R	Deferred - capacity required to deliver Covid impacts
DE19	Seafront concessions - additional income / review model of service	-50	R	Deferred - capacity required to deliver Covid impacts
DE20	Street Lighting- reduction in utility costs due to rollout of LED	-300	G	Achieved 2020/21
DE21	Toilets- reduction in running costs	-5	G	Achieved 2020/21
<b>- CSD Service reviews, contracts, income and efficiencies</b>		<b>-1,145</b>		
CSD 1.1	Support Services contract - VFM service review - Phase 1 - Benefits	-30	R	Deferred - capacity required to deliver Covid impacts
CSD 4	Support Services contract - ICT asset analysis	-10	R	Deferred - capacity required to deliver Covid impacts
CSD 5.1	Support Services contract - agreed contract changes	-70	G	Achieved 2020/21
CSD 6.2	Support Services contract - review cleaning contract scope	-10	G	Achieved 2020/21
CSD S7	Increase in trading income - Inspire, FOI, Risk, Audit, RIPA, FOI etc	-20	G	Achieved 2020/21
CSD S8	Transformation - Paperless journey - reduce postage costs	-20	G	Achieved 2020/21, although reduction linked to Covid and so need to evaluate revised baseline going forward
CSD S9.2	Transformation - Cashless journey - reduce giro fees	-23	A	Transformation project not yet complete
CSD S10	Increase in income from Office Accommodation	-30	R	Discussions progressing although £30k not achieved in 2020/21
CSD S14	Internal audit contract	-10	R	Contract remained unchanged
CSD S15	Council tax - Empty Homes Premium	-100	G	Achieved 2020/21
CSD S17	Review of capital recharges, linked to Programme and Asset Review	-150	G	Achieved 2020/21
CSD S19	Reduce frequency of NS Life printed editions	-30	A	Net costs were reduced, although not to cover entire saving
CSD S20	Increase in income from Legal & Democratic Services	-30	G	Achieved 2020/21
CSD S21	Reduction in Chairman's budget	-7	G	Achieved 2020/21
CSD S22	Change staffing terms and conditions - introduce leave buy-back scheme	-30	R	Deferred - capacity required to deliver Covid impacts
CSD S23	Community Safety Budget - costs and income	-10	G	Achieved 2020/21
CSD S26	Service review within PA support team	-15	G	Achieved 2020/21
CSD S27.1	Increase in investment interest returns on cash balances	-200	R	Investment market opportunities and interest rates reduced as a result of Covid, mitigating savings achieved within other capital financing budget areas
CSD S27.2	Reduction in external capital financing costs	-200	G	Achieved 2020/21
CSD S28	Reduction in former employee pension costs	-30	G	Achieved 2020/21
CSD S29	Reduction in insurance premiums (subject to procurement)	-60	G	Achieved 2020/21
CSD S30	Use of S38 highways income to fund staffing cost	-60	G	Achieved 2020/21

Ref	Proposal	Saving incl within Budget £000	RAG rating	Notes
<b>- Corporate / cross council savings</b>		<b>-380</b>		
CC1	Annual increase to fees and charges, assumes a 1.25% uplift for all service areas. Additional income above these levels has been included within other directorate savings proposals	-380	G	Achieved - delivered across all service areas
<b>- P&amp;C Children's Services</b>		<b>-390</b>		
PCC1	Completion of more Parenting Assessments in-house	-5	R	The number of assessments was over 3x that in 2019/20 and although the % of assessments with an in house standard cost of £1,800 went up, the overall average cost also went up negating any saving from the increase in standard cost assessments.
PCC2	Children's Continuing Care / Health Contributions	-125	R	Work on the Complex care project has not progressed as planned, linked to Covid due to other priorities
PCC3	Children's Residential Step Down	-200	G	Early achievement of the 21/22 savings, and has replaced the original plan. In general terms spend on Children Looked After Placements has reduced by 8.5%.
PCC5	Review of the process and support mechanisms for in-house foster carers to improve recruitment and retention	-60	G	Achieved 2020/21
<b>- P&amp;C Public Health Services</b>		<b>-430</b>		
PCPH	Reductions on expenditure incurred in relation to Public Health related activities in order to match grant reductions from Public Health England, inflation and reprioritisation.	-430	G	Includes; £150k review of 2019/20 growth funded projects; £150k reduce expenditure on drug and alcohol mis-use contracts; £180k use of public health reserve
<b>- P&amp;C Adult Social Care Services</b>		<b>-1,555</b>		
PAC1	Efficiencies from consolidation of joint finances	-200	G	Achieved
PAC2	Closure of Castlewood Staff Canteen	-20	G	Achieved
PAC3	Re-procurement of Health Watch contract	-50	G	Achieved
PAC4	Supporting People - Restructuring of Housing with Support contracts	-50	G	Achieved
PAC5	Adults Continuing Health Care contributions	-175	G	Achieved
PAC6	Adult Care - domiciliary care capacity building to reduce use of home-care pending beds	-50	G	Achieved
PAC7	Increase Shared Lives capacity / placements as alternative to residential placements	-180	A	Additional placements hampered by Covid
PAC8	New / Increased Extra Care capacity as alternative to residential	-225	A	Delayed opening until Autumn means only partial delivery in year
PAC9	New Supported Living schemes as alternative to residential placements	-100	A	Delays in scheme due to covid. Potential 20/21 savings will be less than targeted
PAC10	Review of adult social care and support packages	-200	G	Completed
PAC11	Review of Direct Payments for adult social care and support	-100	R	Deferred - capacity required to deliver Covid impacts
PAC12	Changes to Adult Care non-residential Financial Assessments	-150	G	Achieved
PCH1	Housing savings - staffing, income, recommissioning and additional capitalisation	-55	G	Achieved
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>-5,235</b>		

Page 3 of 5

## SUMMARY OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

## APPENDIX 3

	Grant Income Allocations £000	Allocated within the Revenue Budget	Reflected within 2020/21 Out-turn Position £000	2020/21 Agency Arrangement £000
<b>General un-ringfenced grant - held corporately</b>				
- Non Ring-fenced funding – tranches 1, 2, 3 and 4	14,609	Council-wide	14,609	0
<b>Specific ring-fenced grant allocations - reflected within Service budgets;</b>				
- Infection Control funding for adult social care Phase 1 + 2	6,926	Adult Social Care	6,914	0
- Adult Social Care Workforce Capacity Fund	462	Adult Social Care	446	0
- Adult Social Care Rapid Testing Fund	1,000	Adult Social Care	982	0
- Homelessness grant	0			0
- Covid Winter grant scheme	528	Childrens Services	522	0
- Children's Well-being for Education Return	29	Childrens Services	19	0
- Local Authority Discretionary grants (Lockdown 1)	2,051	Develop & Environment	2,050	0
- Local Restrictions Support grant - discretionary (Tiers 2 + 3)	285	Develop & Environment	285	0
- Local Authority Additional Restrictions grant - discretionary	6,211	Develop & Environment	6,211	0
- Self Isolation Support grants - discretionary	146	Develop & Environment	84	0
- Re-Opening High Streets Safely grant	192	Develop & Environment	191	0
- Bus Operators grant	102	Develop & Environment	86	0
- Emergency Active Travel grant	72	Develop & Environment	72	0
- Home to Schools Transport grant	951	Develop & Environment	809	0
- Covid Travel Demand grant	75	Develop & Environment	39	0
- Leisure Recovery Fund (further allocation in 21/22)	141	Develop & Environment	189	0
- Emergency Assistance for Food & Essential Supplies grant	196	Corp Services	143	0
- Covid Local Outbreak Management Plan Fund	869	PH & Reg Services	144	0
- Covid Local Authority Compliance and Enforcement grant	94	PH & Reg Services	93	0
- Covid Contain Outbreak Management Fund	5,299	PH & Reg Services	576	0
- Covid Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Individuals grant	224	PH & Reg Services	91	0
- Covid Community Testing Fund	69	PH & Reg Services	69	0
- Council Tax Hardship Fund	1,492	Resources	1,492	0
- Collection Fund Losses	727	Resources	727	0
<b>Specific ring-fenced grant claims - reflected within Schools / DSG;</b>				
- Covid Catch Up premium grant	324	Schools Budget	194	0
- Covid Schools grant	23	Schools Budget	24	0
<b>Specific ring-fenced grant claims - reflected within Services;</b>				
- Income losses grant for sales, fees & charges	3,948	Council-wide	3,948	0
- Furlough grant	456	Council-wide	456	0
- New Burdens grant	573	Council-wide	573	0
<b>Grants received to undertake Central Govt functions;</b>				
- Small Business Grants (Lockdown 1)	24,550	n/a	0	24,550
- Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Grants (Lockdown 1)	16,530	n/a	0	16,530
- Local Restrictions Support (Addendum) grant	12,804	n/a	0	8,836
- Closed Business Lockdown grant	9,432	n/a	0	6,567
- Local Restrictions Support (Closed) grant	992	n/a	0	681
- Christmas Support Payments grant to Individuals	102	n/a	0	77
- Self Isolation Support Grants to Individuals	275	n/a	0	164
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>	<b>112,759</b>		<b>42,038</b>	<b>57,405</b>
Included as 'income' within the Council's Revenue Budget;				
- ring-fenced revenue grants	33,465		27,429	0
- un-ring-fenced revenue grant	14,609		14,609	14,609
<b>Not included within the Council's Revenue Budget</b>	<b>64,685</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>57,405</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>112,759</b>		<b>42,038</b>	<b>72,014</b>

**SCHEDULE OF USABLE RESERVES**
**APPENDIX 4**

	Note	Opening Balance 1/4/2020 (Restated) £	Transfers to / From Revenue Budget & Usable Reserves				Closing Balance 31/3/2021 £	
			Use of Reserves £	Contbn into Reserves £	Trfr within Reserves £	Financing Capital Spend £		Capital Grants & Receipts £
<b>General Fund General Revenue Reserve</b>	1	(9,053,265)	0	0	0	0	<b>(9,053,265)</b>	
<b>Schools Reserves</b>								
Schools Balances & Reserves	2	(905,514)	1,639,961	(3,059,040)	0	0	<b>(2,324,594)</b>	
Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve (Deficit Balance)	3	3,847,201	0	0	(3,847,201)	0	<b>0</b>	
Other School Funds		(350,925)	305,162	(288,522)	0	0	<b>(334,284)</b>	
<b>Earmarked Revenue Reserves</b>								
<u>Earmarked Reserves - Directorates</u>								
P&C Adult Social Care Reserves		(251,813)	63,998	(1,600,477)	(85,319)	0	<b>(1,873,610)</b>	
P&C Housing Reserves		(946,509)	96,291	(414,417)	41,974	0	<b>(1,222,661)</b>	
P&C Children & Young People Reserves		(1,945,832)	701,257	(734,527)	(63,724)	0	<b>(2,042,826)</b>	
P&C Public Health Reserve		(452,644)	1,408	(430,198)	0	0	<b>(881,434)</b>	
P&C Housing Property Sinking Funds		(898,947)	0	(72,094)	0	0	<b>(971,041)</b>	
Development & Environment Reserves		(3,840,026)	2,339,731	(10,907,844)	(640,566)	0	<b>(13,048,705)</b>	
Corporate Services Reserves		(3,184,113)	386,941	(1,436,478)	29,026	0	<b>(4,204,624)</b>	
<u>Earmarked Reserves - Corporate</u>								
Insurance Reserve		(2,896,562)	0	(11,457)	0	0	<b>(2,908,019)</b>	
Severance Reserve		(1,250,118)	0	(5,423)	0	0	<b>(1,255,541)</b>	
Transformation Reserves		(247,242)	55,000	(1,810,000)	150,000	0	<b>(1,852,242)</b>	
ICT Systems & Software Replacement Reserve		(658,380)	25,000	(1,000,000)	0	0	<b>(1,633,380)</b>	
Capital Programme Development Reserve		0	0	(539,917)	0	0	<b>(539,917)</b>	
Employment & Economic Fund (Driving Growth)		(988,080)	75,178	(1,253,336)	(1,391)	0	<b>(2,167,630)</b>	
City-Region Deal Reserve (non cash)		(4,330,566)	4,330,566	(5,327,047)	0	0	<b>(5,327,047)</b>	
Collection Fund Smoothing Reserve		(1,385,347)	2,282,943	(17,006,989)	0	0	<b>(16,109,393)</b>	
Financial / Corporate Risk Reserve		(3,184,642)	1,428,889	(34,817)	570,000	0	<b>(1,220,570)</b>	
Covid-19 Response Funding Reserve		(5,910,939)	5,910,939	(860,000)	0	0	<b>(860,000)</b>	
Covid-19 Recovery & Renewal Reserve		(250,000)	250,000	0	0	0		
<b>Resources to Finance the Approved Capital Programme</b>								
Financing Deposits & Reserves	4	(7,638,030)	688,603	(2,353,671)	0	808,634	<b>(8,494,464)</b>	
General & Earmarked Capital Reserves	4	(3,885,362)	0	(2,614,247)	0	300,000	<b>(6,199,609)</b>	
General & Earmarked Capital Receipts	5	(12,028,137)	0	0	0	2,433,116	<b>(12,128,946)</b>	
Capital Grants Unapplied & CIL	5	(3,046,074)	0	0	0	141,289	<b>(4,689,927)</b>	
<b>TOTAL USABLE RESERVES</b>		<b>(65,681,863)</b>	<b>20,581,866</b>	<b>(51,760,500)</b>	<b>(3,847,201)</b>	<b>3,683,039</b>	<b>(4,319,068)</b>	<b>(101,343,727)</b>

- 1 This is the council's statutory general fund working balance and stands at £9.053m, which represents 5.4% of the council's original net revenue budget.
- 2 These are individual school balances available for schools use. Remaining balances are given to schools following a transfer to academy status.
- 3 This is the Dedicated Schools Grant reserve and reflects a deficit balance of £3.847m at the start of the year. Following a change in accounting guidance this Deficit balance is now held within the council's 'unusable' reserves. The Deficit has increased to £7.150m by the end of the financial year. This is predominantly managed
- 4 These reserves and balances relate to the financing of capital expenditure within the approved programme.
- 5 Capital Receipts and Unapplied Capital Grants are also used to finance capital expenditure, although have greater restrictions on their use and accounting treatment.
- 6 Opening balances have been re-stated to reflect change in directorate area of responsibility



	Approved Budget						Monitoring to 31 March 2021			Actual Funding				
	2020/21 Estimated Spend	2021/22 Estimated Spend	2022/23 Estimated Spend	2023/24 Estimated Spend	2024/25 Estimated Spend	TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET	Actual Spend	Commitments	2020/21 TOTAL COST	Borrowing	Grants & Contributions	Reserves & Revenue	Capital Receipts	TOTAL APPROVED FUNDING
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>APPROVED GENERAL FUND CAPITAL SCHEMES</b>														
Children's Services	9,758,382	22,332,927	14,208,000	12,382,175	100,000	58,781,484	8,120,943	677,184	8,798,127	0	7,993,943	127,000	0	8,120,943
Adult Social Services	335,896	504,188	300,000	300,000	300,000	1,740,084	350,803	0	350,803	0	335,860	14,942	0	350,802
Housing Services	5,834,167	3,581,237	3,581,237	3,581,237	3,581,237	20,159,115	3,275,567	76,482	3,352,049	0	1,361,467	0	1,914,100	3,275,567
Corporate Services	3,577,496	11,935,000	0	0	25,000,000	40,512,496	1,869,299	441,053	2,310,352	0	37,911	1,455,321	376,066	1,869,298
Development & Environment	46,912,960	43,820,639	54,326,480	82,723,324	8,996,902	236,780,305	28,278,860	4,728,533	33,007,393	3,290,055	22,812,538	2,033,317	142,950	28,278,860
<b>AUTHORITY TOTAL</b>	<b>66,418,901</b>	<b>82,173,991</b>	<b>72,415,717</b>	<b>98,986,736</b>	<b>37,978,139</b>	<b>357,973,484</b>	<b>41,895,472</b>	<b>5,923,252</b>	<b>47,818,724</b>	<b>3,290,055</b>	<b>32,541,719</b>	<b>3,630,580</b>	<b>2,433,116</b>	<b>41,895,470</b>
									72.0%					
<b>P&amp;C CHILDREN &amp; YOUNG PEOPLE</b>														
<b>Primary Schools</b>														
Breach Crosses	0	3,250,000	0	0	0	3,250,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parklands Temporary School a	11,976	0	0	0	0	11,976	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parklands Primary School	2,412,655	0	0	0	0	2,412,655	2,292,048	26,495	2,318,543	0	2,292,048	0	0	2,292,048
New Year Don Primary School	3,903,141	0	0	0	0	3,903,141	3,692,412	79,074	3,771,486	0	3,692,412	0	0	3,692,412
Blagdon Primary School	127,000	0	0	0	0	127,000	127,000	0	127,000	0	0	127,000	0	127,000
St Josephs demountable	105,577	0	0	0	0	105,577	91,725	0	91,725	0	91,725	0	0	91,725
VLC Milton project	184,431	0	0	0	0	184,431	33,599	76,217	109,816	0	33,599	0	0	33,599
Gordano School - 2 * Yr7 Classes	0	150,000	0	0	0	150,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Secondary Schools</b>														
Central Secondary	0	557,927	0	0	0	557,927	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HiF School Design and Planning	754,000	1,881,830	0	0	0	2,635,830	783,165	440,058	1,223,223	0	783,165	0	0	783,165
HiF School Build	0	2,923,170	12,531,000	8,434,192	0	23,888,362	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HiF School Fit Out	0	0	0	1,080,000	0	1,080,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HiF Contingency	0	0	0	2,742,983	0	2,742,983	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Special Schools</b>														
Resource Base - (Nailsea Autism)	138,138	0	0	0	0	138,138	137,305	0	137,305	0	137,305	0	0	137,305
Mendip Green	134,000	0	0	0	0	134,000	9,299	4,628	13,927	0	9,299	0	0	9,299
SEMH - Churchill	0	207,000	0	0	0	207,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baytree Special School	420,083	12,153,000	1,477,000	0	0	14,050,083	374,424	29,779	404,203	0	374,424	0	0	374,424
Westhaven Special School	6,865	0	0	0	0	6,865	6,505	0	6,505	0	6,505	0	0	6,505
Westhaven Special School - Infants	259,421	0	0	0	0	259,421	257,507	18,983	276,490	0	257,507	0	0	257,507
SEND - Ravenswood	0	100,000	0	0	0	100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SEMH Nailsea	0	200,000	0	0	0	200,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ASD Hubs School Clusters	0	300,000	0	0	0	300,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SEMH School Clusters	0	360,000	0	0	0	360,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Programmes</b>														
Devolved Formula Capital	659,000	0	0	0	0	659,000	168,817	0	168,817	0	168,817	0	0	168,817
Statutory Compliance	582,001	250,000	200,000	125,000	100,000	1,257,001	130,842	1,950	132,792	0	130,842	0	0	130,842
Contingency Fund	43,799	0	0	0	0	43,799	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Golden Valley Broadband	16,295	0	0	0	0	16,295	16,295	0	16,295	0	16,295	0	0	16,295
	<b>9,758,382</b>	<b>22,332,927</b>	<b>14,208,000</b>	<b>12,382,175</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>58,781,484</b>	<b>8,120,943</b>	<b>677,184</b>	<b>8,798,127</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,993,943</b>	<b>127,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,120,943</b>

## 2020/21 CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUT-TURN POSITION

APPENDIX 5

	Approved Budget						Monitoring to 31 March 2021			Actual Funding				
	2020/21 Estimated Spend	2021/22 Estimated Spend	2022/23 Estimated Spend	2023/24 Estimated Spend	2024/25 Estimated Spend	TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET	Actual Spend	Commitments	2020/21 TOTAL COST	Borrowing	Grants & Contributions	Reserves & Revenue	Capital Receipts	TOTAL APPROVED FUNDING
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>P&amp;C ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES</b>														
<b>Elderly</b>														
Adult social care accommodation	0	204,188	0	0	0	204,188	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Other</b>														
Aids & Adaptations Equipment	330,082	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	1,530,082	336,803	0	336,803	0	335,860	942	0	336,802
Housing & Technology Fund	5,813	0	0	0	0	5,813	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Awaiting Full Approval</b>														
Social Care Projects/ Other DFC	0	0	0	0	0	0	14,000	0	14,000	0	0	14,000	0	14,000
	<b>335,895</b>	<b>504,188</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>1,740,083</b>	<b>350,803</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>350,803</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>335,860</b>	<b>14,942</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>350,802</b>
<b>P&amp;C HOUSING</b>														
<b>Private Sector Renewal</b>														
Disabled Facilities Grants	2,106,022	2,081,237	2,081,237	2,081,237	2,081,237	10,430,970	1,024,967	76,482	1,101,449	0	1,024,967	0	0	1,024,967
Other Private Sector Renewal	69,725	0	0	0	0	69,725	31,500	0	31,500	0	31,500	0	0	31,500
Social Housing Grants (LASHG)	693,498	0	0	0	0	693,498	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Social Housing Grants (LASHG)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grant funding of affordable housing	1,120,822	0	0	0	0	1,120,822	305,000	0	305,000	0	305,000	0	0	305,000
<b>Other</b>														
Repair/Leasehold Property	1,784,100	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	7,784,100	1,914,100	0	1,914,100	0	0	0	1,914,100	1,914,100
First Time Buyer Loan Scheme	35,000	0	0	0	0	35,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clarence Park Lodge	25,000	0	0	0	0	25,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>5,834,167</b>	<b>3,581,237</b>	<b>3,581,237</b>	<b>3,581,237</b>	<b>3,581,237</b>	<b>20,159,115</b>	<b>3,275,567</b>	<b>76,482</b>	<b>3,352,049</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,361,467</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,914,100</b>	<b>3,275,567</b>
<b>CORPORATE SERVICES</b>														
<b>ICT Projects</b>														
ICT Replacement Programme	900,226	525,000	0	0	0	1,425,226	644,818	41,768	686,586	0	0	380,588	264,230	644,818
<b>Asset Management Plan</b>														
Corporate Asset Management Plan	335,545	2,500,000	0	0	0	2,835,545	152,305	24,653	176,958	0	0	152,305	0	152,305
Leisure Asset Management Plan	1,016,725	510,000	0	0	0	1,526,725	569,119	345,668	914,787	0	0	569,119	0	569,119
Sovereign Centre Car Parking	100,000	0	0	0	0	100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castlewood - Police EO	125,000	0	0	0	0	125,000	111,836	-3,479	108,357	0	0	0	111,836	111,836
Accommodation Strategy	0	1,000,000	0	0	0	1,000,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Development Strategy	0	1,000,000	0	0	0	1,000,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Other</b>														
Commercial Investment Fund	0	0	0	0	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial Investment Fund - S	0	5,000,000	0	0	5,000,000	10,000,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CCTV Upgrade	300,000	0	0	0	0	300,000	391,221	32,442	423,663	0	37,911	353,309	0	391,220
Decarbonisation of heat (boilers)	0	1,000,000	0	0	0	1,000,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Energy efficiency buildings	0	300,000	0	0	0	300,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rooftop solar pilot	0	100,000	0	0	0	100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Awaiting Full Approval</b>														
Corporate Asset Management Plan	800,000	0	0	0	0	800,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>3,577,496</b>	<b>11,935,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,000,000</b>	<b>40,512,496</b>	<b>1,869,299</b>	<b>441,052</b>	<b>2,310,351</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37,911</b>	<b>1,455,321</b>	<b>376,066</b>	<b>1,869,298</b>

	Approved Budget						Monitoring to 31 March 2021			Actual Funding				
	2020/21 Estimated Spend	2021/22 Estimated Spend	2022/23 Estimated Spend	2023/24 Estimated Spend	2024/25 Estimated Spend	TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET	Actual Spend	Commitments	2020/21 TOTAL COST	Borrowing	Grants & Contributions	Reserves & Revenue	Capital Receipts	TOTAL APPROVED FUNDING
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>DEVELOPMENT &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b>														
<b>Community &amp; Consumer</b>														
RFID In Libraries	21,613	0	0	0	0	21,613	1,030	0	1,030	0	1,030	0	0	1,030
Banksy Pinwheel	36,256	0	0	0	0	36,256	5,375	0	5,375	0	5,375	0	0	5,375
Shop Front Enhancement	100,000	165,000	50,000	0	0	315,000	28,959	46,541	75,500	0	28,959	0	0	28,959
Heritage Action Zone	0	500,000	350,000	30,500	0	880,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parish Wharf Boilers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	800	800	0	0	0	0	0
Campus Gym	9,840	184,201	0	0	0	194,041	9,899	0	9,899	0	9,899	0	0	9,899
<b>Highways</b>														
LTP Schemes 2021/22	0	3,764,000	0	0	0	3,764,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unclassified Road Schemes 2021/22	0	1,250,000	0	0	0	1,250,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Integrated Transport Schemes</b>														
Public Transport Schemes	94,000	0	0	0	0	94,000	24,436	0	24,436	0	24,436	0	0	24,436
Congestion Management	15,000	0	0	0	0	15,000	267	0	267	0	267	0	0	267
Walking	200,485	41,520	0	0	0	242,005	165,274	-380	164,894	0	165,274	0	0	165,274
Cycling Programme	37,500	0	0	0	0	37,500	11,386	0	11,386	0	11,386	0	0	11,386
Safety & Travel Plans	196,996	9,450	0	0	0	206,446	40,760	0	40,760	0	40,760	0	0	40,760
Other Schemes	37,392	0	0	0	0	37,392	32,114	0	32,114	0	32,114	0	0	32,114
Programme Management	9,375	0	0	0	0	9,375	3,702	0	3,702	0	3,702	0	0	3,702
Cross Cutting	53,475	41,920	0	0	0	95,395	15,166	0	15,166	0	15,166	0	0	15,166
COVID Grant - Walking & Cycling	771,270	0	0	0	0	771,270	175,329	88	175,417	0	175,329	0	0	175,329
Pot Hole and Challenge Fund	261,000	2,227,000	0	0	0	2,488,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Maintenance Schemes</b>														
Principal Roads	1,128,499	75,000	0	0	0	1,203,499	1,271,615	66	1,271,681	0	1,109,594	162,021	0	1,271,615
Non Principal Roads	2,077,424	0	0	0	0	2,077,424	1,998,485	31,218	2,029,703	0	1,826,174	172,311	0	1,998,485
Bridges & Structures	1,150,855	597,110	0	0	0	1,747,965	420,658	2,811	423,469	0	420,658	0	0	420,658
Traffic Signals	81,024	0	0	0	0	81,024	69,432	-507	68,925	0	69,432	0	0	69,432
Footways	319,510	0	0	0	0	319,510	311,110	178	311,288	29,730	171,300	110,080	0	311,110
Asset Officer	55,000	0	0	0	0	55,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drainage Schemes within LTP	751,718	80,000	0	0	0	831,718	425,086	2,680	427,766	0	425,086	0	0	425,086
Fencing	238,432	0	0	0	0	238,432	75,583	0	75,583	583	75,000	0	0	75,583
<b>Other Highways &amp; Street Lighting</b>														
NSC Capital Unclassified Roads	1,709,727	0	0	0	0	1,709,727	1,899,841	1,199	1,901,040	1,162,977	736,864	0	0	1,899,841
Safe Routes to Schools	181,419	0	0	0	0	181,419	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wrighton Flood Relief Scheme	112,620	0	0	0	0	112,620	31,002	0	31,002	0	31,002	0	0	31,002
A370 Yanley Viaduct	24,665	0	0	0	0	24,665	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Summer Lane Flood Relief Scheme	1,507,569	0	0	0	0	1,507,569	1,164,296	22,867	1,187,163	0	1,114,993	49,303	0	1,164,296
Street Lighting Lamp Column Replacement	3,414,125	0	0	0	0	3,414,125	2,135,123	3,506	2,138,629	1,625,123	510,000	0	0	2,135,123
Winterstoke Rd Bridge	505,666	1,568,798	6,658,000	2,421,000	0	11,153,464	228,076	906,198	1,134,274	0	228,076	0	0	228,076
A371 Safer Roads	466,071	486,000	0	0	0	952,071	51,761	0	51,761	0	51,761	0	0	51,761

	Approved Budget						Monitoring to 31 March 2021			Actual Funding				
	2020/21 Estimated Spend	2021/22 Estimated Spend	2022/23 Estimated Spend	2023/24 Estimated Spend	2024/25 Estimated Spend	TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET	Actual Spend	Commitments	2020/21 TOTAL COST	Borrowing	Grants & Contributions	Reserves & Revenue	Capital Receipts	TOTAL APPROVED FUNDING
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Transport</b>														
South Bristol Link	1,001,865	0	0	0	0	1,001,865	282,604	6,658	289,262	0	282,604	0	0	282,604
Metro West Rail Phase I	3,859,022	10,655,600	29,907,311	42,236,811	8,951,124	95,609,868	3,966,049	-38,784	3,927,265	0	3,953,790	12,259	0	3,966,049
North South Link	5,439,496	0	0	0	0	5,439,496	3,879,353	348,424	4,227,777	0	3,879,353	0	0	3,879,353
Utilities at Parklands Village	2,436,356	0	0	0	0	2,436,356	1,693,420	342,867	2,036,287	0	1,693,420	0	0	1,693,420
Office for Low Emission Vehicles	885,131	0	0	0	0	885,131	314,193	114,388	428,581	0	270,162	44,031	0	314,193
HiF - Banwell Bypass Design & I	713,000	6,487,000	0	0	0	7,200,000	1,142,073	2,068,354	3,210,427	0	1,142,073	0	0	1,142,073
HiF - Banwell Bypass Land	0	4,638,738	0	0	0	4,638,738	11,291	0	11,291	0	11,291	0	0	11,291
HiF - Banwell Bypass - Construct	0	0	15,359,981	27,833,519	0	43,193,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HiF - Utilities	0	591,000	1,673,000	250,000	0	2,514,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HiF - Transport	0	0	107,048	3,461,215	0	3,568,263	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HiF - Contingency to be allocated	0	0	0	5,605,875	0	5,605,875	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LGF4 (Old LSTF) 2018/19 - sust	260,912	0	0	0	0	260,912	85,852	0	85,852	0	85,852	0	0	85,852
Weston to Clevedon Cycleway (	1,904,846	985,790	0	0	0	2,890,636	155,680	21,354	177,034	0	155,680	0	0	155,680
LGF3 17/18 - Sth Parade	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,894	0	2,894	0	0	2,894	0	2,894
Oxford Street	115,190	0	0	0	0	115,190	115,190	0	115,190	0	79,900	35,290	0	115,190
J19 Wyndham Way	302,535	0	0	0	0	302,535	263,133	-1,920	261,213	0	263,133	0	0	263,133
Weston Transport Enhancement	4,965,398	1,000,000	0	0	0	5,965,398	1,383,218	376,599	1,759,817	0	1,383,218	0	0	1,383,218
Real Time Information	5,220	0	0	0	0	5,220	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J21 Northbound Slip	537,432	0	0	0	0	537,432	10,038	0	10,038	0	10,038	0	0	10,038
MRN	349,839	0	0	0	0	349,839	236,590	178,878	415,468	0	236,590	0	0	236,590
Cycle hub	65,320	0	0	0	0	65,320	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Festival Way / B3128 Crossing	188,111	0	0	0	0	188,111	128,581	3,740	132,321	0	48,111	0	80,470	128,581
<b>Streets &amp; Open Spaces</b>														
<b>Open Spaces</b>														
Beach Recycling Weston Bay	35,550	0	0	0	0	35,550	32,500	1,100	33,600	0	18,800	13,700	0	32,500
Ashcombe Tennis Court	75,459	0	0	0	0	75,459	71,921	0	71,921	0	71,921	0	0	71,921
St Georges MUGA	42,727	0	0	0	0	42,727	42,627	0	42,627	0	42,627	0	0	42,627
England Coast Path	438,000	0	0	0	0	438,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parks & Street Scene - vehicles	108,593	552,781	0	838,626	0	1,500,000	54,550	54,043	108,593	54,550	0	0	0	54,550
Weston Marine Lake - Dredging	0	300,000	0	0	0	300,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portishead Lakegrounds	0	200,000	0	0	0	200,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clevedon Marine Lake	0	200,000	0	0	0	200,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Parking</b>														
Parking Schemes	35,716	0	0	0	0	35,716	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leigh Woods Parking	197,600	0	0	0	0	197,600	34,828	0	34,828	0	20,000	14,828	0	34,828
Parking Review	760,000	0	0	0	0	760,000	18,750	0	18,750	0	2,131	16,619	0	18,750
<b>Vehicles</b>														
Purchase of Vehicles - D&E	221,140	221,140	221,140	45,778	45,778	754,976	489,801	-20,594	469,207	417,091	20,000	52,710	0	489,801
Waste Contract - Transferred Bi	1,584,371	0	0	0	0	1,584,371	1,292,361	0	1,292,361	0	0	1,292,361	0	1,292,361
Waste Contract - Vehicles, Equip	141,069	0	0	0	0	141,069	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waste - Garden Waste Bins	400,653	0	0	0	0	400,653	41,990	4,950	46,940	0	0	41,990	0	41,990
Strawberry Line	156,884	0	0	0	0	156,884	168,927	-21,593	147,334	0	93,527	12,920	62,480	168,927
<b>Strategic/Regeneration Projects</b>														
Town Square	89,712	20,000	0	0	0	109,712	92,194	30,725	122,919	0	92,194	0	0	92,194
Creative Hub	32,131	0	0	0	0	32,131	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Foodworks SW	1,118,550	0	0	0	0	1,118,550	563,277	39,433	602,710	0	563,277	0	0	563,277
Land at Parklands Village	1,835,657	0	0	0	0	1,835,657	861,382	101,101	962,483	0	861,382	0	0	861,382

	Approved Budget						Monitoring to 31 March 2021			Actual Funding				
	2020/21 Estimated Spend	2021/22 Estimated Spend	2022/23 Estimated Spend	2023/24 Estimated Spend	2024/25 Estimated Spend	TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET	Actual Spend	Commitments	2020/21 TOTAL COST	Borrowing	Grants & Contributions	Reserves & Revenue	Capital Receipts	TOTAL APPROVED FUNDING
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Locking Parklands Health Centre	-30,074	5,253,591	0	0	0	5,223,517	247,827	101,545	349,372	0	247,827	0	0	247,827
Connecting Devon & Somerset	0	200,000	0	0	0	200,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Weston General Stores	240,000	1,525,000	0	0	0	1,765,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land Release Fund - Churchill A	350,000	0	0	0	0	350,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land Release Fund - Uplands, N	481,020	0	0	0	0	481,020	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Awaiting Full Approval</b>														
Utilities at Parklands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Locking Parklands Health Centre	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>46,912,957</b>	<b>43,820,639</b>	<b>54,326,480</b>	<b>82,723,324</b>	<b>8,996,902</b>	<b>236,780,302</b>	<b>28,278,859</b>	<b>4,728,533</b>	<b>32,812,495</b>	<b>3,290,054</b>	<b>22,812,538</b>	<b>2,033,317</b>	<b>142,950</b>	<b>28,278,859</b>

**APPENDIX 6**

<b>ANALYSIS OF CHANGES TO THE 2020/21 CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>2020/21 Programme Budget £000</b>	<b>2021/22 Programme Budget £000</b>	<b>2022/23 Programme Budget £000</b>	<b>2023/24 Programme Budget £000</b>	<b>2024/25 Programme Budget £000</b>	<b>Total Programme Budget £000</b>
<b>ORIGINAL APPROVED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGETS (as per P9)</b>	<b>53,679</b>	<b>11,277</b>	<b>5,407</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70,710</b>
Adj P10 - P12	4,306	257	(244)	0	0	4,319
<b>Budget as per P12 Out-turn</b>	<b>57,985</b>	<b>11,534</b>	<b>5,163</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75,029</b>
Capital Programme additions for 2020/21 approved by Exec 6th of Feb 2020	13,317	10,423	10,773	10,698	10,673	55,884
Capital Programme additions for approved by Exec 6th of Feb pending further approval	12,453	0	0	0	0	12,453
Slippage of approved budgets from 2019/20	13,829	0	0	0	0	13,829
<b>TOTAL ORIGINAL CAPITAL BUDGETS</b>	<b>97,584</b>	<b>21,957</b>	<b>15,936</b>	<b>11,045</b>	<b>10,673</b>	<b>157,195</b>
<b>AMENDMENTS TO THE PROGRAMME IN 2020/21</b>						
<b>Months 1-9</b>						
Addition - P&C(C) - Voyage Learning Campus (PC118)	100	0	0	0	0	100
Addition - P&C(H) - Affordable Housing West Wick (PC124)	1,121	0	0	0	0	1,121
Addition - D&E - Festival Way / B3128 (DE358)	140	0	0	0	0	140
Addition - D&E - Sumer Lane Pond (DE64) KDH308	166	0	0	0	0	166
Addition - CSD - Rephase ICT Replacement Programme (CSD012)	38	(38)	0	0	0	0
Addition - D&E - Weston-Clevedon Cycleway - Exec, 7/1/2020 £2.045m	1,840	0	0	0	0	1,840
Addition - D&E - Locking Parklands GP Surgery - Exec, 29/4/20 (subject to Funding Approval from NHS)	4,163	0	0	0	0	4,163
Addition - D&E - Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) - Council, 16/6/20	97,068	0	0	0	0	97,068
Addition - P&C(C) - Golden Valley Broadband - (PC18 - KCG115)	16	0	0	0	0	16
Virement - D&E - Part allocation of Pothole Challenge Fund (DE65)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Addition - P&C(C) - Infant Phase Unit Westhaven Special School (PC22 - KCE260)	48	0	0	0	0	48
Virement - D&E - MetroWest Phase 1 - vire spend across projects cost codes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rephase - D&E - HiF - Rephase of Project based on HiF Cashflow v7(3)	(91,506)	6,147	11,268	74,091	0	0
Savings - P&C(C) - Flax Bourton Scheme complete - release funds (KCP143)	(8)	0	0	0	0	(8)
Addition - D&E Replacement Vehicles (DE383 - KDS303)	221	221	221	46	46	755
Addition - D&E - Oxford Street Highway (DE114)	115	0	0	0	0	115
Addition - D&E - Emergency Active Travel Fund (DE72)	34	0	0	0	0	34
Rephase - D&E - Campus Gym - delays due to COVID	(146)	146	0	0	0	0
Addition - CSD - Castlewood, Police EO (CSD052 - KFA113)	125	0	0	0	0	125
Addition - CSD - Car park machine replacement (CSD047)	100	0	0	0	0	100
Addition - CSD - Uphill Firealarm (CSD048)	30	0	0	0	0	30
Rephase - P&C(C) Rephase CYPS programme	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rephase - D&E - The Portbury Hundred Drainage scheme - works deferred	(80)	80	0	0	0	0
Rephase - CSD - Commercial Investments (Sovereign Centre, tranche 2, unfunded)	0	0	(5,000)	0	5,000	0
Rephase - D&E - MetroWest per report 06/10/2020	(5,566)	5,566	0	0	0	0
Savings - D&E - Tropicana Electric Project complete - release funds	(7)	0	0	0	0	(7)
Savings - P&C(H) - Affordable Housing West Wick (PC124)	(505)	0	0	0	0	(505)
Virement - P&C(H) - Home Energy & Renewals Loan (PC10)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Addition - P&C(C) - Yatton Primary School (Chestnut Park) (PC37 - KCP147)	322	0	0	0	0	322
Addition - P&C(C) - Parklands Educate Together (PC39)	526	0	0	0	0	526
Addition - D&E - Playhouse Emergency works to roof (DE182)	75	0	0	0	0	75
Addition - D&E - Additional works Backwell Leisure Centre (DE188)	250	0	0	0	0	250
Rephase - D&E - HiF as per Oct grant claim	(3,095)	9,375	18,403	(24,683)	0	0
Virement - LTP	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rephase - D&E - ITS budgets - schemes deferred	(193)	193	0	0	0	0
Rephase - D&E - Structures budgets - schemes deferred	(531)	531	0	0	0	0
Savings - D&E - Switch funding from Borrowing - contra included in LTP virement	(400)	0	0	0	0	(400)
Savings - D&E - Parish Wharf contractor spend, non NSC	(80)	0	0	0	0	(80)
Addition - D&E - Connecting Devon & Somerset (DE218)	0	100	0	0	0	100
Addition - P&C(C) - Additional Devolved Capital Grant Funded	659	0	0	0	0	659



ANALYSIS OF CHANGES TO THE 2020/21 CAPITAL PROGRAMME	2020/21 Programme Budget £000	2021/22 Programme Budget £000	2022/23 Programme Budget £000	2023/24 Programme Budget £000	2024/25 Programme Budget £000	Total Programme Budget £000
<b>Months 1-9 (contd)</b>						
Addition - P&C(H) - Additional Disabled Facilities Grant Funded	581	581	581	581	581	2,906
Addition - CSD - Additional ICT Programme	206	0	0	0	0	206
Addition - CSD - Additional AMP Grant funded	59	0	0	0	0	59
Virement - DP218 - CDS/LTP	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virement - DE199 Tranche 2 Pothole Challenge	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rephase - D&E - Principal Roads	(75)	75	0	0	0	0
Rephase - CSD - Corporate Assest Mgt Plan - funding not agreed	400	0	0	0	(400)	0
Savings - CSD - Corporate Assest Mgt Plan - funding not agreed	(400)	0	0	0	0	(400)
Savings - CSD - CCTV Replacement (CSD142)	(100)	0	0	0	0	(100)
Savings - P&C(A) - AIS scheme phase completion	(1)	0	0	0	0	(1)
Savings - P&C(C) - Release of Basic Need Contingency	(567)	0	0	0	0	(567)
Savings - P&C(C) - Westhaven School Infant Phase	(28)	0	0	0	0	(28)
Addition - P&C(H) - Repurchase of Leasehold Property	83	0	0	0	0	83
Addition - D&E - England Coast Path (DE260)	438	0	0	0	0	438
Addition - CSD - AMP re Urgent works to Leisure Assets (KFA101)	700	0	0	0	0	700
Addition - D&E - Additional costs re Tutshill Sluice	0	986	0	0	0	986
Addition - D&E - Emergency Active Travel Fund (Tranche 2)	379	0	0	0	0	379
Addition - Chestnut Park Primary - additional COVID costs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Addition - P&C(C) - SEND Ravenswood	100	0	0	0	0	100
Virement - DE* - COVID 2020/21 Review Programme - reallocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virement - DE212 WTC Additional funding from HAZ and LTP	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virement - DE* - LTP slippage from prior years - pending sign off	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rephase - D&E - Bridges & Structures	(66)	66	0	0	0	0
Rephase - P&C(C) - Baytree	(12,153)	12,153	0	0	0	0
Rephase - CSD - Realign ICT Programme	0	447	(100)	(347)	0	0
Rephase - P&C(C) - Breach Classes	(2,400)	2,400	0	0	0	0
Rephase - P&C(A) - Adult Social Care Accommodation shift	(204)	204	0	0	0	0
Rephase - D&E - HIF Bypass	(1,000)	1,000	0	0	0	0
Rephase - D&E - WRB Dashboard	(215)	215	0	0	0	0
Rephase - CSD - Commercial Investment	(10,000)	(10,000)	0	0	20,000	0
Rephase - CSD - Commercial Investment (Soverign Centre)	(5,000)	5,000	0	0	0	0
Savings - CSD - Rephase AMP	0	(400)	(400)	(400)	0	(1,200)
Savings - P&C(C) - Breach Classes - removed future years - will be agreed as part of stragey	0	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)	(8,000)
Savings - D&E - Remove future years LTP allocations as funding not secured	0	(4,873)	(4,873)	(4,873)	(4,873)	(19,492)
Savings - P&C(A) - Social Care Pressures - funding not agreed	(483)	0	0	0	0	(483)
Savings - D&E - Locking Parklands Health Centre - Funding subject to Exec Report	(4,163)	0	0	0	0	(4,163)
Savings - P&C(C) - Westhaven School Infant Phase-Final Bill	(11)	0	0	0	0	(11)

ANALYSIS OF CHANGES TO THE 2020/21 CAPITAL PROGRAMME	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
	Programme Budget £000	Programme Budget £000	Programme Budget £000	Programme Budget £000	Programme Budget £000	Programme Budget £000
<b>Months 10 &amp; 11</b>						
Addition - DP308 - Parks & Street Scene - purchase of Beach Rake	0	0	0	0	0	0
Addition - CSD118 - Clarence Park Lodge	25	0	0	0	0	25
Addition - KCG108 additional grant funding	172	0	0	0	0	172
Rephase - KCS212 Central Secondary	(558)	558	0	0	0	0
Rephase - KCE261 SEMH Churchill	(107)	107	0	0	0	0
Rephase - SEND	(100)	100	0	0	0	0
Rephase - Campus Gym	(39)	39	0	0	0	0
Rephase - Leisure Asset Management	(510)	510	0	0	0	0
Rephase - Highstreet Heritage Action Zone (Per CM 05/03/2021)	(442)	125	287	31	0	0
Rephase - Shopfront Enhancement (Per CM 05/03/2021)	(59)	9	50	0	0	0
Rephase - Parks and Streetscene Contact	110	(110)	0	0	0	0
Savings - Shopfront Enhancement (Per CM 05/03/2021) non-capital spend	(36)	0	0	0	0	(36)
Savings - KCP150 Blagdon	(33)	0	0	0	0	(33)
Savings - KDP106 S106 balances used to repay RIF	(129)	0	0	0	0	(129)
Savings - KDH406 reduction in external funding	(159)	0	0	0	0	(159)
Savings - KCE257 Westhaven - Scheme Completion	(0)	0	0	0	0	(0)
Savings - KCE258 Nailsea HUB	(3)	0	0	0	0	(3)
<b>Feb 2021 Executive</b>						
Addition - Sovereign Centre / Weston General Stores KDP608	240	0	0	0	0	240
Addition - Sovereign Centre / Weston General Stores KDP608	0	1,525	0	0	0	1,525
Addition - Parks and Streetscene Contract	0	1,500	0	0	0	1,500
Addition - Winterstoke Road Bridge KDH407	0	1,354	6,658	2,421	0	10,433
Addition - Locking Parklands GP Surgery	0	5,254	0	0	0	5,254
Addition - MetroWest Rail	0	2,589	29,907	42,237	8,951	83,685
Addition - Baytree School	0	1,477	0	0	0	1,477
Addition - LTP	0	4,873	0	0	0	4,873
Addition - Pothole Challenge	0	750	0	0	0	750
Addition - Breach Classes	0	1,000	0	0	0	1,000
Addition - Investment in Lakes and community facilities	0	700	0	0	0	700
Addition - Asset Strategy - Schools, Leisure, Depots	0	2,500	0	0	0	2,500
Addition - Accommodation Strategy	0	1,000	0	0	0	1,000
Addition - Development Strategy	0	1,000	0	0	0	1,000
Addition - Highways Maintain Steady State	0	1,250	0	0	0	1,250
Addition - Churchill Free School	0	100	0	0	0	100
Addition - SEMH Nailsea, ASD Hubs (school clusters)	0	500	0	0	0	500
Addition - SEMH Hubs (school clusters)	0	360	0	0	0	360
Addition - Decarbonisation of heat (boilers)	0	1,000	0	0	0	1,000
Addition - Energy efficiency buildings	0	300	0	0	0	300
Addition - Rooftop solar pilot	0	100	0	0	0	100
<b>Month 12</b>						
Addition - DP324 Churchill Avenue, Clevedon	350	0	0	0	0	350
Addition - DP325 Uplands Nailsea	481	0	0	0	0	481
Addition - DP334 Spider Lane	0	20	0	0	0	20
Addition - DP355 Pothole Challenge - (actual funding changes 20/21)	261	0	0	0	0	261
Addition - DP355 Pothole Challenge - (actual funding changes 21/22)	0	0	1,477	0	0	1,477
Addition - DP355 LTP - (actual funding changes)	0	(1,109)	0	0	0	(1,109)
Addition - DP355 LTP - (actual funding changes)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Addition - DP XXX JCB 5CX for Recycling Centres	44	0	0	0	0	44
Addition - CY27 VLC Milton (KCP153)	84	0	0	0	0	84
Addition - Exec Sept 22nd 2020 - Waste Assets	1,540	0	0	0	0	1,540
Addition - SC Car Parking	100	0	0	0	0	100



<b>ANALYSIS OF CHANGES TO THE 2020/21 CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>2020/21 Programme Budget £000</b>	<b>2021/22 Programme Budget £000</b>	<b>2022/23 Programme Budget £000</b>	<b>2023/24 Programme Budget £000</b>	<b>2024/25 Programme Budget £000</b>	<b>Total Programme Budget £000</b>
Virement - CY21 Gordano School	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virement - Festival Way (DP288) KDT206/KDH103	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virement - Contingency allocated to SBL	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rephase - DP370 machinery & DP371 Vehicles P&SS	(1)	(837)	0	839	0	0
Rephase - Weston Town Centre	(1,000)	1,000	0	0	0	0
Rephase - Metro West	(2,500)	2,500	0	0	0	0
Saving - EY Long Ashton Extension Project	(9)	0	0	0	0	(9)
Saving - Community Investment Fund	(8)	0	0	0	0	(8)
<b>REVISED 2020/21 CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>66,419</b>	<b>82,174</b>	<b>72,416</b>	<b>98,987</b>	<b>37,978</b>	<b>357,973</b>

	Budget Monitoring Presentation (Includes Reserve Entries)			Year-End Presentation 1 - Expenditure & Funding Analysis (Excluding Reserve Entries)				Year-End Presentation 2 - Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement		
	Net Revenue Budget £000	Net Out-turn Position £000	Out-turn Variance £000	Net Out-turn Position £000	Adjustments		Net Expenditure excl Reserves £000	Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund Balances £000	Technical Adjustments (Funding & Accounting Basis) £000	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement £000
					Remove transfers (to) / from Reserves £000	Reflect reallocations between headings £000				
<i>Note</i>		1		1	2	3	4	4	5	6
People & Communities										
Adult Social Care	80,959	82,200	1,241	82,200	(1,511)	(7,365)	73,324	73,324	560	73,884
Children & Young People	32,546	31,843	(702)	31,843	(390)	103	31,556	31,556	75	31,631
Housing Services	1,465	1,306	(159)	1,306	(28)	306	1,584	1,584	654	2,238
Schools Budgets & Grants	0	0	0	0	(2,614)	0	(2,614)	(2,614)	3,428	814
	114,969	115,349	380	115,349	(4,543)	(6,956)	103,850	103,850	4,717	108,567
Development & Environment	49,433	49,568	135	49,568	(7,230)	(8,879)	33,459	33,459	17,978	51,437
Corporate Services	8,534	8,766	231	8,766	85	(3,249)	5,602	5,602	1,215	6,818
Public Health & Reg Services	1,886	1,626	(260)	1,626	(428)	(934)	264	264	135	399
Corporate & Capital Financing	24,934	25,386	452	25,386	(9,046)	(15,998)	342	342	0	342
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>199,757</b>	<b>200,695</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>200,695</b>	<b>(21,162)</b>	<b>(36,016)</b>	<b>143,518</b>	<b>143,518</b>	<b>24,045</b>	<b>167,563</b>
Other Income and Expenditure	(199,757)	(200,695)	(938)	(200,695)	(8,908)	36,016	(173,587)	(173,587)	(9,512)	(183,100)
<b>(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(30,070)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(30,070)</b>	<b>(30,070)</b>	<b>14,533</b>	<b>(15,537)</b>

**Notes;**

1 - This is the net expenditure charged to the council's revenue budgets throughout the year, and reported to Members each month. These values include all transfers to / from reserves to enable Members to easily compare the net expenditure and the revenue budget to understand if the base budgets are over or under spent.

2 - This the total value of all reserve transactions included within the council's revenue budget at the end of the financial year - these transactions are **not** included within the Expenditure and Funding Analysis or the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, and so are removed from the presentation reported to Members each month.

3 - When presenting the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and also the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement within the statutory accounts, the council is required to follow a prescribed format - these adjustments realign costs within the different headings. For example, we have removed the costs of Capital Financing, and also Precepts and Levies from the 'Non Service' line, as they will both be reflected as 'Other Income and Expenditure' within the statutory accounts. This column also includes Covid grant income - during the year the grant income was shown within 'Other Income and Expenditure' (or Financing Budgets) within budget monitoring reports however, the statutory accounts requires this income to be reflected within the relevant service area.

4 - This is the net expenditure which will be reflected within the Expenditure and Funding Analysis within the statutory accounts - it equates to the amount charged to the council's revenue budget at the end of the financial year, excluding transactions to / from general and earmarked reserves, and presented in accordance with the accounting requirements.

5 - These are technical accounting adjustments carried out at the end of the financial year in accordance with proper accounting practice. For example, this will include transactions such as the annual charges for the depreciation or impairment of the council's assets, profits or losses on the disposal of fixed assets, and revaluations of the pension fund or available for sale investments. It is important to understand that these transactions do not directly impact on tax payers but are reversed out within unusable reserves using a statutory over-ride.

6 - This is the net expenditure which will be reflected within the council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement within the statutory accounts.

Please note this is a draft reconciliation and so the table may be susceptible to minor roundings, and so may differ slightly when the council's statutory accounts are published

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## North Somerset Council

### Report to the Executive

**Date of Meeting: 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021**

**Subject of Report: Development Programme and Economic Strategy:  
Business Case and Commissioning Plan for development of Weston  
Business Quarter**

**Town or Parish: Weston-super-Mare**

**Officer/Member Presenting: Cllr. Mark Canniford, Executive Member for  
Place and Economy**

**Key Decision: Yes**

**Reason: value of contract will exceed £500,000**

### Recommendations

- 1) To note and retrospectively endorse the submission of an Outline Business Case (OBC) to the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for £11.1m funding to deliver infrastructure and servicing of plots at Weston Business Quarter (WBQ).
- 2) To approve the preparation by officers of a Full Business Case (FBC) for funding for the scheme and to delegate authority to the Executive Member for Place and Economy to approve the submission of the FBC once finalised, in consultation with the Director of Place and the Section 151 Officer.
- 3) To increase the council's revenue expenditure budget to reflect the costs associated with the preparation of the FBC and to draw down funding from the Driving Growth reserve.
- 4) To approve the proposed Commissioning Plan for the procurement of professional services and contractors to deliver the proposed infrastructure for this project. within the accounts.

### 1. Summary of report

- 1.1 This report sets out a business case for the delivery of infrastructure and servicing of plots to enable commercial land to come forward on land owned by North Somerset Council at the Weston Business Quarter (WBQ) in the Junction 21 Enterprise Area (J21EA). The site is a strategically important commercial location for North Somerset and since the completion of The Food Works<sup>SW</sup> Innovation Centre in 2020 there has been an increase in investment interest.

- 1.2 The diagram below shows the site and the works proposed, with the red line indicating the area in NSC ownership:



- 1.3 An Outline Business Case (OBC) has been submitted to the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) requesting funding of £11.1m to support this scheme. It is expected the funding would be sourced from the West of England Revolving Infrastructure Fund (RIF), which is interest-free forward-funding. The repayment of the funding would be through future land sales or lease income.
- 1.4 This report proposes the preparation of a Full Business Case for RIF funding, which is expected to be submitted early in 2022. It requests delegation of authority to the Executive Member for Placemaking and Economy to approve the final business case submission. The costs of preparing the Full Business Case are estimated at around £485k.
- 1.5 The report also requests approval of the proposed Commissioning Plan for the procurement of suppliers for professional services and for contractors to deliver the infrastructure and servicing of plots. It is proposed to use an existing framework for professional services. For the main works, it is proposed to undertake an open tender opportunity to access the wider civil engineering market and secure the most economically advantageous tender for the council. Delivery of utilities commissions would be sub-contracted to the main contractor but delivered by statutory providers.
- 1.6 The procurement for professional services is proposed to be carried out from June – August 2021 and for the works from April – August 2022. Awards of contracts would be reported in line with contract standing orders.

## **2. Policy**

- 2.1 This proposal supports the Corporate Plan objective of creating a Thriving and Sustainable Place, in particular the priority of creating “an attractive and vibrant place for business investment and sustainable growth”. It also supports the commitments in the Economic Plan to directly invest and seek investment to help the creation of jobs at J21EA.
- 2.2 The site is allocated for commercial development in the adopted Local Plan. It was included in the list of potential sites in the Development Strategy adopted by council in February 2021.

## **3. Details**

### **Weston Business Quarter**

- 3.1 This report seeks authority to proceed with proposals to bring forward commercial plots at the Weston Business Quarter (WBQ), a key site within the Junction 21 Enterprise Area (J21EA).
- 3.2 Significant commercial development has already taken place on the southern part of the land owned by Persimmon Homes, creating an estimated 550 jobs across a host of knowledge-intensive technology, media, telecoms, and manufacturing businesses including SafeLab and QED Advanced systems.
- 3.3 This report proposes to bring forward commercial plots on the northern part of the land which comprises c. 30 acres in the ownership of North Somerset Council.
- 3.4 The opening of The Food Works<sup>SW</sup> in May 2020 on the eastern corner of the council land has stimulated significant interest and premise enquiries from the food and drink sector, and the provision of serviced plots would help meet this demand.
- 3.5 Business units at The Food Works<sup>SW</sup> are already at full occupancy. In addition, businesses are growing out of space at The Hive (managed workspace located on adjacent land in the ownership of Persimmon), with former tenants already moving to Worle Business Park and the WestOne scheme or being lost from North Somerset to Sedgemoor District.
- 3.6 The proposals will:
  - Respond to known investor and developer demand.
  - Give commercial developers the certainty and confidence to include Weston Business Quarter within development options appraisals.
  - Retain existing businesses with growth potential in the region.
  - Further encourage the rapid growth and clustering of food and drink businesses catalysed by the opening of The Food Works<sup>SW</sup>
  - Create jobs and help to address economic inequalities present in nearby areas of deprivation.
  - Support the wider revisioning work proposed for J21EA which seeks to articulate clear purpose for the enterprise area in the West of England, support lead generation for inward investment, encourage investor engagement and activity and support sector specific investment activities. This commitment by the Council to bringing plots forward will both deliver jobs needed as a critical part of

economic recovery as well as provide a clear statement about how important the enterprise area is for particular sectors, growing businesses and tackling deprivation.

- 3.7 The West of England City Deal model predicts that the Weston Business Quarter has the potential to create some 1,700 jobs and c.£140m GVA by 2036, as well as business rates of around £65m business rates by 2036. The plots in scope for this funding will contribute 760 jobs to this total and deliver £6.6m business rates in a location which will benefit some of the most deprived communities in England.
- 3.8 The preparation of proposals for the site is being supported by specialist consultants, who are updating advice on the level and nature of demand for this location and on how the works proposed can best optimise the attractiveness of the site to the market.

### **Infrastructure proposals and funding source**

- 3.9 An Outline Business Case (OBC) has been submitted to the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) seeking funding from the West of England Revolving Infrastructure Fund (RIF) to deliver infrastructure and servicing for plots across the remainder of the council-owned land. The decision on the OBC is expected in July. Early feedback from LEP officers has been positive.
- 3.10 Capital costs are estimated at £10.9m, including:
- Utility servicing.
  - Upgrading the existing access road.
  - A new road to connect the existing access road to the access road to other plots road.
  - Road spurs to each plot.
  - Opening of existing rhyne (drainage channel), and relocation of a rhyne that subdivides one of the largest plots.
  - Undertake survey to assess condition and feasibility of realignment of services into combined utilities corridor.
  - Surcharge ground level to mitigate future flood level.
  - Professional fees.
  - Risk.
- 3.11 The OBC also includes a request for £150k revenue funding to cover the costs of site management and security, marketing and disposals over the course of five years once the site is serviced.
- 3.12 If successful, the bid to the RIF will provide interest-free forward-funding of these costs. The Council would be required to repay the funding, and it is expected that this will be achieved through land sales or rentals on the sites. The specialist market advice that has been commissioned will inform work to ensure that demand levels and land values will be sufficient to meet the costs incurred.
- 3.13 Any surplus income after repayment of costs would be available to NSC to fund other capital projects, however it is not expected that the scheme will generate significant receipts.



- 3.14 The next stage will be the preparation of a Full Business Case (FBC). The requirements of an FBC are significant. They include demonstrating:
- A compelling strategic and economic case, including evidence of market demand.
  - Confirmed deliverability and costs. This includes having secured planning consent and having completed detailed technical design work and assessments to have a good level of certainty on costs.
  - Expected timeline for repayment of RIF, with evidence to support that this can be achieved.
- 3.15 The costs of preparing the FBC are estimated at c. £485k, to be funded from an allocation within the Driving Growth reserve. To avoid delay to the programme, it is proposed that officers commence preparation of the FBC in advance of the OBC approval, which is expected in July, but could potentially be later. Close contact will be retained with officers from the LEP so as to identify and mitigate any risks that the project will be rejected, and if necessary, work on the FBC will be suspended until solutions are found.
- 3.16 The FBC is expected to be submitted to the LEP in January 2022 for a final decision in April 2022. Authority is requested to delegate authority to the Executive Member for Place and Economy to approve the submission of the FBC.

## **Commissioning Plan**

### Professional Services

- 3.17 Development of the Full Business Case, including preparation of planning application and support during the construction phase, will require the appointment of an external supplier to undertake the following core duties:
- Project Management services including commercial and design advice;
  - Quantity surveying and principal designer duties;
  - On-site surveys and desktop studies;
  - Utility, energy and sustainability services;
  - Geo-environmental engineering services;
  - Flood risk and civil engineering services;
  - Masterplanning and lead designer
- 3.18 This will be a two-stage appointment, linked to and dependent upon phasing. Stage 1 will comprise surveys, planning consent, preparation of technical designs and preparation for procurement of contractor, taking the scheme up to Full Business Case submission at an estimated cost of £485k. Stage 2, covering procurement and delivery, will include project management, design and Employers Agent and is estimated at £482k. Subject to the detailed FBC requirements and available budgets, some elements of these tasks may move between stages.
- 3.19 It is proposed to utilise the existing WECA professional services framework to access suppliers who can provide the range of services required by the project.



## Construction Services

- 3.20 The physical delivery of infrastructure and servicing works will require the appointment of an appropriately experienced civil engineering contractor. The scope of the works will cover:
- Road construction including all associated earthworks, drainage and lighting;
  - Ground level modifications including raising levels, drainage and site clearance;
  - Foul drainage;
  - Utility works including electricity, gas, water telecoms.
- 3.21 The value of the construction work is currently estimated at £9.8m.
- 3.22 It is proposed to undertake an open tender opportunity to access the wider civil engineering market and secure the most economically advantageous tender for the council. Delivery of utilities commissions would be sub-contracted to the main contractor but delivered by statutory providers.

## Programme

- 3.23 The timetable of the expected procurements is as follows:
- Approval of Commissioning and Procurement Plans: June 2021.
  - Brief and specifications issued to WECA professional services framework providers: June 2021.
  - Professional services quotes received (stage 1 and 2): July 2021.
  - Appointment of professional supplier at stage 1: August 2021.
  - Submission of FBC to LEP: January 2022.
  - LEP decision on FBC: April 2022.
  - Tender to contractors: April 2022.
  - Professional supplier stage 2 appointment: April 2022.
  - Receipt of tender returns: June 2022.
  - Appointment of tenderer: August 2022.
  - Start on site: September 2022.
- 3.24 Works are expected to take 12 - 18 months to complete, although some plots may be ready in advance of that timescale.
- 3.25 As this is an infrastructure contract, the evaluation of bids will focus on technical compliance, programme management and price. A Procurement Plan will be prepared for both supplier opportunities, for which authority is delegated to the Executive Member.

## **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 This site has been allocated in Local Plans for commercial development for at least 10 years and has been subject to the public consultation associated with those plans.
- 4.2 The preparation of an FBC requires a planning application for the proposals, which will trigger further statutory consultations.

- 4.3 The scheme is being supported by specialist advice from who are testing the level and nature of market demand. This includes consulting with existing and potential tenants for the NSC-owned land.
- 4.4 The principle of seeking investment to generate jobs at J21EA has recently been consulted on via the development of a new Economic Plan. This was circulated to a wide range of businesses, business representative groups and resident representative groups. The commitment has full support from the North Somerset Economy Group which oversees the delivery and strategic direction of the Economic Plan.
- 4.5 A session of the Partnerships, Corporate Organisation & Overview Management, Policy & Scrutiny Panel is due to consider and discuss the overall Development Programme in July. A separate session on the Junction 21 Enterprise Area objectives and delivery will be held with the Place Policy and Scrutiny panel.

## 5. Financial implications

### Costs and funding sources

- 5.1 The total costs of the scheme, including design and development and preparation of Full Business Case, are estimated at £11.1m, plus officer time. This estimate comprises:

<b>Cost heading</b>	<b>Total projected eligible expenditure</b>
Construction works, incl. prelims, OH&P and inflation	£8,325,000
Local Authority fees	£203,000
Professional fees incl. surveys, planning and Ground Investigation	£967,000
Risk contingency	£1,432,000
Revenue: site management, marketing and disposals	£150,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£11,077,000</b>

- 5.2 An Outline Business Case (OBC) has been submitted to the West of England Revolving Infrastructure Fund (RIF) to meet the costs of the scheme.
- 5.3 The estimated costs to FBC are £485,000 and will initially be met from an allocation within the Driving Growth Reserve, which means that the council's revenue expenditure budget will need to be increased by this sum, with a corresponding increase in the income budget to cover the funding coming from reserves.
- 5.4 In the light of early positive comment from LEP officers, it is proposed that FBC preparation commences in advance of OBC formal approval, noting that these costs are incurred at the council's expense, so as to avoid delay to the overall programme. If the FBC is successful, the majority of costs can be recouped from the RIF, excepting some small sums (expected to be less than £50k) which are not eligible as capital costs, for example any legal fees.
- 5.5 The nature of RIF is that it provides interest-free forward-funding which must be repaid in due course. At Weston Business Quarter it is proposed that the costs are repaid through the sale or lease of the commercial plots that result. Specialist advice

has been commissioned to advise on this point and to ensure that sufficient income can be generated to be able to meet repayment requirements.

- 5.6 Any surplus income after repayment of costs would be available to NSC to fund other capital projects, however due to the relative modest values of commercial land it is not expected that the scheme will generate significant receipts.
- 5.7 Future business rates from the land are estimated at approximately £6.6m over the period to 2036.

### **Authorisation requirements**

- 5.8 The value of the construction works for this scheme are estimated at £8.3m. The following approvals are required in taking forward the proposals:
- Approval of Commissioning Plan: Executive, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021.
  - Approval of Procurement Plan: Executive Member, advised by Director and Head of Strategic Procurement.
  - Award of Professional Services contract: Director approval, August 2021.
  - Award of works contract: Director approval, August 2022.

### **6. Legal powers and implications**

- 6.1 The Local Government Act 1972 gives the Council the power to dispose of land held by it in any manner it wishes provided that the council achieves the best consideration that can reasonably be obtained.
- 6.2 The procurement process will be compliant with the Public Contract Regulations 2015.
- 6.3 The procurement process will be compliant with the Public Services (Social Value Act) 2012 by ensuring it seeks additional social value during the tender process.
- 6.4 If successful in securing RIF, the council will be bound by the terms of the funding, including requirement for repayment of the forward funds.

### **7. Climate change and environmental implications**

- 7.1 The Weston Business Quarter site is a brownfield site in a sustainable location. It is located within the urban area of Weston-super-Mare, and is well connected, being 2.4 miles from Worle Station by car, but only 2.1 miles by bike, mostly routed along a flat, well-maintained and direct cycle route that is mostly segregated from traffic. A new, mainstream bus service has recently been established with a bus stop located approximately 300m or a 2-minute walk from the council-owned land. Service frequency currently is every 2 hours, but this is expected to grow as further housing and commercial developments come forward to increase demand.
- 7.2 The detail of infrastructure and service delivery is being worked up, but a key objective is to minimise climate impacts, for example in the choice of materials. This will build on recent experience from the nearby Banwell bypass scheme, which we are seeking to make as close to net zero carbon as possible.

- 7.3 NSC planning policies required that new commercial buildings at the site meet BREEAM Excellent standards, and deliver 15% of their energy requirement through renewables or low carbon energy sources. Marketing strategies will seek to target environmentally friendly sectors and investors, for example, local food producers and manufacturers of sustainable forms of MMC housing.

## 8. Risk management

- 8.1 Key risks and mitigations are as follows:

Risk	Mitigation
Outline Business Case is rejected by the LEP	In the event that the OBC is rejected, officers will discuss options with finance colleagues to determine whether other funding options are available. Work on the Full Business Case may if necessary be suspended until a resolution can be found.
Preparation of Full Business Case and procurement processes are delayed or unachievable, which delays the delivery of the scheme and potentially leads to a loss of investment interest.	Close monitoring of progress. Any potential for delay will need to be communicated to funders and potential investment interest.  If necessary, the FBC can be submitted at a later date. Bids can be made at any stage, with decisions on a quarterly basis.
Procurement process unsuccessful in securing a contractor willing to take on the work within time and budget.	An open procurement process is proposed so as to maximise the range of potential bidders.  Soft market testing will be carried out in advance of procurement process if believed necessary in order to establish interest, however the contract should be relatively straightforward and therefore is felt likely to achieve a range of bids.  Increases in cost or extensions to programme would need to be reviewed with the Major Projects Team. If necessary, elements of the scheme may be descoped or set aside to be delivered at a later stage.
Market advice suggests a lack of realistic interest in the site and/or that land values will be insufficient to cover RIF repayments.	Advice is being provided by specialist consultants.  The team is aware that commercial land values are modest, therefore this will be kept under close review. If necessary, elements of the scheme may be descoped to reduce costs, or set aside to be delivered at a later stage.
Market circumstances change post-completion, leading to a	This will be kept under close review. If necessary, discussions will be held with the

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
loss of demand for the site and insufficient income to meet repayment requirements.	LEP as to a re-profiling of repayments. This has been agreed on other RIF schemes but should be viewed as a last resort.
Staff resource is inadequate to support process.	Consultants supporting process. Monitoring/management of staff time and priorities.

## **9. Equality implications**

Have you undertaken an Equalities Impact Assessment? No

9.1 The delivery of site infrastructure and servicing through this project is not expected to have significant direct impacts on equality and diversity. A full EIA will be drawn up as part of detailed project delivery proposals to inform the Full Business Case.

9.2 Examples of factors to be taken into consideration in developing the scheme include:

- Infrastructure, including roads and crossings, will be designed in line with national standards and best practice to ensure accessible to all.
- Contracts will include Social Value requirements. It is anticipated that this will include actions to positively address inequalities.
- The South Ward area in Weston is close to the site and is within the 5% most deprived areas nationally. NSC's Economy Team is leading work with other teams across the council and partners to tackle these inequalities and to link residents with potential opportunities at the business quarter site.

9.3 The planning application for this site will comply with the requirements of the Local Plan and other planning policies, which have been subject to EIA assessments.

9.4 The procurement of a professional services and works will include a requirement for the appointed parties to ensure compliance with Equalities legislation.

## **10. Corporate implications**

10.1 This proposal supports the Corporate Plan objective of creating a Thriving and Sustainable Place, in particular "an attractive and vibrant place for business investment and sustainable growth".

10.2 A project team has been set up to oversee the development of the scheme, led by the Economy Team as Client and supported by the Major Project Team. Representatives from Development and Finance Teams also attend.

## **11. Options considered**

11.1 The preferred option for this site is to use RIF funding to pay for infrastructure and servicing of commercial plots, which will then be sold or leased to interested investors looking for land. This option is preferred in delivering the benefits described above but maintaining the risks to the council at a reasonable level.

11.2 Other options considered and rejected are listed below.

- 11.3 To do nothing, or to seek to sell the site without prior investment in infrastructure and services: this has been rejected as the site is a strategic location for commercial investment and without intervention there is a significant risk that development will not come forward, or will come forward more slowly than is desired. The council's long-term financial plans and the West of England City Deal both rely on long-term business rate income from this site.
- 11.4 To seek a Joint Venture partner who will invest capital and resources to bring forward the land on NSC's behalf: this was pursued in part by Persimmon with a reasonable degree of success on privately owned land to the south of the council site. However, even in that scenario, Persimmon first serviced the land to make plots attractive (a S106 obligation, effectively cross-subsidised by their adjacent housing sites). The relative modest values achievable for commercial land mean that a solely market-based proposition including servicing of plots is unlikely to be viable.
- 11.5 To deliver speculative industrial / office premises on the site as well as servicing plots: this option may be pursued to a limited extent once plots are serviced, if there is a specialist form of commercial development required (for example, a Foodworks phase 2 development). However, this would significantly increase the financial exposure and risk of the council and at present is not believed necessary due to the existing interest in the site from potential investors. A speculative build-out could also inadvertently restrict interest, if the premises constructed are not in line with what an investor is looking for – the servicing of plots offers better flexibility.
- 11.6 To partially deliver the site, e.g. to bring forward a limited number of initial plots and wait to see how well these succeed in the market prior to developing the rest of the site. A full servicing of the site as a single phase of work is preferred as this brings economies of scale and avoids further delay to interested investors. However a partial or phased solution may be re-considered as a fallback in the event that costs increase beyond what is felt can be afforded at the present time.
- 11.7 To fund the costs of the work from NSC borrowing rather than from the RIF. This option may be considered if the RIF application is unsuccessful, however the RIF is preferred as it provides interest-free forward-funding and therefore reduces overall costs.

**Author:**

Jane Harrison, Head of Economy

**Appendices:**

N/a

**Background papers:**

Council report on Asset, Accommodation and Development Strategies, Feb 2021:  
<https://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/Meetings/ByCommittee/15/2020/100>

North Somerset Economic Plan: <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-03/29981%20Economic%20Plan%20ACC.pdf>

Junction 21 Enterprise Area: <http://www.j21.co.uk/>

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## North Somerset Council

### Report to the Executive

**Date of meeting: 23rd June 2021**

**Subject of report: Development Programme: updates and consultation proposals**

**Town or Parish: All**

**Presenting: Cllr. Mark Canniford, Executive Member for Placemaking and Economy**

**Key Decision: Yes**

**Reason: proposals affect more than two wards and have potential financial implications of more than £500,000**

### Recommendations

- 1) To note and endorse progress on delivery of the Development Strategy sites.
- 2) To agree to public consultation on the Development Programme within the parameters proposed in paragraphs 3.7 – 3.16 of this report.

### 1. Summary of report

- 1.1 This report follows the adoption of the Development Strategy by Council in February this year. It provides an update on progress with agreed sites and proposes parameters for consultation on the longer-term programme, to be held during the summer and early Autumn.

### 2. Policy

- 2.1 This proposal supports the Corporate Plan objective of creating a Thriving and Sustainable Place, in particular “the delivery of a broad range of new home to meet our growing need, with an emphasis on quality and affordability” and the priority of creating “an attractive and vibrant place for business investment and sustainable growth”. It aligns with existing and emerging Local Plans and other planning policies.

### 3. Details

#### Background

- 3.1 North Somerset Council’s Development Strategy was adopted by Council in February 2020 and is a key part of NSC’s Capital Investment Strategy for 2020 to 2030. It sets out a core ambition to create a balanced programme of development and investment that also delivers on the wider corporate objectives of NSC,



particularly in relation to affordable housing, sustainability and placemaking. It complements the emerging Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) and Accommodation Strategy.

3.2 In taking forward development on its landholdings, the strategy emphasises that the council's role is not to compete with the private sector or replicate their usual outcomes, but to deliver beyond the market norms. Objectives are to:

- Deliver where the market fails.
- Set higher standards and drive the market forward for better quality, more sustainable buildings.
- Make the most of our assets and capture value to fund other council pressures and priorities – including reinvestment in the asset programme.
- Provide homes, employment and other facilities that meet the needs of our communities – current and future.

3.3 The emerging development programme identified through this work comprises 26 potential sites, offering the following outcomes:

- Approaching 2,000 new homes.
- At least 500 affordable homes (rental and shared ownership).
- More than 30 acres of commercial (employment) space.
- A financial return, after costs, of around £60m.
- 3,700 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) construction jobs.
- 2,400 FTE employment jobs.

3.4 The figures above assume that all sites come forward; this will depend on feasibility and appetite for delivery. Values may vary according to how the sites are delivered. For example, an increase in direct delivery by NSC will increase its exposure to risk but also its potential financial reward.

### **Update on current development sites**

3.5 The Development Strategy and February Council report divided potential development sites into four groups:

- **Group 1:** sites that were already committed, with delivery underway.
- **Group 2A:** other sites that are formally allocated for development in the adopted North Somerset Sites and Allocations Plan. The Council agreed that delivery proposals should be developed for these sites, subject to individual business case sign-off and meeting statutory requirements (including statutory consultations and planning consents).
- **Group 2B:** sites that are not formally allocated, but are believed possible to take forward within current planning policies. These are typically small- to medium- sites located at existing settlements. The Council agreed that feasibility testing and consultation activity be undertaken in relation to the opportunity to develop these sites, with a view to reporting back on a final list in the autumn.
- **Group 3:** sites that are longer-term opportunities. These would in most cases represent a significant extension to an existing settlement or the creation of a new community, and so are subject to the emerging Local Plan. The Council agreed that, once the emerging spatial strategy is more clear, relevant sites should then be promoted for consideration to be allocated.

- 3.6 An update on progress with sites in Groups 1 and 2A is provided in Appendix A. Key steps and highlights since the February council report include:
- Exchange of Agreement for Lease with Keepmoat Homes for 425 homes at Parklands Village. This formalises the contractual arrangement between the parties. Keepmoat have submitted a Reserved Matters application for the site and are working towards the target of a start on site by September. All homes will use Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) and are low or zero carbon.
  - Planning application approved by P&R in Feb 2021 for 52 homes on land to the south of The Uplands, Nailsea. Scheme has been designed by the Stirling Prize winning architects, Mikhail Riches as 100% Passivhaus homes, a flagship level of sustainability.
  - Weston Business Quarter: this is the council's largest employment site in the strategic location of the Junction 21 Enterprise Area. A separate report to the Executive sets out proposals to bring the site forward using funding from the West of England Revolving Infrastructure Fund (RIF).
  - Walliscote Place: an application for £1.075m grant has been submitted to the Brownfield Land Release Fund to remove or fill a redundant fuel tank underneath the former police station land and to fund initial groundworks, further de-risking the site for development.

### **Consultation on proposed programme**

- 3.7 The Council report in February recommended further consultation on the programme of sites for development. This is proposed to take place over the summer and early autumn. The outcomes, including a recommended final list of sites, will be reported back to Council in November for approval.
- 3.8 The consultation document will set out the overarching rationale and strategy for the development programme, as agreed in the February reports. Case studies will be provided of sites progressed so far, demonstrating the positive outcomes for communities in meeting housing and employment needs, raising standards of sustainability and quality, and the need to generate financial returns to be reinvested in priority capital projects.
- 3.9 The main focus of the consultation document and associated engagement activity will relate to the proposed programme of development sites.
- 3.10 No further consultation is proposed on Group 1 sites, or those with planning consent in place, as these have already been subject to extensive prior engagement and consultations, both formal and informal.
- 3.11 Sites in Group 2A are allocated in the adopted Local Plan, therefore the principle of development has been tested and consulted upon, including through public examination. A failure to deliver these sites will result in a need to identify suitable alternatives of a similar size and deliverability elsewhere, or may open up further opportunities for speculative, unplanned development elsewhere. Consultees will be asked about their views on development, however this context will be explained.

- 3.12 Engagement on the group 2A sites will seek to focus on the forms and outcomes that consultees would wish the individual sites to deliver, rather than the principle of development per se. This will include asking about preferences, for example, for increased affordable housing, levels of sustainability and options for non-traditional delivery such as self-build.
- 3.13 In some cases, sites in Group 2A require a formal appropriation consultation to be held, to establish the principle of a change of purpose for which the council is holding the land. These consultations are proposed to be run in parallel to the main consultation, so as to avoid multiple rounds of consultation on the same question.
- 3.14 Details of Group 2B sites are provided in Appendix B. Legal checks are being carried out on these sites to identify if they are subject to any formal restrictions on their use and the names of sites are being kept confidential until that process is complete. It is possible that some sites may be withdrawn from the programme if there is a binding legal reason that prevents their development. It is not felt to be in the public interest to name sites in advance of that due diligence being complete.
- 3.15 Subject to the completion of those checks, the consultation on Group 2B sites will include information about each site (including the name and specific location), identifying key opportunities and constraints, and inviting public views as to which should be brought forward. Consultees will be asked for opinions on the specific objectives for each site.
- 3.16 Group 3 sites are longer-term sites which may be suitable to be included in future Local Plan allocations, or which for other reasons are not expected to be deliverable prior to 2025. The nature of the sites as typically larger strategic sites outside of settlements will be identified and some early general questions asked on whether they should be promoted for inclusion in the Local Plan, in the event that growth is agreed for the areas in question. This will be set in the context of the Local Plan report to the Executive on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 which established a preferred spatial strategy and identified broad locations for further testing and assessment.
- 3.17 Consultation is proposed to be on a North-Somerset wide basis through the council's website and social media channels. Additional face-to-face engagement activity will take place in locations with non-consented sites in Groups 2A and 2B, including with Town and Parish Councils. A Scrutiny briefing and discussion is proposed to be held at the Partnerships, Corporate Organisation and Overview Management Policy and Scrutiny panel in July.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 Proposals for further consultation on the development programme are as set out above, including engagement with Scrutiny. Allocated sites have been consulted on through the planning policy process and sites taken forward for development will be subject to further formal and informal consultations on the specific proposals that arise.
- 4.2 It is expected that there will be opposition to development of a number of these sites, and in some cases there have been community or local councillor requests to withdraw sites from the programme prior to consultation. Unless a specific legal reason is identified to prevent development, it is proposed that all sites should continue to be included in the consultation, so as to ensure transparency and

fairness. The consultation process will enable full and open consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of each location.

## **5. Financial implications**

- 5.1 The costs of consulting on the Development Programme will be relatively minimal and can be met from existing revenue budgets and reserves.
- 5.2 The overall income from the Development Programme is estimated at £40 – 60m over ten years, subject to the range of sites selected to be taken forward and the mechanisms chosen for delivery.
- 5.3 Business cases for individual sites will include more detailed consideration of the costs and income implications in due course.

## **6. Legal powers and implications**

- 6.1 The Local Government Act 1972 gives the Council the power to dispose of land held by it in any manner it wishes provided that the council achieves the best consideration that can reasonably be obtained.
- 6.2 Procurement and disposal processes will be compliant with the Concessions Contracts Regulations 2016 and the Public Services (Social Value Act) 2012.

## **7. Climate Change and environmental implications**

- 7.1 All development proposals will seek to achieve the highest possible standards of sustainability, including a range of exemplar sites demonstrating best practice. Full detail will be provided in the individual business cases for each site, which will be subject to further formal decision-making in line with Standing Orders.

## **8. Risk management**

- 8.1 Risks in relation to consultation on the Development Programme are primarily reputational. Careful communications and engagement activity will be planned to mitigate this risk.
- 8.2 Risks in relation to individual site proposals will be considered in the business cases for those sites in due course.

## **9. Equality implications**

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? No

- 9.1 Any future developments will be required to comply with Local Plan policies, which have been subject to EIA assessments.
- 9.2 The procurement of development partners will include a requirement for partners to ensure compliance with Equalities legislation.

## **10. Corporate implications**

- 10.1 This proposal supports the Corporate Plan objective of creating a Thriving and Sustainable Place, in particular “the delivery of a broad range of new homes to meet our growing need, with an emphasis on quality and affordability” and the priority of creating “an attractive and vibrant place for business investment and sustainable growth”.
- 10.2 Development projects are led by the Development Team, with support from procurement and legal colleagues, plus officers from Major Projects and Economy Teams where appropriate.
- 10.3 The Development Programme has the potential to generate £40 – 60m income over 10 years, supporting delivery of the council’s wider capital programme and priorities.
- 10.4 The programme has a number of interdependencies with other asset and accommodation strategy work. This is overseen through senior level boards including the Investment & Infrastructure Board, Driving Growth Board and Capital Programme Board.

## **11. Options considered**

- 11. Options in relation to the development programme were considered as part of the February Council report.
- 11.2 The proposed consultation will inform options assessments for the individual sites.

### **Author:**

Jenny Ford, Head of Development

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A: Update on delivery of Group 1 and 2A development sites

Appendix B: Group 2B sites: potential locations for consultation (exempt)

### **Background papers:**

Council report on Asset, Accommodation and Development Strategies, Feb 2021:

<https://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/Meetings/ByCommittee/15/2020/100>

## Update on delivery of Group 1 and 2A development sites

Site	Status / update	Next steps
<b>Group 1</b>		
Selworthy Road, Bournville Estate, Weston-super-Mare	Sold to Alliance Homes in 2020 for an affordable-led scheme	Planning application expected later in 2021
Parklands Phase 1, Weston-super-Mare	<p>Council has agreed the selection of a development partner, Keepmoat Homes, for this site, delivering 425 new homes using Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) and 15% net zero homes, with all homes at least 80% below baseline carbon levels. 128 (30%) of the homes will be affordable. An Agreement for Lease was signed with the developer in April 2021 and a Reserved Matters application has recently been submitted for consideration.</p> <p>The scheme is supported by Homes England who have provided approaching £10m Accelerated Construction Funding as well as a more recent £90k capacity fund award to assist with contract management at the site.</p>	The target for start on site is Sept 2021 but the developer will be carrying out preparatory groundworks in advance of that date.
<b>Group 2A</b>		
Land to the south of The Uplands, Nailsea	<p>Planning application approved by committee in Feb 2021. The scheme has been designed by the Stirling Prize winning architects, Mikhail Riches and will be 100% Passivhaus homes, an exemplar level of sustainability. The site will provide 30% affordable housing and extra accessible/adaptable units above policy requirements.</p> <p>The planning application was supported by £557k Homes England Accelerated Construction Funding and a further £55k capacity funding has been provided to assist with the procurement of the development partner.</p>	<p>An appropriations process is due to be determined early in June.</p> <p>Subject to the outcome of that process, a report recommending a Business Case and Commissioning Plan for the procurement of a development partner is due to be considered by Council in July.</p>
Weston Business Quarter, Weston- super-Mare	This is the council's largest employment site in the strategic location of the Junction 21 Enterprise Area. A separate report to the Executive sets out proposals to bring the site forward using funding from the West of England Revolving Infrastructure Fund (RIF).	Please see separate report on this site.

Site	Status / update	Next steps
Walliscote Place, Weston-super-Mare town centre	<p>£91k One Public Estate funding secured and is being used to support assessments and business case for this and other town centre sites.</p> <p>Application for Brownfield Land Release Funding made to fund removal of underground fuel tank and groundworks at former police station land (£1.075m).</p>	This work is closely related to that on other town centre development sites. Procurement of a development partner is expected to take place over the summer and autumn.
Former Weston college building adjacent to Nailsea library	The council does not have full control over this building, but owns a 'flying freehold', which gives it a degree of leverage over any proposals. The college building was purchased from Weston College in 2020 by a private sector developer who is known to be preparing development proposals.	This is a prominent site in Nailsea Town Council and officers are seeking to work with the developer, Nailsea Town Council, and the owner of the adjacent shopping precinct to agree suitable proposals.
Land north of Churchill Avenue, Clevedon	This site is surrounded by homes in the ownership of Alliance Homes and is thought suitable for an affordable-led / low-cost-housing scheme. Early discussions have been held with interested affordable housing partners. The site could also be suitable for an element of specialist housing such as extra care.	It is proposed that this be one of the sites to be a focus of consultation activity in the summer. The site is currently used as informal open space and will require an appropriations process to allow it to come forward for development.
Field at Slade Road, Portishead (sometimes referred to as "Downside")	This is a small site, suitable for potentially 15 – 25 homes. It is within a relatively high value area and so could support a high quality of design and sustainability, or potentially could offer an opportunity for self-build / self-finish plots.	<p>It is proposed that this be one of the sites to be a focus of consultation activity in the summer.</p> <p>The site is not easily accessible to the public but is nonetheless likely to require an appropriations process to allow it to come forward for development.</p>
Fryth Way playing fields, Nailsea	This area is included within a wider allocation for 450 homes to the north of the town. It is only likely to come forward as part of that larger allocation and would be subject to delivering a suitable re-location of the playing pitches.	At the present time, delivery of site is not expected to be imminent, but contact is maintained with adjacent landowners and potential developers with an interest.
Parklands Phase 2	This was previously listed as Group 2B but has been moved into group 2A to reflect its status as an allocated site.	Outline planning consent is in place, but proposals are not expected to come forward for several years until work on phase 1 is nearer to completion.

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