

Public Document Pack

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Date: Monday, 13 September 2021

To all Members of the Council

**** 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). In line with ongoing public health advice, members of the public and media are encouraged to watch the meeting online and not to attend in person. Should you wish to attend in person we ask that you notify the Contact Officer above at least 24 hours before the meeting as this will help us to manage the meeting safely.

Dear Sir or Madam

Summons to attend the Council Meeting – Tuesday, 21 September 2021 at 6.00 pm New Council Chamber - Town Hall

You are requested to attend the Meeting of the Council to be held at 6.00 pm on Tuesday, 21 September 2021.

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

<https://youtu.be/6W0DptTpfNg>

The agenda is set out below.

Yours faithfully

Assistant Director Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer

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

Agenda

1. **Public Participation, petitions, and deputations (Standing Orders 2(vi) and 17) (Agenda Item 1)**

The Council will hear any person who wishes to address it in accordance with the Standing Orders. The Chairman will select the order of the matters to be heard. Each person will be limited to a period of five minutes for public participation and deputations and three minutes for petitions. This section of the meeting must not exceed 30 minutes and discussion must not refer to a current planning application.

The Council will also receive questions from the public and provide answers thereto, subject to the Chairman being satisfied that the questions are relevant to the business of the meeting.

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

Note: Given the limited space in the council chamber due to ongoing social distancing measures, anyone wishing to address the Council is encouraged to submit a full written statement by the above deadline which will be published in advance and read out on your behalf by an officer at the meeting.

2. **Apologies for absence (Agenda Item 2)**

3. **Petitions to be presented by Members (Standing Order No. 16) (Agenda Item 3)**

These have to be received by the Assistant Director Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer by 12.00 noon on the day of the meeting.

4. **Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Standing Order 37) (Agenda Item 4)**

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.

5. **Minutes (Agenda Item 5) (Pages 7 - 22)**

19 July 2021, to approve as a correct record (attached)

- 6. Motions by Members (Standing Order No. 14) (Agenda Item 6) (Pages 23 - 24)**
 - (1) Elections Bill
Councillor Charles (attached)
- 7. Matters referred from previous meeting (Agenda Item 7)**

None.
- 8. Chairman's announcements (Agenda Item 8)**
- 9. Leader's announcements (Agenda Item 9)**
- 10. Chief Executive's announcements (Agenda Item 10)**
- 11. Political Balance Update (Agenda Item 11)**

The Assistant Director, Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer to report orally.
- 12. Forward Plan dated 1 September 2021 (Agenda Item 12) (Pages 25 - 44)**
- 13. Policy and Scrutiny Panel Report (Agenda Item 13)**

None.
- 14. Corporate Parenting Responsibilities (Agenda Item 14) (Pages 45 - 50)**

Report of Councillor Gibbons (attached)
- 15. Question Time (Standing Order No. 18) (Agenda Item 15)**

Questions must relate to issues relevant to the work of the Executive. Question Time will normally last for 20 minutes.

Members are requested to supply the Democratic Services Officer with a note of each question at, or just after, the meeting. A summary note of each question will be included in an appendix to the minutes.
- 16. Report and matters referred from the Executive, 8 September 2021 (Agenda Item 16)**

None.
- 17. Reports and matters referred from the Policy/Overview and Scrutiny Panels other than those dealt with elsewhere on this agenda (Agenda Item 17)**

None.
- 18. Reports and matters referred from the other Committees other than those dealt with elsewhere on this agenda (Agenda Item 17)**

None.

19. Reports on joint arrangements and external organisations and questions relating thereto (Agenda Item 19)

(1) Avon Fire Authority

No report as the Fire Authority hasn't met since the last Council meeting

(2) Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel

No report as the Panel hasn't met since the last Council meeting

(3) West of England Combined Authority Joint Scrutiny Committee

No report as the Joint Scrutiny Committee hasn't met since the last Council meeting

20. Development Programme: Approval of Commissioning Plan for Development of Weston Town Centre Sites (Agenda Item 20) (Pages 51 - 68)

Report of Councillor Canniford (attached)

21. Climate Emergency Progress Update (Agenda Item 21) (Pages 69 - 104)

Report of Councillor Petty (attached)

22. Urgent business permitted by the Local Government Act 1972 (if any)

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.

Exempt Items

Should the Council 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."

Mobile phones and other mobile devices

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

Filming and recording of meetings

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

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

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

Emergency Evacuation Procedure

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

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

Last person out to close the door.

Do not stop to collect personal belongings.

Do not use the lifts.

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

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

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

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Minutes

of the Meeting of

The Council

Monday, 19 July 2021

New Council Chamber, Town Hall

Meeting Commenced: 3.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 5.35 pm

Councillors:

Richard Westwood (Chairman)

Mike Bell

Steve Bridger

Mark Canniford

Ashley Cartman

Andy Cole

John Crockford-Hawley

Ciaran Cronnelly

Donald Davies

Catherine Gibbons

Hugh Gregor

Sandra Hearne

Huw James

Stuart McQuillan

Robert Payne

Marcia Pepperall

James Tonkin

Richard Tucker

Apologies (mainly for Covid related reasons): Councillors Karin Haverson (Vice-Chairman), Mark Aplin, Nigel Ashton, Mike Bird, Peter Bryant, Gill Bute, John Cato, Caritas Charles, Caroline Cherry, James Clayton, Sarah Codling, Peter Crew, Mark Crosby, Wendy Griggs, Ann Harley, David Hitchins, Steve Hogg, Nicola Holland, Ruth Jacobs, Patrick Keating, Ian Parker, Bridget Petty, Lisa Pilgrim, Terry Porter, Geoffrey Richardson, Mike Solomon and Roz Willis.

Absent: Councillors Caroline Goddard, John Ley-Morgan, David Shopland and Timothy Snaden.

Officers in attendance: Jo Walker (Chief Executive), Amy Webb (Director of Corporate Services) and Nicholas Brain (Assistant Director Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer).

COU Chairman's Welcome

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The Chairman welcomed everyone to this face-to-face meeting of the Council in

the New Council Chamber. He referred to the government's recommendations to exercise caution, together with the council's own health and safety advice, which had made it necessary to limit the number of councillors, officers and members of the public in attendance in the Chamber to ensure the meeting could take place safely. He thanked everyone for their understanding and co-operation with this.

The meeting was being streamed live on the internet and a recorded version would be available to view within 48 hours on the North Somerset Council website.

To avoid the need for councillors to sign an attendance register and for the benefit of those watching via YouTube, the Assistant Director, Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer undertook a roll call of councillors to confirm attendance.

The vast majority of absences recorded were for Covid related reasons.

COU 28 Public Participation, petitions, and deputations (Standing Orders 2(vi) and 17) (Agenda Item 1)

The Chairman reported three requests for public participation had been received. The first submission would be heard at the meeting, the other two had been provided in advance and published with the supplementary papers. These would also be read out at the meeting.

(1) Affordable Home Ownership for All: Richard Sibley, Claverham Resident

At the invitation of the Chairman Mr Sibley addressed the meeting on the matter of affordable home ownership for all. He referred to a paper he had circulated to a number of councillors setting out proposals to address this issue in answer to current economic, social and environmental challenges and for the future. He outlined the benefits of an alternative homes policy for the district and asked councillors and officers to study his proposals as a means of tackling this important issue.

(2) Reopening of Churchill Sports Centre: Thornton Daryl Hirst, Churchill Resident

At the request of the Chairman, the Assistant Director, Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer read out the statement from Mr Hirst as published with the papers.

(3) Affordable Housing: Alan Rice, Weston-super-Mare Resident

At the request of the Chairman, the Assistant Director, Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer read out the statement from Mr Rice as published with the papers.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for their submissions and proposed that they be noted and referred to the relevant Executive Member and the Director of Place.

COU 29 Petitions to be presented by Members (Standing Order No. 16) (Agenda Item 3)

It was noted a petition had been received from Councillor Crew who was unable to attend the meeting. At the request of the Chairman, the Assistant Director, Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer presented the petition on Councillor Crew's behalf.

The petition was in the following terms and signed by residents of the 57 properties in Thorn Close:

"To Whom it may concern.

The residents of Thorn Close, Worle, are petitioning North Somerset Council to bring pressure to bear on the relevant authorities to fully deal with the infestation of Feral Pigeons under the Solar Panels fitted to many of the properties in the Street. These birds are causing misery to all of us, presenting both a health hazard and a noise nuisance."

The Chairman thanked Councillor Crew for the petition and referred it to the Director of Place.

COU 30 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Standing Order 37) (Agenda Item 4)

None declared.

COU 31 Minutes - 20 April 2021 (Agenda Item 5)

It was noted that Councillor Ashton had yet to receive a response to the question he had raised under Question Time and the Assistant Director, Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer agreed to follow this up.

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

**COU 32 Motions by Members (Standing Order No. 14)
Motion to Review and Strengthen the Council's Low Carbon Advertising Policies (Councillor Petty) (Agenda Item 6 (1))**

In Councillor Petty's absence and at the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor McQuillan introduced the Motion. He pointed out the intention was not to ban advertising but rather to modify existing policies to address the climate emergency, public health, air pollution and sustainable consumption.

Motion: Moved by Councillor McQuillan and seconded by Councillor Cronnelly

"As of November 2020, over 480 councils in the UK have made climate emergency declarations. Low Carbon Advertising Policies present an opportunity for local authorities to further their existing health and environmental policy goals relating to air pollution, active travel, climate change, sustainability and town planning.

It should be noted that restricting advertising for harmful products (e.g tobacco or SUVs) is not the same as banning the products themselves.

Fossil fuel companies, car companies and airlines spend billions each year advertising their high carbon products -despite growing public concerns over air pollution and climate breakdown.

Extracts here have been taken from a toolkit for local authority councillors and officers in the UK wishing to implement a 'Low Carbon Advertising Policy' which would prohibit adverts for these products in council-owned ad spaces.

This motion looks at the ecological and climate impacts of advertising from these high carbon industries:

- petrol and diesel car advertising, particularly for the largest and most polluting cars such as Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs)
- airline advertising for flights
- fossil fuel companies (such as Shell and BP)

There is plenty of additional information available to read about this subject on these links

<https://www.badverts.org/>

Advertising's role in climate and ecological degradation. What does the scientific research have to say? Professor Tim Kasser with Andrew Simms, David Boyle and Emilie Tricarico

Upselling Smoke: The case to end advertising of the largest, most polluting new cars New Weather Institute and Possible, August 2020

Taking Down Junk Food Ads - how local areas are taking action on outdoor advertising Sustain, 2019

Why Taking Down Billboards is Good for the Local Economy Adblock Bristol, 2019

All here - <https://www.badverts.org/reports-and-publications>

This council notes:

- That it is possible for local authorities to implement advertising policies against specific products if they consider them to be harmful to the amenity of an area.
- This Council notes that the Greater London Authority (GLA), which controls Transport for London (TFL) property, were able to enact a Healthier Food Advertising Policy in 2018 prohibiting High Fat, Sugar or Salt (HFSS) food advertising on TFL property. Council planning departments will be able to advise on how to restrict the use of 'deemed consent' under the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 including writing to the relevant Secretary of State.
- That North Somerset Council currently holds an Advertising Concession Agreement with Clear Channel UK involving the upkeep and maintenance of over 25 bus stops across the area all of which include advertising panels (there are over 600 bus stops across the district).
- That advertising prohibitions and restrictions already exist regarding all tobacco products and e-cigarettes, guns and offensive weapons, breath testing and products designed to mask the effects of alcohol, 'pyramid schemes', prostitution services, 'obscene material' as well as other rules regarding marketing to children, high fat sugar and salt products, medical and health claims, religion, financial products, and pornography.
(<https://www.badverts.org/case-studies>)
- That a double-sided digital bus stop advertising screen uses four times the

electricity of the average British home.

(<https://adfreecities.org.uk/2019/11/the-electricity-costof-digital-adverts>)

- That a climate emergency was declared by this council in February 2019, which included a commitment to reduce area wide carbon emissions and become carbon neutral by 2030.

This council believes:

- That the purpose of advertising is to stimulate demand for goods and services.
- That some advertising content undermines the council's objectives regarding public health, air pollution and sustainable consumption. For example, High Fat Sugar and Salt products undermine health objectives, petrol and diesel car adverts, especially for Sports Utility Vehicles, undermine climate and air quality objectives and airline advertising undermines carbon emission reduction targets.

This council resolves:

- That the Director of Place in liaison with the Executive Member for public transport reviews the scope of the Advertising Concession Agreement[s] which are currently being updated in readiness for an imminent tendering process to investigate the possibility of amending the current set of prohibitions and restrictions to include products that contribute to climate change and air pollution – it is recognised that this may have some impact on the potential value of those concessions and in order to evaluate any impact the option of seeking variant bids should be considered
- That the Director of Place in liaison with the Executive Member for planning policy be asked to investigate and to the extent possible implements a Low Carbon Advertising Policy as part of the council's planning policies, to apply to bus stops, billboards and advertising spaces in the area within the jurisdiction of the local planning area."

Seven members signalled their support for a debate on the Motion.

Councillor McQuillan spoke in support of the Motion and urged all members to support it. In seconding the Motion, Councillor Cronnelly reported the matter of low carbon advertising had been raised with him by a local resident and the Motion was in response to the issues raised.

In discussing the Motion members expressed support for the proposals but referred to the need to clearly define what was meant by low carbon advertising and the scope of any future policy. Once agreed the council could then take a community lead on this matter by supporting and encouraging partners and others to do the same. Reference was also made to the revenue implications of this and the need to balance any loss of revenue against potential health and social benefits.

In response to comments made the Assistant Director, Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer confirmed the concession contract was due to be re-let shortly and in scoping any future contract, variant bids could be requested from tenderers to enable costs to be quantified.

Following further discussion, it was

Resolved: that the Motion as set out in full above be approved and adopted.

**COU 33 Motions by Members (Standing Order No. 14)
Planning for the Future and the Planning Bill (Councillor Bell) (Agenda Item 6 (2))**

In introducing the Motion Councillor Bell sought members' support for the proposals as set out.

Motion: Moved by Council Crockford-Hawley and seconded by Councillor Canniford

"Council notes:

- The significant concerns that have been expressed about the planning reforms proposed by the Conservative Government in their Planning for the Future white paper.
- The Government's intention to introduce a Planning Bill, announced in the Queen's Speech in May, which builds on the Planning for the Future white paper.

Council is concerned that Government proposals:

- Perpetuate an arbitrary target-driven approach that will require 20,085 homes in North Somerset, irrespective of evidence of community need or land supply.
- Take away many of the opportunities for communities and their locally elected representatives to have a final say on how their areas develop.
- Reduce or remove the right of residents to object to applications near them by giving automatic rights to build in 'growth' areas, and increase permitted development rights, risk unregulated growth and unsustainable communities.
- Remove local Section 106 payments and the Community Infrastructure Levy for infrastructure and replace them with a national levy; it is unclear how the new level of developer contributions would work.
- Fail to recognise the climate emergency by making it a key priority that would enable the planning system to respond to the climate crisis.

Council believes that the Government's Planning Bill should give local councils greater powers to:

- Challenge unrealistic housing targets.
- Deliver improved infrastructure alongside new developments.
- Require new development to meet high sustainability standards.
- Require quality design standards as part of new developments.
- Strengthen developer contributions to essential services including health, employment, and education.
- Prevent land banking and poor delivery by developers where planning consents are in place.

Council resolves to write to the Government and our local MPs to set out our concerns and to emphasise our belief that local councils, in consultation with their businesses and residents, are best placed to understand the issues in their area and respond with an appropriate spatial strategy."

Seven members signalled their support for a debate on the Motion.

Councillor Crockford-Hawley spoke in support of his Motion and urged all members to support it. He stressed he was not against housing or other development in North Somerset but that as a local authority this council, together with its businesses and residents, should be in charge of how the area developed rather than taking instruction from central government on arbitrary new homes targets, regardless of community need or land supply.

In seconding the Motion Councillor Canniford referred to the challenges faced by the previous administration in responding to the government's unrealistic housing targets. He referred to the importance of addressing some of the misinformation being circulated and highlighted the impact of the Government's proposals on development in the area, with the removal of the rights of local councils and residents to object to applications in their area, the removal of Section 106 payments to fund local infrastructure and a reduction in the council's powers to require quality developments and provide homes people wanted to live in.

In discussing the Motion members expressed support for the proposals. Reference was made to the following issues: the benefits of a developers' charter with planning reforms to address land banking and poor delivery by developers and recognise and respond to the climate emergency; the need to challenge unrealistic housing targets which created division amongst local communities and failed to address local housing need or land supply; the widespread opposition to the proposals across all political parties and by the Local Government Association (LGA), resulting in a delay in bringing forward the White Paper; the need for planning departments to take on additional work and new skills, and the importance of securing additional funding to support already overstretched departments; the need to move away from an arbitrary target-driven approach to one that focusses on local need, real affordability and sustainability; the need for an imaginative approach to housing development given limited land resources and the avoidance of development on flood plains.

Following further discussion, it was

Resolved: that the Motion as set out in full above be approved and adopted.

COU 34 Chairman's announcements (Agenda Item 8)

The Chairman drew members' attention to the forthcoming by-election on Thursday 22 July for the Congresbury and Puxton ward, following which the Council would return to its full complement of 50 councillors.

He also announced that he had decided to postpone the Civic Service, scheduled for 26 September, until next year and would notify councillors of the revised date in due course.

COU 35 Leader's announcements (Agenda Item 9)

The Leader thanked all those involved in getting the room ready and making the necessary arrangements for today's meeting, and for the Bristol Airport Planning

Inquiry starting on Tuesday 20 July. He expressed disappointment that many councillors had been unable to join the meeting as a result of the remote meeting regulations not being extended, and in referring to the increasing number of Covid-19 cases in North Somerset, he urged everyone to do all they could to keep safe and look after each other.

COU Chief Executive's announcements (Agenda Item 10)

36

The Chief Executive thanked councillors and officers for all they had done in responding to the pandemic. She referred to the ongoing impact of Covid-19 cases within the community, with increased demand across council services as case numbers continued to rise. She confirmed that as an employer, the council was maintaining a cautious approach, encouraging working from home where possible and the continued wearing of masks, social distancing and hand washing within council buildings.

COU Forward Plan dated 2 July 2021 (Agenda Item 11)

37

Councillor Davies presented the Forward Plan.

Resolved: that the Forward Plan be noted.

COU Corporate Parenting (Agenda Item 13)

38

Councillor Gibbons presented the report. She thanked the Director of Children's Services for bringing together the details within the report and updated members on the findings of our care leavers' contributions to the national survey 'Your Life Beyond Care', progress with members' individual offers of support made during last year's Corporate Parenting seminar and the 'Case for Change' published by the Independent Review of Children's Social Care following the last Council meeting.

Members thanked Councillor Gibbons for the report and welcomed the offers of support made by individual members. In response to a concern raised regarding an instance of fostering and the non-payment of guardians, Councillor Gibbons advised this was an historic issue dating back to 2010 and whilst regrettable had now been resolved, with no indication of any more recent cases.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

COU Question Time (Standing Order No. 18) (Agenda Item 14)

39

Oral questions were directed to the members concerned and the summary notes and topics involved are contained in Appendix 1.

**COU Reports and matters referred from the Policy/Overview and Scrutiny Panels other than those dealt with elsewhere on this agenda
Peer Review Member Working Group (Agenda Item 16(1))**

40

Councillor Crockford-Hawley, Chair of the Peer Review Member Working Group, presented the report, outlining the key findings and the recommendations from the Peer Review of Planning carried out in January 2021. He confirmed the Working

Group was recommending that Council accept all the recommendations as detailed within the report. He made particular reference to the recommendation to reduce the size of the Planning and Regulatory Committee to 13, with non-members being allowed to attend and address the committee on applications in their ward or where an application materially affects their ward. He referred to the call-in process and the importance of discussing any proposed call-in with officers and the Chairman in advance to be clear on the reason for the call-in, and also to the proposal to move public speaking on planning applications from the start of the meeting to immediately before the consideration of the application in question. There would be additional meetings of the Working Group to consider further the issues raised as part of the recommendations.

The Leader thanked the Local Government Association review team, Councillor Crockford-Hawley, Councillor Tonkin and others involved in the review for the wide-ranging consultation with members, officers and stakeholders and for bringing forward this comprehensive report.

In discussing the recommendations reference was made to the following issues: the need to ensure the enforcement service was properly resourced, and the proposal for closer working with parishes on enforcement issues was welcomed; the review of internal collaboration processes to streamline the application process and avoid bottlenecks in the system was supported, together with greater clarity and guidance for members around the call-in process and the need for clear justification in doing so; the benefits of addressing current work pressures by way of a triage system and reducing the number of applications coming before the committee with a focus on more important applications; the need for adequate resourcing across the planning service and for this to be addressed within the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP); the importance of regular training updates for members to keep abreast of changing planning policies and legislation.

Motion: Moved by Councillor Crockford-Hawley, seconded by Councillor Tonkin and

Resolved: that the recommendations of the Local Government Association Planning Advisory Service Planning Peer Review be noted, the recommendations made therein be agreed and the Assistant Director Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer, Director of Place and Head of Planning be authorised to implement them.

COU 41 Heritage and Regeneration Champion Report (Agenda Item 18)

Councillor Crockford-Hawley presented the report.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

COU 42 Reports on joint arrangements and external organisations and questions relating thereto: Avon Fire Authority (Agenda Item 19 (1))

Councillor Payne presented the report.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

COU 43 Reports on joint arrangements and external organisations and questions relating thereto: Avon and Somerset Policy and Crime Panel (Agenda Item 19 (2))

Councillor Westwood presented the report.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

COU 44 Reports on joint arrangements and external organisations and questions relating thereto: West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee (Agenda Item 19 (3))

Councillor James gave an oral update on the recent meeting of the West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee. He raised some concerns in relation to amendments raised at the meeting without the opportunity for scrutiny or public engagement. The agenda papers and minutes for the meeting are available to view on the WECA website.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

COU 45 Development Programme: Business Case and Commissioning Plan for Development of Council-owned Land to the south of The Uplands, Nailsea (Agenda Item 20)

Councillor Canniford presented the report. He outlined the business case for the delivery of residential development on council-owned land to the south of The Uplands, Nailsea and confirmed the proposed development would meet the council's housing objectives and deliver beyond market norms in terms of standards, quality and sustainability. With reference to the recommendation in the report he proposed an additional requirement for a procurement group to be involved in driving this forward, comprising Nailsea local members, the Chairman of the Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel and himself as Executive Member.

In discussing the report members raised the following issues: the option for providing allotments as part of the residential development where some of the properties included communal shared gardens; members welcomed the high standards proposed, including building to Passivhaus certified standards to ensure sustainability, good build quality and low energy bills; reference was made to the need to ensure the development was child/family friendly; the importance of early engagement with the chosen development partner to ensure the carbon footprint of the build was minimised as well as carbon use within the building; issues in relation to construction traffic and road access to the site, with new residents and commercial traffic going through Tickenham or Backwell where roads were already gridlocked at peak times and the need for a proper solution to address increasing traffic in the area.

In response to comments made regarding the separate Executive Member decision on the appropriation of the land, the Assistant Director Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer confirmed that this decision had now been taken and the Decision Notice and associated papers were available to view on the council's website. He confirmed the decision had been taken in accordance with legal requirements and due process. Consultation responses were included

within the Decision Notice on the website. He advised that the appropriation decision was subject to call-in and that any changes to that decision may result in the need for the Council decision to be reconsidered.

Motion: Moved by Councillor Canniford, seconded by Councillor Davies and

Resolved: that the business case and Commissioning Plan for the procurement of a development partner for residential development on council-owned land to the south of The Uplands, Nailsea be approved as set out in section 3 of the report, with the additional requirement that a procurement group comprised of local members, the Chairman of the Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel and the Executive Member for Placemaking and Economy be involved in the development partner selection process.

COU 46 Submission of Bid to the Levelling Up Fund (Agenda Item 21)

Councillor Canniford presented the report. He referred to the benefits of seeking levelling up funding to support delivery of the SuperWeston Placemaking Strategy objectives and drew attention to the match-funding proposals as set out in paragraph 3.2.6 of the report. He stated that Weston town centre and seafront had been chosen due to its close match with the funding criteria and referred to the extensive engagement activity as part of the SuperWeston Placemaking Strategy, with over 5,000 responses from residents, businesses and visitors. He thanked officers for their work on this and advised that a decision on funding was expected in the autumn.

Motion: Moved by Councillor Canniford, seconded by Councillor Cartman and

Resolved: that retrospective approval be given to the submission of a bid to the government's Levelling Up fund, in support of the delivery of SuperWeston Placemaking Strategy objectives and to a value of £14,893,438, matched by local funding of £2,930,582 as set out in paragraph 3.2.6 of the report.

COU 47 Adoption of the North Somerset Active Travel Strategy (ATS) (Agenda Item 22)

Councillor Davies presented the report. He thanked officers for their extensive work on the strategy and referred to the importance of a strategic vision which sought to address the climate emergency and the health crisis, while supporting local jobs and businesses. He drew members' attention to the summary set out on page 77 of the strategy highlighting ambitious delivery plans and the benefits for residents.

In discussing the report members expressed support for the strategy but were critical of the way in which government funding was made available for such schemes, with local authorities forced to chase the money rather than focussing on the delivery of a comprehensive strategy. It was suggested this approach did not always produce the best schemes and solutions. Reference was also made to the length of the strategy and whether this was necessary and to the need for this to be considered alongside other strategies to ensure a co-ordinated approach in addressing the high percentage of carbon emissions as a direct result of travel. Members recognised the importance of effective consultation and engagement in

order to achieve the council's vision and to make it easier for people to make active travel choices. Delivery plans needed to be ambitious and to include more cycle paths in areas such as Portishead, prioritising cyclists and pedestrians over car users. Reference was also made to the importance of ensuring the needs of the elderly population and those with mobility issues were recognised and addressed within the strategy.

Motion: Moved by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved: that the North Somerset Active Travel Strategy be adopted.

COU 48 MetroWest Phase 1 - Delivery Update (includes exempt appendix) (Agenda Item 23)

Councillor Bridger presented the report, updating members on the latest progress with particular reference to Phase 1B of the project to re-open the Portishead rail line, and seeking authorisations to move ahead with the next stage. He thanked the project team for their work on this, together with the Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel, and drew members' attention to recommendation 6 of the report proposing disposal of some historic railway assets to Avon Valley Railway for re-use for their heritage railway line extension into Bath.

Members welcomed the report and noted the project was now reaching a critical stage in relation to project costs and key financial risks. Reference was made to the importance of close budget monitoring and sufficient member engagement and scrutiny of the project to avoid project cost escalation beyond the risks identified. It was noted that in addition to high level officer discussions the Place Panel was involved in scrutinising the project but that it may be appropriate to involve the Partnerships, Corporate Organisation and Overview Management Panel to scrutinise the financial aspects of the project.

Motion: Moved by Councillor Bridger, seconded by Councillor Davies and

Resolved:

(1) (a) that authority be delegated to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Assets and Capital Delivery, the Assistant Director Legal & Governance & the Director of Corporate Services, to enter into (jointly with the West of England Combined Authority(WECA)) an Implementation Agreement with Network Rail, Part 1 – Detail Design GRIP5 and subsequent addendums to the agreement as outlined in section 5 of the report, as per the values in confidential appendix 2 of the report, leading up to Full Business Case approval, subject to:
(b) North Somerset Council (NSC) and WECA firstly entering into a Side Agreement to extend the 50:50 cost sharing to include all project costs (except revenue costs associated with the operation of the train service), through to the completion of the project, including risks and liabilities arising from NSC entering into Protective Obligations and Protective Provision Agreements with statutory undertakers, as set out in section 4 of the report;

(2) that Council notes that following completion of Detailed Design GRIP5 and the approval of the Full Business Case, a separate report will be brought to Council in summer 2022 seeking authorisation to proceed with Part 2 of the Implementation

Agreement and award construction contracts including GRIP 6-8, via Network Rail and authorisation for all other contract awards required to implement the project and re-open the branch line for scheduled passenger train services;

(3) that Council authorise the Client Owned Scope Procurement Plan, attached at appendix 1 of the report and outlined in section 6 of the report, entailing the procurement of the (NSC & WECA) scope of works via the route to market identified for each package at an estimated cost of between £0.800M and £1.100M leading up to Full Business Case approval;

(4) that the Director of Place be authorised to agree terms for the acquisition of land by agreement or any interests in land and to complete acquisition transactions (including the entering into of options for the acquisition and/or use of land and agreements as to compensation and/or accommodation works) as may be required for the proposed railway and associated works, up to a further £500,000, leading up to the decision on the Development Consent Order by the Secretary of State for Transport (anticipated Autumn 2021) as outlined in section 7 of the report;

(5) that Council authorise an indicative budget of up to £14.4M for the 2022-23 financial year up to the award of Part 2 of the Implementation Agreement and award construction contracts including GRIP 6-8, to be met from the allocated Economic Development Funding, within the approved £116.4M total project cost and to add this to the Council's Capital Programme, as set out in section 10 of the report; and

(6) that Council authorise the disposal of some historic railway assets within the Portishead area of the dis-used railway to Avon Valley Railway for re-use for their heritage railway line extension into Bath, as set out in section 8 of the report. The historic railway assets are not needed by MetroWest Phase 1 and have to be removed to make way for new railway assets and only have a nominal scrap value. The arrangements for the disposal of these assets will be managed via Network Rail and any additional costs incurred will be passed onto Avon Valley Railway, subject to further discussion between the parties. The assets will not be removed before the decision by the Secretary of State on the Development Consent Order. It is anticipated the assets will be removed in mid to late 2022.

Chairman

Appendix 1

Council Meeting, 19 July 2021 Question Time (agenda item 14)

1. Question from Cllr Payne to Cllr Davies, Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Public Transport

Councillor Payne asked the following question of the Leader:

“The A3 bus service from Weston-super-Mare to Bristol Airport, which is a service commissioned by the airport under contract, has been suspended for some months now, which we can understand with the reduction of use of the airport during the pandemic. But are you concerned that the airport is now making no commitment to re-start the service although things are starting to open up and since the airport is actively trying to get people back to flying again?

The only way people can currently access the airport from the Weston area is by going via central Bristol, and it can't be done at all for early morning flights from the airport. Do you agree with me that this encourages more people to go to the airport by car, which is the opposite of what the airport has told us they are trying to achieve?”

The Leader responded that he had discussed this matter with the Chief Executive and had agreed to look into airport public transport provision. He would ask the public transport team to keep members updated on this.

2. Question from Cllr James to Cllr Gibbons, Executive Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning

Cllr James asked the following question of Cllr Gibbons:

“I read with real sadness the Ofsted and CQC Joint Report dated 16 June. This report highlighted the ‘lack of strategic direction and planning by senior leaders across this authority to implement the SEND reforms through an effective SEND strategy’. This said that attempts to introduce change had been ineffective, insufficient and inconsistent. It also highlighted that stability had been a strength locally, and a blame culture that damages that stability might be unhelpful. How will the council change and what will be different in our approach after this Ofsted report.”

In response, Cllr Gibbons stated that the report findings involved the council's partners such as the CCG as well as the council and that one or two challenges had been recognised and were being addressed as part of an accelerated action plan. She added that the original inspection in 2018 had raised 8 points needing attention with the revisit finding only two had been addressed to date. The remaining points were being worked on via the accelerated action plan.

In response to a supplementary question, Cllr Gibbons confirmed she was confident that the new approach was sufficient to provide trust in the system and address the

damaged reputation. She referred to positivity and a willingness to address the challenges so all partners could do better for these children and their families which was important for everyone.

3. Question from Cllr Bryant to Cllr Davies, Leader of the Council

Cllr Bryant asked the following question of the Leader:

“On Friday last I was privileged to meet with Julian Turner - Chief Executive Officer of Westfield Technology Group and Dr Paul Phillips Principal of Weston College to examine and experience at first hand an autonomous vehicle or POD. Westfield Technology Group is one of the UK’s leading autonomous vehicle providers and globally they are known for their niche sports cars with over 20,000 sold worldwide. The POD has been developed in conjunction with Heathrow Airport and has now completed over 5 million kilometres in a live commercial environment serving Heathrow Airport Terminal 5, known as POD Parking. The vision is to bring PODs to WsM as an added benefit to the Town and an attraction to its many visitors. Initially it would operate a service from the new bus terminal currently being built, extending into the Town and along Marine Parade.

This innovative idea has a number of benefits, the first of which is to help and assist in the reduction of global warming. Last but certainly not least the PODs would arrive in modular form, to be built by the College providing a hands-on approach for the mechanical, electrical and electronic engineering students which hopefully you agree would be a huge benefit.

Unfortunately, all creative ideas such as this require inward investment and I ask if the Leader will ask officers to make contact with Dr Paul Phillips and his team to see how the Council can assist both practically and financially.”

Cllr Bell responded to the question, stating that he had participated in a demonstration by Weston College so was aware of the PODs. He agreed this was an interesting idea and he was happy to take this away and discuss with officers. However he stressed this was a costly option, but if an extended trial or a lease option was possible then it may provide an opportunity for the council to achieve something different.

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Council – 21 September 2021

Motions by Members (Standing Order No. 14)

Motion from Cllr Charles

Elections Bill

Council notes:

Councils are responsible for organising all elections in England.

A recent Queen's Speech contained government proposals to require people to show identification including a photograph in order to vote in a General Election.

Allegations of electoral registration or voter fraud are very rare in North Somerset and the rest of the UK

Council believes:

Voting at elections is the cornerstone of democracy at both local and national level.

Participation in elections should be encouraged in all those who are qualified regardless of age, ethnicity or income.

Unnecessary barriers to voting are likely to reduce voter participation in elections, proper representation of all parts of the community and so legitimacy of those elected to office.

Voter ID is a solution without a problem and as such would introduce barriers to voting which should be of great concern to anyone who supports an open and effective democratic system of government.

Council Further Believes

That this is only a part of a series of measures including new restrictions on protest and assembly, the independent integrity of the Electoral Commission and restrictions to third party campaigning which threaten to potentially criminalise those who wish to collectively campaign against Government policy.

That an opportunity has been wasted to work to develop cross party action on foreign funding of elections, the promotion of voter registration initiatives, tackling concerns around social media in elections and the influence of the media.

That the protection of democratic principles can be something achieved through consensus across all parties and welcomes those like David Davis and Ruth Davidson who have expressed their concerns regarding the elections bill.

Council Resolves:

To oppose the introduction of photo ID as a requirement to vote at polling stations.

To declare a democratic emergency and work to ensure that the councils new engagement strategy includes support to encourage and nurture citizen engagement through non biased independently managed schemes such as educational initiatives for schools on civic engagement and voter registration drives that target groups who are often reluctant to register to vote.

To request the Leader to write to the relevant minister indicating this opposition to voter ID and the reasons why and requesting this measure is considered and amended or withdrawn in later stages of the bills progress

To further request that the leader make clear to government that any new free voter ID card issued through local councils should be fully funded as a new burden and to highlight the importance of having an accessible and straightforward system of application.



Forward Plan

for the four-month period commencing on

1st October 2021

published on 1 September 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

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	Previous Budget Monitor reports to Executive	Executive	No	PCOM November	Contact: Melanie Watts 01934 634618
20/10	Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and Revenue Budget 2022/23	Previous Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan reports to Executive	Executive	No	PCOM November – consideration of draft MTFP and savings plans	Contact: Melanie Watts 01934 634618
20/10	Bus Back Better: Approval of the Joint Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)	Report to Executive 23/06/2021 Also, Ministerial statement of 15 March 2021: https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/local-transport-update-national-bus-strategy-for-england-published New National strategy launched 15 March 2021: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bus-back-better	Executive	No	Place Panel session to be arranged prior to Executive to allow detailed scrutiny of the Joint Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)	Contact: Colin Medus 01934 426498

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	Contract award to appoint a contractor to construct the Winterstoke Hundred Academy expansion at Locking Parklands	<p>HIF Commissioning plan http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/docs/doc29685.pdf WHAE Procurement Plan https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-09/20-21%20DE123%20signed.pdf Contract Award for the Design of WHAE https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-12/CY11%20signed.pdf Planning application number: 21/P/1596/FUL</p>	Executive	No	<p>Presentation at CYPS Panel (Informal Meeting) – 30 June 2021 Update to the School Organisation Scrutiny Steering Group (CYPS Policy and Scrutiny Panel) - 25 May 2021 Presentation to Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel on 6th September</p>	Contact: Naomi Addicott 07469406075

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	Development Programme updates including recommendations from consultation on sites (moved to February)	Executive report on Development Programme updates and consultation programme, 23 rd June 2021: https://n-somerset.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s1105/15%20Development%20Programme%20Updates%20and%20Consultation%20Programme.pdf	Executive	Part	PCOM to host discussion on Development Programme, July 2021	Contact: Jenny Ford 01934 426 609/ Alex Hearn
20/10	Healthier Together Memorandum of Understanding (previously listed for September)	Draft MoU in preparation and available from Nick Brain on request	Executive (or Exec Member)	No	General discussion at recent HOSP and ASH Panel meetings. Also covered under ICS item at last Joint HOSC meeting on 15th March. The ICS (including the MOU) is on HOSP work plan for setting up a Members' briefing. Also plans to set up a (joint) 3 H&WB to consider	Contact: Nicholas Brain
20/10	Approval of Local Plan Consultation Draft for consultation (new entry)	Challenges and Choices consultations 2020. North Somerset Local Plan: report to Executive 28/04/21	Executive	No	Place Scrutiny workshops (July to October).	Contact: Michael Reep 01934 426775

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	Noting of the Safeguarding Adults Annual Report (new entry)	2020/21 Safeguarding Adult's Board Annual Report	Executive	No	Prior engagement with Panel Chairman Report to Adult Services and Housing Policy and Scrutiny Panel 4 th November	Contact: Hayley Verrico 01275 884243
20/10	Commissioning / procurement plan for supply, installation and servicing of stairlifts etc through Disabled Facilities Grants (new entry)	Executive Minute – EXE59 13 December 2011 Director decision PC11 (2020/21 Scheme) – extend to February 2022	Executive	No	ASH Panel briefings – TBC (dependent outcome market engagement)	Contact: Howard Evans 01934 426673

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	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
01/10	MetroWest Phase 1 – Western Power Distribution - agreement (previously listed for September)	25th June 2019 report to Full Council http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/docs/doc29690.htm	Director of Place (key decision)	No	10 November 2020 report to Full Council on agreements with utility companies / statutory undertakers. https://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/Meetings/ByCommittee/15/2020/84	Contact: Richard Matthews 01275 888937

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	MetroWest Phase 1 – Exolum (formerly Compañía Logística de Hidrocarburos) – agreement for building and working over and in proximity to oil pipelines (previously listed for September)	25th June 2019 report to Full Council http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/docs/doc29690.htm	Director of Place (key decision)	No	10 November 2020 report to Full Council on agreements with utility companies / statutory undertakers. https://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/Meetings/ByCommittee/15/2020/84	Contact: Richard Matthews 01275 888937
01/10	MetroWest Phase 1 – Bristol Water - agreement for building and working over and in proximity to water pipelines (previously listed for September)	25th June 2019 report to Full Council http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/docs/doc29690.htm	Director of Place (key decision)	No	10 November 2020 report to Full Council on agreements with utility companies / statutory undertakers. https://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/Meetings/ByCommittee/15/2020/84	Contact: Richard Matthews 01275 888937
01/10	MetroWest Phase 1 – Wales and West Utilities agreement (previously listed for September)	25th June 2019 report to Full Council http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/docs/doc29690.htm	Director of Place (key decision)	No	10 November 2020 report to Full Council on agreements with utility companies / statutory undertakers. https://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/Meetings/ByCommittee/15/2020/84	Contact: Richard Matthews 01275 888937

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	MetroWest Phase 1 – National Grid agreement (previously listed for September)	25th June 2019 report to Full Council http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/docs/doc29690.htm	Director of Place (key decision)	No	10 November 2020 report to Full Council on agreements with utility companies / statutory undertakers. https://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/Meetings/ByCommittee/15/2020/84	Contact: Richard Matthews 01275 888937
01/10	MetroWest Phase 1 – Bristol Port Company agreement (previously listed for September)	25th June 2019 report to Full Council http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/docs/doc29690.htm	Director of Place (key decision)	No	10 November 2020 report to Full Council on agreements with utility companies / statutory undertakers. https://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/Meetings/ByCommittee/15/2020/84	Contact: James Willcock 01934 426414
01/10	MetroWest Phase 1 – National Trust Agreement (previously listed for September)	25th June 2019 report to Full Council http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/docs/doc29690.htm	Director of Place (key decision)	No	10 November 2020 report to Full Council on agreements with utility companies / statutory undertakers. https://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/Meetings/ByCommittee/15/2020/84	Contact: James Willcock 01934 426414
01/10	Housing Infrastructure Fund: agreement of proposed route for Banwell bypass (new entry)	<u>Public consultation document on Banwell Bypass and Highway Improvements</u>	Executive Member (Cllr Bridger)	No	Informal Place Policy & Scrutiny Panel (September, date TBC) Briefing with Director of Place (September, date TBC)	Contact: Tom Foster 07825 903259

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	Weston – Clevedon Cycle Route; Improvement of Clevedon sea-defences paths and on-highway works (part of a previous listing for September)	https://apps.nsomerset.gov.uk/Meetings/document/report/NSCPM-111-490 Executive Member decision 20/21 DP272 https://www.nsomerset.gov.uk/councildemocracy/councillorscommittees/decisionsmeetings/executive-memberdecisions/2020-executivemember-decisions	Director of Place (key decision)	No	Regular briefings with the Chair of Place / Chairman's authority	Contact: Ben Searle 01934 426962
01/10	Acceptance of Active Travel Fund 3 (ATF3) funding from the Department for Transport and increasing the Capital Programme: Funding expected to be announced in October 2021 (new entry)	The North Somerset Council Active Travel Fund 3 (ATF3) bid document	Executive Member (Cllr Solomon)	No	Member approval of the bid gained from the 'High Streets & Transport' Members' Reference Group on 12 August 2021. A briefing will be offered to the Place Policy Scrutiny Panel in October 2021 (before the Executive Member takes the decision).	Contact: Lindsay Margerison 01934 427408

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	School Admissions Coordinated Schemes for primary and secondary – decision not to consult for the 2023/24 academic year and to keep the existing 2022/23 policies with relevant dates rolled forward (new entry)	<u>2022-23 admission arrangements and policies North Somerset Council (n-somerset.gov.uk) School Admissions Code</u>	Executive Member (Cllr Gibbons)	No	Meeting of the CYPS Panel School Organisation Steering Group planned for September	Contact: Felicity Williamson 01275 884502 or 07500 882436
01/10	North Somerset Community & VC school admissions policies for 2023/24 academic year – decision to consult (new entry)	<u>2020-21 admission arrangements and policies North Somerset Council (n-somerset.gov.uk) School Admissions Code</u>	Executive Member (Cllr Gibbons)	No	Meeting of the CYPS Panel School Organisation Steering Group planned for September	Contact: Felicity Williamson 01275 884502 or 07500 882436

November 2021

1. Council and Executive Items

(NB No Executive meeting scheduled for November)

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
09/11	Make the Abbots Leigh, Ham Green, Pill and Easton-in-Gordano Neighbourhood Plan	Abbots Leigh, Ham Green, Pill and Easton-in-Gordano Neighbourhood Plan (referendum version)	Council	No	Place Scrutiny Panel chair has confirmed that no panel involvement is necessary (04/06/21)	Contact: Celia Dring 01934426244
09/11	Development Programme updates including recommendations from consultation on sites (moved to February)	Executive report on Development Programme updates and consultation programme, 23 rd June 2021: https://n-somerset.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s1105/15%20Development%20Programme%20Updates%20and%20Consultation%20Programme.pdf	Council	Part	PCOM to host discussion on Development Programme, July 2021	Contact: Jenny Ford 01934 426 609/ Alex Hearn
09/11	Adoption of the Revised North Somerset Parking Standards SPD following public consultation	Executive Report 28/04/21 Revised North Somerset Parking Standards SPD (in progress)	Council	No	Formal pre-consultation SPEDR input 10th March 2021 Informal post-consultation Place Panel engagement meeting 8th September 2021	Contact: Jack Wyatt

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
09/11	Procurement Strategy for Energy Supply Contract (new entry)	Decision CSD61 – Award of Energy Supply Contracts	Council	No	Liaising with PCOM and Place P&S Panel Chairmen to agree scrutiny arrangements	Contact: Elaine Braund 01275 884195 Holly Wilkins
09/11	A38 MRN Scheme: Approval of Commissioning Plan for Professional Services and Design & Build Contractor (new entry)	Director Decision 19/20 DE295 https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-05/19-20%20DE%20295.pdf	Council	No	Place Panel briefed in July and queries/concerns addressed in writing & circulated to all Panel Members. No further briefing proposed.	Contact: Konrad Lansdown: 07917 184804

November 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
01/11	Approval of the Fair Access Protocol for School admissions if the majority of schools want to consult on the current policy (new entry)	Fair access protocol North Somerset Council (n-somerset.gov.uk) 2021 CY29 Fair Access Protocol decision – Director non-Key Decision to make changes legally required for September School Admissions Code	Executive Member (Cllr Gibbons)	No	Meeting of the CYPS Panel School Organisation Steering Group planned for September	Contact: Felicity Williamson 01275 884502 or 07500 882436
01/11	Public Health & Regulatory Services Enforcement Policy (new entry)	Regulatory Services Enforcement Procedure 2015 regulatory services enforcement procedure 0.pdf (n-somerset.gov.uk)	Executive Member (Cllr Bell)	No	Briefing note/meeting ASH Panel WG and Health Overview Panel (detailed arrangements to be finalised)	Contact: Jane Day 01934 634528

December 2021

1. Council and Executive Items

(NB No Council meeting scheduled for December)

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
08/12	Adoption of inward investment approach across North Somerset, including new brand identify and vision for Junction 21 Enterprise Area and North Somerset External Funding Toolkit and prospectus (revised entry)	J21EA revisioning prospectus North Somerset External Funding Toolkit and prospectus	Executive	No	Item discussed at formal Place Scrutiny Panel on 14 th July 2021	Contact: Victoria Barvenova
08/12	2021/22 Month 7 Budget Monitor (new entry)	Previous Budget Monitor reports to Executive	Executive	No	PCOM November	Contact: Melanie Watts 01934 634618
08/12	Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and Revenue Budget 2022/23 (new entry)	Previous Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan reports to Executive	Executive	No	PCOM November – consideration of draft MTFP and savings plans	Contact: Melanie Watts 01934 634618

December 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
01/12	Award of new library book supply contract (new entry)	Provision of Physical Library Books to CUSP for Adults and Children's stock (expiry 22/9/2021) Procurement Options Appraisal by Nena Beric, Service Manager, Commercial & Procurement, Somerset County Council 08.07.21 Executive member decision DP164 COMMISSIONING / PROCUREMENT PLAN FOR THE PROVISION OF PHYSICAL LIBRARY BOOKS (CHILDREN'S AND ADULTS) THROUGH THE CUSP PURCHASING CONSORTIUM AND ESPO (EASTERN SHIRES PURCHASING ORGANISATION) FRAMEWORK	Director of Place (key decision)	No	The Chairman of the Place Panel will be briefed regarding potential panel member engagement which if required will take place during November	Contact: Emma Wellard 01934 426477

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
01/12	Approval to publish a notice to seek an expansion of Baytree Special School (new entry)	www.n-somerset.gov.uk/baytreeconsultation Decision No 2019/pc19 - https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/council-democracy/councillors-committees/decisions-meetings/executive-member-decisions/2019-executive-member-decisions/july-2019-executive-member-decisions Report to the Children & Young People Policy & Scrutiny Panel – 20 June 2019 - http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/docs/doc29644.pdf	Executive Member (Cllr Gibbons)	No	Report to the CYPS Panel – 20 June 2019 - http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/docs/doc29644.pdf Updates to the CYPS Panel School Organisation Steering Group – 19 September 2019 16 December 2019 10 June 2020 26 November 2020 19 January 2021 25 May 2021	Contact: Sally Varley 01275 884857 or 07917 587280

January 2022

1. Council and Executive Items

(NB No Executive meeting scheduled for January)

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
11/01			Council			

January 2022

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
01/01	Approval of the Neighbourhoods & Transport Capital Works Programme 2022-25 (new entry)	Executive Member Decision Notice for the (previously named) Transport & Infrastructure Capital Works Programme 2021-24: https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-03/DP355%20JLTP%202021-24.pdf	Executive Member (Cllr Solomon)	No	A briefing will be offered to the Place Policy Scrutiny Panel in December 2021/January 2022.	Contact: Lindsay Margerison 01934 888 888
01/01	North Somerset Community & VC school admissions policies for 2023/24 academic year – decision to set following consultation (new entry)	2020-21 admission arrangements and policies North Somerset Council (n-somerset.gov.uk) School Admissions Code	Executive Member (Cllr Gibbons)	No	Meeting of the CYPS Panel School Organisation Steering Group planned for January / February	Contact: Felicity Williamson 01275 884502 or 07500 882436

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North Somerset Council

Report to the Council

Date of Meeting: 21 September 2021

Subject of Report: Corporate Parenting Responsibilities

Town or Parish: N/A

Officer/Member Presenting: Executive Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning

Key Decision: No

Reason:

Not an Executive Decision.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the report.

1. Summary of the report

1.1 The report provides members with an update on the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, specifically the letter that the Chair of the Review sent to the Government following their request for the Review's early findings to inform the Spending Review.

2. Policy

2.1 Whilst the concept of members viewing themselves as the parents of all children who are looked after came from the Quality Protects initiative launched in 1998 by Frank Dobson, the then Secretary of State for Health, the Children and Social Work Act 2017 defined for the first time in law the responsibility of corporate parents to ensure, as far as possible, secure, nurturing and positive experiences for 'our' children. This means that they should:

- act in their best interests, and promote their physical and mental health and wellbeing;
- encourage them to express their views, wishes and feelings, and take them into account, while promoting high aspirations and trying to secure the best outcomes for them;
- make sure they have access to services;
- make sure that they are safe, with stable home lives, relationships and education or work;
- prepare them for adulthood and independent living.

3. Details

3.1 The Independent Review of Children's Social Care was launched by the government on January 15 2021 and a previous report to Council in April 2021 outlined its focus. In addition members were advised to keep updated on its progress and the opportunity to

contribute. The Director of Children's Services has been part of several director level discussions with the Chair and members of the Review are due to consult with South West directors next month.

3.2 The letter is reproduced below:

Dear Secretary of State and Chief Secretary,

'Early findings' for the Spending Review

When I was appointed to lead the independent review of children's social care, you asked that "early findings of the review must be shared with the Department for Education ahead of Spending Review 2021", to inform its Spending Review bid. Given that a Spending Review is likely to take place in the coming months and on the basis that earlier input would be most useful, I am writing now to share these 'early findings'.

As you'll be aware, I only began work on the independent review in March and so I am not in a position to provide findings or recommendations at this stage. I will submit my final report next year with a full set of recommendations in the expectation that a future fiscal event will provide the investment needed for implementation. As I set out in the Case for Change document, there is no situation in the current system where we will not need to spend more to make it sustainable. The choice is whether this investment is spent on reform which achieves better outcomes and long term sustainability, or props up an increasingly expensive and inadequate system.

In the first four months of the review we have worked at pace to hear from over 1,000 people with personal or professional experience of children's social care and we have considered a wide range of evidence. Therefore, the detail in the Case for Change should be read alongside this letter.

To accompany the Case for Change, I have set out below three areas where I believe there is a need for urgent investment that should be prioritised by Government in this Spending Review. These are not recommendations or conclusions from the review but they should provide you with the early input you requested from the review that I hope will inform government decision making as part of the Spending Review. These areas are also not intended to be an indication of the review's overall priorities, but rather the areas where the most urgent investment is needed.

Family help

There are serious shortcomings in how we support families who are struggling to parent their children in conditions of adversity. Local government spending is increasingly skewed towards acute services and away from effective help. Local Authorities are trapped in a cycle of crisis intervention and spending on acute services and additional funding is urgently needed to rebalance this and make a greater investment in support for families.

Significant additional funding for effective family help that makes a difference to the lives of children and families and reduces demand for acute services is needed. Help should be available to any family that is facing significant challenges that could pose a threat to providing their child with a loving, stable, safe family life. It will be important that additional investment reaches families directly rather than being subsumed by increased complexity or overheads in the system. This investment should also include parents of children with disabilities and support for kinship care arrangements to ensure that wherever possible

children are able to grow up in loving homes with friends or family members, instead of entering care.

In deciding how to invest in this area, I would urge a cross government approach so as to avoid adding new programmes or additional pots of funding into the system. This investment should also be taken as an opportunity for Central Government to play a more active role in setting direction for family help services. Joining up with the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government is especially important given their responsibility for the Supporting Families Programme. A Spending Review bid should also coordinate with any other Departments planning to channel support for families through Local Authorities, including replacing support currently provided by Department for Work and Pensions' Covid Local Grant (which is expected to end soon), that could provide direct help to families parenting in conditions of adversity. It is important that this resource can be accessed by social workers and other professionals to help families. It is also important that Government engages widely in developing any family help proposals, including with the Association of Directors of Children's Services, Local Government Association, Early Intervention Foundation and crucially, with families that would be benefiting from this help.

Homes for children in care

Our current approach to finding homes for children in care is leading to the unnecessary severing of important relationships. A broad re-think of the current system is needed and the review is considering all options for our final recommendations. However, the current system is extremely fragile, with pressures on secure accommodation, issues with children being sent many miles from their families and communities – including English children being placed in Scotland – and a severe lack of homes that can meet the needs of teenagers. Given these issues are affecting children today, the Department for Education should invest additional money to stabilise and address urgent areas of need ahead of any significant reform.

In making this investment, it is important that the Government ensures it is made according to the principles that the system should be working towards – keeping children as close to their community and family networks as possible and providing genuine stability. This could include looking at new approaches to secure accommodation and exploring models of 'shared care' with much greater involvement of birth families, and considering methods which allow foster carers and kinship carers to create additional rooms in their own homes to care for siblings and keep those children who could thrive in a family environment out of residential care. New investment should be used to rebalance away from 'for profit' provision towards public and not for profit options and should incentivise quality, building upon existing best practice and ensuring provision exists where it is most needed. It must also pay particular attention to children who are most likely to be failed by the current system – including children with complex needs, teenagers and unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Mental health of children in care

The NHS Long Term Plan includes a commitment to expand mental health services for children. However, I have been told time and again since I began the review that many children in care are suffering from extremely poor mental health and struggling to get meaningful support. Whilst the review will make recommendations about mental health support, this Spending Review and Government's broader focus on Covid-19 recovery planning and investment is an opportunity to do something sooner to help this uniquely vulnerable group of children who are disproportionately likely to have experienced abuse and neglect. We have heard throughout the early part of the review that this support might not always be best met through CAMHS services, which continue to face high demand, but

instead by investing across health, education and social care to better train practitioners and carers in therapeutic responses to supporting children.

I hope you find this input useful in your considerations for the Spending Review. I am happy to discuss in more detail and my team is happy to work with your teams as they develop their work for the Spending Review. To reiterate again, this letter does not constitute the review's recommendations or definitive findings, but is intended to outline some of the areas from the early work of the review which have the most urgent need for investment through the Spending Review. In the coming months the review will continue to speak to children, families and others to understand the problems facing the system in more depth and ultimately to develop our recommendations.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. In the interests of transparency, I will also be making a copy of this letter available on the review's website.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josh MacAlister', with a stylized, cursive script.

Josh MacAlister

Chair of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care

4. Consultation

None, this is for information.

5. Financial Implications

None.

Costs

None.

Funding

None.

6. Legal Powers and Implications

None.

7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

None.

8. Risk Management

None.

9. Equality Implications

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? No.

10. Corporate Implications

None.

11. Options Considered

None.

Author:

Sheila Smith, Director of Children's Services

Appendices:

None.

Background papers:

The Review's website:

<https://childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk/>

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North Somerset Council

Report to the Council

Date of Meeting: 21st September 2021

Subject of report: Development Programme: Commissioning Plan for development of sites in Weston-super-Mare

Town or Parish: Weston-super-Mare

Officer/Member presenting: Executive Member for Placemaking and Economy

Key Decision: No

Reason: Council decision

Recommendation

- To approve the Commissioning Plan for the procurement of a development partner for residential and/or mixed-use development sites in Weston-super-Mare as set out in Section 3 of this report.
- To delegate authority to the Executive Member for Placemaking and Economy to finalise the package of sites for inclusion in the procurement, subject to the outcome of acquisition and business case processes.
- To endorse the principle of facilitating meanwhile uses on sites prior to their development, subject to further business case development.
- To agree to the establishment of a Member Working Group to oversee the commissioning and procurement process, as well as meanwhile use proposals.
- To delegate authority to the Executive Member for Placemaking and Economy to approve the submission of funding bids to any value to support development and/or meanwhile use proposals, should such opportunities arise.
- To approve an allocation of £693,493 from the approved capital programme for Social Housing Grants (KAH201), to be made available through the procurement process to the successful bidder to support the provision of affordable housing and/or enhanced sustainability measures at these developments.

1. Summary of report

- 1.1 This report provides information on the proposed development of sites in Weston-super-Mare that are either in the ownership of North Somerset Council, or which the council is seeking to acquire, delivering potentially more than 750 new homes as well as commercial and/or community space.
- 1.2 The report sets out proposals and an anticipated timeline for securing a development partner for these sites (the “Commissioning Plan”), with a focus on ensuring quality and deliverability. The proposed form of delivery would be a Building Lease, which is

a form of contractual Joint Venture. The procurement process will be Public Contract Regulations 2015 compliant and due to its value will be advertised and open to all potential bidders. It is expected to take the form of a two- or three-stage competitive tender.

- 1.3 During the procurement process and lead-in time for development of the sites, it is proposed that 'meanwhile uses' be investigated and where possible supported, particularly at Dolphin Square.
- 1.4 The package of sites remains financially challenging. In recognition of their priority status, it is requested that authority be delegated to the Executive Member to approve any future funding bids to support their development, should any such opportunities arise. In addition it is proposed that £693,493 of funding from the council's capital programme be made available to support the provision of affordable housing and/or enhanced sustainability measures on the schemes.

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".
- 2.2 The sites proposed are allocated for mixed-use development in the adopted Local Plan, although with the exception of Parklands Village have not yet secured planning consent. The Weston Town Centre sites are identified in the SuperWeston Placemaking Strategy and Weston Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) as flagship development and regeneration locations. Walliscote Place and Dolphin Square are located within the Great Weston Conservation Area and Walliscote Place sits within the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ).
- 2.3 North Somerset Council's Development Strategy was adopted by Council in February 2020 and is an important 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.
- 2.4 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. Details

Sites and development proposals

- 3.1 The following sites are proposed to be included in this procurement; maps are provided in Appendix A:
- Walliscote Place: these sites are already in the council's ownership and comprise the former police station site, Walliscote Road East car park, and the Central Chambers site. The sites are allocated in the North Somerset Sites and Allocations Plan (SAP) for an estimated 70 dwellings, with potential for a degree of commercial or community development at the Central Chambers or Magistrates' Court sites.
 - Locking Road car park, Sunnyside Road, and Dolphin Square: these sites are currently in the ownership of Homes England. The council is seeking to acquire the sites. Locking Road and Sunnyside Road are identified within the SAP as being part of the 'Station Gateway' area, which is allocated for a total of 300 homes. Dolphin Square is allocated for 220 dwellings. There is potential for some ground floor commercial / community uses.
 - Parklands Village, phase 2: this site is in the ownership of North Somerset Council and has outline planning consent for 275 homes, employment, and a primary school.
- 3.2 The procurement may include all of the above sites, or a selection, however as far as is possible, a single collective procurement exercise is proposed for those that are chosen to go forward. This will be dependent on the success of the acquisition process, the financial business cases, and market intelligence advice.
- 3.3 The Magistrate's Court at Walliscote Place is currently proposed to be excluded from the procurement, although this will be further discussed with specialist property advisors and the proposed member working group. This is because of the specialist nature of heritage restoration work required, which may not sit within the skills and capacity of the developers who might otherwise bid for the sites. The importance of the building is fully recognised and if possible, funds raised from the development will be used to support its restoration.
- 3.4 The development of the town centre sites is likely to be practically and financially challenging. The inclusion of Parklands phase 2 in the procurement may help make the package of sites more attractive to developers; this will be explored further with specialist property advisors.
- 3.5 A bid for £1.075m Brownfield Land Release funding (BLR) was submitted to the government's One Public Estate (OPE) programme in June. If successful, this money would help fund the removal of an underground fuel tank and other groundworks within the Walliscote Place site (surcharging / piling). Terms of the funding are that the land must be released for housing by the end of March 2024. £91,925 has previously been secured from One Public Estate to support feasibility and cost work and is being used to support the acquisition and procurement proposals.
- 3.6 All of the sites listed include options for commercial and / or community development alongside residential. This will be explored as part of the business case for the procurement and pursued where feasible.

- 3.7 The council is in close discussion with Homes England in relation to the acquisition of the sites at Locking Road, Sunnyside Road and Dolphin Square. An offer from NSC has been accepted in principle, but remains subject to due diligence and the completion of legal processes. Formal acquisition is not expected before October, however this Commissioning Plan and other preparation for procurement is being carried out in parallel so as to avoid further delay thereafter. In the event that discussions on acquisition stall, the council would review whether to continue with its existing sites at Walliscote Place and Parklands Phase 2 either as a package or individually.

Opportunities, challenges and objectives

- 3.8 The proposed procurement of these sites is in line with Development Strategy objectives, delivering where the market has historically failed to do so, and offering the opportunity to develop good quality, mixed-tenure housing and commercial development that can contribute to the regeneration of Weston. The sites, with the exception of Parklands, are brownfield land, in highly sustainable locations close to public transport links and local facilities.
- 3.9 The sites are subject to a number of constraints which will impact on deliverability. These include poor ground conditions, requiring surcharging and piling, which add to costs, as well as a further requirement to raise levels to protect against flood risk. Several of the sites will require clearance and/or remediation prior to development, and some have specific issues to be addressed, notably the large sub-station at Dolphin Square and the underground fuel tank at Walliscote Place. Sales / rental values in Weston Town Centre are low and significant improvement in the market will be needed if those sites are to become financially viable. This will require a programmed approach supported by placemaking activity to improve the attractiveness of Weston as a location. Values at Parklands are stronger and income from that location would be likely to help with the deliverability of the sites overall.
- 3.10 A further opportunity is to promote the sites for Modern Methods of Construction (MMC). This means using components or whole units that are precision-manufactured off-site, improving the efficiency and consistency of the build process. MMC could offer a number of advantages for these locations, including:
- A faster build period and reduced construction traffic movements, reducing disruption around the town centre.
 - Some MMC units are lighter than traditional build, which can be reduce requirements (and therefore costs) in relation to surcharging and piling.
 - MMC developers in many cases offer a better quality, more sustainable product than mainstream developments.
 - The opportunity for an increased pipeline of MMC developments in Weston may help establish the location as a centre of excellence for the technologies and attract investment from manufacturers.
- 3.11 Taking account of the above objectives, the following are recommended as key factors in designing the procurement process:
- Deliverability: ensuring that proposals for delivery are realistic and achievable within a realistic timeframe. A start on the town centre sites should be sought prior to March 2023, in line with the potential Walliscote Place BLR funding. Measures will be put in place to prevent the development partner focusing on

Parklands to the exclusion of the town centre sites, if it is decided to include that site within the procurement.

- Quality: good quality of design and placemaking is critical, particularly on more visible street frontages. The chosen development partner will be required to engage with the West of England Design Review Panel.
- Tenure mix: the procurement process will seek to secure a mixture of tenures, and to maximise affordable and intermediate housing across the sites. The latter may be financially challenging and require grant input (see also below).
- Sustainability: in recognition of the Council's climate change emergency, sustainability standards should be maximised throughout (see also below).
- Nationally Described Space Standards should be met and ideally exceeded.
- Modern Methods of Construction (MMC): to be strongly encouraged, as a means to improving quality, sustainability and pace.

- 3.12 Subject to further specialist advice, officers are likely to recommend that the procurement process be designed to strongly encourage partnership and/or consortium bids. This could for example include partnerships between different development companies, between developers and affordable housing providers, or between developers and meanwhile use providers. Such an approach could have many benefits, including the sharing of investment and risk, diversification of housing products and tenures, acceleration of delivery, and increased affordable housing, whilst still maintaining an overall cohesiveness and coordination.
- 3.13 Appendix B sets out further proposals on the draft parameters for the procurement of development partners. These are to be finalised as part of the Procurement Plan. A member working group is recommended to be established to help shape the final criteria, including local ward members and the Executive Member for Placemaking and Economy.

Affordable housing and sustainability

- 3.14 As detailed above, these sites are financially and practically challenging. Previous assessments on the sites themselves, and on the wider Weston Town Centre area have demonstrated that affordable housing is unviable without very significant public subsidy. At Parklands, viability is better but typically only sees a nil grant level of affordable housing of around 12 – 13%.
- 3.15 Viability in relation to affordable housing can be improved through exploring different tenure options. This could include a greater proportion of shared ownership or shared equity units, including the "First Homes" model. Alternatively, institutional investors such as pension funds are increasingly investing in the Private Rental Sector, offering good quality, reasonably priced homes for private rent. Although such options still reduce the overall return to a developer, they can offer benefits in terms of financial cashflow and risk mitigation.
- 3.16 Sustainability measures required through existing planning policies include a minimum 15% renewable energy and the promotion of active travel. It is likely that these measures will be strengthened in future iterations of national and local policies,

many of which will apply at the time the sites come forward, including the national introduction of the Future Homes Standard, expected in 2025.

- 3.17 The council will seek to maximise affordable and sustainable housing options within these constraints and whilst ensuring that the schemes remain deliverable. In procuring a partner for Parklands phase 1, a phase of the process asked developers to submit scenario tests showing the cost impacts of increasing provision in relation to key criteria, which enabled the council to make an informed decision about the final requirements. A similar route could be followed in this case.
- 3.18 Increased affordable provision and tenure mix can further be encouraged through the partnership approach suggested in paragraph 3.12 above, particularly if consortia include Registered Providers of Affordable Housing (RPs), who have access to capital borrowing and national grants.
- 3.19 It remains likely that the inclusion of any affordable housing or sustainability enhancements will rely on significant public subsidy. However national grants for affordable housing can only be confirmed after a developer has been appointed and planning consent secured, a relatively late stage of the process.
- 3.20 To provide some upfront certainty of funding, it is proposed that £693,493 of council funds be made available through the procurement process, with potential developers required to demonstrate how this will be used to enhance affordable housing provision and/or the sustainability of the development. This funding is sourced from the council's capital programme KAH201 and is the remaining money received through the transfer of the council's affordable housing stock to Alliance Homes in 2006.
- 3.21 As above, the council has applied for Brownfield Land Release funding of just over £1m to support the Walliscote Place scheme. If successful, this would boost the overall viability of the developments and assist in releasing other monies for affordable housing and other provisions.

Options for delivery and route to market

- 3.22 In taking these sites forward, the council needs to have regard to a range of factors including control over quality, ability to deliver within a reasonable timescale, financial viability and exposure to risk.
- 3.23 Options for delivery include direct delivery by NSC, a Joint Venture partnership, or direct disposal to the market. The advantages and risks of each of these approaches are set out in Appendix C.
- 3.24 Officers recommend that the option for a Joint Venture is pursued as the route to delivery, as this allows the council to retain a good degree of control without full exposure to the risks of delivering the site itself (including capital exposure) or the need to establish a separate Development Company.
- 3.25 There are different forms of Joint Venture, for example, contractual or corporate. It is envisaged that this JV would take a contractual form using a Building Lease. Specialist legal and property advice has been secured on this matter and a final recommendation will be made in the Procurement Plan for this project.

- 3.26 Given the value of the developments, the procurement process will need to be open to all potential bidders and will be run through the Find a Tender Service (FTS – the successor to OJEU). Specialist property and legal advisors will be appointed to work with NSC to shape the process and marketing to target those developers most likely to be able to deliver the council's objectives.
- 3.27 It is anticipated the partner procurement will take the form of a two or possibly three stage competitive tender, commencing with a Selection Questionnaire / Expression of Interest stage prior to Invitation to Tender, with shortlisting / elimination of unsuitable bidders between the stages. This will be finalised in discussion with property and legal advisors and the member working group, and the process confirmed in the Procurement Plan. The Procurement Plan will confirm the final evaluation criteria and weightings, including balance of quality and price.

Market advice and interest

- 3.28 The council is being advised on the acquisition of the Homes England sites and overall approach to development and delivery options by Jones Lang Lasalle (JLL) and Bevan Brittan. These commissions run until the process to acquire land from Homes England has been completed. Further market and legal advice will need to be procured thereafter.
- 3.29 Independently of the above, the council has been approached by developers interested in the town centre sites. Details of the interested partners cannot be shared for reasons of commercial sensitivity, however they include interest from MMC and private rental sector markets.
- 3.30 The council has had sight of soft market testing reports commissioned by Homes England in relation to the town centre sites. This confirmed a reasonable degree of market interest from across a range of residential sectors, but that viability remained a challenge and that affordable housing would likely require significant levels of grant subsidy. It also concluded that there was no particular market advantage to securing planning in advance of procurement, given that the sites are allocated for development and acknowledged by NSC as a priority.

Timetable for procurement

- 3.31 The timeline for the procurement is dependent on the conclusion of acquisition discussions with Homes England. A provisional timetable is provided below:

Date	Action/milestone
21 st Sept 2021	Full Council approval of Commissioning Plan
By 31 st Oct 2021	Executive Member approval of Procurement Plan (in consultation with member working group)
Nov / Dec 2021	Launch of procurement (Selection Questionnaire)
Jan 2022	Invitation to submit Draft Tenders
Apr 2022	Invitation to submit Final Tenders
July 2022	Conclusion of procurement and award of contract decision (Executive decision)
Sept 2022	Conclusion of legal agreements

Date	Action/milestone
Oct 2022 – Mar 2023	Planning and mobilisation
By March 2023	Start on site

Meanwhile uses

- 3.32 The visible nature of these sites, particularly at Dolphin Square, is seen by many as a blight on the town centre.
- 3.33 Increasingly, local authorities and other owners of such sites are looking to temporary uses (known as meanwhile uses) to bring activity and new attractions to sites. A local example is Wapping Wharf in Bristol, where shipping containers have been converted into short-term, low-rent premises for a range of innovative and entrepreneurial independent businesses (see <http://wappingwharf.co.uk/cargo>). This helps animate the space prior to development, and raises the profile and attractiveness to future residents and investors. Where businesses prosper and grow, there is the potential for them to move into permanent premises nearby. Careful curation and targeted placemaking is key, and a community / neighbourhood focus helps sustain activity throughout the year.
- 3.34 Soft market testing is being commissioned to explore this option further for the town centre sites, with a view to developing a business case proposal. This will include exploring the financial and landlord inputs required from NSC (if required), the likely operating model, and the appropriate duration.
- 3.35 Land based meanwhile use (as opposed to re-using a vacant building) can be challenging as it can require significant upfront capital investment to deliver activity. This can lead to a need to occupy the site for several years to recoup the capital investment. This will also need to be balanced against the importance of understanding that the sites will eventually be developed and meanwhile activity will eventually need to cease, with no obligation on the council or the developer to re-locate any use.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 The principle of the development of these sites has been subject to public consultation on several occasions, including through the Local Plan, Weston Town Centre SPD and Placemaking Strategy engagement programmes. Any planning application for the sites would be subject to further public consultation.
- 4.2 A member working group is proposed to help shape the procurement process and potential meanwhile use proposals.
- 4.3 A joint informal meeting of the PCOM and Place Scrutiny Panels is proposed to consider the Development Programme, including these sites, in early September.

5. Financial implications

Costs, income and returns

- 5.1 Full appraisals for the town centre sites are under preparation by JLL, with cost inputs from Hydrock. These suggest that the Locking Road and Sunnyside Road sites are sufficiently viable to break even or generate a small surplus, but that Dolphin Square and Walliscote Place are more problematic and generate a loss. This creates marginal viability overall and may require the more positive financial outcomes expected from Parklands phase 2 to bridge the gap.
- 5.2 The position on the town centre sites will improve only if sales value inflation increases ahead of cost inflation, if costs can be reduced in some way, or if sales values in some other way outperform the norm. The programming of the sites – so that the more viable sites are delivered earlier – and investment in placemaking will be critical to generating this result.
- 5.3 The town centre appraisals referred to above are based on 100% market housing. The provision of affordable housing would impact on viability and is only likely if substantial grant, or a significant RP partnership investment can be achieved.
- 5.4 It is likely that a term of the acquisition of the Homes England sites will be that any 'surplus' return on the development of those sites must be reinvested in further development in the area. This again supports an approach based on sequencing the more viable locations first.
- 5.5 The costs of taking the sites to market to secure a development partner are significant. A budget of £320k has been established from within the Driving Growth reserve, including an existing £91k grant funding from the One Public Estate programme. Around £95k has been spent or committed at the point of writing.
- 5.6 A bid for £1.075m Brownfield Land Release funding was submitted in June 2021 to fund groundworks and the removal / remediation of underground fuel tank at Walliscote Place, which if received, would be passed to the developer. The outcome of this bid is not yet known and the funding is not included in the appraisals referred to above. If NSC succeeds in acquiring the Homes England sites, this may open up further opportunities to bid for public funding.
- 5.7 It is proposed that £693,493 of council funding be made available through the procurement process, with bidders required to demonstrate how this would be used to enhance affordable housing provision and/or the sustainability of the development. This funding is sourced from the council's capital programme KAH201 and is the remaining money received through the transfer of the council's affordable housing stock to Alliance Homes in 2006.
- 5.8 The full financial implications are unknown at this stage in the process as they will be determined by outcome of the procurement exercise. The full financial implications and details on the financial governance will be included within future reports for award of contract.

Authorisation requirements

- 5.9 The value of this contract will exceed £10m. The following approvals are required in taking forward the proposals:
- Approval of Commissioning Plan: Full Council.
 - Approval of Procurement Plan: Executive Member, advised by Director and Head of Strategic Procurement.
 - Award of Contract: Executive.
- 5.10 The award of contract decision will also include the formal approval to dispose of the sites and to transfer the NSC grant and Brownfield Land Release Fund grant (if received) to the developer.
- 5.11 Authority is requested to delegate the approval of further funding bids in relation to these sites to the Executive Member for Placemaking and Growth. This is in recognition of the priority status of these developments and to accelerate and simplify the process through which opportunities can be taken should they arise.

6. Legal powers and implications

- 6.1 The Local Government Act 1972 gives the Council the power to acquire and 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 Concessions Contracts Regulations 2016. The council has appointed external legal advisors to advise on the procurement process and to prepare the relevant contract documentation.
- 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 The council must ensure compliance with the contractual terms and conditions of any public funding grants secured for these schemes, including the £91k One Public Estate capacity funding already secured, and the potential Brownfield Land Release funding.

7. Climate change and environmental implications

- 7.1 These sites are in a highly sustainable location close to train stations and other public transport options and a range of local services and facilities. Except for Parklands, all are brownfield land.
- 7.2 All developments will be required to meet current and future planning policy requirements in relation to sustainability. The procurement process will seek to enhance the provision further, including through the offer of grant. Additional measures could include the use of modern methods of construction, fabric-based carbon reduction, and additional active travel promotion.

8. Risk management

- 8.1 Key risks and mitigations are as identified in the table below:

Risk	Mitigation
Failure to acquire town centre sites in ownership of Homes England.	Negotiations are supported by senior level discussions and underpinned by specialist commercial and property advice. In the event the attempt to acquire is unsuccessful, the procurement approach to the remaining sites would be reviewed as to whether it remains appropriate.
Sites are fundamentally unviable	Due diligence on the acquisition of sites includes cost and appraisal assessments to inform final price. Funding application made to support Walliscote Place proposal; recommendation in report to delegate authority to Executive Member to approve future bids so as to accelerate process. Potential inclusion of Parklands will reduce and offset financial risks.
The procurement timeframes (outlined above) are delayed or unachievable.	Specialist legal and property advice on designing the process to ensure compliance with timescales. Close monitoring of progress. Any potential for delay will be reported to NSC's Capital Board.
Insufficient interest from developers, or lack of interest from suitable companies who are willing / able to meet the criteria set by NSC and funding partners.	Soft market testing has identified reasonable demand. Specialist consultants are advising on structures, procurement and marketing to optimise interest from suitable partners.
The appointed partner defaults on the scheme or fails to deliver some of the specified requirements.	Legal and property advice to ensure a robust Joint Venture arrangement that protects NSC's interests and requirements. JV agreement to ensure strong governance of the partnership / contract and to include funding for compliance monitoring.
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 Planning applications for these sites will be required to comply with the requirements of the Local Plan and other planning policies, which have been subject to EIA

assessments. Where possible, the procurement process will seek to add to and enhance provision in this regard.

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”.
- 10.2 The resourcing of the procurement of a development partner and delivery of development will be led by the Development Team, with support from procurement and legal colleagues.

11. Options considered

- 11.1 Options for the delivery of this site are considered in section 3 above and are further detailed in Appendix C.
- 11.2 The option not to pursue these sites has been discounted for the following reasons:
- The sites are allocated for development. Failure to deliver would increase the gap in the council’s housing supply, which would need to be met elsewhere, most likely on greenfield sites. The opportunity to deliver housing to meet local needs would be lost.
 - Developing the sites will provide positive evidence to residents and visitors as to the growth and regeneration of the town and will encourage further investment.

Author:

Jenny Ford, Head of Development

Appendices:

Appendix A: Site location plans.

Appendix B: Draft quality criteria for procurement of development partner.

Appendix C: Procurement options.

Background papers:

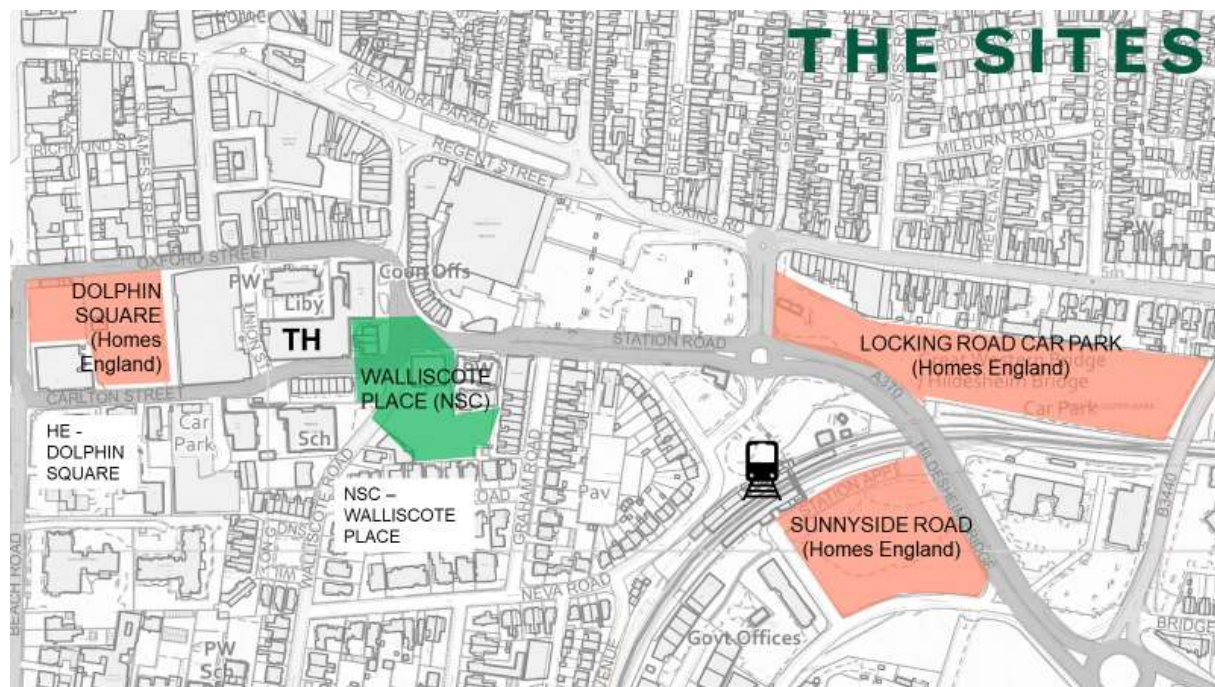
SuperWeston Placemaking Strategy: <https://superweston.net/super-weston/>

Weston Town Centre SPD / Weston Villages SPD: <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=ZZZXGLLPJV919&activeTab=summary>

Parklands Outline Planning consent: <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=ZZZXGLLPJV919&activeTab=summary>

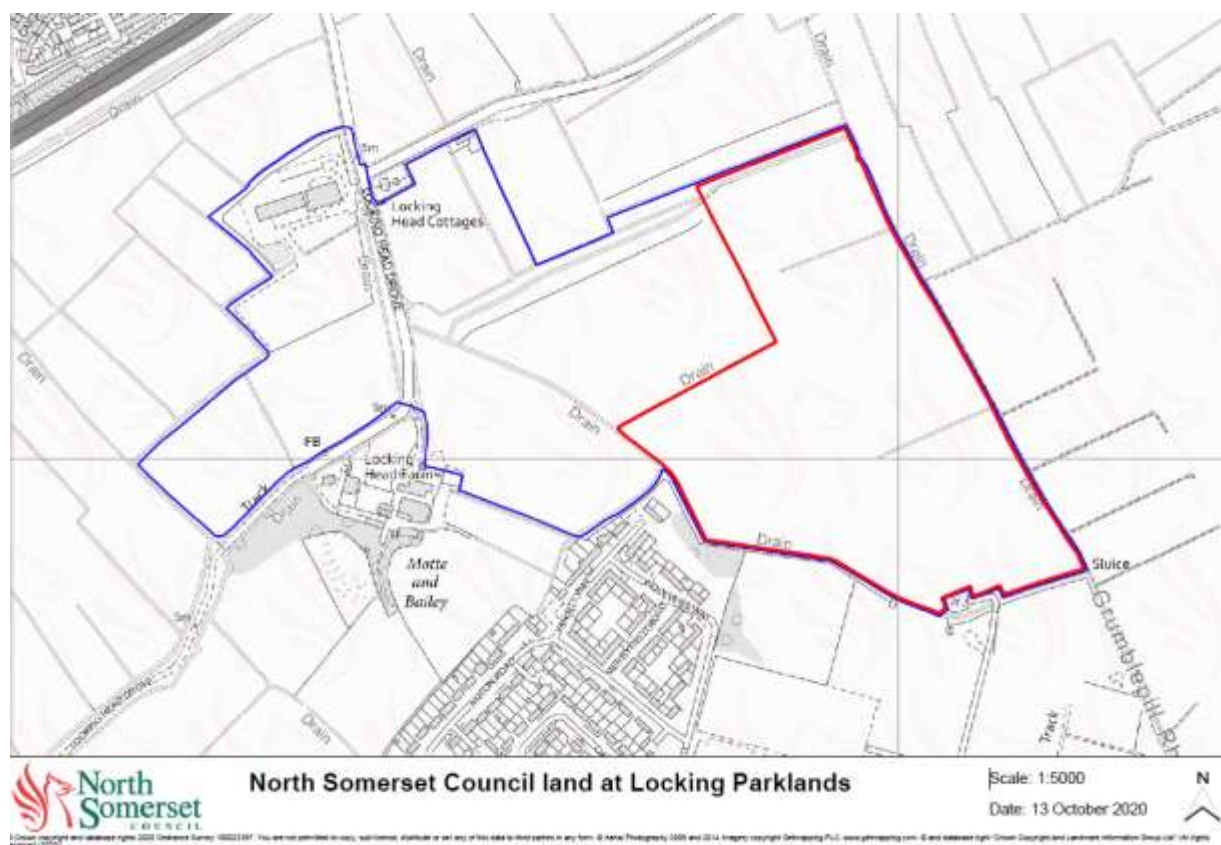
Site location plans

a) Sites in Weston-super-Mare town centre



b) Parklands phase 2

Phase 1 land outlined red; phase 2 outlined blue



Draft quality criteria for procurement of development partner

The design criteria below relate primarily to the town centre sites. At Parklands Village, the developer will be required to deliver development in line with the approved Outline Planning consent and associated conditions.

The list below is not intended to be comprehensive, but highlights some of the matters believed to be particularly important in taking forward these sites.

Criteria	Parameters
Height / density / numbers	<p>The capacity of sites should be maximised as appropriate to the locations and within the constraints of what the market can deliver.</p> <p>There is no requirement for high rise statement towers. A mix of town houses and mid-rise apartment blocks is supported at Sunnyside Road and Locking Road car park.</p> <p>Subject to viability, the council supports higher-rise development at Dolphin Square but does not require this, provided there is a sensible relationship to neighbouring sites and the building line along the seafront as a whole.</p>
Design quality	<p>Good quality of design and placemaking is important, particularly on more visible street frontages – but does not need to be “iconic”. Considered, contextual and understated design can be very successful in urban environments.</p> <p>The starting point for design parameters should be as set out in the Town Centre SPD and Weston Villages SPDs, unless otherwise stated here or agreed through further discussion.</p> <p>The council expects good quality and contextual design and placemaking encompassing urban design, landscape, architecture and selection of materials. Key considerations are relationships to surrounding area and good quality materials suitable for their environments (render or timber cladding should be avoided in marine environments).</p> <p>The town centre sites have challenging constraints with which to work (particularly the Locking Road flyover) and the design teams must positively engage with these to result in successful forms of development.</p> <p>Developers will be required to engage with the West of England Design Panel and to have schemes reviewed at appropriate points within the programme.</p>
Housing mix and affordable housing	<p>Affordable housing should be maximised at all sites, however it is recognised that this may be challenging and that grant input is likely to be required.</p>

Criteria	Parameters
	Intermediate tenures for rent and sale would also be welcomed and may aid absorption of product to support delivery at pace. Any active elderly and student accommodation must be use class C3.
Sustainability	<p>The council has declared a climate emergency and will seek the highest standards possible at these locations.</p> <p>At Parklands, the benchmark established for phase 1 of an 80% reduction in carbon against baseline must be at least matched and ideally exceeded.</p>
Space standards	Proposals to be at least compliant with national standards.
Parking standards	It is accepted that parking at town centre sites may be less than 1:1 ratio, in recognition of the sustainability of the locations. Measures to enable and promote sustainable alternatives to private car use will be essential. The marketing of schemes to future residents must set clear expectations as to what is provided.
Use of MMC	The use of MMC is to be strongly encouraged, where this enhances quality, speed of development and inherent energy efficiency and sustainability.
Programme and deliverability	Developers will need to demonstrate a deliverable programme informed by realistic programming and market and financial evidence. This will include a requirement to demonstrate progress on town centre sites in advance of completion of the Parklands scheme (if included), including a start on at least one of the town centre sites by March 2023.
Social Value	Social Value commitments will be required in line with the council's Social Value policy, and will be evaluated as 10% of quality criteria.

Options for models of delivery

Option	Description	Advantages	Risks
Direct delivery by NSC	<p>NSC would take on the developer lead role.</p> <p>The council would secure planning and contract the construction to a suitably qualified construction company.</p> <p>A development company or similar would have to be put in place to hold and dispose of the resulting homes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full control over the quality of the development and homes built. • NSC would receive the land value and profits from the development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSC would need to provide the capital for the development, in the realm of £150 – 200m. Even if available, this would take up capital funding that might be needed for other schemes. • Staffing resources required to manage the delivery of this scheme and disposal of homes would be very significant and would detract from work on other priorities. • Current staff do not have significant experience in direct delivery of housing schemes. • The council would need to establish a mechanism for the holding and disposal of properties. • The full financial, delivery and reputational risks would sit with the council.
Joint Venture	<p>The council would seek a developer partner who would drive forward the development, including the appointment of contractors and sourcing finance. The NSC would receive a land receipt and would seek to share the resulting development profit, after accounting for the partner's costs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSC would retain a good degree of control over quality of the development and homes, whilst allowing some flexibility in the design and development in response to the market. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSC must accept some of the risks of the development without being in complete control of the project. • Financial return less than if choosing direct delivery.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The developer would provide the capital for the development and would manage delivery. • Less resource-intensive in terms of NSC staff time. • No requirement to set up a development company. • NSC might be entitled to a share of the development profit, as well as the agreed capital sum for the land. 	
Disposal to market	NSC would sell the land as a commercial transaction, with limited conditions as to the details or timing of delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would maximise the likely land receipt and the timing of the receipt would probably be earlier than under other options. • A commercial transaction would remove any ongoing financial risks and reduce the reputational risks, once initial sale was completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very limited control over timescales or product: by law, commercial transactions cannot include detailed specifications of what needs to be delivered. • A high risk of breach of funding conditions. • No opportunity for a share of developer profit.

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North Somerset Council

Report to the Council

Date of Meeting: 21st September 2021

Subject of Report: Climate Emergency Six Month Progress Report

Town or Parish: All

Member Presenting: Executive Member of Climate Emergency and Engagement

Key Decision: No

Reason: Not an Executive Decision

Recommendations

- Members consider the annual update of council carbon footprint
- Members consider the annual update of North Somerset area emissions estimates
- Members receive and consider the progress with specific initiatives within the Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan
- The Leader and Chief Executive to share our achievements with local MPs and ask them to highlight significant climate change requirements in the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review.

1. Summary of Report

- 1.1 The report provides a progress update on a few key activities related to the Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan. It summarises the annual update of council carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions for the area. This summary section gives a brief overview of keys achievements, challenges and actions needed.
- 1.2 An annotated version of the climate emergency action plan, giving brief descriptions of progress is attached to this document (Appendix 1).
- 1.3 Good progress is being made with specific climate related projects; raising the profile of the Climate Emergency within the Council and reducing emissions from the Council's own operations. However, to reduce emissions from Council operations to zero will require significant investigation and investment. Grant funding is often available for decarbonisation projects, but feasibility work is generally required to enable bidding for funding.
- 1.4 Emissions for North Somerset Council's own operations continue to decrease. Total Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions have reduced by 23% since the 2018/19 financial year. Those emissions within our Scope 1 and 2 target have decreased by 42%. In order to fully decarbonise council buildings and larger fleet vehicles, significant investment will be required.
- 1.5 Emissions estimates for the area of North Somerset currently only go to 2019, they rely on publicly available datasets. This means that it is not possible yet to observe

the impact of our Climate Emergency declaration or strategy. However, between 2005 and 2019, very little reduction has been observed in North Somerset, and most of the change can be attributed to improvements made to the electricity grid. It is clear that significantly more work is required to change current trends.

- 1.6 Emissions for the area of North Somerset continue to decrease but not at a fast enough rate. The main cause for reduced emissions is the reduction in carbon intensity of grid supplied electricity. Road transport remains the largest single sector, with emissions tending to increase over time.
- 1.7 For the area of North Somerset, 43% of greenhouse gas emissions are due to Transport, 24% are domestic emissions and 24% are non-domestic (commercial, industrial and public sector). The remaining 9% is split between Waste, Agriculture and Land Use. Transport is a key sector for emissions reductions for a number of reasons:
- it has very high emissions which have stayed high for a long time;
 - the technology to significantly reduce emissions already exists
 - walking, cycling, public transport and electric vehicles
 - investment is required to make these more accessible but less than for decarbonisation of all buildings
 - the significant co-benefits of reducing the number of polluting cars on the roads¹
 - improved air quality – currently an estimated 40,000 people die a year in the UK due to air pollution
 - improved health and wellbeing from active travel
 - increased footfall in local businesses where walking supported
- 1.8 Behavioural change is going to be an important factor in significantly reducing emissions in North Somerset, and across the UK. This means that we cannot rely entirely on low carbon fuels and technologies. The Committee on Climate Change estimate that nearly 60% of the changes needed rely on societal and behavioural changes². Engaging with our businesses and communities will be crucial in this. We will be improving the clarity of our communications to support people with behavioural changes. We are also looking at ways to expand our successful programme of Carbon Literacy into our communities, as well as supporting businesses to understand and reduce their impact on climate change.

2. Policy

- 2.1 North Somerset Council declared a Climate Emergency in February 2019 and part of this motion included reporting to Council every six months on progress. In November 2019, we published the Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan and in February 2020, we published the Corporate Plan 2020-24; choosing the term 'greener' as one of three key themes. This means that we have embedded climate action into everything we do and will include climate change as a deciding factor in all policy and strategy decisions going forward.
- 2.2 North Somerset Council has joined the UK100 Countryside Climate Network in recognition that rural communities are at the frontline of feeling the effects of climate

¹

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904146/gear-change-a-bold-vision-for-cycling-and-walking.pdf

² <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/local-authorities-and-the-sixth-carbon-budget/>

change, but also may have different barriers and opportunities when it comes to climate action.

- 2.3 In February 2020, North Somerset Councillors took the decision to reject Bristol Airport's expansion application, with Climate Change being one of the reasons for that rejection.
- 2.4 In April 2021, North Somerset Council's recycling and waste services were brought back under local control following a decision made by councillors last year. This will enable this vital council service to be run in an appropriate manner to respond to the Climate Emergency.
- 2.5 In July 2021, the Council adopted a motion to investigate and to the extent possible implement a Low Carbon Advertising Policy.

3. Details

3.1 Context:

It is important to recognise the ambitious nature of NSC's climate aims. Reaching Net Zero twenty years earlier than the UK as a whole, without the national policy and financial levers will be a challenge. North Somerset is not alone in setting an earlier target than the UK Government. Of the 301 authorities which have declared a Climate Emergency, 181 have set 2030 or earlier as their target. This is because internationally it is recognised that global greenhouse gas emissions need to reach net zero by 2050 in order to prevent the worst impacts of climate change³. As a developed nation we have the ability to go faster than other countries.

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) has recently published several key documents – the sixth Carbon Budget, advising Government on the next phase of emissions targets and trajectories; the Independent Assessment of Climate Risk which warns that the gap between climate risk and level of adaptation underway is widening; and finally the 2021 Progress Report to Parliament which warns that Government is not moving quickly enough with climate policy. We must acknowledge that moving at the speed required will need significant political will and behavioural change.

There has also recently been a high-profile Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report. The August 2021 report warned that many of the changes to climate which are now happening are irreversible – particularly sea level rise – and that reaching net zero emissions is essential if we want to meet the temperature targets which were agreed by all nations at the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015.

Progress on climate activity can be difficult to quantify. Emissions reporting is the only recognised method to monitor outcomes, but there can be a delay in being able to report emissions (national and regional emissions for 2019 are the latest available); and where emissions rely on behavioural change, final outcomes are not always as expected.

3.2 North Somerset Council Emissions:

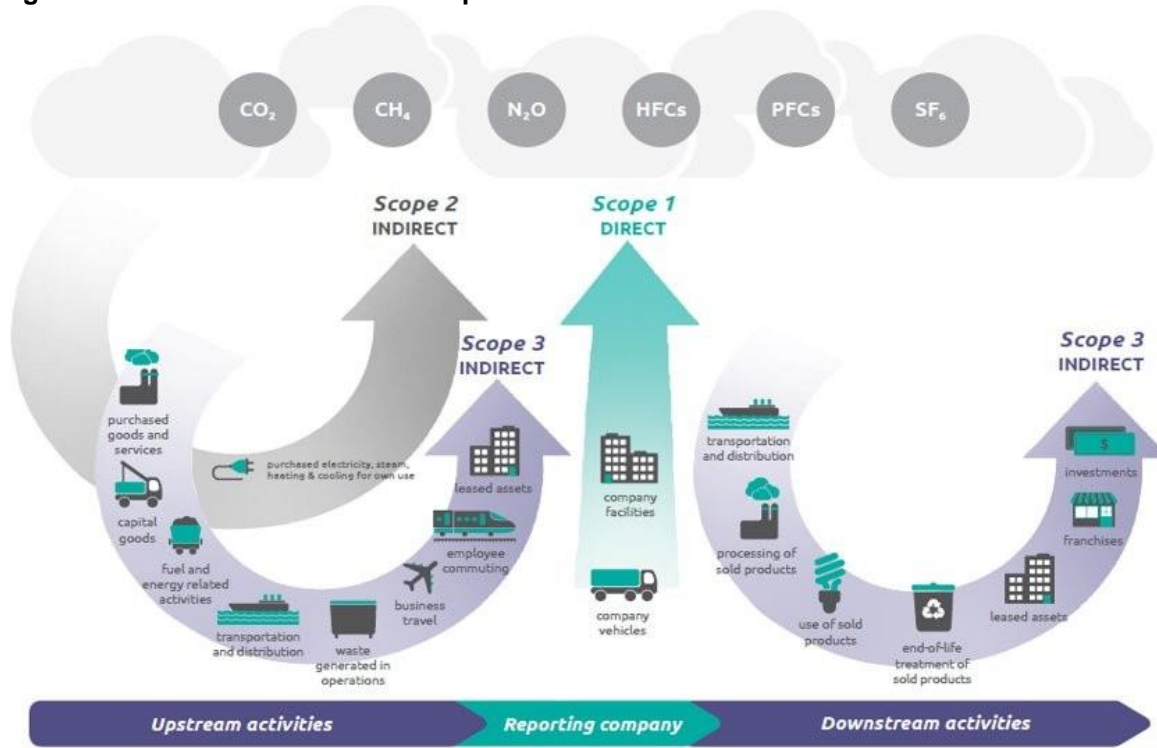
The 2018/19 financial year acts as a baseline for monitoring future emissions against. The Council has aspirations to lead by example and reach carbon neutrality for at least Scopes 1 and 2 at an earlier date than 2030 if possible. Good progress has been made so far with this target. Further progress will require significant changes to and investment in the

³ <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

Council's buildings and vehicle fleet – including schools, leisure centres and refuse vehicles.

Emissions reporting in this report includes those emissions for Scopes 1, 2 and 3 which are currently available to us. Each year we aim to improve the completeness of our inventory by including more information. This year we have included for the first time emissions from leisure centres and the crematorium. In the future we hope to be able to include more information from suppliers to cover the whole supply chain.

Figure 1 Definition of Emissions Scopes. Source: Greenhouse Gas Protocol



For more information on the methodology used to report the council's emissions, please see the baselining report published on our website⁴. Summary information can be seen in the table below.

Table 1 Emissions associated with North Somerset Council Activities

	Total GHG emissions for period (tonnes CO ₂ e):			Change since base year	
	Apr 2018 – Mar 2019	Apr 2019 – Mar 2020	Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	Tonnes CO ₂ e	%
Scope 1	4,741	4,320	3,899	-842	-18%
Scope 2	4,747	4,346	2,732	-2,015	-42%
Scope 3	6,751	7,566	5,844	-907	-13%
Total emissions	16,239	16,232	12,475	-3,764	-23%
Green Tariff	(-2,153)	(-3,581)	(-2,411)	(-257)	(12%)
Total used for target (Scopes 1&2, removing)	7,335	5,085	4,220	-3,115	-42%

⁴ <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-11/NSC%20Greenhouse%20Gas%20Emissions%20Report%20-%202019-20.pdf>

electricity from a green tariff)					
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The changes that can be seen in the council's emissions can be attributed to a number of things:

- COVID-19 has made a big impact on our buildings. These figures include data for libraries, children's centres and leisure centres which were closed for long periods of time and for schools and NSC offices which have not always been operating at full capacity.
- However, this decrease has not been as large as expected for some buildings, where the requirement for ventilation has meant windows have been open during winter months.
- COVID-19 has also meant that many of our staff are now working from home. This has meant that employee commuting emissions have decreased by 75% since before the pandemic, a saving of 525 tonnes CO₂e. We expect there to have been a smaller associated increase in household emissions but this has not been included in the estimate. Inclusion will be considered again once future working patterns are established. See Section 3.6 on home energy.
- North Somerset's streetlights are currently in the process of being upgraded to LEDs. This process is around 85% complete, expected to complete in late 2021. During this period, electricity consumption for streetlighting has decreased by 47%, leading to a saving of 984 tonnes CO₂e.
- Scope 2 emissions take into account a decrease in electricity consumption and the reduction in carbon intensity of the national grid. At the moment the greenhouse gas emissions for every unit of electricity used is decreasing by approximately 10% each year.

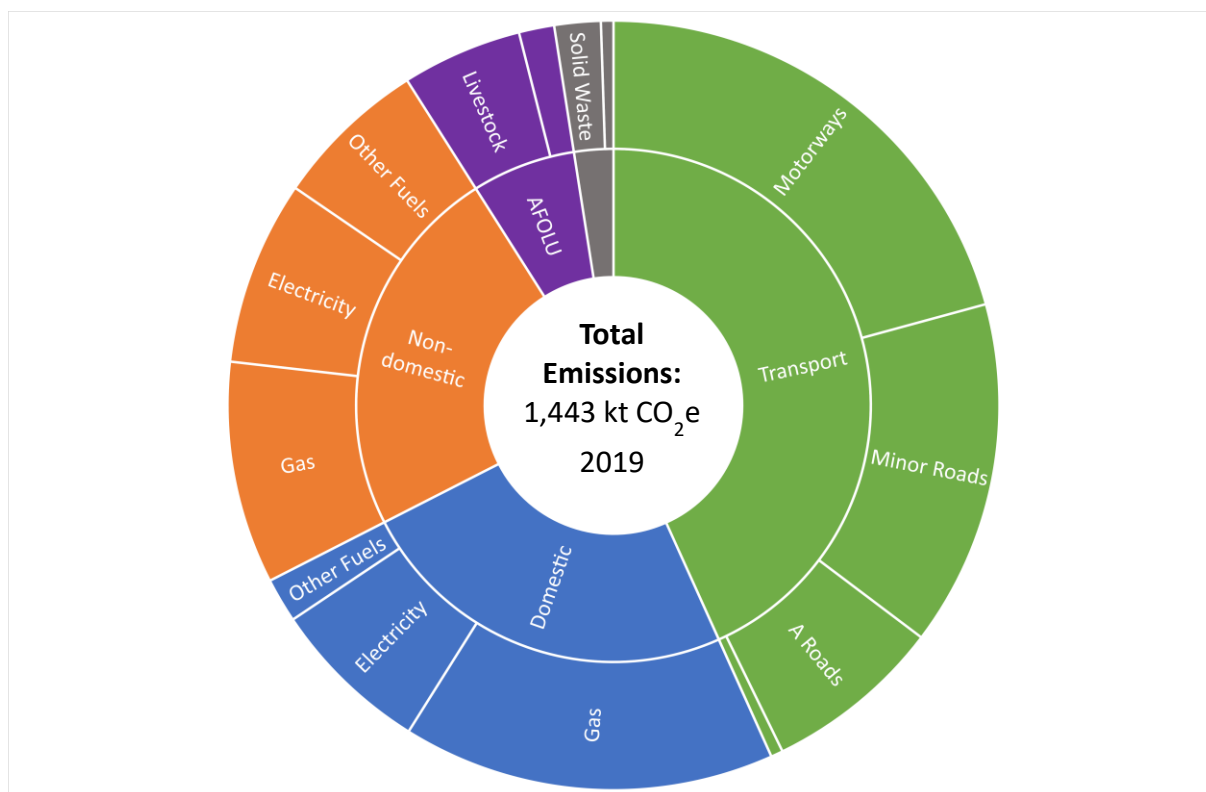
In order to meet our 2030 target of Net Zero emissions for Scope 1 and 2, we will need to reduce our emissions by at least 422 tonnes CO₂e each year (to FY 2030/31) and we are currently more than meeting that target. However, in reality, emissions will reduce more in some years (for example when upgrading buildings and streetlights), we know that we will need to investigate and invest significantly in order to be able to fund full decarbonisation.

3.3 North Somerset Area Emissions:

Each year an assessment is produced for the area of North Somerset using publicly available data sources on energy consumption, waste disposal, land use and agricultural statistics. It builds a picture of emissions resulting directly from activity within our district, as well as those associated with the production of the energy we use – grid supplied electricity and extraction and distribution of fuels – which happen outside the area. Detail on the methodology used to estimate emissions for North Somerset can be found on our website⁵.

Total emissions have decreased by 265 kt CO₂e (15%) since 2005. This is not a fast enough change to meet our climate ambitions. Reaching Net Zero is not a simple task. It requires transformative change across the whole economy, across the whole country. Nationally, the Committee on Climate Change is urging the Government to go faster, and so must we.

⁵ https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-11/Climate%20Emergency%20Baseline%20Report%20-%20July2020_0.pdf



As a summary of this inventory, by far the largest single sector for North Somerset is Transport, with approximately 43% of our emissions. Road transport makes up 99% of North Somerset's transport emissions and have increased slightly since Local Authority records began in 2005, while emissions in domestic and non-domestic buildings have steadily decreased.

Transport emission have gone up during this period for a combination of reasons. The largest contribution to this increase comes from freight. The total increase in emissions in this sector is 44 kt CO₂e, 27 kt of this comes from Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs), 11 kt from Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and 9kt from cars. This does not reflect national trends (see table below). The West of England and DfT Transport Decarbonisation Strategies should give us a steer about what influence we can have over these various types of transport.

Table 2 Change in emissions by modes of transport

Table for progress report:		% of transport emissions	Change since 2005		Comparison - UK change over same period
			kt CO ₂ e	%	
Cars	Motorways	27%	2	1% ↑	-9% ↓
	A roads	12%	-14	-19% ↓	-17% ↓
	Minor roads	24%	21	21% ↑	18% ↑
LGVs	Motorways	7%	11	42% ↑	19% ↑
	A roads	3%	3	25% ↑	15% ↑

	Minor roads	6%	13	71% ↑	75% ↑
HGVs	Motorways	14%	10	42% ↑	6% ↑
	A roads	2%	-1	25% ↑	-4% ↓
	Minor roads	2%	3	71% ↑	19% ↑

The domestic and non-domestic buildings sectors make up 24% of North Somerset's emissions each. Emissions from both sectors have decreased by just over 30% during this period, due mainly to a reduced carbon intensity of the electricity grid. Building retrofit is a key action for the whole of the UK and currently funding focuses mainly on lower income families in the domestic sector. While this will reduce household bills and improve health, it tends to be higher earners who use more fuel to heat their homes and have a greater impact on domestic emissions. Much more is required in terms of funding, advice and skills to enable retrofit.

Table 3 Emissions for all years for North Somerset

Emissions: kt CO₂e	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Domestic	515	507	490	487	464	462	427	432	421
Domestic Gas	272	268	261	253	232	230	215	218	214
Domestic Electricity	210	207	199	202	202	199	184	185	178
Domestic "Other Fuels"	32	32	30	32	30	33	28	28	29
Non-domestic	494	493	468	459	423	430	408	413	402
Non-domestic Gas	160	157	151	139	123	124	125	122	119
Non-domestic Electricity	234	241	226	235	215	218	202	206	197
Non-domestic Other Fuels	86	80	78	72	72	75	68	71	71
Agricultural Combustion	15	14	13	13	13	13	13	14	14
Transport	573	574	601	606	589	577	570	579	581
Motorways	274	264	282	286	272	268	263	276	276
A Roads	124	124	125	121	121	115	116	115	113
Minor Roads	168	179	187	191	188	186	184	180	184
Railways	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	8	8
Waste	22	23	23	23	23	22	22	22	22
Solid Waste	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Wastewater	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	8
AFOLU	103	101	100	97	96	96	95	94	94
Livestock	76	74	74	72	71	72	71	71	71
Land use, land use change and forestry	28	27	26	25	25	24	24	23	23
Total	1,708	1,697	1,682	1,672	1,595	1,587	1,523	1,539	1,520

Continued on the next page

Table 3 continued

Emissions: kt CO ₂ e	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Change since 2005		
Domestic	434	418	403	383	353	349	-	166	-32%
Domestic Gas	208	208	213	219	219	225	-	47	-17%
Domestic Electricity	199	183	163	137	107	97	-	113	-54%
Domestic "Other Fuels"	27	27	27	27	27	27	-	5	-17%
Non-domestic	435	412	398	382	365	340	-	155	-31%
Non-domestic Gas	122	120	130	136	146	135	-	25	-16%
Non-domestic Electricity	222	202	178	159	127	112	-	122	-52%
Non-domestic Other Fuels	77	75	74	73	78	80	-	6	-7%
Agricultural Combustion	14	14	14	14	14	13	-	2	-11%
Transport	590	589	621	609	628	625		52	9%
Motorways	276	271	298	285	299	300		26	9%
A Roads	114	118	119	115	114	108	-	16	-13%
Minor Roads	193	192	196	202	208	210		42	25%
Railways	8	8	8	7	8	7		0	2%
Waste	23	31	29	37	35	35		13	58%
Solid Waste	15	23	22	29	28	28		13	88%
Wastewater	8	8	7	8	7	8		0	0%
AFOLU	95	95	95	95	94	94	-	9	-9%
Livestock	73	73	73	73	73	73	-	3	-4%
Land use, land use change and forestry	23	22	22	21	21	21	-	6	-23%
Total	1,577	1,544	1,546	1,505	1,475	1,443	-	265	-15%

Note: All figures shown to nearest whole number, percentage change might sometimes appear very high for small numbers.

3.4 North Somerset Carbon Budgets:

The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change has produced a tool to set carbon budgets for each local authority across the UK⁶.

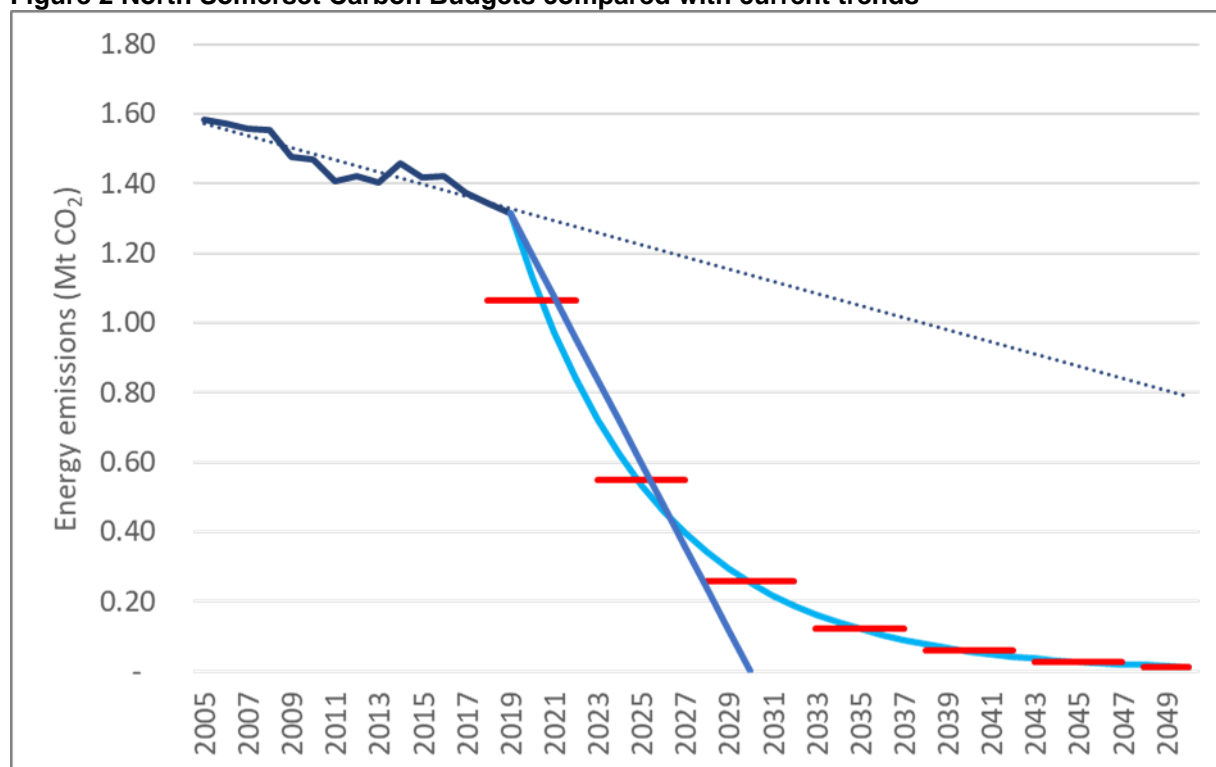
For North Somerset, the outline recommendations are:

1. Stay within a carbon budget of 6.9 MtCO₂ between 2020 to 2100;
2. Initiate an immediate carbon mitigation programme to deliver carbon emissions reductions of -13.9% per year; and
3. Reach zero or near zero carbon no later than 2040.

At current levels, this entire budget will be used by 2026. The graph below shows the difference between our current trends and the required reductions.

At the current rate of reduction of 17 kt CO₂e each year, it would take a further 85 years to reach zero. Even in 2020, with significantly reduced travel and activity, emissions at a national level only reduced by ~9%, with a reduction in transport emissions of 20%.

Figure 2 North Somerset Carbon Budgets compared with current trends



3.5 Climate Change Adaptation:

The Met Office have called 2020 one of the warmest, sunniest and wettest on record for the UK⁷, and 2021 has seen extreme weather caused by climate change on a global scale.

In June 2021, the Committee on Climate Change published its [Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk](#). Alarmingly, this new evidence shows that the gap between the level of risk we face and the level of adaptation underway has widened. Adaptation action has

⁶ <https://carbonbudget.manchester.ac.uk/reports/>

⁷ <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/about/state-of-climate>

failed to keep pace with the worsening reality of climate risk. The UK has the capacity and the resources to respond effectively to these risks, but it has not yet done so. Acting now will be cheaper than waiting to deal with the consequences. Government must lead that action.

The Committee identified eight risk areas that require the most urgent attention in the next two years. They were selected on the basis of the urgency of additional action, the gap in UK adaptation planning, the opportunity to integrate adaptation into forthcoming policy commitments and the need to avoid locking in poor planning, especially as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. These key risks are shown in the figure below.

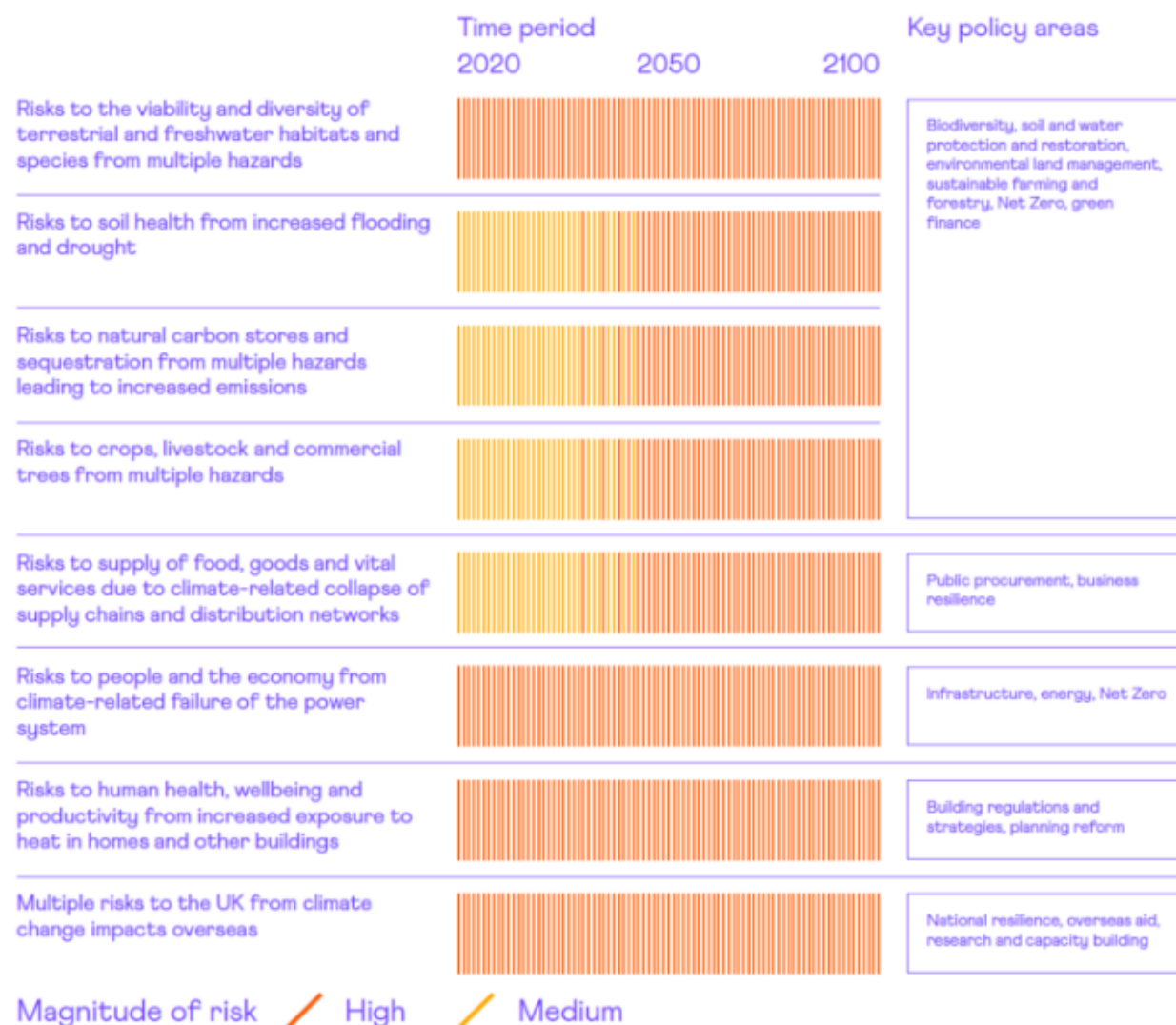
In North Somerset, like the rest of the UK, we need to adapt to climate change. We will follow Government and Committee on Climate Change guidance in updating our adaptation plan which was produced in 2011. We will need to work especially closely with the Environment Agency as well as our partners and service providers to improve the resilience of our services, communities and businesses.

The Environment Agency's National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy was published in 2020 and has three ambitions:

- Climate resilient places
- Today's growth and infrastructure – resilient in tomorrow's climate
- A nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change

An action plan on how these ambitions will be delivered was published this year and will influence the North Somerset Local Flood Risk Management Strategy that will be started this year and completed next year when the Environment Agency update their National Flood Risk Management Plans and revised surface water flood risk modelling will be available.

Figure 1 Highest priorities for further adaptation in the next two years



Source: CCC

Notes: Figure shows the changing magnitude over time of the risk areas that require the most urgent action in the next two years. Change in magnitude is shown up to 2100 for the highest scenario assessed in the Technical Report for the relevant risks for that theme. Details are set out in an accompanying Annex to this report.

3.6 Update on specific Climate Emergency Projects:

An annotated version of the climate emergency action plan, giving brief descriptions of progress is attached to this document (Appendix 1). This section covers a number of those activities in more detail.

Carbon Literacy:

The Climate Emergency Action Plan states that the council needs to take a leadership role across the area to encourage, support and enable others to reduce carbon emissions.

One of the ways North Somerset Council is meeting this challenge is by bringing Carbon Literacy training to members and officers across the Council, ensuring that everyone is aware of the risks and opportunities of climate change in their day-to-day activities. The training has received fantastic feedback, and is being used to develop team and directorate specific action plans. In December 2020, the Council was awarded the Carbon Literacy

Bronze Award which is a visible 'badge' that shows we are both committed to Carbon Literacy and serious about establishing and maintaining a low carbon culture.

The Carbon Literacy Silver Award requires organisations to train 15% of the workforce, as well as meeting some other qualitative milestones such as incorporating it into performance management. We have set targets for teams and directorates to meet this target as well as using what they learn from the training to inform their work. We are on target to gain silver accreditation by March 2022 and have also met some of the gold accreditation requirements such as promoting and delivering Carbon Literacy outside of our organisation.

Communications and engagement:

Clear and useful communications on climate change are imperative in responding to the climate emergency. High quality communications will help not only to raise awareness of the issues, but also to signpost people to support and funding. Since June we have had a dedicated communications officer to improve and support the climate emergency communications plan.

There is a dedicated *Nature and Climate North Somerset* Facebook Page with almost 500 followers as well as other Council pages which post climate related content. Posts are regularly shared within other community groups.

We are working with the North Somerset Enterprise Agency and Future Economy Network to create a network of North Somerset Businesses who would like to improve their environmental performance.

The Picture This art competition is running in partnership with Culture Weston during summer 2021, inviting local people to share their vision of a carbon neutral North Somerset. Art in all forms is being encouraged to focus on what is possible and achievable to address the challenge of climate change and create a better world for our future. Music workshops have already been held with local children using the Picture This theme as a creative prompt.

Solar Together

Together with other West of England Authorities, North Somerset is currently taking part in the Solar Together Scheme. By banding together, residents will be able to get cheaper deals to install solar panels and set up a battery storage system at their home, as part of 'Solar Together West of England'. Registration is open until the 28th September.

Home energy volunteers:

During 2020, the majority of NSC employees were working from home and many raised concerns that this home working could increase household energy consumption leading to higher bills and greenhouse gas emissions. While national and international research⁸ tends to suggest that home working on average has a lower carbon impact than commuting to work, we wanted to look into how average NSC employees were in this regard.

During 2020 and the early part of 2021, a small team of volunteers shared energy consumption data and information about their home energy, commuting and home working habits. This was not a scientific test, but a short survey of volunteers. However, the results were encouraging.

⁸ <https://www.iea.org/commentaries/working-from-home-can-save-energy-and-reduce-emissions-but-how-much>

It was found that home energy consumption had gone up. On average each household had seen an increase of £105 (220 kg CO₂) for the year April 2020 – March 2021. However, this increase was on average outweighed by not commuting. Only one driver saw an increase in costs and emissions from home working, and that was £40 over the whole year (82 kg CO₂e). The largest saving was from someone not driving who previously drove 31 miles to work each day, they have saved over £2,000 and nearly 4 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

Putting the home energy and commuting together, our average volunteer has saved £370 and 650 kg CO₂e from working from home for a year (looking just at energy and mileage costs, not lunches or tax relief or anything else).

Currently, we do not estimate emissions from homeworking although it is something that we will investigate in the future, as well as looking into how we can support homeworkers to reduce household energy emissions and bills.

Transport:

Transport is an area where significant change is required. Under Net Zero ambitions, it is essential that road transport reaches absolute zero – it cannot rely on emissions removals in other sectors – emissions removals are reserved for those sectors where absolute zero is not technically possible such as aviation and agriculture. Nationally, the Government published the Government Transport Decarbonisation Strategy in July 2021. However, we cannot rely entirely on Government regulation and initiatives as we are working to more restrictive timescales. A WECA-led West of England transport decarbonisation strategy is in development to be completed in Autumn 2021. We must ensure that our Net Zero ambitions are reflected in our actions.

Emergency Active Travel: During 2020, North Somerset Council secured funding through the Department for Transport's Emergency Active Travel Fund to provide additional space for social distancing and cycling. This was split into two phases – the first to support installation of temporary projects in response to COVID-19, and the second to create longer-term projects for walking and cycling. All temporary measures will either be removed or upgraded to planter style barriers during summer 2021. Longer term measures in Clevedon and Weston-super-Mare are progressing through consultation and final design stages, with work to be complete by March 2022

Active Travel Strategy: North Somerset Council have developed an Active Travel Strategy which was adopted in July 2021. The aim of the ATS is to create a 10-year plan to enable, promote and increase walking, cycling and other active travel modes such as running, wheeling and scooting. It sets out an aspiration for active travel in North Somerset which is encapsulated by the vision statement for this Active Travel Strategy: *'Making walking and cycling the natural choice for a cleaner, healthier and more active North Somerset'*.

We have recently upgraded a number of our fleet. Out of 92 vehicles, 51 are now fully electric. A further three diesel vans are to be upgraded shortly and two more are scheduled to be sold without replacement as they soon won't be required. The remaining diesel vehicles are mainly larger vehicles such as 4x4s and minibuses.

Electric Vehicle Salary Sacrifice: NSC will soon make Electric Vehicle Salary Sacrifice available to qualifying employees. This will give employees an option to lease an electric car at a fixed monthly cost, with no initial upfront costs, making savings on their tax and National Insurance contributions. This is something that has been made more affordable

since April 2020 when Benefit in Kind rates were reduced compared with petrol and diesel cars.

EV Charging network: The Rapid Charging Hub in Portishead opened to the public in July 2021. NSC is part of *Revive*, which is a network of public charging points for the West of England. In February 2021, a new charging point was launched in Sand Bay carpark and further sites will soon be launched in Worle Parkway, Nailsea and Backwell Station, Melrose Car Park, W-s-M, Hutton Moor Leisure Centre, Budgens in Cleve and Langford. An EV strategy is in development and NSC submitted a bid to the Office for Zero Emissions for the On Street Residential Charging Scheme (ORCS) this summer, based on information from residents.

Local Plan:

The North Somerset Local Plan will cover the period 2023-2038. Upon adoption it will set out the Council's policies and proposals to address housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities. One of the principal issues to address is the scale of the housing challenge. The government's standard method (March 2021 update) sets the housing requirement at 1,339 dwellings pa, a significant increase on previous delivery rates within North Somerset. This equates to 20,085 dwellings over a 15 year period.

During the two consultation periods so far conducted on the Local Plan development, a considerable number of responses have focused on the importance of responding to the climate emergency. The first two Local Plan strategic priorities are as follows:

- To promote sustainable development and address the climate emergency.
- To deliver the zero carbon ambition by maximising the opportunities for low carbon development and the use of renewable energy.

Streetlighting:

As mentioned earlier in the report, we have almost completed a project to replace all streetlighting with low energy LED units. This project began in December 2019 and is expected finish in November 2021 and reduce energy consumption from our streetlights by 60%. Since this work began, electricity consumption for streetlighting has decreased by 47%, leading to a saving of 984 tonnes CO₂e.

NSC building energy efficiency:

The council has been working with a team at Bristol City Council to undertake audits of council buildings to assess whether measures can be introduced to improve their energy efficiency. Audits were undertaken at 33 NSC buildings and projects have been identified to take forward in 20 of these. Some smaller projects in other buildings will go forward as part of routine maintenance. These improvements are expected to produce savings of over 300 tonnes CO₂e per year.

NSC Accommodation Strategy:

The energy efficiency work will feed into the recently adopted Accommodation Strategy, which has three underlying objectives – People & Culture; Place & Community and Planet. The Planet strand aims to support becoming a Net Zero Council and area through better support for homeworking; better locations for active and public transport; and corporate responsibility around asset disposal. Significant work will be needed to go beyond energy efficiency, towards decarbonisation.

Building energy efficiency:

There is currently a large amount of activity on improving domestic energy efficiency. The Green Homes Grant bid to improve 100 homes was successful. NSC and Alliance Homes are progressing with improvements – expected completion data March 2022.

The South West Energy Hub (SWEH) has allocated £7.5m for home energy improvements across the West of England. Owner occupiers can receive up to £10,000 of measures, for the rented sector the maximum grant is £5,000 with 33% minimum landlord contribution. SWEH are sponsoring a capacity building scheme; NSC have submitted a bid to recruit a Retrofit Coordinator for 12 months to help with the roll out of government funded retrofit projects.

SWEH are delivering LAD2 (Local Authority Delivery) and are working with NSC to identify eligible households, including social housing sector as part of a government funded scheme.

The Government's Sustainable Warmth programme has opened with two opportunities for funding through LAD3 (on gas grid) and HUG1 (Home Upgrade Grant off-gas grid). The LAD scheme is as outlined above but HUG potentially offers £25k per dwelling. Currently in discussion with WoE about a consortium bid, closing date for submissions 4th August 2021. Programmes will run until March 2023.

North Somerset SMEs have been able to access West of England Green Business Grants since early 2021. Measures included LED lighting and controls; solar film to reduce overheating; more efficiency heating; insulation and energy efficiency equipment. Applications for grants closed on the 11th July, but businesses can still apply for a free Decarbonisation Report which will help identify energy saving improvements.

Rewilding / GI strategy:

The Green Infrastructure Strategy went to consultation earlier this year and consultation feedback is currently being reviewed and the strategy updated. It will be going to the Executive Committee in September for review. The Green Infrastructure Strategy has a core objective of creating greater resilience to climate change.

During the winter of 2020/21, 18,000 trees have been planted as part of our rewilding programme. Volunteers are now being trained to provide aftercare to the trees.

Procurement:

The NSC Procurement Strategy 2021 to 2025 is currently under development and responding to the Climate Emergency is one of seven key themes within the strategy. Until the strategy is finalised, tender documents for larger contracts are being refined and reviewed by the Climate Emergency Project Manager. Existing contracts are also being reviewed to ensure improvements are made where possible.

We are working with South Gloucestershire Council to jointly develop a toolkit for commissioners to mitigate risk through tender processes and to work with current contractors to improve their environmental performance. The approach is based around categories of expenditure, and two pilot workshops have been arranged for July.

Recycling and Waste:

The Draft Recycling and Waste Strategy was out for consultation over the summer. Our strategy is focused on working with residents, local community groups, businesses and town and parish councils to contribute towards North Somerset's net zero carbon aims.

Earlier this year, our waste collection contract was brought back wholly under the control of the Council via its subsidiary, North Somerset Environment Company. This means that responding to the Climate Emergency is one of the core objectives of the waste company.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Updates on progress have been sought from the Officers Working Group as well as other relevant officers. This report has been shared with PCOM, Members Working Group, and suggested feedback incorporated.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 This report is for progress update only, there are no direct financial implications.
- 5.2 Climate Emergency is currently considered in financial decisions made by the Council.
- 5.3 If any of the actions in the action plan require funding this will be dealt with through the normal MTFP process.

6. Legal Powers and Implications

- 6.1 This report is for progress update only, there are no legal implications.

7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

- 7.1 The details in this report relate directly to the Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan. Projects described within this report and Appendix 1, aim to support the transition to a zero carbon Council and area, through reduction of fossil fuel consumption; increasing renewable energy generation and improving communications and awareness around the Climate Crisis.

8. Risk Management

- 8.1 The Climate Emergency is recognised as a key corporate risk. There are risks associated with the Climate Emergency in terms of extreme weather and sea level rise as well as risks which reduce the Council's ability to meet our net zero by 2030 target. These include:
- Action requires significant political and social will to implement required changes.
 - Delivery is not currently statutory so this impacts on budgetary requirements.
 - The target relies on mass behavioural change which cannot be solely attributable to the Council's actions.
 - The target requires external intervention such as technological advancement, Government policy and investment.
- 8.2 No specific risk assessment has been produced for this report. As projects are developed, detailed risk appraisals will be undertaken to anticipate and mitigate barriers to delivery. There will inevitably need to be consideration of risks and the agreement of compromises to achieve overall ambitions for North Somerset.

9. Equality Implications

- 9.1 No specific Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for this progress update. However, Climate Emergency actions decisions will be assessed individually as required.

10. Corporate Implications

- 10.1 The Climate Emergency is a cross-cutting issue and a corporate priority; it is a key priority within the Corporate Plan and impacts everything the council does. It will be at the forefront of any future transformation programmes.

11. Options Considered

- 11.1 The February 2019 motion specifically required the preparation of a report on how to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. The council has chosen to prepare a positive Action Plan that identifies a set of initiatives, projects and policy changes that can help achieve that ambition.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 – North Somerset Climate Emergency Action Plan Progress July 2021
Appendix 2 – Presentation slides

Background Papers:

North Somerset Baseline Emissions Reports for the council and area:

<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-11/NSC%20Greenhouse%20Gas%20Emissions%20Report%20-%202019-20.pdf>
https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-11/Climate%20Emergency%20Baseline%20Report%20-%20July2020_0.pdf

North Somerset Climate Emergency Strategic Action Plan – Progress October 2020

Our commitment: North Somerset aims to be a carbon neutral council and a carbon neutral area by 2030							
Impact		Deliverability					
H: high M: medium		GREEN: delivery is unlikely to pose any challenges or difficulties/ additional financial costs will be minimal AMBER: delivery will pose some challenges or difficulties/there is likely to be an additional financial cost RED: delivery will pose significant challenges or difficulties/there is likely to be a significant financial cost					
Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021
TBC: to be confirmed							
Become a Net Zero Carbon Council				to be confirmed			
Take a leadership role across the area to encourage, support and enable others to reduce their carbon emissions	All	An area we directly control	H			NSC began a programme of Carbon Literacy in October 2020 and in December was awarded the Carbon Literacy Bronze Award. This aims to increase awareness across the council of the carbon dioxide costs and impacts of everyday activities and give employees the ability and motivation to reduce emissions. Annual Team Plans now include Climate Emergency actions. Team leaders are urged to nominate a representative from to attend training and feedback how teams can contribute to helping NSC achieve aims of a carbon neutral council and a carbon neutral area by 2030.	80 Council employees certified as Carbon Literate. Aim for 15% (~180) by March 2021 to qualify for Silver Carbon Literacy accreditation. A new climate communications officer has been appointed to support and enable businesses and residents to reduce emissions. NSC's library teams, on completing Carbon Literacy training are promoting educational climate and environmental materials across the area. Display boards of climate actions and climate related books are supporting members of the public to increase awareness. The summer reading challenge and other competitions for school aged children have had climate related themes in 2021. Picture This, an artistic competition to picture a carbon neutral future in North Somerset will run during summer 2021 in partnership with Culture Weston. NSC has partnered with North Somerset Enterprise Agency and the Future Economy Network to deliver a series of events aimed a local business to support climate action.
	All	An area we directly control	H			Project Manager appointed February 2020	The recruitment process has begun for an additional project officer to support the project manager.

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021
Ensure a programme of robust reporting on progress internally and externally (data dashboard)	All	An area we directly control	M			Emissions reporting systems established. System for reporting individual progress action and indicators still required.	
Assess all major council projects for their impacts on carbon emissions	All	An area we directly control	M			Current WECA project to produce a Carbon assessment tool is due to be delivered in 2021.	All major projects are assessed for carbon emissions using PAS2080 or similar appropriate methodologies.
'Carbon proof' all future strategies and policies and ensure mitigations	All	An area we directly control	H			The Climate Emergency features prominently in all strategy development.	A review of existing council policies and strategies is underway.
Continuous development of the Council's sustainable procurement policies and practices	All	An area we directly control	L			Sustainable procurement policies and practices under review	A Climate Emergency procurement strategy is in development. Until the strategy is fully adopted, tender documents for larger contracts are being refined and reviewed by the Climate Emergency Project Manager. Existing contracts are also being reviewed to ensure improvements are made where possible.
Support flexible working and home working to reduce the carbon footprint of our workforce	Reduction	An area we directly control	M	Productivity gains Public health outcomes		Home working policy updated Autumn 2020. Large percentage of the workforce currently working from home. Emerging Asset and Accommodation strategy reviewing future working patterns. Home energy volunteer group in place to review changes to home energy consumption. Guidance given in internal newsletter on domestic energy conservation. Accommodation strategy to develop employee support strategies.	Home energy group reported significant emissions savings from reduced transport. More detail in progress report. The recently adopted Accommodation Strategy has three main objectives – People & Culture; Place & Community and Planet. The Planet strand aims to support becoming a Net Zero Council and area through better support for homeworking; better locations for active and public transport; better support for homeworking and corporate responsibility around asset disposal.
Continue to provide/promote schemes such as 'cycle to work' and 'Travelwest challenge' to encourage sustainable transport choices by our workforce	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can directly control or can influence through our contracts or through funding/support/policy	M	Air quality improvements Public health outcomes		Cycle to work limit increased to £2,500 to enable purchase of electric bikes. Approval to move forward with EV salary sacrifice scheme given in November 2020.	NSC will soon make Electric Vehicle Salary Sacrifice available to qualifying employees. This will give employees an option to buy an electric car at a fixed monthly cost, with no initial upfront costs, making savings on their tax and National Insurance contributions. This is something that has been made more

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021
							affordable since April 2020 when Benefit in Kind rates were reduced compared with petrol and diesel cars.
Calculate and then rapidly reduce the council's use of single-use plastic	Reduction	An area we directly control	L	Reduced waste		Work put on hold while low percentage of workforce in office.	
Ensure all the council's electricity supply is provided by 100% renewably generated sources	Reduction	An area we directly control	M	Supports investment in technology		Mostly complete - all areas where council pays for electricity is provided by 100% renewables. Completely outsourced/outside managed we don't have sight of but will encourage through contracts and discussion.	
Review our estate to investigate means of increasing energy efficiency to heating, lighting and cooling systems	Reduction	An area we directly control	H	Capital investment in estate Lower energy costs		List of 35 buildings agreed to receive energy efficiency audits. In addition, new Government decarbonisation fund and Low Carbon Skills Fund recently announced and assessment underway for feasibility.	Energy efficiency audits complete. Projects identified at 20 buildings to replace lighting, improve insulation and heating controls. Funding applied for full decarbonisation surveys for schools and leisure centres.
Investigate the business case for acquiring or funding renewable energy installations in North Somerset	Avoidance	An area we directly control	H	Supports investment in technology Security of own supply		Initial feasibility of rooftop solar in council buildings assessed. Further business case not yet developed.	Business case in progress
Replace streetlighting with low energy LED units	Reduction	An area we directly control	H	More resilient infrastructure Lower energy costs		65% complete. Energy consumption for streetlighting decreased by 31% in September 2020, compared to September 2019.	85% complete – completion expected November 2021. Energy consumption from streetlighting has decreased by 47% between 2018/19 and 2020/21 financial years.
Renew our ageing fleet with fully electric vehicles and charging facilities	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can directly control or can influence through our contracts or through funding/support/policy	M	Supports investment in technology Air quality improvements		Currently, of a fleet of 95 vehicles, 33 are EVs. A further 30 of our fleet vehicles will be replaced with EVs/PHEVs by early 2021. A review of vehicle requirements will also commence shortly.	We have recently upgraded a number of our fleet. Out of 92 vehicles, 51 are now fully electric. A further three diesel vans are to be upgraded shortly and two more are scheduled to be sold without replacement as they soon won't be required. The remaining diesel vehicles are mainly larger vehicles such as 4x4s and minibuses.
Work with our contractors and service providers to support them in reducing their carbon footprint, take advantage of renewable energy sources, consider an	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through our contracts or through funding/support	H	Supports investment in technology		• In 2020, NSC and Alliance Homes signed a partnership agreement which featured an objective working together to 'Support the achievement of carbon neutrality in	We are working with South Gloucestershire Council to jointly develop a toolkit for commissioners to mitigate risk through tender processes and to work with current contractors to

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021
electric fleet, and reduce their use of single-use plastic						<p>North Somerset by 2030 and reduce fuel poverty. In October, the Partnership Board met with a focus on climate emergency actions and understanding the scale of the task. Alliance Homes are currently undertaking an asset management review of their ~6,000 homes in North Somerset.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In September, discussions with representatives of town and parish councils who have climate emergency interests started. This group is now planning to meet every 6-8 weeks for themed meetings to support each other with progressing climate actions. • Skanska have a decarbonisation plan in place and are currently review this in line with the North Somerset contract. 	improve their environmental performance. The approach is based around categories of expenditure, and two pilot workshops have been arranged for July.
energy efficient built environment							
Aim for all our new homes to be net zero carbon or net carbon plus	Reduction	An area we directly control	M	Air quality improvements Reduced carbon		<p>Creating Sustainable Buildings and Places SPD currently under review.</p> <p>Proposals outlined in the Future Homes Standard and Government planning white paper may reduce the amount of control Local Authorities can have on new homes.</p>	Creating Sustainable Buildings and Places SPD was adopted in April 2021. It provides guidance for energy efficiency, renewable energy use and the transition towards zero carbon development. It also includes information on climate change adaptation measures.
Aim for all our own new commercial space to be zero carbon or net carbon plus	Avoidance	An area we directly control	M	Lower energy costs for occupants			
Where possible, specify precision manufactured buildings for homes, community and commercial space	Avoidance Mitigation	An area we directly control	H	Reduced wastage Less time on site Drives new skills		North Somerset Council's Executive has approved a recommendation to appoint Keepmoat Homes to deliver 425 new high-quality homes on its land at Parklands Village in Weston-super-Mare, including 15 per cent zero carbon homes.	
Aim to focus new mixed-use development on brownfield land, in town centres with public	Avoidance Reduction Mitigation	An area we can directly control or can	H	Critical mass for transport and		The Local Plan 2038 is currently in development. The first document, outlining the 'Challenges for the	The Executive endorsed the preferred spatial approach in April 2021.

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021
transport and proximity to major employment hubs		influence locally and nationally		community infrastructure Protect habitats Affordable housing		Future' was consulted on in Summer 2020. The responses highlighted public concerns over climate change. This has been taken forward into the 'Choices for the Future' consultation, which will take place in Autumn 2020. The Choices document outlines four spatial approaches to delivering housing to 2038. Responding to the climate emergency and developing in sustainable locations are key strategic priorities, alongside prioritising brownfield development in existing town centres.	'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.' Broad locations for growth have been identified, which reflect the approach detailed above. The next stage will be to identify the constraints and known development opportunities at these locations. Design and development principles will be identified, including those relating to addressing climate change as a priority. The plan will also need to make provision for sufficient land to meet future demand for employment space, guided by the spatial strategy. The scale of provision is less certain, but the plan will need to make provision for an appropriate range of business opportunities to support future growth.
Take opportunities to retrofit and/or improve the home energy efficiency of existing buildings.	Reduction	An area we can influence through our contracts or through funding/support	M	Public health outcomes Supports investment in technology		In December 2020, NSC submitted a joint bid with Bristol City Council as lead to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) £200m Green Homes Grant. If successful, the work to improve the energy efficiency of 100 homes in North Somerset will be	Green Homes Grant to improve 100 homes was successful. NSC and Alliance Homes are progressing with improvements – expected completion data March 2022.

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021
Support, encourage and enable homeowners and businesses to improve energy efficiency of existing buildings.				Supports green skills/jobs		<p>delivered between April and September 2021. Alliance Homes have joined the bid and they plan to target oil fired homes also provide external wall insulation. The proposal is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 park home full retrofit improvements • 50 social housing (Alliance Homes) combination EWI, renewables • 25 private sector dwellings identified through existing warm homes project 	<p>The South West Energy Hub (SWEH) has allocated £7.5m for home energy improvements across the West of England. Owner occupiers can receive up to £10,000 of measures for the rented sector the maximum grant is £5,000 with 33% minimum landlord contribution. SWEH are sponsoring a capacity building scheme; NSC have submitted a bid to recruit a Retrofit Coordinator for 12 months to help with the roll out of government funded retrofit projects.</p> <p>SWEH are delivering LAD2 (Local Authority Delivery) and are working with NSC to identify eligible households, including social housing sector as part of a government funded scheme</p> <p>The governments Sustainable Warmth programme has opened with two opportunities for funding through LAD3 (on gas grid) and HUG1 (Home Upgrade Grant off-gas grid). The LAD scheme is as outlined above but HUG potentially offers £25k per dwelling. Currently in discussion with WoE about a consortium bid, closing date for submissions 4th August 2021. Programmes will run until March 2023.</p>
	Reduction	An area we can influence through our contracts or through funding/support	M	Public health outcomes Supports investment in technology Supports green skills/jobs		<p>North Somerset Council have expanded the range of loan assistance available to include lending money to homeowners or landlords to make homes more energy efficient or install low carbon technologies. The new Home Energy and Renewable Loan for up to £8000 (4% fixed/Typical 4.2% APR) can be used for the installation of renewable and low carbon technology measures and improvement of insulation in domestic properties.</p>	<p>North Somerset SMEs have been able to access West of England Green Business Grants since early 2021. Measures included LED lighting and controls; solar film to reduce overheating; more efficiency heating; insulation and energy efficiency equipment. Applications for grants closed on the 11th July, but businesses can still apply for a free Decarbonisation Report which will help identify energy saving improvements.</p>

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021
						In addition, all homeowners will be given a £250 incentive payment, to use for the purchase of A++ rated kitchen appliances or used to reduce their Council Tax liability for the year the improvements are carried out. The loan can be used in conjunction with a voucher from the Governments Green Homes Scheme to fund the householders required contribution for works.	North Somerset Council is working with Weston College and the Future Economy Network to support businesses in understanding their climate impact and how to make improvements. Government will be publishing the next phase of energy efficiency improvements for the private rented sector which will increase the minimum EPC to "D." Engaging with landlords and providing information of funding will be critical as will, robust enforcement. Potential BEIS bid for funding to support a targeted approach including enhanced data on stock being considered.
Work with schools and other stakeholders to ensure their estate is energy efficient and install renewable energy sources	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through our contracts or through funding/support	H	Supports investment in technology Security of own supply		Energy efficiency scheme to be offered to schools. To be funded through 0% Salix Loans, or Government decarbonisation grants where appropriate.	NSC have submitted a bid to produce a decarbonisation survey for all maintained schools in order to access future Government funding streams.
Develop planning policy to actively support community led housing, self-build and custom build housing and consider use of council land to enable this	Reduction	An area we can directly control or can influence locally and nationally	L	Diversify housing delivery models			Local Plan policy under development.
Replenish our carbon stores							
Develop and implement our Green Infrastructure Strategy	Mitigation Storage	An area we can directly control	M	Public health outcomes Ecological diversity		In development	The Green Infrastructure Strategy went to consultation Feb-Apr 2021. The consultation feedback is currently being reviewed and the strategy updated, it will be going to exec in September for review
Identify Council land suitable for rewilding with aim of reducing amenity grass by 20%	Mitigation Storage	An area we directly control	H	Public health outcomes Ecological diversity		5,000 trees planted during spring 2020. Success rate has been reviewed and at most locations is around 70/80%. Select few locations have a much higher success rate. 20,000 trees to be planted winter 2020/21.	18,000 trees have been planted during winter 2020/21. Volunteers to be trained to provide aftercare to new trees during summer 2021. Lottery funding has been awarded to train rewilding champions who will monitor biodiversity in rewilded areas, this project will be run in partnership with Avon Wildlife Trust.

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021
Identify landscape scale tree planting opportunities to deliver nature recovery networks especially woodland creation and linking woodlands	Mitigation Storage	An area we directly control	H	Public health outcomes Ecological diversity		Within GI Strategy	Within GI Strategy
Identify Council land suitable for changing grass cutting regime to encourage biodiversity	Mitigation Storage	An area we directly control	M	Public health outcomes Ecological diversity		Sites for tall grass on council land have been identified and established during 2020. Areas will be increased over the coming two summers	Further areas have been added and will continue to do so in the future.
Encourage and support our residents to create wildflower gardens through schemes such as the 'Blue Heart'	Mitigation Storage	An area we directly control	M	Public health outcomes Ecological diversity		Using the blue heart campaign as part of the rewilding project. Areas of tall grass will be assessed for viability to increase wildflower	A new objective in the Green Infrastructure Strategy has been identified through consultation which raises the importance of gardens.
Adapting to climate change							
Ask Government to rapidly review the impacts which achieving net-zero will have across society and put in place effective measures to ensure that we have a fair transition to a net-zero country where the most vulnerable groups are supported	Adaption	An area we can ask for help nationally	N/A			Council response to the Government's proposed Future Homes Standard highlighted the urgency of zero carbon homes policies.	
Ensure a resilient infrastructure in North Somerset including retrofitting our built environment where necessary	Adaption	An area we directly control	N/A			Creating Sustainable Buildings and Places SPD currently under review – includes new section on adapting to climate change.	The updated Creating Sustainable Buildings and Places SPD (2021) requires developers to demonstrate how they have considered climate change adaptation measures in their designs.
Ensure that work around our flood defences considers climate change and any local and regional effects	Adaption	An area we directly control	N/A			Summer Lane flood defence work underway.	Summer Lane flood defence work complete.
Ensure North Somerset's Emergency Management Plan is robust and resourced	Adaption	An area we directly control	N/A				
Renewable energy generation							
Explore the development of strategy that discourages investment in fossil fuels and promotes renewable energy generation	Avoidance Reduction	An area we directly control	H	Investment in new technology Public engagement		Assessment of potential for renewable energy generation across North Somerset currently underway. This will inform Local Plan development. Potential locations for renewable generation included in Local Plan call for sites.	The study outputs are currently being considered. The report highlights that there are relatively few locations suitable for wind turbine development. Therefore, appropriate policy will need to be developed to encourage wind energy generation at these locations. Community consultation will be integral to maximising the potential for

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021
							renewable energy generation that has been identified by the study.
Pass a motion declaring North Somerset a Frack Free Zone to discourage the exploration and production of shale gas	Avoidance	An area we directly control	M	Investment in new technology Public engagement			
Encourage our partners and stakeholders to procure electricity supply from 100% renewably generated sources	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through our contracts or through funding/support	M	Investment in new technology Public engagement			
Encourage our residents to consider 100% renewable energy and support access to grant funding where possible	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through support	M	Investment in new technology Public engagement		Updated NSC Climate Emergency webpage and NS Life articles encourage 100% renewables. The new Home Energy and Renewable Loan for up to £8000 (4% fixed/Typical 4.2% APR) can be used for the installation of renewable and low carbon technology measures and improvement of insulation in domestic properties. Plan to join WECA Solar Together scheme in Autumn 2021 – bulk buying scheme which allows residents to purchase PV installations at a reduced rate.	Plan to join WECA Solar Together scheme in Autumn 2021 – bulk buying scheme which allows residents to purchase PV installations at a reduced rate.
Reduce emissions from transport							
Continue to drive project delivery to shift from private car use	Avoidance	An area we can influence or ask for help locally/nationally	H	Air quality improvements Access to employment Opportunities for investment		Active travel strategy has been developed – public consultation to run from 2nd November to 14 December. JLTP4 contains guidance and projects to reduce car usage, JLTP5 will further bolster guidance & projects	Awaiting Government Decarbonisation Strategy for Transport (expected July). WECA-led WoE transport decarbonisation strategy to be completed Autumn 2021. NSC motor vehicle policy (including car parking) in development.
Develop policies that actively encourage the demand for and delivery of connected public transport	Reduction	An area we can influence or ask for help locally/nationally	M	Public health outcomes Ease congestion Air quality improvements		JLTP5 and the new Local Plan are likely to identify further public transport projects including Mobility as a Service	Bus Back Better announced. Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). Guidance still awaited from Government. Puts local government in the driving seat for public transport delivery. 10 new support bus contracts commenced on 1 April.

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021
Develop and secure funding for projects to grow the walking and cycling network across the district	Avoidance	An area we can influence or ask for help locally/nationally	M	Public health outcomes Ease congestion Air quality improvements		DfT Emergency Active Travel funds secured – temporary and permanent schemes. All transport projects are to include cycling and walking infrastructure within their business cases wherever possible.	Active Travel Strategy will go to Exec Committee for approval in July 2021. The aim of the ATS is to create a 10-year plan to enable, promote and increase walking, cycling and other active travel modes such as running, wheeling and scooting. It sets out an aspiration for active travel in North Somerset which is encapsulated by the vision statement for this Active Travel Strategy: 'Making walking and cycling the natural choice for a cleaner, healthier and more active North Somerset'. This strategy will be adopted during summer 2021.
Implement our project to deliver an electric charging hub in Portishead	Avoidance Reduction	An area we directly control	M	Air quality improvements Investment in new technology		Portishead Marina Electric Vehicle Charging Hub which is due to open in December. Other charging points are also planned in key locations, with the first in Kewstoke.	The Rapid Charging Hub in Portishead has progressed more slowly due to COVID. A soft launch has now taken place, it is expected to open to the public in July 2021.
New Item* Expand the electric vehicle charging network across North Somerset	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence or ask for help locally/nationally	M	Air quality improvements Investment in new technology			Electric Vehicle Strategy under development. Residents were asked to nominate their street for an EV charging point during March. North Somerset Council are submitting a bid to the Office for Zero Emissions for the On Street Residential Charging Scheme (ORCS) this will be in July. NSC is part of Revive, which is a network of public charging points for the West of England. In February 2021, a new charging point was launched in Sand Bay carpark and further sites will soon be launched in Worle Parkway, Nailsea and Backwell Station, Melrose Car Park, W-s-M, Hutton Moor Leisure Centre, Budgens in Cleve and Langford.
Require all schools to deliver travel plans which maximise the number of students walking, cycling or travelling sustainably to school.	Reduction Mitigation	An area we can influence or ask for help and support locally	M	Air quality improvements Public health outcomes		Work beginning on Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy (SMOTS) for secondary schools. Strategy will audit current travel data and infrastructure	Work continues on SMOTS strategy for Secondary schools. Sustrans Bike IT officer in post until March 2022 to support capital programme schemes.

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021
				Public engagement		and highlight what can be done to reduce reliance on school buses and cars.	
Consider reviewing parking planning guidance note to set maximum parking levels and reduce the number of spaces delivered for new development.	Avoidance Reduction	An area we directly control	M	Air quality improvements		Parking standards SPD currently under review. Revised standards will facilitate reductions in vehicle parking in accessible locations.	Parking standards SPD adopted in April 2021. 10 Year Parking Strategy being developed as part of motor vehicle strategy.
Encourage resident parking schemes, car sharing schemes and walking and cycling to support	Avoidance Reduction	An area we directly control and/or influence through support	M	Air quality improvements		The new Local Plan is likely to require such in new developments.	Recruitment underway for officer to progress WsM RPZ. Leigh Woods Parking Scheme due to complete October 2021.
Encourage our residents to consider their transport choices	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through support	M	Air quality improvements Public health outcomes		Work continues to deliver the DfT Access Fund, with a focus on business, schools and communities to encourage active and sustainable travel and reduce single occupancy car use. Marketing and communication has been used to publicise offers, encourage active and sustainable travel and provide information about relevant upcoming events and road and path closures.	Officers recruited to support 20mph zones and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods. Officers will liaise with Town and Parish Councils and residents.
Repair, reuse, reduce and recycle							
Zero kerbside waste to landfill with an increasing percentage recycled and the remainder used as energy from waste	Avoidance	An area we directly control	H	Managing international impacts Ecological diversity		New 10 year contract commenced 1 April 2020 for the delivery of kerbside collected waste to Energy from Waste plants at Avonmouth. This is a joint WoE arrangement. Over 14,000 tonnes delivered in first 6 months and reduced road haulage as previously waste taken to Gloucestershire. Waste strategy in development which will have climate emergency as a key theme and how the various waste management functions impact and measures to reduce.	The waste strategy is out to consultation with the climate emergency as a key theme. In April 2021, waste services moved to new arm's length company – North Somerset Environment Company. At the end of 2020, Eunomia published their latest Recycle Carbon Index, ranking Local Authorities on how their recycling activities are delivering carbon benefits. North Somerset ranked 7 th out of all UK authorities.
Consider our green waste collection to encourage composting and rewilding	Reduction	An area we directly control	M	Financial savings		Charging for collections to commence from April 2021. An integral part of this is to encourage composting through subsidised composters, links to composting advice, community composting and working with Town	In the first three months of the new garden waste service, 42,000 households signed up for garden waste collection and over 3,200 NSC compost bins have been purchased by the community.

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021
Increase the percentage of improved reuse areas to be negotiated with contractors and encourage third sector involvement, such as Changing Lives in Clevedon						and Parish councils and the local community	Compost generated by North Somerset's garden waste collections have begun to be donated to community schemes in the area.
	Avoidance	An area we can directly control or can influence through our contracts or through funding/support/policy	M	Resident engagement		Changing Lives carry out bulky waste collections within North Somerset with reusable items being prepared for re-use and sold within their shops. Reuse strategy is in development with opportunities for the new NSC owned recycling and waste company to provide.	Waste Strategy released for consultation June 2021. Actions identified to encourage and support reuse. NSC investigating case for additional reuse centre. Working with Weston Cycle Works to reuse bicycles from recycling centres.
Encourage our residents to reuse, repair and recycle	Reduction	An area we can influence through support	M	Resident engagement		Will be addressed within reuse strategy. Information provided within service leaflet, on web and social media. Community re-use events suspended due to COVID but will re-commence when possible.	As above
On-post community groups to advertise and funding	Mitigation	An area we can influence through support	L	Community engagement		Signposting in place to local community groups. Will be covered more fully in reuse strategy.	As above

Climate Emergency Progress Report



Report to Council 21st September 2021

Introduction

- Six month progress reports form part of the Climate Emergency workplan
- Responding to the Climate Emergency is a core piece of the Corporate Plan
- Associated documents:
 - Six month progress report to Council
 - Annotated action plan – comments on progress of each action
 - Methodology for emissions estimates can be found in baseline reports on website: <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/council-democracy/priorities-strategies/climate-emergency/our-plans-tackle-climate-change>
- We must recognise the ambitious nature of NSC's climate aims.
 - Reaching net zero by 2030 will require political and social will
 - A raising of awareness and support for behavioural change is critical.



Chard, Somerset
June 2021
Source: BBC

Schuld, Germany
July 2021
Source: BBC



Met Office issues first UK extreme heat warning

By Kate Wright
BBC News
12 May

Met Office amber extreme heat warnings



Source: Met Office



North Somerset Council Action

- North Somerset Council has prioritised embedding climate action into everything we do
- We took the decision to reject Bristol Airport's expansion application
- We have taken the recycling and waste services back under Council control
- We have joined the UK100 Countryside Climate Network
- We have taken the decision to change our advertising

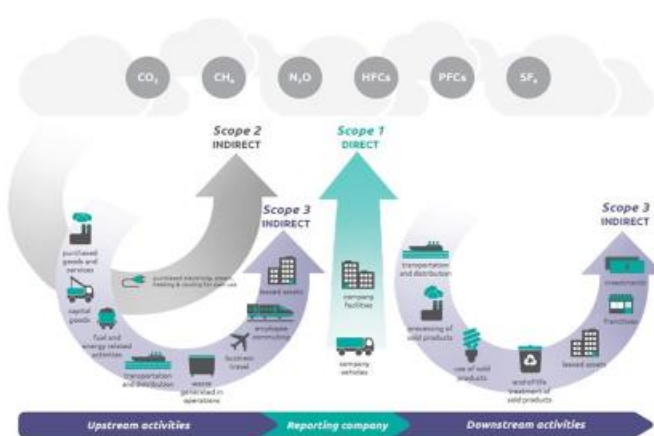
Open
We will provide strong community leadership and work transparently with our residents, businesses and partners to deliver our ambition for North Somerset.

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.



North Somerset Council Emissions



Source: Greenhouse Gas Protocol

- Report includes available emissions for Scopes 1, 2 and 3.
- Continuous improvement: this year we have included for the first time emissions from leisure centres and the Crematorium.
- We are working with contractors and contract managers to increase reporting further.



North Somerset Council Emissions

	Total GHG emissions for period (tonnes CO ₂ e):			Change since base year	
	Apr 2018 – Mar 2019	Apr 2019 – Mar 2020	Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	Tonnes CO ₂ e	%
Scope 1	4,741	4,320	3,899	-842	-18%
Scope 2	4,747	4,346	2,732	-2,015	-42%
Scope 3	6,751	7,566	5,844	-907	-13%
Total emissions	16,239	16,232	12,475	-3,764	-23%
Green Tariff	(-2,153)	(-3,581)	(-2,411)	(-257)	(12%)
Total used for target (Scopes 1&2, removing electricity from a green tariff)	7,335	5,085	4,220	-3,115	-42%

- Target to reduce Scope 1 and 2, we will need to reduce our emissions by at least 422 tonnes CO₂e each year (to FY 2030/31).
- We are on target to meet this target, based on the previous two years. Further progress will require significant investigation and investment

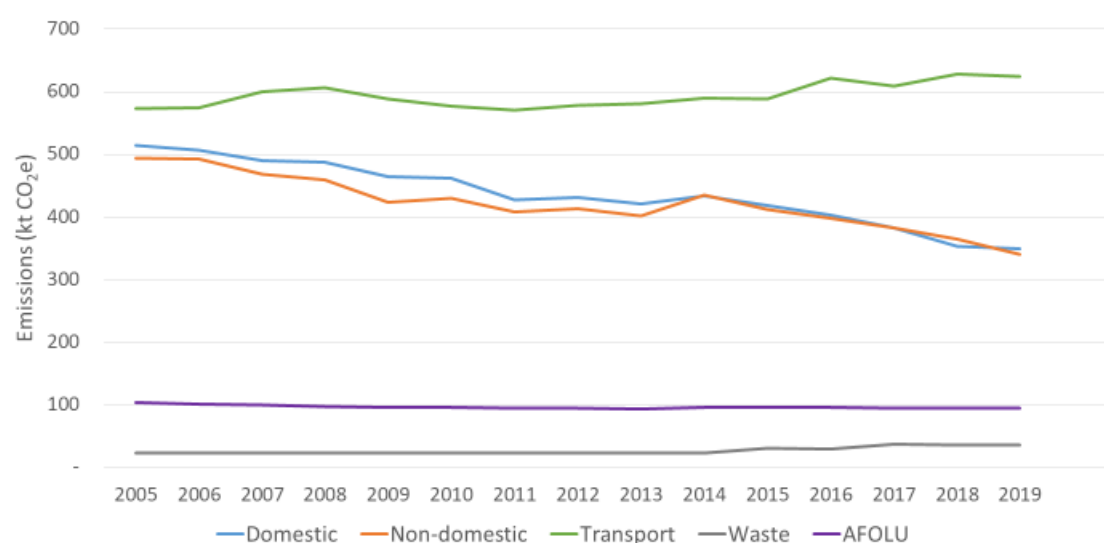


North Somerset Council Emissions

- A number of causes for emissions reductions:
- COVID-19: reduction of use of buildings, but increase in winter heating requirements
- COVID-19: employee computing emissions have decreased by 75%
- Streetlight LED replacement project: 984 tonnes CO₂e saved so far
- Electricity grid improvements: 10% decrease in carbon intensity each year so far



North Somerset Area Emissions



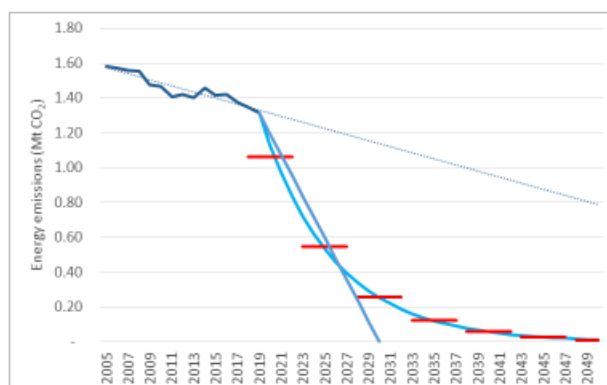
North Somerset Area Emissions

Tyndall Centre Carbon Budgets for North Somerset recommendations:

1. Stay within a carbon budget of 6.9 MtCO₂ between 2020 to 2100;
2. Initiate an immediate carbon mitigation programme to deliver carbon emissions reductions of -13.9% per year;
3. Reach zero or near zero carbon no later than 2040.

At current levels, this budget will be used by 2026. This graph shows the difference between our current trends and the required reductions.

At the current rate of reduction of 17 kt CO₂e each year, it would take a further 85 years to reach zero.

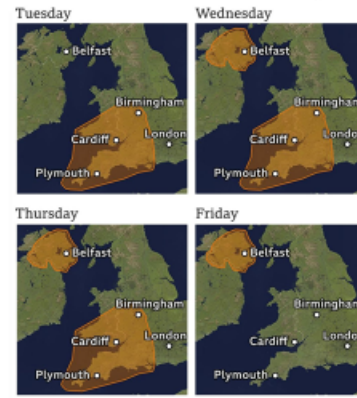


<https://carbonbudget.manchester.ac.uk/reports/>

Climate change adaptation

- 2020 was one of warmest and wettest years on record
- New Committee on Climate Change shows we are not prepared for climate change.
- The Committee identified eight risk areas that require the most urgent attention in the next two years, these include:
 - Risks to food supply
 - Risks to infrastructure
 - Risks to human health and wellbeing
- NSC will be working with the Environment Agency, service providers and partners to improve the resilience of our services, communities and businesses

Met Office amber extreme heat warnings



Source: Met Office

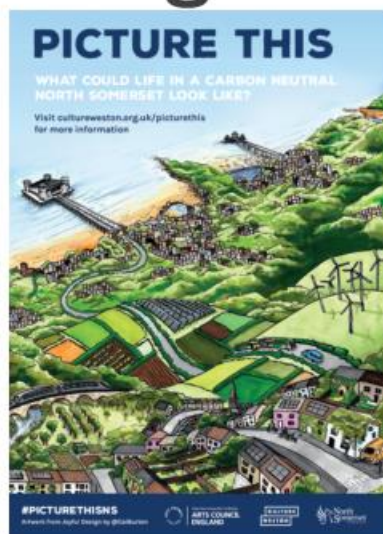


Progress on projects

- Good progress in many areas – see annotated action plan. Some to highlight:
 - Carbon Literacy
 - Council own buildings
 - Streetlighting
 - Communications
 - Active travel schemes
 - Procurement
 - Local Plan
 - Green infrastructure



Progress on projects



Key steps for next 18 months

- Asset and accommodation strategy to reflect zero carbon buildings
- Focus on reducing transport emissions
- Adapting to local climate impacts



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