

Public Document Pack

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Date: Monday, 4 April 2022

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).

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 numbers wishing to attend.

Dear Sir or Madam

Summons to attend the Council Meeting – Tuesday, 12 April 2022 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, 12 April 2022.

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/w41KCPViQUo>

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)**

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.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

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

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)**

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 (Pages 7 - 26)**

15 February 2022 to approve as a correct record (attached).

6. **Motions by Members (Standing Order No. 14) (Pages 27 - 34)**

Motions by Members (Standing Order No. 14)

(1) Remote and hybrid meetings: Councillor Bell (attached)

(2) Anti-Racism: Councillor Gibbons (attached)

(3) Great Homes Upgrade Campaign: Councillor Neve (attached)

(4) Member Code of Conduct: Councillor Charles (attached)

7. Matters referred from previous meeting

None.

8. Chairman's announcements

9. Leader's announcements

10. Chief Executive's announcements

11. Political Balance Update

Oral report from the Assistant Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer.

12. Forward Plan dated 1 April 2022 (Pages 35 - 44)

(attached).

13. Policy and Scrutiny Panel Report

None.

14. Corporate Parenting Report

None.

15. Question Time (Standing Order No.18)

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. Reports and matters referred from the Executive

None.

17. Reports and matters referred from the Policy/Overview and Scrutiny Panels other than those dealt with elsewhere on this agenda

None.

18. Reports and matters referred from the other Committees other than those dealt with elsewhere on this agenda (Pages 45 - 126)

Licensing Committee, 14 March 2022

LIC 6 End of Year Report for the Administration and Enforcement of all Licensing Regimes (draft minute extract and report attached)

19. Reports on joint arrangements and external organisations and questions relating thereto (Pages 127 - 128)

(1) Avon Fire Authority

None

(2) Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel

Report of Councillor Crew (attached)

(3) West of England Combined Authority Joint Scrutiny Committee

None

20. Climate Emergency Progress Report (Pages 129 - 166)

Report of Councillor Petty (attached)

21. Designation of the Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2022/23

22. Designation of the Vice-Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2022/23

23. 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

Tuesday, 15 February 2022

New Council Chamber - Town Hall

Meeting Commenced: 6.05 pm

Meeting Concluded: 9.07 pm

Councillors:

Richard Westwood (Chairman)
Karin Haverson (Vice-Chairman)

Mark Aplin
Nigel Ashton
Mike Bell
Mike Bird
Steve Bridger
Peter Bryant
Gill Bute
Mark Canniford
Ashley Cartman
John Cato
Caritas Charles
Caroline Cherry
James Clayton
Sarah Codling
Andy Cole
Peter Crew
John Crockford-Hawley
Ciaran Cronnelly
Catherine Gibbons
Hugh Gregor
Wendy Griggs
Ann Harley
Sandra Hearne
David Hitchins
Steve Hogg
Nicola Holland
Huw James
Patrick Keating
John Ley-Morgan
Stuart McQuillan
Robert Payne
Marcia Pepperall
Bridget Petty

Lisa Pilgrim
Terry Porter
Geoffrey Richardson
David Shopland
Timothy Snaden
Mike Solomon
James Tonkin
Richard Tucker
Roz Willis

Apologies: Councillor Donald Davies.

Officers in attendance: Jo Walker (Chief Executive), Lucy Shomali (Director of Place), Amy Webb (Director of Corporate Services), Nicholas Brain (Assistant Director Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer), Alex Hearn (Assistant Director (Placemaking & Growth)) and Mike Riggall (Information and ICT Security Manager).

Partaking via Microsoft Teams: Councillors Mark Crosby, Caroline Goddard, Ruth Jacobs, Phil Neve and Ian Parker

Matt Lenny (Director of Public Health), Sheila Smith (Director of Children's Services), Hayley Verrico (Director of Adult Services), Vanessa Andrews (Marketing and Communications Manager), Sue Efford (Committee and Support Services Manager), Jenny Ford (Head of Development and Placemaking) and Melanie Watts (Head of Finance)

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 public health recommendations to exercise caution and to the council's own health and safety advice which made it necessary to limit the total number of councillors, officers and members of the public who could be present in the Chamber to ensure the meeting could take place safely.

He reported that for members and officers who did not yet feel comfortable attending in person or who were unable to attend, there was an option to join the meeting via Microsoft Teams. This enabled them to partake in the debate remotely but they would not be formally 'in attendance', and members joining remotely would not be able to vote nor count towards the quorum of the meeting.

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.

Due to the heavy agenda for this budget setting meeting, the Chairman gave notice that he would be proposing a short comfort break at an appropriate point in the meeting.

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

Climate Emergency and Major Transport Schemes

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Assistant Director, Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer read out a statement on behalf of Cresten Boase, a Sandford resident, on the climate emergency and major transport schemes including Banwell Bypass. Ms Boase referred to the council's climate emergency and transport commitments which included a review of all major transport schemes to assess their impact on carbon emissions in order to meet the council's objective of carbon neutral emissions by 2030. She queried why the Banwell Bypass scheme had not been reviewed for its carbon cost, as required under the council's own transport and climate emergency plans, when the scheme would produce significant carbon emissions during its construction and operation. She suggested proceeding towards the planning application stage without a full review of the scheme went against the council's own commitments, and the wishes and convictions of many North Somerset residents committed to reducing carbon emissions and slowing the harmful effects of climate heating.

The Chairman thanked Ms Boase for her statement and referred the matter to Councillor Bridger as the relevant Executive Member, and to the Director of Place for consideration and response.

COU 89 Petitions to be presented by Members (Standing Order No. 16) (Agenda item 3)

(1) Oak Tree Park Residential Mobile Home Park – Loss of Bus Service

Councillor Porter presented a petition signed by 235 residents of Oak Tree Park in the following terms:

“We the residents of Oak Tree Park residential mobile home park feel that we are being victimised in losing the bus service to the park that many residents have enjoyed for years. On this park we have many people who are unable to drive or do not have a car and who are also unable to walk the length of Laney's Drove to get to a bus stop on the A371. We the undersigned want to let North Somerset Council know that we feel that we are being treated very unfairly over this lack of service when we pay statutory council tax the same as any other Weston- super- Mare residents .”

In presenting the petition Councillor Porter referred to the difficulties faced by many of the elderly residents of Oak Tree Park given the nearest bus stop was over a kilometre away. He reported that local residents were already in discussion with officers to address this issue but had wanted their petition presented formally at Council.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Porter and referred the petition to the Director of Place and the relevant Executive Member for consideration and response.

(2) Council Policy in dealing with Trees and Bushes in Worle

Councillor Aplin presented a petition signed by 517 Worle residents in the following terms:

“We the undersigned request that North Somerset Council take more care of trees

and bushes across Worle.”

In presenting the petition Councillor Aplin referred to the many emails he had received from local residents experiencing problems with existing trees and bushes and to the impact this was having on the local community. He suggested investment was needed to properly manage trees and bushes across the district and asked the council to review its policy and take action when significant problems arose, particularly given the commitment to plant more trees across North Somerset as part of the rewilding program. He stressed this was not a petition against rewilding which was supported by the vast majority of local people but rather a petition from those with a love of Worle and a desire to see it looking at its best.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Aplin and referred the petition to the Director of Place and the relevant Executive Member for consideration and response.

COU 90 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Standing Order 37) (Agenda item 4)

None declared.

COU 91 Minutes - 9 November 2021 (Agenda item 5)

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

COU 92 Motions by Members (Standing Order No. 14) Future of Swimming Pools in North Somerset (Councillor Keating) (Agenda item 6 (1))

In introducing his Motion, Councillor Keating referred to the importance of undertaking a strategic assessment of swimming pools and to seek to identify additional funding, referring to the vital community asset they provided as well as the climate emergency benefits of refurbishing them.

Motion: Moved by Councillor Keating and seconded by Councillor Hogg

“Council recognises the vital role swimming pools play in our local community. Swimming pools are community hubs where people of all ages come together for fun, fitness and sport.

It is estimated that the enormous benefits swimming brings to people’s physical and mental health saves NHS and Social Care services more than £357 million each year across the UK. The benefits of physical activity on wellbeing are recognised in North Somerset’s own recently adopted Health and Wellbeing policy.

Council reaffirms its commitment to providing top class swimming facilities in North Somerset.

Council notes with concern the report published by Swim England in September 2021 – A Decade in Decline: The Future of Swimming Pools in England – which warns that, without proper investment and refurbishment, up to 2000 swimming pools could be lost across the UK over the next decade.

Many swimming pools in North Somerset are coming towards the end of their lifespan, while others such as that at Churchill Sports Centre have been indefinitely closed due to historical lack of investment and the impact of the Covid pandemic.

Council also notes that Leisure centres can account for as much as 40 per cent of a council's direct carbon emissions. New or refurbished pools are much more sustainable (both economically and environmentally) than those left unimproved and can play a key part in meeting our climate change ambitions.

Council resolves to adopt the recommendations contained in Swim England's 'Future of Swimming Pools in England' report to:

- Undertake a Strategic Needs Assessment to identify the investment needed to improve existing swimming pools in North Somerset to avoid a future shortfall in the provision of local swimming facilities.
- Bid for full Government funding for the refurbishment works that are identified (and for new pools if required).
- Council further instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to demand that the full £1 billion of grant funding recommended in Swim England's report is made available to local authorities to refurbish and expand their swimming pool provision. As part of this funding grants should also be made available to support local authorities to undertake full strategic needs assessments of their local swimming provision."

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

Councillor Keating spoke in support of his Motion. In discussing the Motion reference was made to the costs associated with running and maintaining swimming pools, the need to ensure they were self-financing and the significant investment required in pools such as Churchill to bring them back into use. Members noted the importance of children learning to swim, particularly in a coastal area like North Somerset and to the importance of having full community backing to make a success of any proposals. Reference was made to the problem with the location of Churchill swimming pool on the edge of the village, and to the benefits of making it more prominent, of promoting healthy lifestyles to encourage its wider use both within and beyond the village and of seeking support from partners such as the university to make it more viable. Members supported the need for government funding and long term investment to enable councils to refurbish and expand existing swimming pool provision.

It was noted that the Place Panel was in the process of scrutinising the thirteen pools across the district. A consultation with town and parish councils and local communities was being undertaken to assess support for the proposals which would then come back to the Panel for further consideration. It was noted the timescale for town and parish council responses had been tight and that an extension to the consultation period may be required.

Councillor Keating thanked members for their support and welcomed the review of swimming pools currently being undertaken by scrutiny. As the mover of the Motion, he agreed to take on board the proposal to allow the scrutiny review to conclude, with town and parish councils being fully engaged, and to await its

outcome before further pursuing the recommendations in his Motion.

Following further discussion, it was

Resolved: that, subject to the conclusion of the current scrutiny review of swimming pools and its subsequent recommendations, the Motion as set out in full above be approved and adopted.

COU 93 Motions by Members (Standing Order No. 14) Planning and Regulatory Committee - Membership and Procedures (Councillor Shopland) (Agenda Item 6 (2))

In introducing his Motion, Councillor Shopland referred to councillors' decreasing role in the planning decision making process making it difficult for local councillors to properly serve their communities.

Motion: Moved by Councillor Shopland and seconded by Councillor Bryant

“(1) That the Number of Members of the P & R Committee be increased to 25.
(2) That the procedures for allowing Ward Members not on the Committee to refer items for consideration and their being able to debate and vote on them, be reviewed by Council.”

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

Councillor Shopland spoke in support of his Motion. In debating the Motion some members suggested the current planning system was unfair and expressed support for the proposed changes. However, reference was made to the extensive debate on this matter at a recent Council meeting following the planning peer review, which had led to Council agreeing to reduce the number of members on the committee to create a more efficient and informed approach to decision making, in line with good practice in other local authorities.

Following further debate and a Motion ‘that the question be now put’, the Motion was put to the vote and LOST.

COU 94 Matters referred from previous meeting (Agenda item 7)

None

COU 95 Chairman's announcements (Agenda item 8)

The Chairman reported this was the first Council meeting since the passing of former councillor Robert Cleland in December and, on behalf of the Council, he offered his sincere condolences to his family and friends.

At the invitation of the Chairman several members paid their respects and shared fond memories of Robert Cleland.

COU 96 Leader's announcements (Agenda item 9)

None

COU 97 Chief Executive's announcements (Agenda item 10)

None

COU 98 Political Balance Update (Agenda item 11)

The Assistant Director, Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer reported that Councillor Charles' had resigned from the Independent Group and was now a member of no political group. He reported that political balance was as follows:

Independent 16: Conservative 13: Liberal Democrat 10: Labour 6: Green 4:
No Political Group 1

COU 99 Forward Plan dated 31 January 2022 (Agenda item 12)

In the Leader's absence, Councillor Bell presented the Forward Plan.

Resolved: that the Forward Plan be noted.

COU 100 Policy and Scrutiny Panel Report (Agenda item 13)

It was noted that the report was included within the supplementary papers that had been published for this meeting.

Councillor Richardson presented the report on behalf of the scrutiny chairmen, referring to changes to scrutiny ways of working over the past year due to Covid restrictions, with most scrutiny meetings being held informally and not in public. However, he reported that the panels had been very busy, as highlighted within the report, and that work included a number of scrutiny led member briefings on a range of topics. He thanked officers and members for their support over the past year and gave assurances that scrutiny panels would continue to challenge and question, to drive improvements and to ensure access to information.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

COU 101 Question Time (Standing Order No.18) (Agenda item 14)

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

At the conclusion of this item, the Chairman proposed a brief adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 7.35 pm and reconvened at 7.45 pm

COU 102 Reports and matters referred from the Executive, 2 February 2022 - EXE 87 Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23 (Agenda item 15(1))

With the agreement of the Chairman, Councillor Cartman presented the Executive

finance references and the council tax setting report en bloc, that is: Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23; Capital Strategy 2022-2026 and Capital Budget 2022/23; Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and Revenue Budget Update 2022/23; Revenue Budget Update and Council Tax Setting 2022/23 . It was noted that a named vote would be required on the budget decision.

In presenting the Executive references and the report, Councillor Cartman outlined the council's financial strategy for the year ahead which sought to protect vital services whilst also investing an extra £40m in long-term local projects to improve services for children, green initiatives and local facilities. He highlighted some of the initiatives as set out in the report which focussed on the key priorities of supporting children and young people, delivering better basic services, investing in communities, and tackling the climate emergency. He stated most of the council's money went on providing key basic services such as social care, children's services, recycling & waste and road maintenance, and confirmed residents would continue to receive good council services. As well as protecting key services the budget also sought to keep increases in fees and charges to a minimum. He stated the proposal to increase Council tax by 2.99 % was the same increase as the vast majority of other councils in the country and was largely driven by social care pressures, including 1% specifically for adult social care services. However, he stressed adult social care continued to be underfunded by central government and the Council Tax increase would not solve ongoing pressures. In increasing Council Tax, he was aware of the other cost-of-living pressures facing local residents but stressed the council was subject to similar cost pressures and was working hard to mitigate impacts on services and household budgets. He noted the ongoing budget risks due to uncertainties around inflation, service demand and future income levels, and referred to the challenge of future budget shortfalls which would need to be addressed. He thanked the Director of Corporate Services, the finance team and all staff for their work in putting together the finance reports and also thanked the Executive and all councillors for the collective effort in presenting a robust and balanced budget.

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed her assessment as Section 151 Officer that the proposed revenue budget for 2022/23 was robust, and that the council's reserves were adequate to address the level of risk. She referred to further challenges ahead which the council would need to plan for in future years. With reference to the Council Tax setting report she confirmed the information relating to the Avon Fire Authority precept and the final Environment Agency levy had now been received, reporting that the indicative figures contained within the report were the confirmed final figures and no further update was required.

In discussing the Executive references and the Council report, members expressed support for the finance strategy and welcomed the investment proposals for improved services for children, green initiatives and local facilities. Questions were raised around the level of reserves and whether adequate contingencies had been made given the risks around increasing costs, demand pressures in home to school transport, challenges in budgeting for placements for looked after children, increasing costs resulting from delays to Portishead Rail and appeal costs associated with the Bristol Airport inquiry. Councillor Cartman confirmed these significant risk factors were recognised but he was satisfied that suitable contingencies had been built into the budget to address these risk areas,

together with an appropriate level of reserves. In response to further concerns raised regarding the impact on particular user groups of closing the Gateway at the Town Hall and Castlewood, Councillor Cartman recognised the need for some limited face to face provision for those who couldn't otherwise access services, but stressed the need to achieve the required budget savings. He referred to the Customer Service Strategy due to come to Executive in April, currently being scrutinised by the PCOM Panel and out for consultation, and encouraged Councillor Willis to feed her comments into that scrutiny review.

Motion: Moved by Councillor Cartman, seconded by Councillor Solomon it was

Resolved:

(1) that the Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23, as described throughout the Executive report and shown in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved;

(2) that the Prudential Indicators for 2022/23, as shown in Appendix 2 of the Executive report, be approved; and

(3) that the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2022/23, as shown in Section 3.5 of the Executive report, be approved.

COU 103 Reports and matters referred from the Executive, 2 February 2022 - EXE 88 Capital Strategy 2022-26 and Capital Budget 2022-23 (Agenda item 15(2))

Councillor Cartman presented the reference from the Executive.

All the finance items were discussed together en bloc (see minute no. COU 102 above).

Motion: Moved by Councillor Cartman, seconded by Councillor Solomon it was

Resolved:

(1) that the capital strategy 2022/23 to 2026/27 as outlined in the Executive Summary and set out in Appendix 1 of the Executive report be approved; and

(2) that an increase to the capital programme of £38.722m in 2022/23 for a range of new investments relating to children and young people, delivering better basic services, investing in our communities and tackling the climate emergency as detailed in section 4.3 and Appendix 2 of the Executive report be approved, subject to confirmation of grant funding allocations.

COU 104 Reports and matters referred from the Executive, 2 February 2022 - EXE 89 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and Revenue Budget Update 2022/23 (Agenda item 15(3)) and Revenue Budget Update and Council Tax Setting 2022/3 (Agenda item 16)

With the agreement of the Chairman item 15(3) was taken together with item 16 which included the Council Tax charges for the council and the precepting authorities for 2022/23.

Councillor Cartman presented the reference from the Executive and the report on the Revenue Budget Update and Council Tax Setting 2022/23. All the finance items were discussed together en bloc (see minute no. COU 102 above).

It was noted that Standing Order 22A required a named vote to be taken on the budget decision.

Motion: Moved by Councillor Cartman, seconded by Councillor Solomon it was

Resolved:

(1) that the 2022/23 net revenue budget for North Somerset Council services of £179.090m; and the Council Tax Requirement of £185.475m, being the value including town and parish council precepts be approved, as set out in Appendix 1 of the Council report;

(2) that a council tax increase of 1.99% for 2022/23 to support the proposed budget be approved;

(3) that an adult social care precept of 1% on the council tax for 2022/23 be approved;

(4) that the directorate gross income and expenditure budget allocations as detailed in the body of the Council report and as set out in Appendix 1 be approved;

(5) that the council tax charges for 2022/23 be approved in accordance with the formal Resolution as set out in Appendix 2 of the Council report, which provides for an average Band D council tax charge in respect of North Somerset Council services for 2022/23 of £1,549.16, plus special expenses, where such charges apply, giving an overall charge of £1,550.03, and provides for other major preceptors being the Avon Fire Authority, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset and the town and parish councils, as follows (this represents an increase for North Somerset Council services of 1.99% on the general level council tax, and a 1% charge in respect of an adult social care precept):

COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

The Council resolves as follows:

- 1 It be noted that on 31st January 2022 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base for 2022/23:
 - (a) for the whole Council area as **79,926.8** [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")] and;
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached Appendix B.

- 2 Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2022/23 (excluding Parish precepts and Special Levies) is **£123,888,938**
- 3 That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2022/23 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

a	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils <i>(Gross Expenditure)</i>	387,523,134
b	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act <i>(Gross Income)</i>	257,249,857
c	Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act). <i>(North Somerset Council Tax Requirement, inc. special expenses, town and parish precepts and special levies)</i>	130,273,277
d	Being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts). <i>(Band D Council Tax for North Somerset Council including an average of special expenses and town and parish precepts)</i>	1,629.91
e	Being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix C) <i>(Area related expenditure, i.e. town and parish precepts and special expenses)</i>	Precepts 6,384,339.03 Spec Exp 69,410.00 6,453,749.03
f	Being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precepts relates. <i>(The Band "D" amount for North Somerset Council excluding "area" related expenditure, i.e. special expenses and town and parish council precepts)</i>	1,549.16
g	The amount of Special Expenses (expressed in Band D)	0.87
h	The total Relevant Basic Amount for North Somerset Council	1,550.03

4 Precepting Authorities

To note that the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area, as shown in the table below:

Precepting Authority	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Police & Crime Commissioner	167.47	195.38	223.29	251.20	307.02	362.84	418.67	502.40
Fire Authority	51.97	60.63	69.29	77.95	95.27	112.59	129.92	155.90

- 5 That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table on the following page, as the amounts of Council Tax for 2022/23 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.
- 6 The Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2022/23 is not determined to be excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

and

(6) that the refreshed Pay Policy for 2022/23 be approved in accordance with the details set out in Appendix 5 of the Council report.

Named Vote as required under Standing Order 22A

For the Motion (28): Mike Bell, Mike Bird, Steve Bridger, Mark Canniford, Ashley Cartman, John Cato, Caroline Cherry, James Clayton, Andy Cole, John Crockford-Hawley, Ciaran Cronnelly, Catherine Gibbons, Hugh Gregor, Wendy Griggs, Karin Haverson, Sandra Hearne, Steve Hogg, Nicola Holland, Patrick Keating, Stuart McQuillan, Robert Payne, Bridget Petty, Geoffrey Richardson, Timothy Snaden, Mike Solomon, James Tonkin, Richard Tucker, Richard Westwood

Against the Motion (0)

Abstentions (10): Marc Aplin, Nigel Ashton, Peter Bryant, Gill Bute, Caritas Charles, Peter Crew, Marcia Pepperall, Lisa Pilgrim, Terry Porter, Roz Willis

Note: Councillors Sarah Codling, Ann Harley, David Hitchins, Huw James, John Ley-Morgan and David Shopland left the meeting early and were absent when the vote was taken.

COU 105 Reports and matters referred from the Policy/Overview and Scrutiny Panels other than those dealt with elsewhere on this agenda (Agenda item 17)

None

COU 106 Reports and matters referred from the other Committees other than those dealt with elsewhere on this agenda (Agenda item 18)

Audit Committee, 27 January 2022 - AUD18 Audit Committee Annual Report 2020-21

Councillor Cato, as Chairman of the Audit Committee, presented the reference. He referred to the financial and corporate governance work undertaken by the committee over the previous year and drew attention to the committee's work plan, welcoming contributions. He invited all councillors to come along to meetings and engage with the committee in improving the work of the council. He thanked members of the committee and officers for their hard work, support and diligence.

Motion: Moved by Councillor Cato, seconded by Councillor Hearne and

Resolved: that the Audit Committee Annual Report 2020/21 be received.

COU 107 Reports on joint arrangements and external organisations and questions relating thereto: Avon Fire Authority (Agenda item 19 (1))

Councillor Jacobs presented her report.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

COU 108 Reports on joint arrangements and external organisations and questions relating thereto: Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel (Agenda item (19 (2)))

Councillor Crew presented his report, highlighting the key issues and responding to questions from members. Members welcomed the appointment of Sarah Crew as the new Chief Constable and the setting up of Neighbourhood Focus Teams. Members expressed support for the focus on tackling domestic abuse against both women and men, and addressing the issue of drink spiking.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

COU 109 Reports on joint arrangements and external organisations and questions relating thereto: West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Joint Scrutiny Committee (Agenda item 19 (3))

Councillor James was absent at this point in the meeting.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

COU 110 Procurement of External Auditors (Agenda item 20)

The Director of Corporate Services presented the report. It was noted that Avon Fire Authority was also adopting this approach.

Motion: Moved by Councillor Cato, seconded by Councillor Keating and

Resolved: that following recommendation from the Audit Committee, the use of Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA) to carry out the re-procurement of External Auditors to the Council be approved.

COU 111 Development Programme: Commissioning Plan for Development of Sites in Weston-super-Mare (Agenda item 21)

Councillor Canniford presented the report. He outlined the proposals and anticipated timeline for securing a development partner for these sites, with a focus on ensuring quality and deliverability. A cross party member working group was proposed to oversee the commissioning and procurement process. He suggested that delivery on these sites would be challenging which created additional financial risk but he stressed that without council intervention these sites would remain undeveloped. He drew members' attention to options being considered for temporary 'meanwhile uses' to bring activity and new attractions to the sites, such as the use of converted shipping containers offering short-term low rent premises for independent businesses. He thanked officers for the report and the Place Panel for its input.

In discussing the report members welcomed the proposals but urged caution in terms of expectations, noting these sites were both financially and practically challenging and the various failed attempts to develop them over many decades. It was suggested development of these sites was essential for the improvement of the Town Centre economy and existing housing stock, and for the provision of more affordable housing. Members referred to the need for housing that was truly affordable, to include social rent and shared ownership, and suggested affordable housing levels should reflect the 40% recently agreed as part of the Local Plan consultation. Reference was also made to the need for child and family friendly housing. While there was support for an ambitious development package, reference was also made to the importance of realism, having regard to the particular constraints and challenges these sites presented and the likelihood of significant public subsidy being required to achieve the proposed affordable housing levels. Reference was also made to the need for ambitious goals in relation to climate change and for the carbon footprint of all capital projects to be closely scrutinised.

In response to a proposal for a further recommendation requiring the Executive Member to consult with the Chairman of the Place Panel, Councillor Canniford referred to recommendation (3) in the report that proposed the establishment of a Member Working Group, and agreed to include consultation with the Chairman of the Place Panel.

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

Resolved:

(1) that 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 the report, be approved;

(2) that authority be delegated 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;

(3) that the establishment of a Member Working Group be agreed to oversee the commissioning and procurement process, as well as 'meanwhile use' proposals, and to consult with the Chairman of the Place Panel;

(4) that authority be delegated to the Director of Corporate Services (Section 151 Officer), in consultation with 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;

(5) that an allocation of £693,493 from the approved capital programme for Social Housing Grants (KAH201) be approved, 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; and

(6) that the principle of facilitating 'meanwhile uses' on sites prior to their development be endorsed, subject to further business case development.

COU 112 Accommodation Strategy Update (includes exempt appendix) (Agenda item 22)

Councillor Bridger presented the report. He referred to an all member scrutiny session that had taken place on 17 January to brief members, but reported that not all members had seen the exempt appendix published with the main Council report for this meeting. He therefore proposed an amendment to the recommendations, suggesting that recommendation (1) seeking approval for transitioning out of Castlewood and its release for disposal or redevelopment be deleted, and an addition be made to recommendation (2) to bring back a further report to a future Council meeting. That report would include a full options appraisal.

The Assistant Director, Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer reminded members of the registration process for receiving exempt papers and asked any member yet to register to contact him so this could be rectified.

In noting that the future of Castlewood would be addressed in the further report, reference was made to the importance of retaining some form of council presence in the north of the district and a request was made for this to be addressed in the report.

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

Resolved: that the production of detailed options analysis and an associated development and delivery strategy for the Castlewood site be commissioned, and a further report be brought back to a future meeting of Council.

COU 113 Urgent business permitted by the Local Government Act 1972 (if any) (Agenda item 23)

None

Chairman

Appendix 1

Council Meeting, 15 February 2022 Question Time (agenda item 14)

1. Question from Cllr Keating to Cllr Solomon, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Services

Cllr Keating asked the following question of Cllr Solomon:

“Residents are increasingly concerned around road safety on Ladymead Lane in Langford.

Traffic has increased due to new developments and the use of the road as a "rat run" to avoid congestion on the A38. Plans to develop a new school (and possibly new housing as per the draft local plan) will only increase the problem.

Given that this route is heavily used by pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders, will the Executive Member commit to investigating how road safety and improving active travel facilities can improved on this route?" ”

Cllr Solomon responded he would look into this and discuss this with officers and ward councillors.

2. Question from Cllr James to Cllr Davies, Leader of the Council

Cllr James asked the following question of Cllr Davies:

“February marks LGBTQ History Month, and the theme is "Politics In Art: ‘The Arc Is Long’. Many residents may look back and learn about amazing queer artists like Clevedon's Doris Hatt who pioneered modernist art whilst running to be a communist councillor for Clevedon Walton whilst living with her long-term girlfriend in the 1940s.

This month it has also been one year since my petition, signed by 591 people, calling for a Rainbow Crossing on Portishead High Street - looking for a way to integrate equalities and inclusivity into our public realm by something visual which will highlight just how open North Somerset is.

How will this Council commemorate LGBTQ History Month, Pride Month - and how does it plan to honour its commitment to LGBTQ residents to improve the public realm?" ”

Cllr Bell as Deputy Leader responded on behalf of Cllr Davies. He confirmed the council was committed to equalities and inclusivity and suggested regular challenge of council commitments was useful. The council was working on a community inclusion calendar and was keen to ensure a focus on those issues that were most important to local communities and to embed this in our activities and reflect it in our communications. He confirmed this would include celebrating Pride Month and UK Pride next year.

3. Question from Cllr Charles to Cllr Petty, Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Engagement

Cllr Charles asked the following question of Cllr Petty:

"I, and I am sure other members, greatly appreciate the all member briefing on engagement held earlier on this year. I was hoping the Executive Member with portfolio responsibilities would consider the following: the creation of an engagement impact assessment tool similar in design to an EQIA that would ensure consideration of adequate engagement and the impact of engagement on any public facing policy, procedure or action of the council."

In response Cllr Petty welcomed the issue raised by Cllr Charles and reported that work was currently being undertaken on an engagement strategy and she would ensure that options for an engagement impact assessment tool would be considered as part of that. She undertook to provide a full written response and to circulate this to all councillors shortly.

4. Question from Cllr Haverson to Cllr Solomon, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Services

Cllr Haverson asked the following question of Cllr Solomon:

"One of my residents has asked if cyclists are permitted to use the Park & Ride at Long Ashton and use their bike instead of the bus to cycle into Bristol. As I understand it, this is currently not permitted. In answer to one of the FAQs: 'Can I park my vehicle and not catch a bus?' the Travelwest information website states: 'This is not currently possible. If you would like to get more information, please contact the local authority in charge of the site you are interested in.' I suspect that may be because we are trying to stop football fans parking their car and walking to the stadium. Can we reword this advice to permit drivers to either bus or cycle from the car park as I understand there is actually a cycle way exiting the site? I understand Bristol City Council is running the Park & Ride so would Councillor Solomon contact his counterpart at Bristol City Council to look into this."

Cllr Solomon responded that he would be happy to do so.

5. Question from Cllr Gibbons to Cllr Cartman, Executive Member for Corporate Services

Cllr Gibbons stated that Weston Town Council had recently been accredited as a Living Wage Employer and asked what the latest position was with North Somerset Council.

Cllr Cartman responded that all North Somerset Council staff were paid the Real Living Wage, with the exception of apprentices. In terms of the council's supply chain, he suggested this was not always affordable, referring to low wage sectors such as social care. However, he suggested these matters would be considered as part of the People Strategy that was due to come forward shortly.

6. Question from Cllr Shopland to Councillor Bell, Deputy Leader

Cllr Shopland asked the Deputy Leader why the clocks and the wyvern had disappeared from the Chamber and why the photograph of Her Majesty the Queen was located at the side rather than at the head of the Chamber.

Cllr Bell responded that the wyvern was still in its usual location but currently hidden by the projector screen and he would need to find out about the clocks. As for the photograph of the Queen he suggested maybe a more prominent position could be found in the Chamber for her Jubilee year.

7. Question from Cllr Willis to Cllr Solomon, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Services

Cllr Willis asked the following question of Cllr Solomon:

“What is the timeline for the rough sleeping or homeless issues in the doorways of Weston-super-Mare, particularly on Waterloo Street/The Boulevard? Some of my residents are distressed to see these people in such a state and asked me what is happening. I thought we had an initiative in place? Please could the Executive Member advise.”

Cllr Solomon responded he had monitored this recently and had only seen a couple of sleeping bags in doorways but understood this may now have increased. He agreed to contact officers to check whether the initiative was being actively pursued but referred to the importance of dealing with this issue sensitively.

Cllr Bell added it was really important to separate out the issue of unattended belongings left in doorways and those who were sleeping rough. He agreed action should be taken to remove unattended belongings and to deal with those who chose to camp out and beg, and confirmed there was no tolerance of those engaging in anti-social behaviour. However, he stressed no-one should be sleeping rough and anyone concerned about a rough sleeper should contact StreetLink, the national rough sleeping helpline which alerts local services.

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Council – 12 April 2022

Motions by Members (Standing Order No. 14)

Remote and hybrid meetings (Cllr Bell/Cllr Davies)

"That this council supports the petition launched by the Association of Democratic Support Officers and Lawyers in Local Government on 5 January calling for a change in the law to allow councils to meet via remote and hybrid meetings. We agree to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities calling on the Government to change the law to allow councils the flexibility to hold such meetings when they deem appropriate within agreed rules and procedures."

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Council – 12 April 2022

Motions by Members (Standing Order No. 14)

Anti-Racism (Cllr Gibbons)

The Black Lives Matter Movement was set up in 2013 after the death of Trayvon Martin and subsequent acquittal of his killer. Global protests increased following the killing of George Floyd in June 2020, for which Minneapolis police officers were charged with second-degree murder (and aiding and abetting second-degree murder).

In 2020 peaceful protests in support of Black Lives Matter were held across North Somerset and throughout the UK. The aim of the protests was to demand change, bringing an end to the racism, discrimination and inequality experienced by black people. The movement strives for dignity, justice, and freedom.

Racism in all forms, both structural and in individuals, continues to be a serious and often denied or unseen problem in the UK.

We have recently heard from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic people living and working in North Somerset who confirmed that they too experience racism in North Somerset. Although progress has been made in combating racism, work to eradicate it entirely is far from complete. This Council, representing people in North Somerset has a duty as a public leader to actively lead work to drive anti-racism. Thus:

This Council resolves as follows:

1. To stand together unreservedly with Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic people in North Somerset
2. To work to eradicate racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia, Antisemitism, and discrimination which impact the entire community and blight our society.
3. To establish further initiatives to ensure North Somerset is actively inclusive and anti-racist.
4. To ensure Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic members of our community are involved in any reviews of our processes, policies and organisational attitudes, hold listening and engagement events seeking their views on the issues they face in North Somerset, and work with and support Community groups, youth groups, and places of worship in engaging with these issues.
5. To evaluate our progress against the Equality Framework for Local Government, ensuring race equality is at the heart of the review and produce an action plan addressing improvements identified, and the matters raised through our engagement with the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities in North Somerset.

6. To provide training on race equality and what it means to be anti-racist, which will be mandatory for staff and expected for all councillors.
7. To recognise the rich cultural diversity of our employees and positively support their engagement in activity to address systemic racism wherever it occurs, and to make a commitment to work with organisations from the wider ethnic minority communities in North Somerset. (The recent Listening Event, was an example of a potential step in this direction.)

The council recognises that racial inequality exists, and we recognise our role in actively challenging it wherever it occurs in North Somerset. We make the commitment to implement these actions, through working with Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic members of our communities , and with organisations from the wider ethnic minority communities in North Somerset to effect meaningful change.

Council – 12 April 2022

Motions by Members (Standing Order No. 14)

Great Homes Upgrade Campaign Motion (Cllr Neve)

Millions of families across the UK are struggling with steeply rising energy prices.

Too many children and adults are living in damp, draughty and cold homes, amongst the worst in Europe, due to decades of underinvestment and poor insulation.

Housing is one of the largest sources of carbon emissions in the country, making up around 14% of total UK emissions.

There is no path to net zero without upgrading our homes.

To meet the government's own climate targets, we need to retrofit at least 19 million homes by 2030 and make all our housing low energy and zero carbon by 2050. To meet North Somerset's target of net zero by 2030 the rate of change must be even faster.

This critical step on the path to net zero is a huge opportunity to improve peoples' lives, finances and health and create thousands of good jobs across the country.

In October 2021 the Government released a Heat and Building Strategy, laying out the plans to cut energy demand and carbon emissions from homes and buildings, yet the financial offer was far less than promised in their manifesto. Under the Government's plans we would barely scratch the surface in the time we have to avoid climate catastrophe.

Council resolves to:

Call on the UK government to implement a Great Homes Upgrade

Write to Boris Johnson, Rishi Sunak and COP 26 President Alok Sharma highlighting the need to retrofit at least 19 million homes by 2030 to stay on track with their legal commitments and calling for the finance from the Treasury to unlock this.

Sign up to the Great Homes Upgrade campaign as a supporting organisation

Set up a local retrofit task force to help gather the evidence base, skills and expertise to kick start the process in this area. The work of the task force should include:

- A needs audit of local housing, identifying archetypes and appropriate retrofit interventions.
- Skills audit, identifying required skills and jobs.

- Partnership development with training providers and local enterprises that can deliver interventions.
- Partnership working with social housing providers and neighbouring authorities and other landlords
- Establishing a one stop portal for homeowners to access advice and guidance on retrofit.

Share best practice and stories of retrofit success with the Great Homes Upgrade campaign and with the Local Government Association.

Write to neighbouring authorities asking them to join the campaign.

Council – 12 April 2022

Motions by Members (Standing Order No. 14)

Member Code Of Conduct (Cllr Charles)

Council notes

1. That Government has very recently published its response to the Committee for Standards in Public Life 2019 report [into strengthening the local government standards regime](#) after a three year wait. The response falls short of making changes to the standards regime but suggests that councils can adopt changes themselves to strengthen conduct issues.
2. Amongst possible changes proposed are steps to improve matters such as bullying and harassment of and by councillors and the adoption of an updated model code of conduct issued by the Local Government Association.
3. That many councillors elected in 2019 have valuable experience of the pressures in the role and can assist North Somerset Council in how it can support councillors in the future.

Council Resolves

1. To ask the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer to review the new LGA code with a view to recommending its early adoption by Council and providing supporting training on the new code and standards matters for current councillors and its inclusion in future induction briefings for members following elections.
2. To create a group of cllrs from across the council (no more than 6) to work with the Monitoring Officer and the Deputy Monitoring Officer to provide input into the adoption of the code and its related training and support with an overall objective of providing a productive and safe working environment for Cllrs in the future

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Forward Plan

for the four-month period commencing on

1st May 2022

published on 1 April 2022



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.

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

3 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

May 2022

1. Council and Executive Items

(NB No Executive meeting scheduled for May)

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
10/05	Compulsory Purchase of land for construction of Banwell Bypass (moved to July)	Executive decision for Compulsory Purchase Order of land for construction of Banwell Bypass	Council (Annual)	No	Place Scrutiny Panel to be engaged through HIF scheme scrutiny 18th April 2022	Contact: Tom Foster 07825903259
10/05	Accommodation Strategy update	Council report on Asset, Accommodation and Development Strategies, 23 rd Feb 2021: https://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/Meetings/document/report/NSCPM-38-641 Weston Placemaking Strategy: https://superweston.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Prospectus_weston_super_mare.pdf Weston Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document: https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/Weston-super-Mare%20town%20centre%20regeneration%20supplementary%20planning%20document.pdf	Council (Annual)	Part	Partnerships, Corporate Organisation and Overview Management Policy and Scrutiny Panel 11th November 2021 All member briefing January 2022	Contact: Alex Hearn 01275 888895 07917265642
10/05	Joint Commissioning & Procurement Plan for the re-procurement of the Energy Supply Contract (previously listed for April)	Decision CSD61 – Award of Energy Supply Contracts	Council	No	Engagement session with PCOM Panel held on 14 December. Further session to be arranged prior to Council meeting	Contact: Elaine Braund 01275 884195 Holly Wilkins

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May 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
01/05	Revisions to the Schools' Fair Access Protocol	Current Fair Access Protocol – see Fair access protocol North Somerset Council (n-somerset.gov.uk)	Executive Member (Cllr Gibbons)	No	CYPS School Organisation Working Group – Date tba	Contact: Sally Varley Tel: 01275 884857
01/05	Extension of the Adoption West Commissioned Services Agreement (1 June 2022 - 28 February 2027) (new entry)	Original decision sheet PC77 2018/19 Background documents (10 Adoption West) Inter-Authority agreement 22/2/2019 Commissioning Agreement 22/2/2019 Members Agreement 22/2/2019	Director of Children's Services (key decision)	No	Papers shared (along with Ofsted Report on Adoption West) and discussed with CYPS Panel Chairman & Vice-Chairman. Agreement from both to proposed extension and to Ofsted Report being shared with CYPS Panel members alongside a presentation to next Panel meeting	Contact: Charlotte Badger 01275 888068 or Alison Stone
01/05	A38 MRN scheme: Acceptance of DfT Grant and approval of NSC Local Contributions (previously listed for April)	Director Decision: 19/20 DE295 https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-05/19-20%20DE%20295.pdf - Exec Member Decision DP270: A38 Major Road Network Scheme Outline Business Case Submission and Local Contribution Funding - Full Council/Exec Member: Commissioning & Procurement Plans for the Design & Build Contract of the A38 Major Road Network (MRN) Scheme and associated Professional Services	Executive Member (Cllr Bridger)	No	The Place P&SP was consulted at the OBC Submission Decision and Commissioning Plan stage in September/October 2021. A further briefing will be offered to the Place P&SP in May 2022.	Contact: Konrad Lansdown: 07917 184804

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01/05	Award Approval – In Home Lifts Contract (previously listed for April)	<u>Commissioning Plan</u>	Director of Public Health (key decision)	No	Panel engaged prior to Commissioning Plan sign off at Executive 20 Oct 2021. Briefing note to ASH Panel WG when confirmed option	Contact: Howard Evans 01934 426673
01/05	Consider initial outcome of Stock Condition Survey in relation to private sector housing and review/action recommendations as appropriate (new entry)	Private Rented Sector Conditions Update (ASH Panel June 2019) Committee Report NSC (modern.gov.co.uk)	Executive Member (Cllr Bell)	No	ASH Working Group – Date tbc	Contact: Howard Evans Tel: 01934 426673
01/05	Approval of Traffic Regulation Orders required to support Clevedon Active Travel Fund 2 schemes (20mph, one way roads, waiting restrictions) (new entry)	Clevedon informal consultation results. Plans/engineering drawings for all TRO's. Signed approval via Mike Solomon/Darren Gilbert	Executive Member (Cllr Solomon)	No	Scrutiny Panel Chairman has been consulted and full panel engagement, if required, to be scheduled by 22 April at the latest	Contact: Rob Thomson / Ian Wilson / Frankie Mann

June 2022

1. Council and Executive Items

(NB No Council meeting scheduled for June)

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
22/06	2021/22 Month 12 Budget Monitor	Previous Budget Monitor reports to Executive	Executive	No	Reporting to PCOM informally through timetable of scrutiny engagement as agreed with the Panel Chairman	Contact: Melanie Watts 01934 634618
22/06	Award of contract and authorisation to enter into Joint Venture with the recommended development partner for land to the south of The Uplands, Nailsea	Report to Council, 19 th July 2021: Development Programme: Business Case and Commissioning Plan for development of council-owned land to the south of The Uplands, Nailsea	Executive	Part	As set out in Council report dated 19 th July 2019. A Member Advisory Group is also overseeing the procurement process.	Contact: Jenny Ford / Geoff Brakspear
22/06	Winterstoke Road Bridge Replacement: Award of Stage 2 Design & Build Contract (previously listed for April)	<u>20/21 DP 262: Contract Award for Stage 1 of the Design & Build Services of Winterstoke Road Bridge</u> <u>COU 104 12/11/2019: Commissioning Plan & acceptance of MOD funding</u> <u>19/20 DE 257: Procurement Plan</u>	Executive	No	Place Policy & Scrutiny Panel Chairman consulted: no further Panel engagement necessary	Contact: Jason Reading 01275 884480
22/06	Accept Heads of Terms and enter into options agreement for purchase of land for construction of Banwell Bypass (previously listed for April)	Executive decision for purchase of land for construction of Banwell Bypass through landowner negotiation	Executive	No	Place Scrutiny Panel to be engaged through HIF scheme scrutiny 18th April 2022	Contact: Maduabuchi Ani

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June 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
01/06						

July 2022

1. Council and Executive Items

(NB No Executive meeting scheduled for July)

Meeting Date	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Contact Officer for Further Details
12/07	Compulsory Purchase of land for construction of Banwell Bypass (previously listed for May)	Executive decision for Compulsory Purchase Order of land for construction of Banwell Bypass	Council	No	Place Scrutiny Panel to be engaged through HIF scheme scrutiny 18th April 2022	Contact: Tom Foster 07825903259

July 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
01/07						

August 2022

1. Council and Executive Items

(NB No Council or Executive meetings scheduled for August)

2. Executive Member Items and Director Key Decisions

Decision not before	Item/Issue requiring decision	Background Documents for Consideration	Decision Taker	Exempt Item? Yes/No/Part	Policy & Scrutiny Panel Activity & Engagement / Timeline	Contact Officer for Further Details
01/08						

Licensing Committee

14 March 2022

Draft Extract

LIC6 End of Year Report for the administration and enforcement of all licensing regimes

The Director of Public Health and Regulatory Services' representative reported on the administration and enforcement of all licensing regimes undertaken by the council.

She presented her report, which detailed the licensing activities undertaken within the financial year 2021/22 in relation to the functions and responsibilities carried out by the North Somerset Licensing Team and amendments to draft revisions after public consultation of the Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005.

In presenting her report, she noted the removal from the Licensing Policy of the Cumulative Impact Area currently in operation but that this could be reinstated with supporting police evidence should the need arise. She added that the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy was still valid, so no review had been necessary but that there had been a large increase in applications from drivers who live out of the area.

The Director of Public Health and Regulatory Services' representative brought members' attention to the consultation responses received on the draft Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 particularly in respect of safeguarding issues.

Licensing Act 2003

Members asked questions and received clarification on the previously reported increase in drug use including spiking incidents; the number of instances of public disorder, the Ask for Angela domestic abuse campaign and the use of a sponsored salaried taxi driver near to the Mavis bus on Fridays and Saturdays.

Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy

Clarification was sought and received on the numbers of applications that may come to a hearing particularly in relation to drivers who live outside of North Somerset

Gambling Act 2005

Members sought and received clarification on the use and timing of risk assessments and safeguarding for children, the extent of the coverage of the Statement of Principles under the Act and the use of extensions to fee dates.

In concluding discussions, it was

Resolved:

(1) to note the outcomes and challenges to the administration of Licensing regimes undertaken by the North Somerset Council Licensing Team in this financial year

(2) to note the changes to the draft revisions of the Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 following public consultation

It was further

Recommended to the Council: that the revised Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003 and the revised Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 be adopted by the Council at its meeting in April 2022.

North Somerset Council

Report to the Licensing Committee

Date of meeting: 14th March 2022

Subject of report: end of year report for the administration and enforcement of all licensing regimes

Town or parish: all areas

Officer/member presenting: Director of Public Health

Key decision: no

Recommendations

Members of the Committee are invited to note some of the outcomes and challenges to the administration of Licensing regimes undertaken by the North Somerset Council Licensing Team in this financial year, and to note the changes to the draft revisions of the statutory policies following public consultation. The Committee members are also asked to recommend the revised policies for adoption by Full Council at their meeting in April 2022.

1. Summary of report

This report provides a summary of some of the main activities carried out by the Licensing Team so far within the financial year 2021/2022 and also highlights the continued pressures and difficulties experienced as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

2. Policy

2.1 Statutory and Local policies have been agreed by the Council as follows:

- Licensing Act 2003 –statement of Licensing Policy (2015-2020 - extended)
- Sex Establishment Policy
- Taxi & Private Hire Licensing Policy (2019-2023)
- Gambling Act 2005 – statement of principles (2019-2021)
- Street Café Policy (2020-2024)
- Street Trading Policy (2020-2024)
- Film Classification Policy (2020)

These policies direct the Licensing Authority in the discharge of its responsibilities under the legislation it administers and enforces.

2.2 Licensing Act 2003

The current Statement of Licensing Policy (Licensing Act 2003) was due for review last year, with Home Office guidance permitting a delay in starting the formal consultation in light of the resource pressures caused by the pandemic.

The draft Policy was released for public consultation following the last Licensing Committee meeting and a total of 3 responses were received, all stating they felt the revised policy was fit for purpose and making no further comment or suggestion.

A final draft copy of the Licensing Act 2003 policy (2022-2025) is attached at **Appendix 1** and confirmation is sought from the Committee that the revised policy as recommended for adoption by Full Council.

2.4 Taxi & Private Hire

With the end of restrictions and the gradual return to business as usual, the team have started to receive a steady flow of enquiries and applications for new drivers. Operators are reporting a steady return to work of our existing drivers and this should serve to ease the difficulties and delays experienced by passengers in booking taxis through the pandemic restrictions.

With the next review due in 2023 and an increasing awareness of the need to address the climatic impact of vehicles, their emissions and fuel consumption, focus will be given to mitigating these effects, whilst progressing toward a more sustainable and greener criteria for licensing. A move to a more environmentally friendly method of physical taxi plate production and disposal will also see the team reduce their carbon footprint.

2.5 Gambling Act 2005

Following the last Committee meeting, the draft Statement of Principles was released for public consultation and a total of 4 responses were received.

Three of the responses stated they felt the revised statement was fit for purpose and made no other comments.

A more detailed response was received from Merkur Ltd, a national Operator of gambling premises. A table showing their comments and the Licensing Authority responses is shown below:

Section commented on	Comments	Response
3.3 Provisional statements	Submission of either provisional statement or full application should be after discussion with applicant.	Wording altered to reflect appropriate application route will be by discussion.
4.5.8 Significant changes at Operator premises	Comment that to ask for updated risk assessment every time there is a local event is onerous.	Statement indicates local events should be generically taken into account in risk assessing. No change to wording.
4.8 Door Supervisors	Suggests that use of SIA doorstaff will be mandated and should be on case-by-case basis.	Wording altered to indicate licence holders should <i>consider</i> using door staff and conditions <i>may</i> be added if appropriate.

<p>4.9 Material variations to premises</p>	<p>Non-structural changes to layout may not require full variation under the Act. Draft suggests this is the case.</p>	<p>Wording revised to indicate the Authority <i>may</i> require a full variation for any permanent changes including booths or privacy screening.</p>
<p>4.12.10 ULFEC permits</p>	<p>Safeguarding policy should only extend to matters of gambling harm not wider social responsibility.</p>	<p>Comments noted, no changes made.</p>
<p>4.18 General - gaming machines</p>	<p>Plans are not required to detail booths or privacy screens so need not consult with Authority.</p>	<p>Addressed under wording of 4.9.</p>
<p>7.9 Protection of children from harm</p>	<p>Safeguarding policy should only extend to matters of gambling harm and underage gambling not wider social responsibility.</p>	<p>The Authority considers safeguarding to be everyone's responsibility and feels that operators should play a part in being able to identify those at risk. Having a policy to identify both children and vulnerable adults and having the awareness of how to report concerns does not constitute a condition of the licence but seeks to encourage operators to have a responsible approach to all safeguarding matters.</p> <p>No changes made.</p>
<p>Appendix F – CSE & trafficking</p>	<p>Comment that these topics have no relevance to the licensing objectives and need not be included in this statement of principles.</p>	<p>As a large seaside resort with many arcade and gaming activities the issue of exploitation of both adult and vulnerable adults is a concern. The Authority seeks to encourage awareness in as many settings as possible to help reduce the levels of exploitation in addition to the social responsibility of preventing gambling harms.</p> <p>Appendix F retained.</p>

A final draft copy of the revised Statement of Principles (2022 – 2025) is attached at **Appendix 2**. Confirmation of the changes made are sought from the Committee and agreement that the final draft is recommended for adoption by Full Council.

3. Details – a service summary

3.1 With the easing of restrictions and the reduction in reactive work associated with the Coronavirus pandemic, the Licensing Team are starting to settle back to a more business as usual approach and are looking forward to some more proactive work with licensees to continue to support them through the recovery phase.

3.2 Licensing Officers have resumed reactive premises visits, often with fantastic levels of support from Police Licensing and Neighbourhood team colleagues

Officers have identified a number of licences suspended through either non-payment or simply the closure of the premise and are working with premises to get licences reinstated, overdue fees collected and the administrative tasks associated with licence changes completed.

3.3 Since the easing of restrictions, the night time economy venues have noted a rise in general disorder, drunkenness and the presence of drugs. It must be noted that venues are reacting positively and trying to find ways of controlling this and reducing incidents. Use of knife wands, drugs searches and robust ejection or banning of those causing trouble are all methods being employed.

The MAVIS bus is now being deployed every weekend to counter the increased number of medical issues being noted and there is a piece of work currently under way to set up a volunteer scheme to provide outreach for those needing direction to the bus and as a welcome presence in addition to medical staff and assistance in signposting and general support to vulnerable persons.

It is also pleasing to report that Apple taxis are now supporting the night time economy actions by providing a dedicated vehicle to sit with MAVIS every weekend. Having the ability to safely get vulnerable people home, transporting those in need of assistance back to the bus and taking medical staff quickly to a situation is proving invaluable. The costs and resource savings to the South West Ambulance Trust of having minor hospital cases transported without a call on their service is significant and this sponsorship from Apple taxis is greatly appreciated.

3.4 Through the periods of restriction there was a marked decrease in the number of licensed taxi drivers applying and working. There is now a steady increase in licence holders returning to work and a marked increase in the number of enquiries and applications from prospective drivers.

3.5 The appointment of a taxi compliance officer continues to benefit the team. This is enabling us to identify less compliant licence holders and to send a strong message to vehicle owners that we intend to improve standards further.

Joint exercises continue with Road traffic Police, other Local authority licensing teams and agencies such as DVSA and the Environment Agency. These allow for strong working partnerships and for the pooling of expert resource.

4. Consultation

There have been two public consultation exercises since the last meeting. Both the revised Statement of Licensing Policy and Gambling – Statement of Principles have been subject to public consultation, the results of which are detailed earlier in this report.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1 The Authority continues to use suspension powers for non-payment of fees. Recovery of outstanding fees is vital to ensuring maximum cost recovery for the provision of the Licensing service.

However, in the current climate, many businesses are acknowledged to be experiencing financial difficulties and arrangements are being made where possible to permit extensions to fee dates and the introduction of payment instalment plans. This has again been welcomed by licence holders but has added a significant level of administration for officers.

5.2 Costs

Costs for the administration of licensing regimes, monitoring of compliance of permissions and the policies that accompany them are off-set against the fees charged to applicants. The cost associated with delivering each licence regime is regularly reviewed to ensure full cost recovery and correct construction of levied fees.

It should be noted that there will be a financial risk to the Authority in this and the next financial year due to the additional costs incurred through the period of the pandemic, and possible under-recovery of fees.

Temporary legislation issued through the pandemic relating to pavement cafes has been extended by a further year with a view to more permanent changes in due course. The capping of fees nationally will impact on the level of fee income obtained and there is a risk to the Authority of under recovery of costs in this area.

5.3 Funding

The team continues to review the costs of each licensing regime to ensure the appropriate fees are levied to maximise cost recovery for the Local Authority.

A full review of the fee structures is proposed in the new financial year to protect cost recovery for the Council and to ensure applicants are fairly charged.

6. Legal powers and implications

- 6.1 The Licensing Authority recognises that its licensing function is only one means of securing the delivery of the service. The Licensing Authority will therefore continue to work in partnership with other stakeholders, such as the Police, Crime & Disorder Partnerships and the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) towards the promotion of any licensing objectives.

- 6.2 In undertaking its licensing function, the Licensing Authority has regard to various primary legislation and statutory guidance issued alongside.

6.3 The Licensing Authority also has regard to any other relevant legislation, strategies, policies and guidance in its decision-making. COVID-19 regulations continue to be repealed and the Licensing Team, together with other regulatory services continue to keep these under review.

7. Climate change and environmental implications

There are no climate change or environmental implications identified within this report.

However, there is also a strong commitment to addressing climate emergency and changes to admissible vehicle type, fuel and age will form part of future policy reviews. There is an aspiration to move to lower emission vehicles and to encourage electric vehicles where possible. It is hoped that grant funding and incentivisation can be sought to assist with this initiative.

8. Risk management

Regularly reviewing licensing policies and practices reduces the risk to the Authority.

Using a risk-rated approach to both proactive and reactive enforcement allows the team to focus resources in problem areas, promoting public safety.

Ensuring MoU agreements are in place with external partner agencies also help to strengthen roles and responsibilities surrounding Licensing work.

Being able to promote COVID-safe working practices provides an opportunity to increase public confidence and also serves to mitigate some of the Public Health risks associated with the spread of Coronavirus.

9. Equality implications

There are no equality issues identified as part of this report.

10. Corporate implications

No corporate implications noted as part of this report.

11. Options

Members are asked to :

- 1) Note the updates regarding the Licensing Service and policy updates,
- 2) Agree any amendments to the draft Licensing Act 2003 Policy (2021-2025) and recommend for adoption by Full Council.
- 3) Agree any amendments to the draft Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles (2022-2024) and recommend for adoption by Full Council.

Author

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Appendices	
Appendix 1	Draft Licensing Act 2003 Policy (2022 – 2025)
Appendix 2	Draft Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles (2022 – 2024)



Licensing Act 2003

Statement of Licensing Policy

2021-2025

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1. Statement of licensing policy

1.1 North Somerset District

North Somerset Council (the Council) is a Unitary Authority in Somerset covering approximately 145 square miles (38,955 hectares) with a population of 213,000.

There are approximately 90,000 households and 7,000 active business enterprises within the district. The Council area is a mixed urban and rural district with a dispersed population. The main urban areas are Weston-super-Mare, Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead. The remainder of the area is a mixture of villages and farmland. The estimated population of Weston-super-Mare is 90,000, Clevedon 22,000, Nailsea 18,000 and Portishead 25,000. The area is not densely populated although there are concentrations of housing in the above towns.

The area adjoins the conurbation of Bristol and includes a major dock at Portbury, an International Airport at Lulsgate and the seaside resorts of Weston-super-Mare and Clevedon. The area has good transportation links that include the M5 motorway and main line railway routes and stations.

Tourism historically has been a significant economic sector in the local economy, most notably Weston-super-Mare which grew from a small village to a large resort town. Though tourism declined in the mid to late-20th century, in common with most British coastal resorts, this sector of the economy has stabilised and substantial regeneration is now taking place in Weston-super-Mare.

A wide range of licensed premises exist in North Somerset and they play a significant role in the community and local economy. As at the 1 July 2021 the Authority licence 816 Premises Licences, 78 Club Premises Certificates and 3109 Personal Licences.

A map of the North Somerset District is shown at **Appendix A**.

1.2 Introduction

North Somerset Council is the Licensing Authority for the North Somerset administrative area under the Licensing Act 2003 (the Act). This means the Licensing Authority is responsible for granting premises licences, club premises certificates, personal licences and acknowledging temporary event notices in respect of the sale and/or supply of alcohol and the provision of regulated entertainment and late-night refreshment.

The Authority aims to facilitate the development of a healthy and diverse economy, offering a wide choice of activities and establishments that allow people to enjoy themselves and to feel safe, whilst improving the quality of life of residents and making the area attractive to visitors.

It is recognised that the Coronavirus pandemic has had a significant detrimental impact on all areas of the hospitality trade and it is hoped that during the recovery phase, well managed and compliant premises will help restore confidence and there will be a return to greater use of facilities in the daytime, evening and night time economy throughout the district by all ages, all income groups, and all social groups.

1.3 Glossary of terms

The terminology used in this document is set out in **Appendix B**.

1.4 Licensing objectives

The Act requires that the Licensing Authority carries out its various licensing functions with a view to promoting the following four licensing objectives:

- the prevention of crime and disorder
- public safety
- the prevention of public nuisance
- the protection of children from harm.

These objectives are of equal importance and are the only matters that can be taken into account in determining an application under the Licensing Act 2003.

1.5 Types of licence

This document sets out the policies that the Licensing Authority will apply when making decisions upon:

- Premises Licences
- Club Certificates
- Personal Licences
- Temporary Event Notices.

1.6 Licensable activities

This policy relates to all licensing activities identified as falling within the provisions of the Act, which are set out in **Appendix B**.

1.7 Fundamental Principles

1.7.1 The Licensing Authority will take this licensing policy into account if its discretion is engaged i.e., at a hearing following representations from either a responsible authority or other person.

1.7.2 Application of this policy will be based on:

- each case being considered on its own merits and nothing in this policy shall undermine this principle,
- persons having the right under the Licensing Act 2003 to apply for a variety of permissions and to have such applications considered on their own merits,
- where they are permitted to do so under the Act any person shall have the right to make representations on any application or seek a review of a licence or certificate and nothing in this policy shall undermine that.

1.7.3 Licensing is about regulating licensable activities on licensed premises, at qualifying clubs and at temporary events within the terms of the Licensing Act 2003.

- 1.7.4 In the absence of any relevant representations in respect of an application, the Authority is obliged to issue the licence or certificate on the terms sought and any mandatory conditions prescribed in the Act.
- 1.7.5 Where appropriate, conditions may be attached to licences and certificates. In order to avoid duplication with other statutory regimes the Licensing Authority shall not attach conditions to a licence unless they are considered necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives. Conditions shall generally be considered unnecessary if they are already adequately covered by other legislation. In particular it is not intended to duplicate existing legislation and regulatory regimes that already places obligations on employers and operators.
- 1.7.6 The Licensing Authority acknowledges that the licensing function cannot be used for the general control of antisocial behaviour by individuals once they are beyond the direct control of the licensee of any premises concerned. Nonetheless, it is a key aspect of such control and licensing law will always be part of a holistic approach to the management of the evening and night-time economy. The Licensing Authority recognises there are a number of other mechanisms available for addressing issues of unruly behaviour that can occur away from licensed premises.
- 1.7.7 Objectors need to relate their objections to one or more of the licensing objectives, as detailed at 1.4, before the Licensing Authority will be able to consider them.
- 1.7.8 The Licensing Authority itself is included within the list of Responsible Authorities, enabling it to make representations; when supported by evidence, in respect of new and variation applications, and to call for the review of an existing licence. The Licensing Authority will not seek to act on behalf of those who are capable of making representations for themselves or calling for a review in their own right. Therefore, inferences should not be drawn on such occasion when the Licensing Authority remains silent in respect of new, variation or review applications.
- 1.7.9 In cases where a licensing authority is also acting as responsible authority in relation to the same process, there will be a separation of responsibilities within the authority to ensure procedural fairness and eliminate conflicts of interest. The officer advising the licensing committee (i.e. the authority acting in its capacity as the licensing authority) will be a different individual to the officer who is acting for the responsible authority.
- 1.7.10 The officer acting for responsible authority will not be involved in the licensing decision process and will not discuss the merits of the case with those involved in making the determination by the licensing authority. Discussion will not take place between the officer acting as responsible authority and the officer handling the licence application regarding the merits of the case. Communication between these officers in relation to the case will remain professional and consistent with communication with other responsible authorities. In such cases licensing determinations will be made by the licensing committee or sub committee comprising elected members of the authority (although they are advised by a licensing officer).

1.8 Consultees

This Statement of Licensing Policy has been subject to consultation with:

- Avon and Somerset Constabulary,
- Avon Fire and Rescue Service,
- Director of Public Health,
- Persons holding premises licences,
- Persons holding club premises certificates,
- Persons holding personal licences,
- Representatives of businesses and residents of the area.

The consultation process took place between December 2021 and February 2022. All comments received were given due consideration prior to the final determination of this policy.

1.9 Policy review

This policy will be reviewed by the Licensing Authority at least every five years as required by the Act. If an issue arises that requires a change to this policy, an interim review will be carried out, and the policy will be amended as required.

2. Legislation, policies, and strategies

2.1 Legislation

2.1.1 In undertaking its licensing function under the Act, this Licensing Authority is also bound by other legislation, including:

- Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988;
- Human Rights Act 1998.
- The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003
- Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006
- The Health Act 2006 (Smoke Free Regulations)
- The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act
- Policing and Crime Act 2009
- Equality Act 2010
- The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011
- The Live Music Act 2012

2.1.2 The Human Rights Act 1998 makes it unlawful for a licensing authority to act in a way that is incompatible with a convention right. The authority will have regard to the Human Rights Act when undertaking licensing functions, particularly the following relevant provisions:

Article 6 – everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time, by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law

Article 8 – everyone has the right to respect for his home and private and family life

Article 1 of the first protocol – every person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his or her possessions.

2.1.3 The licensing authority has a duty to consider the prevention of crime and disorder under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and is committed to working closely with the Avon and Somerset Constabulary, other agencies, residents and businesses to achieve this.

It will also have regard to other relevant legislation and legislative changes when exercising its function and will revise this policy accordingly.

2.2 Relationship with planning policies

2.2.1 The “need” for commercial premises relate to the commercial demand for such premises and is not a matter for the Licensing Authority discharging its functions. “Need” is a matter for the Planning Committee and for the market.

2.2.2 The Licensing Authority recognises that licensing applications should not be a re-run of the planning application process and there shall be a clear separation of the planning and licensing regimes to avoid duplication of process and requirements made of an applicant and to comply with statute. It should be noted, however, that there is no legal basis for the Licensing Authority to refuse a licence application because it does not have planning permission.

2.2.3 The issue of a premises licence is a separate and distinct process to the granting of planning permission. The Licensing Authority will consider applications for licences before planning permission is obtained although planning and building control permissions will have to be sought and approved before any development takes place.

2.2.4 The Licensing Authority will, where appropriate, provide reports to the planning committee on the situation regarding licensed premises in the area, including the general impact of alcohol related crime and disorder.

2.3 Integrating strategies

Where possible, the Licensing Authority will aim to integrate any national and local policies and strategies as it is recognised that these encourage vibrant, diverse, and sustainable communities.

By consulting widely prior to this policy statement being published the Licensing Authority has endeavoured to secure proper integration with local policies and strategies as follows:

2.3.1 Alcohol Harm Reduction

The Licensing Authority recognises that excessive alcohol consumption leads to poor health which, in turn places burdens on local health services. Regard will be given to the North Somerset People and Communities Strategy, health & wellbeing Strategy, the Avon & Somerset Police crime plan, and other initiatives which support the aims of reducing alcohol harm and ensuring safer communities.

Encouragement and support will also be offered for participation in any national initiatives such as any Local Alcohol Action Area projects, Best Bar None and Licensing SAVI schemes and any local or voluntary initiatives which premises may adopt to help reduce irresponsible drinking such as the removal of cheap, super-strength Ciders and Lagers or low priced alcohol which may lead to rapid or excessive consumption.

2.3.2 Crime Prevention

Conditions attached to premises licences and club premises certificates will, so far as possible, reflect local crime prevention strategies.

Support and encouragement will be offered for Pubwatch groups and Radio links where such schemes exist.

2.3.3 Cultural Strategies

Regard will be given to the North Somerset Sustainable Community strategy, Place-making strategies and other local initiatives that look to support and encourage diverse cultural activities.

In its role of implementing local authority cultural strategies, the Licensing Authority recognises the need to encourage live music, dance and theatre for the wider cultural benefit of the community. The Licensing Authority will monitor the impact of licensing on regulated entertainment and ensure that only appropriate, proportionate and reasonable licensing conditions are imposed on licences granted.

2.3.4 Transport

Liaison shall be maintained with the Police and the Council in relation to the development of policies for the swift and safe dispersal of people from built up areas. Regard will be taken of transportation arrangements as set out in the Joint Local Transport Plan 4 Statement.

2.3.5 Tourism and Employment

The Licensing Committee will, where appropriate, receive reports on:

- The local tourist economy
- The local employment situation

2.3.6 Equality

The Licensing Authority recognises that the Equality Act 2010, places a legal obligation on public authorities to have due regard to the desirability of reducing socio-economic inequalities and the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination with a view to promoting equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different groups.

The Licensing Authority therefore will have due regard to this responsibility when imposing conditions on licences to ensure that they could not directly or indirectly discriminate.

2.3.7 Street Trading

The Council has adopted a scheme for the regulation of street trading. Businesses operating on a Consent or Licensed Street and selling hot food or refreshments between 11.00 pm and 5.00 am will be required to obtain a premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003 in addition to a street trading consent granted by the Council. The Licensing Authority has licensed public spaces under the Licensing Act 2003 and details can be found on the Council's

website at www.n-somerset.gov.uk by using the [licensed premises search facility](#)

3. Decision making

3.1 Procedural Matters

- 3.1.1 The Licensing Committee shall consist of not less than 10 and no more than 15 councillors. The Licensing Authority in the interests of speed, efficiency and cost effectiveness has agreed the scheme of delegated decision making as shown at **Appendix C**
- 3.1.2 A licensing sub-committee of three councillors shall sit to hear applications where representations have been received from interested parties and responsible authorities. Ward councillors shall not sit on a sub-committee involving an application within their ward.
- 3.1.3 The chairman of the licensing committee shall normally be elected at the annual meeting of the authority. The chairman of a licensing sub-committee shall be elected on each occasion by the councillors sitting on the sub-committee.
- 3.1.4 Where a councillor who is a member of a licensing committee or a licensing sub-committee is making or has made representations on behalf of or as an interested party, in the interests of good governance they shall disqualify themselves from any involvement in the decision-making process affecting the licence in question.
- 3.1.5 Where a councillor who is a member of a licensing committee or a licensing sub-committee has had a direct or indirect involvement in the affairs of an application before them, in the interests of good governance they shall disqualify themselves from being a member of a Committee in a decision-making capacity. The member may though speak at a licence hearing in the capacity of an Interested Person.
- 3.1.6 Every determination of a licensing decision by the licensing committee or a licensing sub-committee shall be accompanied by clear, cogent reasons for the decision. Reasons will be given at the hearing and will be confirmed in writing within five working days of the date of the decision. A summary of the decision shall be posted on the council's website as soon as possible after the decision has been confirmed in writing.

3.2 Licence Reviews

- 3.2.1 The Licensing Authority acknowledges the importance of working in partnership to achieve the promotion of licensing objectives. Wherever possible responsible authorities will aim to give licensees early warning of any concerns identified at a premise prior to making an application to review a licence or certificate.
- 3.2.2 Local residents, businesses and district councillors have the power to apply for a licence to be called in for review if the premises are causing problems and failing in terms of the licensing objectives. Responsible Authorities such as the Police, Environmental Health or Trading Standards can also call licences in for review. A review can be requested at any time; however, the government guidance recommends that a reasonable period elapses between an earlier review or

grant of a licence. A review will though be undertaken after notification from the Magistrates' Court of a Closure Order coming into force for a licensed premise.

3.2.3 The Licensing Authority itself can also initiate the review process applying for a review if it is concerned about licensed activities at premises and wants to intervene early without waiting for representations from other persons.

3.2.4 However, it is not expected that Licensing Authorities should normally act as responsible authorities in applying for reviews on behalf of other persons, such as residents or community groups. These individuals or groups are entitled to apply for a review for a licence or certificate in their own right if they have grounds to do so. It is also reasonable for Licensing Authorities to expect other responsible authorities to intervene where the basis for the intervention falls within the remit of that other authority.

For example, the Police should take appropriate steps where the basis for the review is concern about crime and disorder. Likewise, where there are concerns about noise nuisance, it is reasonable to expect the Local Authority exercising environmental health functions for the area in which the premises are situated to make the application for review.

3.2.5 Where the relevant licensing authority does act as a responsible authority it will ensure a clear distinction between those administering the process and those applying to ensure a fair determination of its' outcome at a hearing.

3.2.6 A review application needs to be in writing on the statutory form. There will need to be clear and factual evidence to support the application and this should show that incidents are not isolated and that there is a direct link with the premises. Grounds for review must also be based on one or more of the licensing objectives as detailed below. The grounds given are not exhaustive and are intended to illustrate the areas that are likely to form the basis of a review of a licence or certificate.

3.2.7 A review of the licence in connection with crime and disorder may be sought where:

- A serious crime has occurred at, or can be linked to a particular premise
- There are a series of crimes that can be linked to a particular premise
- There have been prosecutions or penalty notices served for underage sales
- There have been incidents which raise concerns that the premises are not being properly managed
- There have been breaches of the terms or conditions of the licence
- There have been repeated complaints from the public, including anti-social behaviour.

3.2.8 In cases when the crime prevention objective is being undermined the revocation of the licence, even in the first instance, will be seriously considered.

3.2.9 A review of the licence in connection with public safety may be sought where:

- Where it is considered that the management had failed to maintain the appropriate level of fire safety provision
- Failure to comply with a fire related enforcement notice
- Following the outcome of any investigation and inspection of a fire occurring within a premise
- Serious or regular contraventions of health and safety legislation
- Failure to comply with a condition of a licence
- Prosecution for failure to comply with health and safety legislation

3.2.10 A review of the licence in connection with public nuisance may be sought where:

- Complaints have been received that have been substantiated by investigating officers
- Breaches of licence conditions in respect of public nuisance have been identified
- Action is being considered under Environmental Protection, Noise or Anti Social Behaviour Legislation.

3.2.11 A review of the licence in connection with protection of children from harm may be sought where:

- There have been underage sales or underage drinking taking place
- Breaches of licence conditions in respect of protection of children have taken place
- Complaints that have been received which can be substantiated.

4. Operational Matters

4.1 Applications

4.1.1 Applications must include all the relevant documentation, fee and plans as set out in the Licensing Act 2003 and accompanying regulations. Plans submitted with applications need to comply with the relevant legislation as regards content and scale.

4.1.2 Incomplete applications will not be accepted and will be returned to the applicant.

4.1.3 The level of detail to be provided in the operating schedule shall be proportional to the scale and nature of the application being made. The Council however expects all applicants to demonstrate in the operating schedule how they will comply with the four licensing objectives in relation to the application that is being made.

4.1.4 The applicant may ask the Licensing Authority for advice on the scope of the information to be provided. Details of the Responsible Authorities for the purposes of the Licensing Act 2003 where specific information may be obtained are shown at **Appendix D**.

4.2 Licensing hours

- 4.2.1 Longer licensing hours can help to avoid the concentration of customers leaving premises at the same time, leading to friction at late night food outlets, taxi ranks and other sources of transport. It is also recognised that licensing hours should not restrict the development of safe evening and night-time entertainments that are important for investment and employment locally. However, providing consumers with greater choice and flexibility must always be balanced carefully against the licensing objectives and the rights of residents to peace and quiet.
- 4.2.2 There shall be no general presumption in favour of lengthening licensing hours; the overriding principle will be the promotion of the four licensing objectives.
- 4.2.3 Stricter measures for controlling noise are likely to be sought for late licences, particularly in residential areas or where there has been a history of noise complaints.
- 4.2.4 When the Licensing Authority's discretion is engaged, consideration will be given to the individual merits of an application, but the presumption will be to grant the hours requested unless there are objections to those hours raised by responsible authorities or interested parties on the basis of the licensing objectives.
- 4.2.5 Applicants should state in their operating schedule the time they require the premises to remain open to members of the public after the termination of licensable activities. In normal circumstances, this will not exceed 30 minutes from the last sale of alcohol. Where an applicant can show that an extended period would assist in the promotion of the licensing objectives, the licensing authority will consider permitting longer than 30 minutes, where it is entitled to do so.
- 4.2.6 Shops, stores and supermarkets will generally be permitted to sell alcohol for consumption off the premises during the normal hours they intend to open for shopping purposes. However, in the case of individual shops that are known to be a focus of disorder and disturbance then, subject to representations from the police, a limitation on licensing hours may be appropriate.
- 4.2.7 Applications for premises offering late night take away food and drink will be considered on their individual merits. However, such premises can be the focus of disorder with large numbers of people gathering there after other licensed premises have closed. The closing times of other licensed premises in the vicinity will therefore be taken into consideration.
- 4.2.8 It is recognised that businesses may wish to apply for non-standard hours for Bank Holidays, Christmas Eve, Saints or other event days. However, any additional days should be clearly identified in their licence operating schedules with dates and times so that proper consideration can be made of their impact on the licensing objectives and so that the licence is clear and unambiguous in this respect.
- 4.2.9 In relation to last entry or re-entry times for licensed premises the Authority will consider each case on its merits. As a general guideline a last entry or re-entry to licensed premises for customers shall be two hours prior to close of premises which are open to members of the public after 2.00 am.

4.2.10 It is not the Licensing Authority's overall approach to include any "zoning" of closure hours as experience in other areas shows that this can lead to the significant movement of people in search of premises opening later. However, if presented with evidence of serious alcohol related crime, disorder or anti-social behaviour within a specific area that cannot be attributed to one specific premise, the Licensing Authority may consider making an Early Morning Restriction Order (EMRO) to further the licensing objectives.

4.3 Representations

Where a representation concerning the licensing objectives is made by a responsible authority about a proposed operating schedule or another person makes relevant representations to the licensing authority, the licensing authority's discretion will be engaged. Relevant representations will be accepted in opposition to, or in support of, an application and can be made by any individual, body or business that has grounds to do so.

Representations will only be accepted where they relate to the impact of licensable activities carried on from premises on the objectives. For representations in relation to variations to be relevant, they should be confined to the subject matter of the variation.

4.4 Cumulative impact

4.2.1 Cumulative impact assessments were introduced in the 2003 Act by the Policing and Crime Act 2017, with effect from 6 April 2018. The amendments require the Licensing Authority to review any Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) within three years of its publication. From 2021 the Licensing Authority's Statement of Licensing Policy will include a summary of any CIA in force. Full details of any CIA will then be included in this Policy document.

4.4.2 Cumulative Impact refers to the potential impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives of a number of licensed premises concentrated in one area.

4.4.3 The Council recognises that the cumulative effect of a proliferation of late-night entertainment premises (including night cafes) may result in an increase in numbers of people either walking through or congregating in streets during the night and this in turn may have a number of undesirable consequences which undermine the licensing objectives.

These may include: -

- An increase in crime against both property and persons.
- An increase in noise causing disturbance to residents.
- Littering and fouling.

This may result in the amenity of residents being placed under severe pressure, as it will not always be possible to attribute a particular problem to customers of particular premises.

This means that whilst enforcement action to ensure conditions are complied with is taken, this may not resolve all problems.

4.4.4 Where there is evidence that a particular area of the district is already suffering adverse effects arising from the concentration of late-night premises, or that

residential areas are under stress, this will be taken into account in determining any further applications for premises within the area identified.

- 4.4.5 The effect of adopting a CIA of this kind is to create a rebuttable presumption if relevant representations to that effect are received, that applications for new premises authorisations or club premises certificates or material variations will normally be refused, unless it can be demonstrated that the operation of the premises involved will be unlikely to add to the cumulative impact already being experienced
- 4.4.6 North Somerset Council previously introduced a CIA, in Weston-super-Mare town centre, which this policy review seeks to remove. It is felt that the physical capacity for new premises to be added is minimal. The authority is looking to support businesses through the difficult recovery phase post-Coronavirus pandemic and will look to encourage new Operators into existing premises and achieve compliance through well-conditioned operating schedules.
- 4.4.7 The aim is to provide a safe, vibrant and diverse night-time economy and it is not felt that the continued inclusion of a CIA is appropriate at this time
- 4.4.8 This will be kept under review and the Licensing Authority recognises that the Act now provides a mechanism for consideration should the need arise in the future.

4.5 Conditions

- 4.5.1 This policy does not provide for any 'standard conditions' to be imposed so as to avoid the imposition of disproportionate and burdensome requirements. Conditions (other than the statutory mandatory conditions) attached to licences, if required in particular circumstances, shall be tailored to reflect the individual style and characteristics of the premises and activities concerned. Only those conditions necessary to meet the licensing objectives will be imposed.
- 4.5.2 Additional conditions will only be attached to a licence or club premises certificate if relevant representations are received or from the applicant's operating schedule since these are voluntary propositions.
- 4.5.3 Conditions shall be applied to licences that are proportionate and appropriate to the business, organisation or individual concerned. The Licensing Authority and applicants may draw upon any model pool of conditions available and attach conditions relative to the given circumstances of each individual case.
- 4.5.4 Measures offered by applicants in their operating schedule will normally become licence conditions. The proposed measures must be clear and unambiguous. The authority may therefore alter the wording of a proposed measure to achieve clarity. The context or meaning of the proposed measure will not be changed when attaching conditions to licences.
- 4.5.5 In relation to community premises it is possible to apply for the removal of the mandatory condition relating to the requirement for a Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) and the requirement for this person to have a personal licence. Further information can be obtained from the licensing authority on how to apply make an application for the removal of the DPS from a licence.

4.6 Temporary Event Notices

- 4.6.1 Temporary Event Notices (TENs) can be given for small-scale licensable events. TENs may cover a wide range of activities such as permitting the sale of alcohol from a beer tent at a school fete or for a school play, to a pub who wants to extend their permitted licensing hours and/or want to have a live music event not permitted by their premises licence.
- 4.6.2 TENs do not involve the Licensing Authority in giving permission for the event to take place, it is a notification procedure in which only the Police and Environmental Protection may intervene to prevent or modify the arrangements for such an event. The Licensing Authority will only intervene if the limit on the number of notices is exceeded.
- 4.6.3 A “standard” TEN requires the organiser of such an event to give the Licensing Authority a minimum of 10 working days’ notice.
- 4.6.4 A “late” TEN is one which is received by the Licensing Authority 5-9 clear working days prior to the day of the event.
- 4.6.5 The contact details of the Police and Environmental Protection Authority on which a TEN must be served are given at **Appendix D**.

4.7 Personal Licences

The Licensing Authority places particular emphasis on the role of premises supervisors and Personal Licence holders at a licensed premise.

Where the Police object, on the grounds of prevention of crime and disorder, there will be a presumption against issuing a personal licence to any applicant with an unspent conviction for a relevant offence. If the applicant can demonstrate exceptional and compelling reasons for disregarding the conviction, this will be taken into consideration.

4.8 Outdoor Events

Outdoor events either temporary or more permanent in nature will generally require detailed planning and more consultation with Responsible Authorities and representatives of other organisation concerned with safety. For such events all organisers, particularly for large scale events, should seek guidance from the Council’s Safety Advisory Group prior to any applications being made.

The Authority expects applicants of large scale temporary events to submit their applications at least 3-6 months before the proposed event takes place. Organisers planning to entertain 500-3000 persons should give a minimum notice period of 3 months and events over 3000 a minimum notice period of 6 months.

4.9 Fees

The Licensing Authority will ensure that fees which are set locally will be based entirely on cost recovery and will be included within the Council published fees and charges. Invoices for annual fees will be sent in advance and subject to the normal Council payment terms. Licensing holders not paying the correct annual fee within the timescale will have their premises licence suspended until such

time as arrears are cleared.

4.10 Enforcement

- 4.10.1 Enforcement will be in accordance with the Community and Consumer Services Enforcement Procedure, which is based around the principles of proportionality and risk-based enforcement, targeting high risk premises which require greater attention, while applying a lighter touch approach in respect of low-risk premises.
- 4.10.2 A copy of the Enforcement Protocol is available on the Council's website at www.n-somerset.gov.uk, or from the Licensing Team (see Appendix D for details).
- 4.10.3 The Licensing Authority will seek to work in partnership with the Responsible Authorities and the North Somerset Community Safety Partnership in enforcing licensing legislation.
- 4.10.4 The Licensing Authority shall use a risk assessment scheme for determining the frequency of visits to licensed premises in order to ensure that resources are targeted to high-risk premises while providing a lighter touch for low risk premises which are well run.
- 4.10.5 The Licensing Authority will look to share information relating to incidents of crime, nuisance, public safety or other related issues including the general management of premises, with partner agencies and may use this as part of any risk assessment scheme used.
- 4.10.6 Unannounced joint visits will be undertaken with partners such as the Police, Environmental Health, Fire Service and Trading Standards Officers. These include visits outside normal office hours. Pre-arranged inspections will normally take place to premises that have been the subject of complaints, or where there has been a requested variation of the Designated Premises Supervisor or the terms of the licence or certificate issued by the Licensing Authority.
- 4.10.7 It is expected that, in general, action will be taken against poorly managed or controlled premises through a stepped approach which may include verbal/written warnings, formal action plans, the review process, and prosecution. Where prosecution is necessary, the key principles of consistency, transparency and proportionality will be maintained.

5. The Licensing Objectives

5.1 Operating Schedules

Applicants should complete risk assessments, which can then be used to form the basis of the operating schedule. Measures that are outlined in operating schedules become licence conditions. Failure to comply with licence conditions can lead to formal enforcement action or an application for a review of the licence.

Guidance is offered below as to possible control measures that may assist applicants in completing operating schedules. These measures are not exhaustive and may relate to more than one licensing objective. Any measures proposed by the applicant should be both realistic and within the control of the applicant/management of the premises.

Applicants are also advised to seek advice from the relevant agencies before submitting their applications.

5.2 Prevention of crime and disorder objective

- 5.2.1 When addressing crime and disorder the applicant should initially identify any issues, having regard to their particular type of premises and/or activities, which are likely to affect the promotion of the crime and disorder objective. Such steps as are required to deal with these identified issues should be included within the applicants operating schedule.
- 5.2.2 The Licensing Authority shall consider whether the grant of an application will result in an increase in crime and disorder.
- 5.2.3 Applicants are encouraged to consider the following matters in their operating schedules:
- Disorder on the premises
 - Drunkenness
 - Underage sales of alcohol
 - Customers entering and leaving in an orderly manner
 - Use and sale of illegal drugs or contraband
 - Offensive weapons
- 5.2.4 The Licensing Authority recognises that crime and disorder can occur, particularly outside licensed premises; however well the premises run may be.
- 5.2.5 The operating schedule may include the following measures:
- Active membership of Pubwatch schemes
 - Use of licensed door supervisors
 - Physical security features e.g. use of plastic or shatterproof drinking glasses
 - Music wind down policy
 - Training given to staff in crime prevention measures
 - Use of town centre radios (Weston-super-Mare) to enable licensed premises to communicate to each other and police
 - Search procedures
 - Measures to prevent the use or supply of illegal drugs or contraband
 - Details of CCTV video cameras and the retention policy for CCTV footage
 - Following the trade association codes of practice on irresponsible drinks promotions.

The above list is not exhaustive and will not suit all applications so applicants should seek advice from Avon and Somerset Constabulary before preparing their operating schedule.

- 5.2.6 Shops and off licences applying to sell alcohol will need to address the risks to crime and disorder with measures in their operating schedules. Examples include:-

- regular staff training in relation to sale of alcohol to underage people and that training record shall be kept.
- Proof of age schemes
- All refusals to be recorded on a refused sale register sheet or a refusals book.
- Use of Electronic Point of Sale (EPOS) system to remind staff via a suitable visual prompt or audible warning. Alternatively, stickers can be used over certain products to remind cashiers to check the customer's age.
- Posters showing age limits should be displayed along with a statement regarding the refusal of such sales.
- That a personal licence holder will be on duty at high-risk times such as outside school hours and during the evenings

This list is not exhaustive and applicants should seek advice from North Somerset Trading Standards or Avon and Somerset Constabulary before preparing their operating schedules.

5.3 Public safety objective

5.3.1 The public safety objective is about ensuring the physical safety both of performers and people attending licensed premises. The risk to public safety will vary according to the type of premises and the activities that take place there. Most risks will be adequately covered by other legislation such as Health and Safety at Work requirements or fire safety legislation and will normally be identified through a risk assessment process.

5.3.2 Other public safety legislation may not cover risks that are associated with types of activities or entertainment and will therefore need to be addressed in preparing licence applications. The following are matters that may need consideration:

- The provision of a suitable Residual Current Device (RCD) protection of electricity supplies to entertainers' equipment, including microphones, when regulated entertainment is organised on site
- Setting maximum numbers of people allowed (and use of clickers or counting machines to ensure capacity limits are not exceeded)
- Steps to ensure that electrical and gas installations are in good order and maintained by suitably qualified people on a regular basis
- The use of special effects such as lasers, pyrotechnics, foam and smoke
- Suitable access and egress arrangements for people with disabilities

5.3.3 Applicants are advised to seek advice from the Council's Health and Safety Section and/or the Avon Fire and Rescue Service before preparing their operating schedules for the public safety objective.

5.4 The prevention of public nuisance objective

5.4.1 Operating schedules must contain sufficient information for officers to form a view as to whether noise from licensable activities is likely to cause a problem to people living nearby.

5.4.2 Applicants need to provide details of proposed noise control measures, particularly if premises are in residential areas where regulated entertainment is being applied for late at night, or where there is a history of noise complaints.

The licensing authority will normally apply stricter conditions in these circumstances where relevant representations have been received.

5.4.3 Whilst each application will be considered on its individual merits it should be noted that restricting the hours of regulated entertainment may be necessary to prevent public nuisance.

5.4.4 The measures that can be included within the operating schedule may include:

- Keeping doors and windows at the premises closed
- Limiting amplified music to a particular area of the building
- Moving location and direction of speakers away from external walls or walls that abut private premises
- Installation of acoustic curtains, seals to doorways, rubber speaker mounts
- Monitoring by the licensee to ensure that music is not audible above background levels at the nearest noise sensitive location (i.e. private or commercial premises)
- Noise limiters on amplification equipment (if proportionate to the nature of premises and the type of entertainment being provided)
- Prominent clear and legible notices are displayed at all exits requesting the public to respect the needs of local residents and to leave the premises and the area quietly
- The placing of bottles and cans into bins outside the premises to take place at times that will minimise disturbance to nearby premises

5.4.5 Since 1 July 2007 it has been illegal to smoke in enclosed public buildings and workplaces in England. Customers who want to smoke will therefore have to do so outside licensed premises. Applicants will need to address the potential for public nuisance from this activity.

Conditions may be necessary to ensure that licensed premises are properly ventilated to prevent odours causing a nuisance to people who live or work nearby.

5.4.6 Late night takeaways are encouraged to include in their operating schedules measures to ensure that the area around the premises will be kept clear of litter.

5.5 Protection of children from harm objective

5.5.1 The Licensing Authority has decided that the “Responsible Authority” in relation to the protection of children from harm will be the North Somerset Children’s Safeguarding Partnership whose contact details are shown at Appendix D.

5.5.2 The authority will not seek to limit the access of children to any premises unless it is necessary for the prevention of physical, moral or psychological harm. In all other cases it will be left to the discretion of the licensee.

- 5.5.3 When addressing protection of children, the applicant should initially identify any particular issues, having regard to their particular type of premises and/or activities, which are likely to cause concern in relation to children. Such steps as are required to deal with these identified concerns should be included within the applicants operating schedule.
- 5.5.4 Where alcohol is to be sold, applicants must include details of the measures they propose to prevent the supply of alcohol to children. It is expected that:-
- In addition to requiring passports or photo driving licences, a proof of age scheme will be in operation.
 - Staff will receive regular and adequate training on the law and practice relating to age restricted sales (including challenging purchasers, checking identification), such training to be properly documented and records made available for inspection.
 - Registers of refused sales will be maintained and made available for inspection
 - Applicants may indicate whether they are signatories to the Portman Group Code of Practice.
- 5.5.5 Applicants needing advice on how to avoid age-restricted sales should contact the North Somerset Trading Standards Service (contact details are shown at **Appendix D**) before preparing their operating schedules.
- 5.5.6 Where relevant representations have been made in relation to an application, the licensing sub-committee will judge the merits of each separate application before deciding whether to impose conditions limiting the access of children to individual premises. The following are examples of premises that may raise concern:
- where there have been convictions for serving alcohol to minors or with a reputation for underage drinking
 - with a known association with drug taking or dealing
 - where there is a strong element of gambling on the premises
 - where entertainment of an adult or sexual nature is provided
 - where the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises is the exclusive or primary purpose of the services provided at the premises.
- 5.5.7 The Licensing Authority may consider any of the following options when dealing with a licence application where limiting the access of children is considered necessary to prevent harm to children:
- limitations on the hours when children may be present;
 - limitations excluding the presence of children under certain ages when particular specified activities are taking place;
 - limitations on the parts of premises to which children might be given access.
 - age limitations (below 18);
 - requirements for accompanying adults (including for example, a combination of requirements which provide that children under a particular age must be accompanied by an adult); and
 - full exclusion of those people under 18 from the premises when any licensable activities are taking place.

5.5.8 The Act details several offences designed to protect children in licensed premises and the Licensing Authority will work closely with the Police and Trading Standards to ensure the appropriate enforcement of the law, especially relating to the sale and supply of alcohol to children.

5.6 Access to cinemas and theatres

5.6.1 The Licensing Authority expects that where premises are used for film exhibitions applicants for premises licences or club certificates shall include within the operating schedule arrangements for restricting children from viewing age restricted films.

5.6.2 In relation to the exhibition of film, a mandatory condition will apply, requiring access to be restricted to those who meet the required age limit in accordance with any certificate granted by the British Board of Film Classification or, in specific cases, by the Licensing Authority.

5.6.3 Certification by the Licensing Authority will be in accordance with the North Somerset Council Film Classification Policy.

5.6.4 This policy acknowledges the Secretary of State's Guidance which states that it may be necessary to impose a condition to restrict the admission of children to theatres which are incorporating adult entertainment in their productions.

5.7 Children and public entertainment

Where a large number of children are expected to attend regulated entertainment (e.g., theatre production or film shows), the Licensing Authority expects the applicant to demonstrate, in their operating schedules, the arrangements they intend to put into place in order to ensure their safety, examples could include:

- That children performing at premises such as theatres or concert halls are kept under adult supervision at all times, including transfer from stage to dressing room.
- That children can be accounted for at all times, in case of evacuation or emergency.
- That an adult member of staff be stationed in the vicinity of each of the exits from any level, subject to there being a minimum of one member of staff per 50 children or part thereof
- If necessary, no standing to be permitted in any part of the auditorium during the performance
- That all staff employed to supervise children should be subject to an enhanced Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) check. Where relevant unspent convictions are found the licensee should not employ such a person.

5.8 Health Bodies Acting as Responsible Authorities

The Licensing Authority recognise that the local authority's Director of Public Health (DPH) may exercise their function as a responsible authority and that such representations may potentially cover any of the four licensing objectives.

Representations should be evidenced based and, as recognised in the Secretary

of State's section 182 Guidance, the DPH may hold information that other responsible authorities do not which will assist the licensing authority in exercising its functions.

The harms to health from alcohol are widely documented including the part it can play in fueling aggression, violence, or assault. The Licensing Authority will consider the links between the availability of alcohol and alcohol-related harm when considering a licence application (for example take into account the number of alcohol outlets in a given area and times when it is on sale and the potential links to local crime and disorder and alcohol related illnesses and deaths).

However, the Licensing Authority recognises that the Licensing Act does not, as it stands, cover public health considerations.

6. Complaints against licensed premises

The Licensing Authority will investigate complaints against licensed premises relating to the four licensing objectives mentioned above. In the first instance, complainants are encouraged to raise the complaint directly with the licensee or business concerned to seek a local resolution.

Complaints must relate to one or more of the licensing objectives and will be disregarded if frivolous or vexatious.

Nothing in this Policy shall restrict the right of a Responsible authority or Other person to call for a review of a licence or make relevant representations in accordance with the Act.

7. Further information

Further information about the Act and this Statement of Licensing Policy can be obtained from:

The Licensing Team
North Somerset Council
Town Hall
Walliscote Grove Road
Weston-super-Mare
BS23 1UJ

Tel: 01934 426 800 Fax: 01934 426 230

Email: licensing@n-somerset.gov.uk www.n-somerset.gov.uk

Information is also available from the Home Office website:

www.gov.uk/alcohol-licensing

Further details about the licensing and application processes, including application forms, fees and details regarding each type of application, can be obtained from the Licensing Team as detailed above.

Electronic applications will be accepted where available.

Large print copies, audio copies and translation into another language of this policy can be arranged on request from the Licensing Team

APPENDIX A – MAP OF NORTH SOMERSET



APPENDIX B – GLOSSARY OF TERMINOLOGY

<p>Club Premises Certificate</p>	<p>A certificate granted to a qualifying club under the Act in respect of premises occupied, and habitually used for the purposes of a club.</p> <p>Alcohol must not be supplied other than to members by or on behalf of the club.</p>
<p>Entertainment facilities</p>	<p>Defined as facilities for enabling persons to take part in entertainment for the purpose of being entertained.</p> <p>The descriptions of entertainment are making music, dancing, and entertainment of a similar description to that falling within those mentioned above.</p>
<p>Hot food or hot drink</p>	<p>Food or drink supplied on or from any premises is “hot” for the purposes of Schedule 2 to the Act if the food or drink, or any part of it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • before it is supplied, is heated on the premises or elsewhere for the purpose of enabling it to be consumed at a temperature above the ambient air temperature and, at the time of supply, is above that temperature, <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • after it is supplied, may be heated on the premises for the purpose of enabling it to be consumed at a temperature above the ambient air temperature.
<p>Interested Party</p>	<p>Defined as:</p> <p>any individual, body or business entitled to make representations in relation to defined applications made to the Licensing Authority.</p>
<p>Licensable activities and qualifying club activities</p>	<p>Defined in the Licensing Act as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the sale by retail of alcohol • the supply of alcohol by or on behalf of a club to, or to the order of, a member of the club • the provision of regulated entertainment • the provision of late-night refreshment - for those purposes the following licensable activities are also qualifying club activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the supply of alcohol by or on behalf of a club to, or to the order of, a member of the club for consumption on the premises where the supply takes place • the sale by retail of alcohol by or on behalf of a club to a guest of a member of the club for consumption on the premises where the sale takes place • the provision of regulated entertainment where that provision is by or on behalf of a club for members of the club or members of the club and their guests.

Operating Schedule	<p>A document that must be prepared by or on behalf of an applicant for a premises licence or club premises certificate containing a statement including the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the relevant licensable activities • the times at which licensable activities are to take place and any other times the premises are to be open to the public • information about the Designated Premises Supervisor • whether any alcohol sales are on and/or off sales • the steps being taken to promote the licensing objectives.
Personal Licence	<p>Authorises an individual to supply or authorise the supply of alcohol in accordance with a premises licence.</p>
Premises Licence	<p>Authorises the premises to be used for one (or more) licensable activity.</p>
Provision of late night refreshment	<p>Defined as the provision of hot food or hot drink to members of the public, or a section of the public on or from any premises, whether for consumption on or off the premises between 11 pm and 5 am</p>
Regulated Entertainment	<p>Defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a performance of a play • an exhibition of film • an indoor sporting event • a boxing or wrestling entertainment • a performance of live music • any playing of recorded music • a performance of dance • entertainment of a similar description to that falling within paragraph (e)
Responsible Authority	<p>Defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Officer of Police for any Police area in which the premises are situated • Fire Authority for any area in which the premises are situated • Enforcing authority within the meaning given by section 18 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 for any area in which the premises are situated • the local planning authority within the meaning given by the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (c.8) for any area in which the premises are situated • the local authority by which statutory functions are exercisable in any area in which the premises are situated

	<p>in relation to minimising or preventing the risk of pollution of the environment or of harm to human health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a body which represents those who, in relation to any such area, are responsible for, or interested in matters relating to the protection of children from harm, and <p>is recognised by the licensing authority for that area for the purposes of this section as being competent to advise it on such matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any licensing authority (other than the relevant licensing authority) in whose area part of the premises is situated • in relation to a vessel - a navigation authority (within the meaning of section 221(1) of the Water Resources Act 1991 (c.57)) having functions in relation to the waters where the vessel is usually moored or berthed or any waters where it is or is proposed to be, navigated at a time when it is used for licensable activities • Director of Public Health • The Home Office – alcohol licensing team • The Licensing Authority for the area in which the premises is situated.
<p>Temporary Event</p>	<p>Defined as the use of premises for one or more of the licensable activities during a period not exceeding 168 hours (seven days) usually where a premises licence covering the licensable activity is not in place.</p> <p>The following limitations also apply to where the temporary event notice procedure is used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of times a person (the “premises user”) may give a temporary event notice (50 times per year for a personal licence holder and 5 times per year for other people). • The number of times a person (the “premises user”) may give a late temporary event notice (5 times per year for a personal licence holder and 2 times per year for other people). • The number of times a temporary event notice may be given for any particular premises (15 times in a calendar year). • The maximum total duration of the periods covered by temporary event notices at any individual premises (21 days). • The scale of the event in terms of the maximum number of people attending at any one time (less than 500). • There must a minimum of a 24 hour break between events subject to the temporary event notice procedure.
<p>Temporary Event Notice</p>	<p>A document giving notice to the Licensing Authority of intention to hold a temporary event.</p>

APPENDIX C - TABLE OF DELEGATIONS OF LICENSING FUNCTIONS

Matter to be dealt with	Full committee	Sub committee	Officers
Application for personal licence		If a representation is made	If no representation is made
Application for personal licence, with unspent convictions		All cases	
Application for premises licence/club premises certificate		If a representation is made	If no representation is made
Application for provisional statement		If a representation is made	If no representation is made
Application to vary premises licence/club registration certificate		If a representation is made	If no representation is made
Application to vary designated premises supervisor		If a police representation is made	All other cases
Request to be removed as designated premises supervisor			All cases
Application for transfer of premises licence		If a police representation is made	All other cases
Application for Interim Authorities		If a police representation is made	All other cases
Application to review premises licence/club premises registration		All cases	
Decision on whether a complaint is irrelevant, frivolous, vexatious, etc			All cases
Decision to object when local authority is a consultee and not the lead authority			All cases
Determination of a police representation to a temporary event notices		All cases	
Consideration of a request from the Police for a summary or expedited review of a premises licence or club premises certificate		All cases	

APPENDIX D – RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES CONTACT DETAILS

Service	Postal Address	E-Mail Address	Telephone Number
Avon and Somerset Police	Liquor Licensing WsM Police Station Filers Way Weston-super-Mare BS24 7JP	northsomersetpoliceliquorlicensingteam@avonandsomerset.police.uk	01934 638211
Avon Fire and Rescue Service	Avon Fire & Rescue Police & Fire Headquarters PO Box 37, Valley Road Portishead Bristol BS20 8JJ	Licensing@avonfire.gov.uk	01179 262 061 Ext 560
Home Office	Alcohol Licensing Team Lunar House 40 Wellesley Road Croydon CR9 2BY	Alcohol@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk	
North Somerset Council			
Licensing Team (Licensing Authority)	Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1UJ	licensing@n-somerset.gov.uk	01934 426800
Environmental Protection Team	Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1UJ	epenquiries@n-somerset.gov.uk	01275 888802
Health and Safety Team	Castlewood Tickenham Road Clevedon BS21 9AX	foodandsafety@n-somerset.gov.uk	01934 634633
Trading Standards Team	Castlewood Tickenham Road Clevedon BS21 9AX	trading_standards@n-somerset.gov.uk	01275 888634
Planning	RoxanneSmith / Lynette Champion Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1UJ	Planning.support@n-somerset.gov.uk	01275 888811
North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership	Julie Bishop Town Hall Weston Super Mare BS23 1UJ	julie.bishop@n-somerset.gov.uk	01275 888211
Maritime and Coast Guard Agency	Plymouth Marine Office Western Region New Fish Market Fish Quay Plymouth, PL4 0HL	Plymouthmo@mcga.gov.uk	01752 266211
Public Health	Fiona Dixon Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1UJ	Fiona.dixon@n-somerset.gov.uk	01934 426293



North Somerset Council

Gambling Act 2005

Statement of Principles

2022-2024

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1. Statement of Licensing Policy

1.1 Licensing Objectives

Section 153 of the [Gambling Act 2005 \(the Act\)](#) requires that the Council carry out its various licensing functions having regard to the following three licensing objectives:

- preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime.
- ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way; and
- protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

In discharging its responsibilities under the Act and in making decisions in relation to premises licences and temporary use notices (S.153), the Council will aim to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as it thinks that its use will be:

- In accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission,
- In accordance with this Licensing Authority's Statement of Licensing Policy

The Council particularly notes the Gambling Commission's latest [Guidance to Local Authorities](#) (from now on referred to as the Gambling Commission's Guidance).

1.2 Introduction

1.2.1 The Act also provides scope for the Gambling Commission (the Commission) to set an overall direction at national level, while leaving licensing authorities in the lead locally, with appropriate support from the Commission. The guidance to which licensing authorities must have regard, is an important part of those arrangements.

The Commission works in partnership with licensing authorities to regulate gambling. In doing so, the Commission will tend to focus on operators and issues of national or regional significance, and licensing authorities will take the lead on regulating gambling locally.

The Commission has issued guidance in accordance with Section 25 of the 2005 Act about the way licensing authorities exercise their licensing functions under the Act and the principles to be applied.

The Commission will also issue Codes of Practice under Section 24 about the way in which facilities for gambling is provided, which may also include provisions about the advertising of gambling facilities.

The Gambling Commission can be contacted at:
Gambling Commission,
Victoria Square House,
Victoria Square,
BIRMINGHAM,
B2 4BP

[Gambling Commission website - Gambling Commission](#)

Email: info@gamblingcommission.gov.uk

1.2.2 North Somerset Council is the Licensing Authority in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005 and is responsible for granting premises licences in the North Somerset administrative area in respect of:

- Casino premises
- Bingo premises
- Betting premises, including tracks
- Adult Gaming Centres and
- Family Entertainment Centres (and permits to unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres)

North Somerset is a unitary council in the West of England, bounded by the River Avon in the north, and the Mendip Hills to the south. It covers an area of approximately 145 square miles and has a population of around 214,000 people.

The area is classified as 'urban with significant rural' with almost 40% of residents living in rural communities or 'rural hub towns.' The largest settlement is Weston-Super-Mare, which with a population of over 80,000 is already the third largest settlement in the West of England. There are three other towns: Portishead, Clevedon and Nailsea and many villages of varied size and character.

North Somerset is strategically placed, close to the major cities of Bristol and Cardiff and with excellent transport links, including Bristol Airport, the M5 motorway, five railway stations on the main line to the South West and the Royal Portbury Dock, which has the largest entrance lock of any UK port.

A map of North Somerset is shown at **Appendix A**.

1.2.3 The Council's approach is to work with and support local businesses whilst balancing risks and concerns in relation to the potential risks to the licensing objectives.

1.2.4 Section 349 of the Act requires the Council to publish a 'Statement of Principles that sets out the principles the authority will generally apply to promote the licensing objectives when making decisions on applications made under the Act. This is commonly known as a Policy statement.

This 'Statement of Gambling Policy' has, therefore, been prepared having regard to the provisions of the [Gambling Act 2005 \(the Act\)](#), [Guidance to Local Authorities](#) issued by the Gambling Commission and responses received in response to the consultation process. It is intended to be a discussion document leading to the adoption by North Somerset Council of a formal Statement of Licensing Policy after giving due regard to any responses from those consulted on the draft policy statement. The policy will come into effect on the date of adoption by the Council and will be reviewed as necessary and at least every three years from the date of adoption.

This policy may be subject to further review changes as a result of the forthcoming Gambling Review.

Should you have comments regarding this Statement of Policy please email the Licensing Service Manager – Licensing@n-somerset.gov.uk

1.3 Glossary of Terms

Within this Statement of Policy, the following words and terms are defined as stated:

Licensing Objectives:	As defined in section 1.1 above.
Council:	Means North Somerset Council
Authority:	Means the Licensing Authority
District:	Means the area of Somerset administered by North Somerset Council – see map in Appendix A
Licences:	As defined in section 1.4 below.
Applications:	Means applications for Licences or Permits defined in section 1.4 below.
Notifications:	Means notifications of Temporary Use Notices (TUN) and Occasional Use Notices (OUN).
Act:	Means the Gambling Act 2005
Regulations:	Means Regulations made under the Gambling Act 2005
Premises:	Means any place and includes a vehicle, vessel, or moveable structure
Code of Practice:	Means any relevant code of practice under section 24 of the Gambling Act 2005
Mandatory Condition:	Means any specified condition provided by regulations to be attached to a licence
Responsible Authority:	For the purposes of the Gambling Act 2005 , the following are responsible authorities in relation to premises: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Licensing Authority (North Somerset Council)• The Gambling Commission• Avon & Somerset Constabulary• Avon Fire & Rescue Service• Development Management, North Somerset Council• Environmental Protection, North Somerset Council• North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership• HM Revenue and Customs
Interested Party:	<p>For the purposes of the Gambling Act 2005, a person is an interested party in relation to a premises licence if, in the opinion of the Licensing Authority which issues the licence or to which the application is made, the person see Appendix E for further details.</p> <p>When considering whether a person is an interested party, each case will be judged on its merits taking into consideration the relevant circumstances, including those contained in the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Local Authorities</p>
Operator Licence	is a licence issued to the operator by the Gambling Commission
Personal Licence	is a licence issued to individuals by the Gambling Commission

1.4 Types of Licence

This document sets out the policies that the Council will apply when making decisions upon applications or notifications made for:

- Premises Licences
- Temporary Use Notices (TUN)
- Occasional Use Notices (OUN)
- Permits as required under the Act and
- Registrations as required under the Act.

1.5 Licensable Premises and Permits

This policy relates to all those licensable premises, notices, permits, and registrations identified as falling within the provisions of the Act, namely:

- Casinos
- Bingo Premises
- Betting Premises
- Tracks
- Adult Gaming Centres
- Licensed Family Entertainment Centres
- Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres
- Club Gaming Permits & Club Machine Permits
- Prize Gaming and Prize Gaming Permits
- Gaming Machine Permits (alcohol licensed premises)
- Occasional Use Notices
- Temporary Use Notices and
- Registrations of small society lotteries.

The Licensing Authority is not responsible for online (remote) gambling which is regulated by the Gambling Commission.

In the North Somerset Council area, the type of gambling premises licences includes:

- Adult Gaming Centres
- Bingo Premises
- Betting Premises
- Licensed Family Entertainment Centres
- Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres.

1.6 General Principles

1.6.1 Nothing in this 'Statement of Policy' will:

- Undermine the rights of any person to apply under the Act for a variety of permissions and have the application considered on its individual merits, OR
- Override the right of any person to make representations on any application or seek a review of a licence or permit where they are permitted to do so under the Act.

1.6.2 Licensing Authorities are required to "aim to permit" gambling and therefore, the starting point in determining applications will be to grant the application. In accordance with the Act, premises licenses are subject to [The Gambling Act 2005 \(Mandatory and Default Conditions\) \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2007](#) which are usually sufficient to ensure that operation is reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives.

1.6.3 Conditions will only be considered where evidence suggests that they are needed to meet the requirements of the licensing objectives and any conditions applied will not be overly onerous and will be proportionate to the scale of the application and the

'risks' involved. Conditions will generally be considered unnecessary if they are already adequately covered by other legislation.

All applicants for premises licences will be required to set out how they will ensure operation is reasonably consistent with the Licensing Objectives, as specified in section 1.1 above, and what measures they intend to employ to ensure compliance with them.

- 1.6.4 When determining an application to grant a premises licence or whether to review a premises licence, regard will be taken regarding the proximity of the premises to schools, vulnerable adult centres, or to residential areas with a high concentration of families with children. The proximity of premises etc. taken into consideration will vary depending upon the size and scope of the gambling premises concerned. Each case will, however, be determined on its merits. Therefore, if an applicant can effectively demonstrate how they might overcome licensing objective concerns, this will be considered. Further information regarding the requirement for local risk assessments is provided in section 4.1 below.
- 1.6.5 Licensing is about the control of licensed premises, Temporary Use Notices (TUN) or Occasional Use Notices (OUN) within the terms of the Act. Conditions may be attached to licences that will cover matters that are within the control of individual licensees.
- 1.6.6 When considering any conditions to be attached to licences, the Council will primarily focus on the direct impact of the activities taking place at licensed premises on members of the public living, working or engaged in other activity in the area concerned. In determining an application, the Licensing Authority may not have regard to the expected demand for the facilities which it is proposed to provide.

In this respect, the Council recognises that, apart from the licensing function, there are a number of other mechanisms available for addressing issues of unruly behaviour that can occur away from licensed premises, including:

- Planning controls
- Ongoing measures to create a safe and clean environment in these areas in partnership with local businesses, transport operators and other Council Departments
- Regular liaison with the Police on law enforcement issues regarding disorder and anti-social behaviour
- The power of the Police, other responsible authorities or a local resident or business to seek a review of the licence.

Objectors will be required to relate their objection to one or more of the Licensing Objectives, as specified in section 1.1 above, before the Licensing Authority will be able to consider it.

Where a person, whether directly affected or not by an application or living in the vicinity of a licensable premises under consideration, puts themselves forward as representing the interests of residents in the vicinity, the Licensing Authority will normally ask them to provide evidence that they are acting as representatives of others.

- 1.6.7 The Council, in undertaking its licensing function, will have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote equality and good relations between persons of different racial groups.

1.7 Consultees

This Statement of Licensing Policy will be subject to formal consultation with:

- Businesses, organisations, and persons who hold licences and permits issued by North Somerset Council under the Gambling Act 2005
- Elected Members, North Somerset Council
- North Somerset Town and Parish Councils
- Gambling Commission
- Avon and Somerset Constabulary
- Avon Fire and Rescue Service
- North Somerset Council Environmental Protection Team
- North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Development Control Manager, North Somerset Council
- North Somerset Community Safety Partnership

In producing this 'Statement of Policy', The Licensing Authority declares that it has had regard to the Licensing Objectives of the Act, the current version of the [Guidance to Local Authorities](#) issued by the Gambling Commission, any responses received from those who were consulted on the 'Draft Statement of Policy 2022-2025' and any representations submitted by any interested party, person, body, or organisation in response to the publication of the 'Draft Statement of Policy 2022-2025'.

For further information, see **Appendix D**

1.8 Information Exchange

The Council is required to include in their Statement of Policy the procedure to be applied in exercising the functions under S.29 and 30 of the Act in respect to the exchange of information with the Gambling Commission. The functions under S.350 of the Act with the respect to the exchange of information with persons and bodies are listed in Schedule 6 to the Act.

The Council will apply the provisions of the [Gambling Act 2005](#) in its exchange of information, which includes the provision that the [General Data Protection Regulations 2018](#) will not be contravened and any Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission or the Secretary of State under the powers provided in the Act.

The Council will work closely with the Gambling Commission, Avon and Somerset Police and with Responsible Authorities where there is a need to exchange information on specific premises. Should any protocols be established in respect to the exchange of information with other bodies then they will be made available.

The privacy of those making representations will be respected, but it may be necessary for the identity of those making representations to be passed on to Responsible Authorities and the Gambling Commission for the purpose of determining licensing applications or in any subsequent appeal that may be made.

Contact details of those persons making representations and details of the representations will generally be made available to applicants to allow for negotiation and, in the event of a hearing being held, will form part of a public document. Anyone making representation or applying for a review of a premises licence will be informed that these details will be disclosed.

This Licensing Authority will maintain a Licensing Register of all premises licences and permits issued and this will be available upon request to:

licensing@n-somerset.gov.uk

2. Legislation & Other Policies

2.1 Legislation

In undertaking its licensing function under the [Gambling Act 2005](#), the Council is also bound by other legislation, including:

- Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
- Human Rights Act 1998.
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.
- Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- The Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003.
- The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014.
- Equality Act 2010
- Children Act 2004
- The Data Protection Act 2018

However, the policy is not intended to duplicate existing legislation and regulation regimes that already place obligations on employers and operators.

2.2 Relationship with Planning Policies

When determining an application, regard cannot, under the terms of the Act, be given to planning or building control permissions and/or any planning restrictions.

Unmet demand is not a criterion that will be taken into consideration when determining an application for a premises licence under the Gambling Act 2005.

The issue of a Provisional Grant of a premises licence is a separate and distinct process to the granting of Planning Permission. Planning and Building Control permissions will have to be sought and approved before any development takes place.

A general 'dislike of gambling' is no reason for rejection of a Premises Licence application.

2.3 National Strategies

The Council will also seek to discharge its responsibilities identified by other Government Strategies, so far as they impact on the objectives of the licensing function.

2.4 Gambling Prevalence and Social Responsibility

2.4.1 Gambling related harm is defined as any type of repetitive gambling that disrupts or damages a person, family, or recreational pursuits. It can have many and varied impact, including on an individual's physical and mental health, relationships, housing and finances and affect a wide range of people, such as families, colleagues and wider local communities (for example where problem gambling is associated with crime or homelessness) and society as a whole (in terms of the costs that may be created by problem gambling).

2.4.2 Evidence suggests that certain groups are more vulnerable to problem gambling including children and young people, people with mental health issues, certain minority ethnic groups, the unemployed, homeless people, those with low intellectual functioning, people with financially constrained circumstances and those living in deprived areas. Harms may include financial hardship, relationship breakdown, domestic violence, mental health problems and suicidal thoughts.

2.4.3 Gambling Operators must comply with the Gambling Commission's [Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice - Gambling Commission](#) (LCCP). The Social Responsibility Code 3 requires gambling operators to have and put into effect policies and procedures to promote socially responsible gambling and these should reduce the risk of and seek to identify problem gambling.

2.4.4 The requirements on gambling premises under the social responsibility code are based upon key areas:

- **Provision of information on gambling responsibly** – for example, the availability of time or monetary limits for players and information on where to get help and advice about gambling.
- **Customer interaction** – licensees are required to have policies and procedures in place governing customer interaction where there are concerns that a customer is displaying signs of problem gambling. These will include staff training and the types of behaviour that may trigger an intervention or where staff may consider refusing services to customers.
- **Layout of the premises** - operators must ensure that the layout of a gambling premises supports the effective supervision of the premises.
- **Self-exclusion** – licensees must have procedures for self-exclusion that ensure that individuals who wish to self-exclude from gambling are prevented from participating in gambling. In addition to operating their own self-exclusion schemes all licensees must offer the facility for customers to self-exclude on a multi-operator basis, meaning that an individual who self-excludes from one operator should be able to self-exclude from all operators offering the same type of gambling in the same locality. Trade bodies for different sectors of the gambling industry have led on the development of multi-operator self-exclusion arrangements for each sector.

2.4.5 Any marketing communications for gambling must be socially responsible, with regard to the need to protect children, young persons, and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited. Licensees are required to comply with the Social Responsibility Code 5 of the Code of Practice.

2.5 Local Strategies and Policies

The Council will consider applications with reference to other adopted local policies, including the following:

- The Council's Corporate Plan
- North Somerset Police and Crime Plan
- North Somerset Regulatory Services Enforcement Protocol
- North Somerset Health & Wellbeing Strategy

2.6 Integrating Strategies

By consulting widely prior to this policy statement being published the Council will endeavour to secure proper integration with local crime prevention, planning, transport, tourism, and cultural strategies

2.7 Relationships with other agencies

The Council is aware of the overlap with planning, building regulations in the granting of a premises licence. In determining applications, the Council will take into consideration all relevant matters and not to take into consideration any irrelevant matters, i.e., those not related to gambling and the licensing objectives. One example of an irrelevant matter would be the likelihood of the applicant obtaining planning permission or building regulations approval for their proposal.

The Council recognises that licensing applications should not be a re-run of the planning application process and there will be a clear separation of the planning and licensing regimes to avoid duplication and inefficiency.

When dealing with a premises licence application for finished buildings, the Licensing Authority should not consider whether those buildings must comply with the necessary planning or building consents. Nor should fire or health and safety risks be considered. Those matters should be dealt with under relevant planning control, building and other regulations, and must not form part of the consideration for the premises licence. Section 210 of the Act prevents licensing authorities considering the likelihood of the proposal by the applicant obtaining planning or building consent when considering a premises licence application. Equally, the grant of a gambling premises licence does not prejudice or prevent any action that may be appropriate under the law relating to planning or building.

Planning controls may restrict the provision of gambling activities. It is relevant to consider the evidence base for this restriction and consider the reasons for the restrictions.

3. Decision Making

3.1 Committee Terms of Reference

3.1.1 A Licensing sub-committee of three councillors will sit to hear applications where representations have been received from interested parties and responsible authorities. Ward councillors will not sit on a panel involving an application within their ward.

The Licensing Committee will also sit to determine general licensing matters that have been delegated to it by the full Council that are not associated with the Gambling Act 2005.

3.1.2 Where a councillor who is a member of the committee is making or has made representations regarding a licence on behalf of an interested party, in the interests of good governance they will disqualify themselves from any involvement in the decision-making process affecting the licence in question.

3.1.3 The licensing sub-committee will also refer to the committee any matter it is unable to deal with because of the number of its members who are unable to take part in the consideration or discussion of any matter or vote on any question with respect to it.

3.1.4 The committee will refer to the full Council any matter it is unable to deal with because of the number of its members who are unable to take part in the consideration or discussion of any matter or vote on any question with respect to it.

3.1.5 Every determination of a licensing decision by the committee or a Licensing sub-committee shall be accompanied with clear, cogent reasons for the decision. The decision and the reasons for that decision will be sent to the applicant and those who have made relevant representations as soon as practicable.

3.1.6 The Council's Licensing officers will deal with all other licence applications where either no representations have been received, or where representations have been received and it is agreed by the parties that a hearing is not necessary.

3.1.7 Decisions as to whether representations are irrelevant, frivolous, or vexatious will be made by Council officers, who will make the decisions on whether representations or applications for licence reviews should be referred to the licensing sub-committee. Where representations are rejected, the person making that representation will be given written reasons as to why that is the case.

3.2 Allocation of Decision-making Responsibilities

The Council will be involved in a wide range of licensing decisions and functions and has established a Licensing Committee to administer them.

Appreciating the need to provide a speedy, efficient, and cost-effective service to all parties involved in the licensing process, the Committee has delegated certain decisions and functions and has established a Licensing sub-Committee to deal with them.

Many of the decisions and functions will be purely administrative in nature and the grant of non-contentious applications, including for example, those licences and permits where no representations have been made, will be delegated to Council Officers.

The Table shown at **Appendix B** sets out the agreed delegation of decisions and functions to Licensing Committee, Sub-Committee and Officers.

This form of delegation is without prejudice to Officers referring an application to a sub-Committee, or a sub to Full Licensing Committee, or Committee to Full Council, if considered appropriate in the circumstances of any particular case.

3.3 Provisional Statements

The Council will have regard to the Gambling Commission's Guidance that a licence to use premises for gambling should only be issued in relation to premises where the Licensing Authority can be satisfied that the premises are going to be ready to be used for gambling in the reasonably near future, consistent with the scale of building or alterations required before the premises are brought into use.

If the construction of a premises is not yet complete, or if they need alteration, or if the applicant does not yet have a right to occupy them, then an application for a provisional statement will be discussed with the applicant and may be considered appropriate instead.

In deciding whether a premises licence can be granted where there are outstanding construction or alteration works at a premise, this authority will determine applications on their merits, applying a two-stage consideration process:

- First, whether the premises ought to be permitted to be used for gambling
- Second, whether appropriate conditions can be put in place to cater for the situation that the premises are not yet in the state in which they ought to be before gambling takes place.

The Council is entitled to decide that it is appropriate to grant a licence subject to conditions, but it is not obliged to grant such a licence and will have regard to the detailed examples of the circumstances in which such a licence may be granted set out in the Gambling Commission's Guidance.

3.4 Licensing Reviews

3.4.1 The Council will carry out a review of a premises licence where it has received a formal application for review in accordance with the Act that is relevant to one or more of the Licensing Objectives. Representations may be that activities, including the following, are taking place:

- Use of licensed premises for the sale and distribution of Class A drugs and the laundering of the proceeds of drugs crimes
- Use of licensed premises for the sale and distribution of illegal firearms
- Use of licensed premises for prostitution or the sale of unlawful pornography

- Use of licensed premises as a base for organised criminal activity
- Use of licensed premises for the organisation of racist, homophobic, or sexual abuse or attacks
- Use of licensed premises for the sale of smuggled or counterfeit tobacco or goods
- The use of licensed premises for the sale of stolen goods
- Children and/or vulnerable persons are put at risk
- Operation of a licensed premises not in accordance with the licensing objectives and/ or licence conditions.

3.4.2 Due consideration will be given to all relevant representations unless they fit the following:

- the grounds are frivolous
- the grounds are vexatious
- the grounds are irrelevant
- the grounds will not cause the Licensing Authority to revoke or suspend a licence or to remove, amend or attach conditions on the Premises Licence
- the grounds are substantially the same as the grounds cited in a previous application relating to the same premises or
- the grounds are substantially the same as representations made at the time the application for a Premises Licence was considered.

3.4.3 An 'Interested Party' or a 'Responsible Authority' can make an application to the Licensing Authority at any time, requesting that the Licensing Authority review a licence that it has granted; the Licensing Authority may also initiate a review of a licence itself.

A Premises Licence may also be reviewed by the Licensing Authority on its own volition.

3.4.4 Should the Council receive an application requesting the review of a licence, the Licensing Authority will decide as to whether or not the review is to be carried out. In making this determination the Licensing Authority will consider whether the request for the review is relevant to the matters listed below: *(this list is indicative and is not exhaustive)*:

- Representations which are inconsistent with Section 153 of the Act.
- Representations that are inconsistent with any guidance or Codes of Practice issued by the Gambling Commission
- Representations which relate to an objection to gambling activity generally for instance, on moral grounds.
- Representations in relation to the demand or unmet demand for Gambling Premises.
- In accordance with North Somerset Council's 'Statement of Principles'.
- Representations in relation to planning matters.
- Public Safety Issues.
- Traffic Congestion issues.

3.4.5 Should the Licensing Authority determine that an application for a licence review, (which has been duly submitted by an 'Interested Party' or a 'Responsible Authority'), is valid or should the Licensing Authority decide to initiate a licence review of its own volition; then that licence review will be undertaken and progressed to conclusion, in

accordance with the requirements of the Act, any guidance or codes of practice issued by the Gambling Commission and this Statement of Policy.

4. Local Standards

4.1 Applications

An application for a premises licence can only be made by a person who

- holds an operator's licence granted by the Gambling Commission authorising him/her to carry out the activity specified within the application or
- has made an application for an operator's licence which has yet to be determined.

A premises licence will, therefore, only be granted when evidence is obtained of the granting of an operator's licence.

4.2 Assessment of Need

The absence of unmet demand is not a criterion for a Licensing Authority in considering an application for a premises licence under the Gambling Act. Each application must be considered on its merits without regard to demand.

4.3 Location

4.3.1 The Council is aware that demand issues cannot be considered with regard to the "location of premises" but that considerations in terms of the licensing objectives are relevant to its decision-making. Particular attention will be given to the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling in addition to issues of crime and disorder.

4.3.2 The Council will have regard to any further guidance as regards areas where gambling premises should not be located, although the existence of any policy does not preclude any application being made and each application will be decided on its merits, with the onus upon the applicant showing how potential concerns can be overcome.

4.3.3 In determining whether a premises location is suitable for the grant of a licence regard will be given to the following factors:

- The proximity of the premises to any school, centre or establishment for the education, training, or care of young and/or vulnerable persons
- The proximity of the premises to leisure centres used for sporting and similar activities by young and/or vulnerable persons
- The proximity of the premises to any community, ecclesiastical, welfare, health or similar establishments used specifically, or to a large extent, by young and /or vulnerable persons
- The proximity of any other area or location where young and / or vulnerable persons could congregate
- The proximity of the premises to any youth club or similar establishment

4.3.4 Where gambling premises are located in sensitive areas, e.g., near schools, the Council will consider imposing restrictions on advertising gambling facilities on such premises where it is felt relevant and reasonably consistent with the Licensing Objectives.

4.4 Plans

[The Gambling Act 2005 \(Premises Licences and Provisional Statements\) Regulations 2007 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#) state that a plan to accompany an application for a Premises Licence must show:

- the extent of the boundary or perimeter of the premises
- where the premises include, or consist of, one or more buildings, the location of any external or internal walls of each such building
- where the premises forms part of a building, the location of any external or internal walls of the building which are included in the premises
- where the premises are a vessel or part of a vessel, the location of any external or internal walls of the building which are included in the premises
- the location of each point of entry to and exit from the premises, including in each case a description of the place from which entry is made or to which exit leads

The Act requires applicants to submit plans of the premises with their application to ensure that the Licensing Authority has the necessary information to make an informed judgement about whether the premises are fit for gambling. The information will also be used to plan future premises inspection activity. **The plan should be scaled (1:100).**

If plans change in any material respect in the opinion of the Council during the lifetime of the licence, the applicant will be in breach of their licence and would either need to make a fresh application under Section 159 or to seek an amendment to the licence under Section 187 of the [Gambling Act 2005](#).

4.5 Local Risk Assessments

4.5.1 The current [Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice - Gambling Commission](#) requires (under Social responsibility (SR) code 10), licensed operators to assess the local risks to the licensing objectives posed by the provision of gambling facilities at each of their premises, and to have policies, procedures and control measures in place to mitigate those risks.

In undertaking their risk assessments, they must consider relevant matters referred to in this policy document.

Operators are, therefore, required to undertake a local risk assessment on application for a new premises licence.

4.5.2 Furthermore, all licensed premises-based operators must also have a risk assessment in place. The risk assessments must also be updated:

- When a subsequent application for a variation of a premises licence is made
- To take account of significant changes in local circumstances (see below) and
- When there are significant changes at an operator's premises that may affect their mitigation of local risks (see below).

4.5.3 Significant changes in local circumstances

The following lists some examples of what the Council considers to be significant changes occurring in the local area. The list is not exhaustive and each premises will be considered on its own merits. Operators must consider whether any change in the locality of their premises is one that may be considered significant:

- Any substantial building development or conversion of existing premises in the local area which may increase or decrease the number of visitors. Other examples affecting the immediate vicinity of a premises, however, will include where new offices, supermarkets and hotels are either built nearby or developed from existing buildings.
- New pay day loan establishment or pawn brokers shops.
- The building of new educational establishments or any significant changes to an existing facility such as, for example, the expansion of a local college.
- New gambling premises.
- New premises licensed to sell or supply alcohol.
- The building of new premises which will be used for delivering services to vulnerable groups. Examples will include homeless hostels, mental health care facilities and addiction rehabilitation centres.
- The building of new premises/ creation of areas that are likely to attract children. For example, youth centres, play areas, toy shops and cinemas.

4.5.4 Significant changes at an operator's premises

The following lists some examples of what the Council considers to be significant changes in local circumstances. As above, the list is not exhaustive and each premises will be considered on its own merits. Operators must consider whether any change at their premises is one that may be considered significant:

- Any building work or refurbishment where gambling facilities are relocated within the premises.
- The premises licence has been transferred to a new operator whose policies and procedures differ from those of the previous licence holder.
- The entrance or entrances to the premises are changed. This will include changes in access from one area in a premise to another (e.g., from an Adult Gaming Centre to/ from a Family Entertainment Centre (FEC) and/or unlicensed FEC).
- New gambling facilities are made available on the premises which were not provided previously. For example, handheld gaming devices for customers, Self-Service Betting Terminals, or the provision of a different category of gaming machine.
- The operator makes an application for a licence to undertake activities at that premises in accordance with other legislation. For example, this may include an application for the sale/ supply of alcohol, the provision of regulated entertainment and/or the provision of late-night refreshment ([Licensing Act 2003 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/24))

- 4.5.5 The provision is supplemented by a further code that requires operators to share these risk assessments with Licensing Authorities on new applications, variations or otherwise at the request of the Licensing Authority.

- 4.5.6 In view of the above, the Council requires that both new applicants and existing operators (licensees) develop a good understanding of the area in which they operate or propose to operate. A local risk assessment must include the location of all the following in relation to the site of the premises:
- Schools
 - Colleges
 - Other educational establishments (if applicable)
 - Play areas
 - Youth Centres
 - Leisure Centres
 - Banks
 - Cash Machine/ ATMs
 - Alcohol licensed premises
 - Takeaway/ Fast Food Establishments
 - Other gambling licensed premises
 - Pay day loan/ pawn shops
 - Homeless hostels
 - Rehabilitation Centres
 - Hospital/ Mental Health Services
 - Places of Worship
- 4.5.7 The local risk assessment must show how the operator mitigates the risk of each of the above should one or more be in the vicinity of the premises. For example, the level of staffing required may vary according to the proximity of schools, colleges, alcohol licensed premises and their respective opening hours.
- 4.5.8 It is important that an operator not only identifies the risks within the immediate proximity of the premises but also considers the impact of risks identified for the wider area locally. Similarly, one-off events held on a regular basis within the area will need to be factored into the local risk assessment. We will, therefore, expect risk to be assessed should the premises be affected by a temporary increase in the number of people situated in the immediate area during events such as the Beach Race, Air Festival and Balloon Fiesta.
- 4.5.9 Operators will also be expected to include reference to:
- Local statistics regarding crime and disorder, including anti-social behaviour
 - Whether or not the premises is situated within an area of deprivation.
 - Any nearby residential areas occupied by a high concentration of families with children.
- 4.5.10 The Council requires a copy of the up-to-date local risk assessment to be kept on the premises and available for inspection on request by an Officer of the Licensing Authority. Local risk assessments should be regularly reviewed, at least on an annual basis.
- 4.5.11 Operators must also note that, a local risk assessment will apply to the whole premises/ building if an unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre (subject to a permit) is situated immediately adjacent to an area covered by a premises licence.

4.5.12 There is no mandatory requirement for a Licensing Authority to undertake a specific Local Area Profile and this authority has decided not to do so at the time of producing this policy statement.

This decision will, however, be reviewed should it be felt by the Council that potential or actual risks identified within the District deem its production necessary. Applicants and existing operators should, therefore, take their own steps to identify risks by, for example, consulting with any relevant responsible authorities and liaising with other gambling operators in the area where necessary.

4.6 Cash Machines / ATMs

The Gambling Act does not prevent the licensee from permitting the installation of cash dispensers on the premises. However, it will be expected that any automated telling machine made available for use on the premises will be in a place that requires any customer wishing to use it to leave any gaming machine or betting machine in order to do so.

4.7 Conditions

Conditions will be applied to licences that are proportionate and appropriate to the business, organisation or individual concerned. The Council will principally draw upon the advice issued by the Gambling Commission and attach conditions relative to the given circumstances of each individual case.

Conditions attached to the premises licences will, so far as possible, reflect local crime prevention strategies. For example, the provision of closed- circuit television cameras may be appropriate in certain premises.

The Council will not attach conditions to premises licences which:

- Are impossible to comply with as an operating licence condition
- Relate to gaming machine categories, numbers, or method of operation
- Provide that membership of a club or body be required (the Gambling Act 2005 specifically removes the membership requirement for casino and bingo clubs and this provision prevents it being reinstated) and
- Are in relation to stakes, fees, winning or prizes

4.8 Door Supervisors

Where premises may attract disorder or be subject to attempts at unauthorised access (for example by children and young persons) then licence holders should consider the entrances to the premises being controlled by a suitably qualified and regulated door supervisor (SIA registered) and the Authority may attach such conditions as may be appropriate to the premises licence.

4.9 Material amendments to the premises

The Authority will have regard to the principles as set out in S153 of the Act in determining variation applications. However, applications will be carefully scrutinised to ensure the Licensing Objectives are not undermined.

Facilities for gambling must only be offered in a manner which provides for appropriate supervision of those facilities by staff at all times and any *typical* gaming machines arrangements will be considered a material change regardless of the category of machine.

The Council may require a full premises licence variation application where premises are intending to use permanent privacy screening and/or boothing to any machines. The Council will expect any application proposing the use of customer privacy screens/booths, to clearly identify how these areas can be adequately supervised

including an updated local risk assessment to evidence that any risks presented have been recognised and mitigated.

The local risk assessment must also be updated to reflect any new risks identified.

4.10 Enforcement

4.10.1 The Council has a Regulatory Services Enforcement Protocol and will follow the principles set out there in whilst carrying out our regulatory functions as the Licensing Authority. The Policy is based upon the principles that our activities will be transparent, accountable, proportionate, and consistent whilst being targeted only at cases in which action is required.

4.10.2 The Enforcement Protocol proposes that a graduated response is taken where offences against legislation are found or where licence conditions have been contravened. For example, an isolated administrative offence such as failing to maintain certain records may be dealt with purely by way of a written warning. More serious offences or repeated offences that have been committed over a period of time may result in referral to the sub-Committee, the issue of a simple caution or a referral for prosecution.

4.10.3 Premises will be subject to a scheme of routine inspection, the frequency of which will be determined by the risks posed by the premises i.e., those premises considered to pose a greater risk will be subject to more frequent inspections than those posing a lower risk.

When determining risk, consideration will be given to:

- The nature of the gambling activities carried out on the premises
- The location of the premises in relation to schools etc.
- The procedures put in place by the management to meet the licensing objectives
- Issues highlighted in the premises local risk assessment
- The identification of significant changes in the local area.

4.10.4 Additional random monitoring visits may be made, at the discretion of the licensing team, where it is considered necessary to meet the needs of the licensing objective or following receipt of complaint. The District will be monitored for unlicensed premises.

The Council will undertake routine inspections using the premises assessment templates available in the [Premises assessments toolkit and Primary Authority agreements - Gambling Commission](#).

4.10.5 During proactive or pre-planned compliance visits the Licensing Enforcement Officers will review documentation including:

- Site Plan to ensure this reflects the actual layout of the premises
- Local area risk assessments
- Training policies and training undertaken by staff
- Records of refusals to serve or admit on age grounds
- The premise's approach to managing self-exclusion, how the premises fulfil the requirement to participate in multi-operator schemes and the numbers of people currently self-excluded
- The involvement or impact of any work in local gambling schemes such as Betwatch
- That appropriate signage and information is in place.

4.10.6 The Council's compliance and enforcement functions will be guided by the Gambling Commission's Guidance, Regulators Compliance Code, Better Regulation principles, Primary Authority partnerships schemes and the Regulatory Service Enforcement Protocol in that the following guiding principles are applied:

- **Proportionality** - regulators should only intervene when necessary: Remedies should be appropriate to the risk posed, and costs identified and minimised
- **Accountability** - regulators must be able to justify decisions, and be subject to public scrutiny
- **Fairness and Consistency** - rules and standards must be joined up and implemented fairly
- **Openness and Transparency** - regulators should be open, and keep regulations simple and user friendly and
- **Targeted Enforcement** - regulation should be focused on the problem and minimise side effects.

4.10.7 In line with the Gambling Commission's Guidance the Council will endeavour to avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes so far as reasonably possible.

4.11 Casinos

There is no resolution to prohibit casinos in the District at present. Furthermore, the Council is not currently enabled by the Secretary of State (Section 175 of the Act) to grant a licence for casino premises. However, the Council reserves its right to review the situation and may, at some time in the future, resolve not to permit casinos.

Should the Council choose to make such a resolution, this will be a resolution of full Council following considered debate and the reasons for making the resolution will be given.

4.12 Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre gaming machine permits

4.12.1 Where a premise does not hold a Premises Licence but wishes to provide gaming machines, it may apply to the Licensing Authority for this permit.

The term '**unlicensed family entertainment centre**' (uFECs) is one defined in the Act and refers to a premise which provides category D gaming machines along with various other amusements, such as computer games and penny-pushers. The premises is 'unlicensed' in that it does not require a premises licence but does require a permit to be able to provide its category D gaming machines. It should not be confused with a 'licensed family entertainment centre' which does require a premises licence because it contains both category C and D gaming machines.

4.12.2 uFECs will be most commonly located at seaside resorts, in airports and at motorway style service centres, and will cater for families, including unaccompanied children and young persons.

The marketing of these premises is often targeted towards under 18's and Therefore, may be a child's first experience of gambling. Prizes range from 2 pence to £5 notes or sometimes soft toys and more commonly prize redemption tickets which can be accumulated and exchanged for a higher value prize.

4.12.3 An application for a permit may be granted only if the Licensing Authority is satisfied that the premises will be used as an unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre (uFEC), and if the Chief Officer of Avon and Somerset Police has been consulted on the application. Relevant considerations to consider would be the applicant's suitability, such as any convictions that they may have that would make them unsuitable to operate a family entertainment centre, and the suitability of the premises in relation to their location and issues about disorder.

4.12.4 Under Section 238 of the Act uFECs are premises which are “wholly or mainly” used for making gaming machines available. In accordance with the Act, we will, therefore, not allow a permit to be granted for an entire shopping centre or leisure centre, for example. We will also expect gaming machines to be situated in clearly defined areas within multi-purpose premises such as, for example, Motorway Service areas. It would not, therefore, be appropriate to site a gaming machine within a row of multi-purpose machines such as vending machines, ATM machines with no clearly defined area of separation.

4.12.5 In view of the above, the operator will be required to provide a detailed plan of the premises on application/ renewal of an uFEC. If the uFEC area is within a multi-purpose premises, the plan must specify the area subject to the permit application.

4.12.6 A local risk assessment will apply to the whole premises/ building if an uFEC is situated immediately adjacent to an area covered by a premises licence.

4.12.7 The Council will issue permits for uFECs in accordance with the following principles:

- The Licensing Objectives.
- Any relevant regulations or Codes of Practice.
- Any guidance issued by the Gambling Commission.
- The principles set out in this ‘Statement of Policy’.

4.12.8 Applicants will also be required to demonstrate to the Council:

- That the applicant has a full understanding of the maximum stakes and prizes of
- the gambling that is permissible in an unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre
- That staff are suitably trained and have a full understanding of the maximum stakes and prizes permissible in an unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre
- That the applicant has no convictions, which may have been identified as ‘relevant convictions’ for the purposes of the Act.
- That the applicant can show that they have policies and procedures in place to protect children from harm. Harm in this context is not limited to harm from gambling but includes wider child protection considerations.
- Criminal record checks have been completed for all staff.
- Appropriate measures/training for staff as regards suspected truant school children on the premises.
- Appropriate measures/training for staff as regards unsupervised very young children being on the premises and children causing perceived problems on/or around the premises.

4.12.9 Operators must notify the Council of any material changes as soon as practically possible.

4.12.10 The Council will require the following **supporting documents** to be served with all uFEC permit applications:

- Proof of age - a certified copy or sight of an original birth certificate, a photo style driving licence, or passport – all applicants for these permits must be aged 18 or over).
- Proof that the applicant has the right to occupy the premises - acceptable evidence would be a copy of any lease, a copy of the property’s deeds or a similar document.

- A standard disclosure and barring service check for the relevant person issued within the previous month. This will be used to check that the applicant has no relevant convictions as defined in Schedule 7 of the Act.
- Evidence that the machines to be provided are or were supplied by a legitimate gambling machine supplier or manufacturer who holds a valid gaming machine technical operating licence issued by the Gambling Commission.
- A suitable and sufficient gambling local risk assessments where the uFEC is located adjacent to an AGC.
- A suitable and sufficient safeguarding policy.

4.12.11 A plan of the premises for which the permit is sought showing the following items:

- The boundary of the building with any external or internal walls, entrances and exits to the building and any internal doorways
- Where any category D gaming machines are positioned and the particular type of machines to be provided (e.g., slot machines, penny-falls, cranes)
- The positioning and types of any other amusement machines on the premises
- The location of any fixed or semi-fixed counters, booths, or offices on the premises whereby staff monitor the customer floor area
- The location of any ATM/cash machines or change machines
- The location of any fixed or temporary structures such as columns or pillars
- The location and height of any stages in the premises; any steps, stairs, elevators, balconies, or lifts in the premises
- The location of any public toilets in the building

4.12.12 The Council encourages applicants for uFEC Permits to consider adopting the British Amusement Catering Trade Association (BACTA) Voluntary Code of Practice for Amusement with Prizes Machines in Family Entertainment Centres. This Code of Practice promotes awareness of social-responsibility and acknowledges that proactive specific and appropriate commitment will be given to educating children and young persons, thereby minimising the potential for harm.

4.12.13 The Council can grant or refuse an application for an unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre permit. However, it cannot attach conditions to a permit.

4.13 Alcohol Licensed Premises - Gaming Machine Permits

4.13.1 There is an automatic entitlement to provide a maximum of 2 Category C and/or D gaming machines, on premises that are licensed under the Licensing Act 2003, for the sale and consumption of alcohol on the premises. Subject only to the proviso, that the premises licence holder must serve notice of intention upon the Licensing Authority in respect of those machines.

4.13.2 The Licensing Authority can remove the 'Licensing Act 2003 Automatic Entitlement' in respect of any premises if:

- The provision of the machines is not reasonably consistent with the pursuit of the Licensing Objectives.
- The licensee has breached the requirements of the Act.
- An offence under the Act has been committed on the premises.
- The premises are mainly used for gaming.

4.13.3 The premises must comply with the Code of Practice for gaming machines in clubs and premises with an alcohol licence issued by the Gambling Commission:

4.13.4 All gaming machines situated on the premises must be located in a place within the premises so that their use can be supervised, either by staff whose duties include such supervision (including bar or floor staff) or by other means such as CCTV.

4.13.5 The provision of gaming machines, on premises licensed for the sale and consumption of alcohol, more than the automatic two machine entitlement, can only be authorised by way of a permit issued by the Council.

In considering any application for a permit to authorise the provision of more than two machines, on premises licensed under the Licensing Act 2003, for the sale and consumption of alcohol; the Licensing Authority will have regard to the following:

- The requirements of the Act.
- The Licensing Objectives.
- Any guidance issued by the Gambling Commission.
- Any Code of Practice issued by the Gambling Commission.
- The principles within this 'Statement of Policy'.
- Any other matters that the Council considers relevant.

The matters that the Council considers relevant will include but are not exclusive to:

- Any consultation it considers relevant by the Police and the Children's Safeguarding Partnership
- Any relevant policies
- The percentage of gross turnover the gaming machines contribute to total gross turnover of the premises and this should not be significant
- The confidence the Council has in the management of the premises.

4.13.6 In granting a permit the Council can prescribe a different number of machines to that which was applied for and can prescribe the category of machine(s) that may be permitted. However, the Council cannot attach conditions to a permit.

4.13.7 Applicants should be aware that only those premises which have a 'bar' (servery) at which alcohol is sold for consumption on the premises will be eligible for a machine in the bar area of the premises. This means that premises such as restaurants, which do not have a bar for serving drinks or can only sell alcoholic drinks as an ancillary to food will not automatically qualify for two machines.

4.14 Prize Gaming Permits

Prize gaming is where the prize paid is not pre-determined on the number of players or amounts paid for playing, for example prize bingo.

In considering any application for a prize gaming permit the Licensing Authority will have regard to the following:

- The type of gaming that the applicant is intending to provide.
- The requirements of the Act.
- The Licensing Objectives.
- Any guidance issued by the Gambling Commission.
- Any statutory and mandatory conditions.
- The principles within this 'Statement of Policy'.

The Licensing Authority will expect the applicant to demonstrate that they understand the limits applicable to 'stakes and prizes' that are set out in Regulations and that they are able to understand and ensure that the gaming to be provided is within the law.

There are statutory and mandatory conditions in the Act which the permit holder must comply with and the Licensing Authority cannot impose any additional conditions to the grant of a permit.

4.15 Club Machine Permits and Club Gaming Permits

4.15.1 Member's Clubs (but not Commercial Clubs) may apply for a Club Gaming Permit or a Club Gaming machines permit. Commercial Clubs can only apply for a Club Machine Permit.

4.15.2 A **Club Gaming Permit** will enable the premises to provide gaming machines (3 machines of categories B3A or B4, C or D), equal chance gaming and games of chance as set out in regulations. This is in addition to the exempt gaming authorised under S.269 of the Act.

Alternatively, a member's club (but not commercial clubs) can apply for a **Club Gaming Machine Permit** will enable the premises to provide only gaming machines (3 machines of categories B3A or B4, C or D).

Commercial clubs are not permitted to provide non-machine gaming (other than exempt gaming under section 269 of the Act) which means that they should only apply for a Club Gaming Machine Permit. However, they are not able to site category B3A gaming machines offering lottery games in their club.

NOTE: This maximum entitlement of three machines will include any machines provided by virtue of the Licensing Act 2003 entitlement; it is not in addition to that entitlement.

4.15.3 Gambling Commission Guidance states: 'Members clubs must have at least 25 members and be established and conducted 'wholly or mainly' for purposes other than gaming unless the gaming is permitted by separate regulations. The Secretary of State has made regulation and these cover bridge and whist clubs, which replicates the position under the Gaming Act 1968. A members' club must be permanent in nature, not established to make commercial profit, and controlled by its members equally. Examples include working men's clubs, branches of Royal British Legion and clubs with political affiliations.

4.15.4 The Council will take steps to ensure that a club is a bona fide club within the terms set out in the Act and with this in mind reserve the right to request or require sight of evidence that confirms the status of the club.

The Council may request evidence any of the follow factors for consideration in its decision-making.

- Evidence of committee members and evidence of their election by club members?
- Minutes of previous meetings (where appropriate)?
- Are there annual club accounts available for more than one year?
- Is the primary activity of the club something other than gaming?
- Does the club have a constitution, and can it provide evidence that the constitution was approved by members of the club?
- Are the club's profits retained solely for the benefit of the club's members?
- Are there 25 or more members?
- Do guest arrangements link each guest to a member?
- Is the 48-hour rule being applied for membership and being granted admission being adhered to (for member clubs)
- How is the club advertised and listed in directories and on the internet?
- Are children permitted in the club?
- Submission of a plan of the premises for which the permit is sought i.e. premises, boundaries, machine position, etc

4.15.5 The Council may only refuse an application for a 'Club Gaming Permit' or a 'Club Machine Permit' on the grounds that:

- The applicant does not fulfil the statutory requirements for a members' club, a commercial club or a miners' welfare institute and therefore is not entitled to receive the type of permit for which it has applied
- The applicant's premises are used wholly or mainly by children and/or young persons
- An offence under the Act or a breach of a permit has been committed by the applicant while providing gaming facilities
- A permit held by the applicant has been cancelled in the previous ten years
- An objection to the grant of a permit has been lodged by the Gambling Commission or the Police.

4.15.6 The Council is aware that there is a fast-track procedure for the issue of a permit to premises which hold a club premises certificate granted under the Licensing Act 2003. Under this fast-track procedure there is no opportunity for objections to be made by the Gambling Commission or the Police.

The 'fast track' process afforded to an applicant under the Licensing Act 2003 does not provide any statutory right to the issue of a permit and the Council may resolve to refuse the grant of a 'fast track' application on the following grounds:

- That the club is established primarily for gaming, other than gaming prescribed under Schedule 12 of the Act, that section relating to 'Club Gaming Permits' and 'Club Machine Permits'
- That in addition to the prescribed gaming to be provided under the permit, the applicant provides facilities for other gaming on the same premises.
- That a club gaming permit or club machine permit issued to the applicant in the last ten years has been cancelled.

4.15.7 No child shall be permitted to use a Category B or C gaming machines on the premises and that the holder of the Premises Licence must comply with any code of practice relevant to the location and operation of gaming machines.

4.16 Temporary Use Notices (TUN)

There are a number of statutory limits as regards Temporary Use Notices. The limits are set out in the Act as:

- A set of premises may not be the subject of Temporary Use notification for more than 21 days in a period of 12 months.
- A set of premises may be the subject of more than one Temporary Use Notice in a period of 12 months; provided that the aggregate of the periods for which the notices have effect does not exceed 21 days.

The purposes for which a Temporary Use Notice may be used are restricted by regulations, to the provision of facilities for equal chance gaming only, which must be provided by means other than 'machine gaming'.

'Equal Chance Gaming' is gaming where the participants are taking part in a gambling competition which is intended to produce a single, overall winner. An example of this would be a poker competition.

In considering whether to object to a Temporary Use Notice the Licensing Authority will have particular regard to this 'Statement of Principles', and any guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, with regard to the nature and definition of a 'premises' or a 'place'. Should the Council consider that 'Temporary Use Notices' are being employed at premises, (or for discreet parts of premises), to the extent where 'regular gambling' is thereby being provided within a given building or at a given place; then Council may object to the notice(s)

The event organiser must have an Operator Licence from the Commission and the gambling proposed must be the same as that permitted by the licence.

4.17 Occasional Use Notices

An Occasional Use Notice would be required to permit betting at a sporting event (such as a Point-to-point meeting).

With regard to 'Occasional Use Notices' (OUN's) the Licensing Authority will ensure the following:

- That the statutory limit of 8 days in a calendar year is not exceeded.
- That the subject premises can reasonable and effectively be defined as a 'track'
- That the applicant is permitted to avail himself/herself of the notice.

Further information on OUN's may be found on the Gambling Commission website: [Occasional use notices \(OUNs\) - Gambling Commission](#)

4.18 General points regarding Gaming Machines

Gaming machines are made available through a variety of permissions established by the granting of premises licences and permits. There are different categories of machine (the category will determine the level of stakes and prizes), and the number permitted to be made available for play by each operator is controlled by the licence or permit in question.

For example, the allowance for an Adult Gaming Centre will differ from a Bingo premises. The Council undertakes regular inspections of premises where licences and/or permits are in place to ensure that these requirements are complied with.

In view of the above, regardless of the permission involved, operators must:

- Clearly display the classification (e.g., Category D) of each machine on the machine itself.
- Undertake consultation with the Licensing Authority in advance of applying screening and/or boothing to category B machines within licensed premises.
- Ensure that gaming machines situated in premises licensed to sell/ supply alcohol (authorised by way of notification of automatic entitlement and/or permit) are made available strictly in accordance with the Gambling Commission's code of practice with regards to gaming machines in alcohol-licensed premises.

4.19 Small Society Lotteries

Under the Act a lottery is unlawful unless it runs under an operating licence or is an exempt lottery. The Council will register and administer small society lotteries as defined under the Act. Promoting or facilitating a lottery will fall into two categories. Licensed lotteries (requiring an operating licence from the Gambling Commission)

Exempt lotteries (including small society lotteries registered with North Somerset Council)

Exempt lotteries are defined as:

- Small society lotteries
- Incidental non-commercial lotteries

- Private lotteries
- Work lotteries
- Residents' lotteries
- Customer lotteries

Advice regarding the definitions of the above exempt lotteries is available from the Gambling Commission guidance and the website - [Types of lottery you can run without a licence - Gambling Commission](#)

5. Prevention of Crime and Disorder Objective

- 5.1 The Council will, when determining applications, consider whether the grant of a premises licence will result in an increase in crime and disorder arising from gambling activities. This will include measures to be undertaken to prevent money laundering activities taking place.
- 5.2 The Gambling Commission, in its draft guidance for local authorities, has noted that “disorder is intended to mean activity that is more serious and disruptive than mere nuisance. Factors to consider in determining whether a disturbance was serious enough to constitute disorder would include whether police assistance was required and how threatening the behaviour was to those who could see or hear it.” The Council Authority agrees with this statement.
- 5.3 Applicants are encouraged to discuss the crime prevention procedures in their premises with the Council and/or the Avon & Somerset Constabulary before making a formal application.
- 5.4 In considering licence applications, the Council will particularly consider the following:
- The design and layout of the premises
 - The training given to staff in crime prevention measures appropriate to those premises
 - Physical security features installed in the premises. This may include matters such as the position of cash registers or the standard of CCTV that is installed
 - The likelihood of any violence, public order, or policing problem if the licence is granted
 - The premises local risk assessment.
- 5.5 Where evidence is submitted that an area has known high levels of organised crime the Council will consider carefully whether gambling premises are suitable to be located there and whether conditions may be suitable such as the provision of door supervisors. The Council is aware of the distinction between disorder and nuisance and will consider factors such as whether Police assistance was required.

6. Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way Objective

Generally, the Commission would not expect Licensing Authorities to become concerned with ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way as this will be a matter for either the management of the gambling business, and therefore subject to the Operating Licence or will be in relation to the suitability and actions of an individual and therefore subject to the Personal Licence, both of which are the responsibility of the Gambling Commission.

7. The Protection of Children and other Vulnerable Persons Objective

7.1 Access to licensed premises

With limited exceptions, the access of children and young persons to those gambling premises, which are adult only environments, will not be permitted.

The Council will seek to limit the advertising for premises so that gambling products are not aimed at children or advertised in such a way that makes them particularly attractive to children.

The Council will consult with the Safeguarding Children Partnership on any application that indicates there may be concerns over access for children or vulnerable persons.

Where premises are subject to age-restrictions and there are procedures in place to conduct age verification checks, these checks will be taken into account when considering the licence.

The Council will judge the merits of each separate application before deciding whether to impose conditions to protect children on particular categories of premises. This may include such requirements as:

- Supervision of entrances
- Segregation of gambling areas from areas frequented by children
- Supervision of gaming machines in non-adult gambling specific premises.

The Council expects that operators would have identified the risks and mitigations in their premises risk assessments.

7.2 Premises considerations

7.2.1 Definition of "Premises"

The Council will have regard to the definition of 'premises' as set out in the Section 152 of the Act to include 'any place'. In addition, that the intention of Section 152 is to prevent more than one premises licence applying to any place.

A single building could be subject to more than one premises licence, provided they are for different parts of the building and the different parts of the building can be reasonably regarded as being different premises. This approach has been taken to allow large, multiple unit premises such as a pleasure park, pier, track, or shopping mall to obtain discrete premises licences, where appropriate safeguards are in place. Particular attention will be given to the sub-division of a single building or plot to ensure that mandatory conditions relating to access between premises are observed.

The Council will have regard to the Gambling Commission's Guidance that states 'In most cases the expectation is that a single building / plot will be the subject of an application for a licence, for example, 32 High Street. But that does not mean 32 High Street cannot be the subject of separate premises licences for the basement and ground floor if they are configured acceptably. Whether different parts of a building can properly be regarded as being separate premises will depend on the circumstances. The location of the premises will clearly be an important consideration and the suitability of the division is likely to be a matter for discussion between the operator and the licensing officer. However, the Commission does not consider that areas of a building that are artificially or temporarily separated, for example by ropes or moveable partitions, can properly be regarded as different premises.'

The Council will have regard to the clarification of guidance issued by the Gambling Commission in respect to any premises granted multiple licences. These premises may be inspected to reconsider the separation control measures put in place; any material changes noted since the granting of the application and the relevance of all these factors having regard to the promotion of the licensing objectives, in particular to the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited from gambling.

The Council takes note of the Gambling Commission's Guidance, which states that Licensing Authorities should take particular care in considering applications for multiple licences for a building and those relating to a discrete part of a building used for other (non-gambling) purposes. They should be aware of the following:

The third licensing objective seeks to protect children from being harmed by gambling. In practice, that means not only preventing them from taking part in gambling but also preventing them from being in close proximity to gambling. Therefore, premises should be configured so that children are not invited to participate in, have accidental access to, or closely observe gambling where they are prohibited from participating

Entrances to and exits from parts of a building covered by one or more premises licences should be separate and identifiable so that the separation of different premises is not compromised, and people do not '**drift**' into a gambling area. In this context it should normally be possible to access the premises without going through another licensed premises or premises with a permit

There should be tangible and evident separation between premises. Adequate separation may be obtained by means of screening, walls, clear signage, PIR alarms etc.

Customers should be able to participate in the activity named on the premises licence in accordance with Social Responsibility Code 9 of the [Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice - Gambling Commission](#).

The Council may consider the following questions as relevant factors to in its decision-making, depending on all the circumstances of the case.

- Do the premises have a separate registration for business rates?
- Is the premises' neighbouring premises owned by the same person or someone else?
- Can each of the premises be accessed from the street or a public passageway?
- Can the premises only be accessed from any other gambling premises?
- Has a risk assessment identified and adequately controlled risks?

[The Gambling Act 2005 \(Mandatory and Default Conditions\) \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2007 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#) restrict access to different types of licensed gambling premises. In considering proposals to divide a building into different premises, the Council will have to be satisfied that proposals to divide buildings are compatible with the mandatory conditions which relate to access between premises.

7.2.2 Casinos

- No entrance to a casino must be from premises that are used wholly or mainly by children and/or young persons
- No customer must be able to enter a casino directly from any other premises which holds a gambling premises licence

7.2.3 Adult Gaming Centre

- No customer must be able to access the premises directly from any other licensed gambling premises or one with a permit (such as an unlicensed family entertainment centre (uFEC)).

7.2.4 Betting Shops

- No direct access from a betting shop to another premises used for the retail sale of merchandise or services. In effect there cannot be an entrance to a betting shop from a shop of any kind and you could not have a betting shop at the back of a café – the whole area would have to be licensed.

7.2.5 Tracks

No customer should be able to access the premises directly from:

- A Casino
- An Adult Gaming Centre

7.2.6 Bingo Premises

No customer must be able to access the premise directly from:

- A Casino
- An Adult Gaming Centre
- A Betting premises, other than a track

7.2.7 Family Entertainment Centre

No customer must be able to access the premises directly from

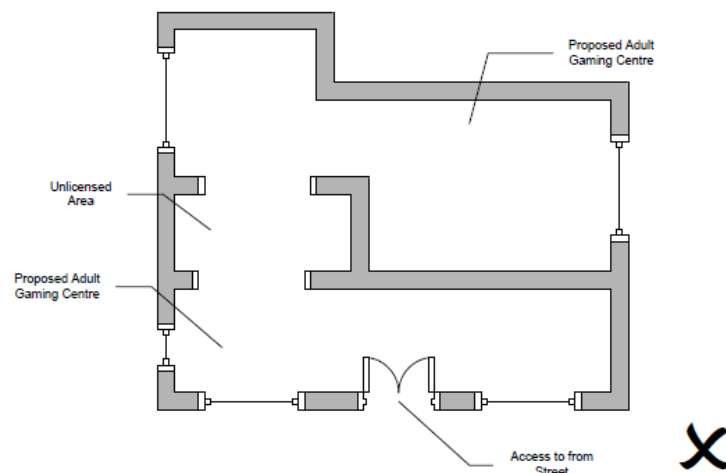
- A Casino
- An Adult Gaming Centre
- A Betting premises, other than a track

7.2.8 The Commission Guidance at paragraph 7.22 states “There is no definition of ‘direct access’ in the Act or Regulations, but Licensing authorities may consider that there should be an area separating the premises concerned, for example a street or café, which the public go to for purposes other than gambling, for there to be no direct access.”

7.2.9 The Council does not consider that provisions which prohibit direct access between licensed premises are satisfied where licensed premises are separated by an area created artificially within a building principally for members of the public attending the licensed premises, irrespective of whether this area is unlicensed or provides non-gambling facilities, for example refreshments or ATMs.

7.2.10 Applications to place two licensed premises in one premises with an unlicensed area separating them, (see figure 1) will not meet this Policy because of the artificial nature of the premises, access, and likely use issues which will arise.

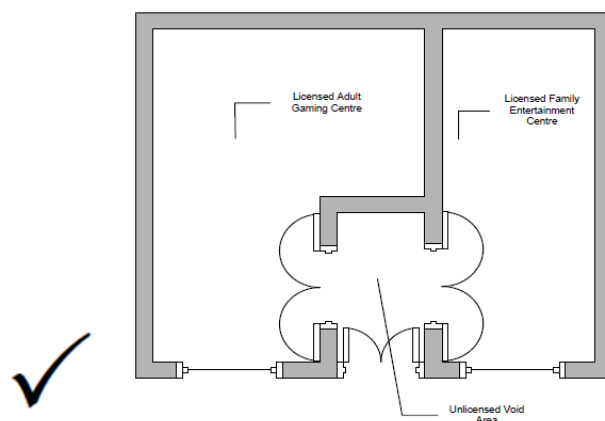
Figure 1



It is possible to have an unlicensed foyer area which separates one licensed premises from another if the foyer is accessed from the street. See Figure 2. The Council would expect as a minimum that the area should be used for non-gaming purposes such as an information point, a coffee shop or similar but must not contain any gambling information or literature promoting gambling activities.

- 7.2.11 The size of the unlicensed area is matter for each application, but the Council will not consider this configuration if the foyer is not of sufficient size to be a useable space.

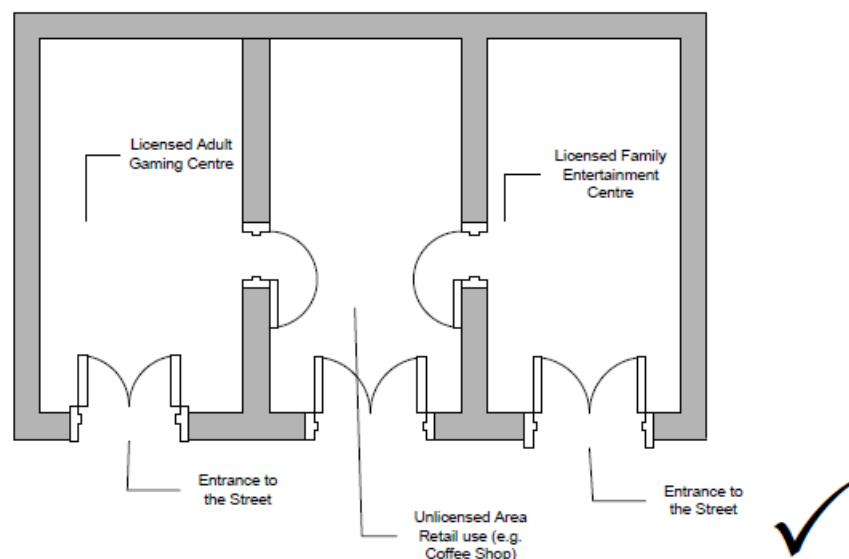
Figure 2



- 7.2.12 It may also be acceptable if a premise is separated by another non-licensed premises that have access to both licensed premises from it. An example of this could be in the form of a coffee shop which has a main entrance to the street.

The coffee shop may have access to an Adult Gaming Centre on one side and an entrance Family Entertainment Centre on the other side, see figure 3. Where a member of the public not using the gambling premises is likely to use the coffee shop it may be considered that there is no direct access between the two licensed premises.

Figure 3



- 7.2.13 Part 7 of the Gambling Commission's Guidance also contains further guidance on this issue, which this authority will also consider in its decision-making.

7.2.14 This will apply to all applications for Premises licences after the date of publication of this Statement of Policy.

7.3 Adult Gaming Centres

7.3.1 In respect of Adult Gaming Centres, the Council will have specific regard to the Licensing objective which seeks to protect children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling. The applicant will be expected to satisfy the Council that there will be sufficient measures and procedures in place, to ensure that persons under 18 years of age do not have access to the premises.

7.3.2 The Council will expect applicants to offer their own measures and must be included in the local risk assessment to meet the Licensing Objectives. However appropriate measures and/or licence conditions may cover issues such as: *(this list is indicative only and is not exhaustive)*

- Proof of age schemes
- Closed Circuit Television Systems
- Supervision of entrances and machine areas
- Physical separation of areas
- Location of entry
- Appropriate notices and signage
- Self-exclusion schemes and the display of information regarding self-exclusion schemes.
- Provision of information leaflets and helpline numbers for organisations such as 'Gamcare'
- Identify local risks, such as proximity to schools or in an area with a high crime rate

7.4 (Licensed) Family Entertainment Centres

7.4.1 In respect of (Licensed) Family Entertainment Centres, the Council will have specific regard to the Licensing objective which seeks to protect children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling. The applicant will be expected to satisfy the Council that there will be sufficient measures and procedures in place, to ensure that persons under 18 years of age do not have access to the 'adult only' gaming machine areas on the premises.

7.4.2 The Council will expect applicants to offer their own measures and must be included in the local risk assessment to meet the Licensing Objectives. However, appropriate measures and/or licence conditions may cover issues such as: *(this list is indicative only and is not exhaustive)*

- Proof of age schemes.
- Closed Circuit Television Systems
- Supervision of entrances and machine areas
- Physical separation of areas
- Location of entry
- Appropriate notices and signage
- Self-exclusion schemes.
- Measures/training for staff on how to deal with suspected truant school children on the premises
- Provision of information leaflets and helpline numbers for organisations such as Gamcare
- Identify local risks, such as proximity to schools or in an area with a high crime rate.

7.4.3 In determining an application for a licensed Family Entertainment Centre, the Council will have regard to any guidance issued by the Gambling Commission and any mandatory or default conditions deemed to have a positive effect. Council will have regard to any guidance or direction on how the separation and/or delineation of the 'adult only' machine areas of the premises should be achieved. Please refer to section 7.2 for more information regarding separation of premises.

7.5 Bingo premises licences

7.5.1 The Council considers that if persons under 18 years of age can enter premises licensed for bingo, it is important that they do not participate in gambling, other than on category D machines. Where category C or above machines are available on premises to which persons under 18 years of age have access, the Council will require that:

- All such machines are in an area of the premises separated from the remainder of the premises by a physical barrier, which is effective to prevent access other than through a designated entrance
- Only adults are admitted to the area where the machines are located
- Access to the area where the machines are located is adequately supervised.
- The area where the machines are located is arranged so that it can be observed by staff of the operator or the licence holder
- At the entrance to and inside any such area there are notices prominently displayed, indicating that access to the area is prohibited to persons under 18.
- No under 18s may play bingo on this premises' must be displayed at each entrance to the bingo premises.

7.5.2 The Council will expect applicants to offer their own measures and must be included in the local risk assessment to meet the Licensing Objectives. However, appropriate measures and/or licence conditions may cover issues such as: *(this list is indicative only and is not exhaustive)*

- Proof of age schemes.
- Closed Circuit Television Systems
- Supervision of entrances and machine areas
- Physical separation of areas
- Location of entry
- Appropriate notices and signage
- Specific opening hours
- Self-exclusion schemes
- Provision of information leaflets and helpline numbers for organisations such as Gamcare
- Identify local risks, such as proximity to schools.

7.5.3 In determining any application for a Bingo Premises Licence, the Council will have regard to any guidance issued by the Gambling Commission regarding the suitability and general layout and appearance of Bingo Premises (Social Responsibility Code 9 of the LCCP).

7.6 Betting premises licences

7.6.1 The Council is responsible for the issue of premises licences for all betting establishments, including casinos, licensed betting offices and tracks. It is illegal for persons under 18 years of age to enter upon licensed betting premises and bet, but they may gain entry to tracks.

7.6.2 A betting premises licence gives the holder the entitlement to up to 4 Cat B2

Machines (also known as Fixed Odds Betting Terminals). Section 169 of the Act gives the Licensing Authority the power to apply conditions in specific circumstances, in such cases the Council will have regard to the following:

- The size of the premises.
- The number of counter positions available for person-to-person transactions.
- The ability of staff to monitor the use of the machines by persons under 18 years of age or vulnerable persons.

7.6.3 The Council expects applicants to offer their own measures and must be included in the local risk assessment to meet the Licensing Objectives. However appropriate measures and/or licence conditions may cover issues such as: *(this list is indicative only and is not exhaustive)*

- Proof of age schemes.
- Closed Circuit Television Systems, (CCTV).
- Supervision of entrances and machine areas
- Physical separation of areas.
- Location of entry.
- Appropriate notices and signage.
- Specific opening hours.
- Self-exclusion schemes.
- Measures / training for staff on how to deal with suspected underage access and play
 - on the premises
- Provision of information leaflets and helpline numbers for organisations such as Gamcare.
- Identify local risks, such as proximity to an area with a high crime rate or high deprivation.

7.7 Travelling Fairs

Travelling fairs do not require any permit to provide gaming machines but must comply with the legal requirements as to the way the machines operate. They may provide an unlimited number of Category D gaming machines and/or equal chance prize gaming machines, provided that the facilities for gambling amount to no more than an ancillary amusement at the fair.

A given area of land may, by statute, only be used on 27 days per calendar year for the purposes of accommodating a fair. The statutory maximum of 27 days calendar use, applies to the land on which the fairs are held, and that use is cumulative, regardless of whether it is the same fair or a procession of different travelling fairs. The Licensing Authority may monitor fairs, (whether travelling or otherwise), which provide category D gaming machines or equal chance prize gaming machines within North Somerset, to ensure that the provision of gambling is ancillary to the amusement provided at the fair and to ensure that the statutory limits upon the annual use of the land is not exceeded.

The Licensing Authority will work with its neighbouring Licensing Authorities to ensure that any inter-authority sites which may be used for the provision of fairs, are appropriately monitored to ensure due compliance with statutory requirements.

7.8 Vulnerable Persons

The Council does not seek to prohibit particular groups of adults from gambling in the same way that it seeks to prohibit children, but it will assume, for regulatory purposes, that 'vulnerable persons' includes:

- People who gamble more than they want to

- People who gamble beyond their means
- People who may not be able to make an informed or balanced decision due to alcohol or drug addiction and
- People whose disability limits a person's ability to understand the consequences of gambling.

The Council notes the Gambling Commission's guidance to protect children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling. This objective means preventing children from taking part in gambling (as well as restriction of advertising so that gambling products are not aimed at or are, particularly attractive to children). The Council will therefore consider whether specific measures are required at premises, with regard to this licensing objective. Appropriate measures may include supervision of entrances/machines, segregation of areas etc.

7.9 Advisory body for the Protection of Children from Harm

North Somerset Council, as the Licensing Authority, designates the North Somerset Safeguarding Children partnership as the competent authority to provide advice on the protection of children from harm.

We expect all operators to have a safeguarding policy in relation to children and vulnerable adults. All staff will be expected to undertake training regarding:

- Vulnerability risk factors
- How to identify safeguarding issues
- How to report and record concerns

Please see **Appendix F**

8. Complaints about Licensed Premises

The Council will investigate complaints about the operation of licensed premises regarding matters relating to the licensing objectives for which it has responsibility. For all customer complaints about the gambling products, complainants must raise the complaint directly with the licensee or business concerned to seek a local resolution. If they are not satisfied, they should contact the Gambling Commission.

Where an interested party has made valid representations about licensed premises, or a valid application for a licence to be reviewed, the Council may initially recommend a conciliation meeting to address and clarify the issues of concern.

This process will not override the right of any interested party to ask that the Licensing Committee consider their valid objections, or for any licence holder to decline to participate in a conciliation meeting.

Due consideration will be given to all relevant representations unless they are considered to be frivolous, vexatious, or repetitious.

9. Further Information

Further information about the Gambling Act 2005, this Statement of Licensing Policy and about the application process, including application forms and guidance notes can be obtained from:

The Licensing Office
North Somerset Council
Town Hall
Walliscote Grove Road
Weston-super-Mare
BS23 1UJ
Tel: 01934 426800

E-mail: licensing@n-somerset.gov.uk
Website: www.n-somerset.gov.uk

Information is also available from the

Gambling Commission
Victoria Square House
Victoria Square
Birmingham
B2 4BP
Tel: 0121 230 6666

Website: www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk

Disclaimer: The Council wishes to make clear that the Gambling Commission's [Guidance to Local Authorities](#) (6th Edition – April 2021) was the most recent information available at the time of writing and can be the subject of change within the period that this statement of principles is in force. The Council will therefore have regard to changes in legislation, court judgements and any updated guidance issued by the Gambling Commission where it is appropriate to the application under consideration.

Appendix A

Map of North Somerset



Appendix B - Table of delegations of licensing functions

MATTER TO BE DEALT WITH	FULL COUNCIL	Licensing Committee or Sub-Committee	OFFICERS
Three-year licensing policy	X		
Policy not to permit casinos	X		
Fee Setting - when appropriate			Executive
Application for premises licences		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/ representations have been withdrawn
Application for a variation to a licence		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/ representations have been withdrawn
Application for a transfer of a licence		Where representations have been received from the Commission	Where no representations received from the Commission
Application for a provisional statement		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/ representations have been withdrawn
Review of a premises licence		X	
Application for club gaming /club machine permits		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/ representations have been withdrawn
Cancellation of club gaming/ club machine permits		X	
Applications for other permits			X
Cancellation of licensed premise gaming machine permits			X
Consideration of temporary use notice			X
Decision to give a counter notice to a temporary use notice		X	
Determination as to whether a person is an Interested Party			X
Determination as to whether representations are relevant			X
Determination as whether a representation is frivolous, vexatious, or repetitive			X

Appendix C

Contact Details for Responsible Authorities

North Somerset Council	North Somerset Council Town Hall Walliscote Grove Road Weston-super-Mare BS23 1UJ
The Gambling Commission	Fourth Floor Victoria Square House Victoria Square Birmingham B2 4BP
Avon & Somerset Constabulary	Licensing Bureau PO Box 3259 Bristol BS2 2EJ
Avon Fire & Rescue Service	Community Safety Milton Avenue Weston-super-Mare BS23 2UL
Safeguarding Children Partnership	North Somerset Council Children & Young Peoples services Town Hall Walliscote Grove Road Weston-super-Mare BS23 1UJ
HM Customs & Excise	HM Revenue & Customs National Registration Unit Portcullis House 21 India Street Glasgow G2 4PZ

Appendix D

Consultees

- Elected Members, North Somerset Council
- Town and Parish Councils in North Somerset
- The Gambling Commission
- Avon & Somerset Constabulary
- Avon Fire & Rescue Service
- North Somerset Health & Wellbeing Board
- Development Management, North Somerset Council
- North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership
- HM Revenue and Customs
- North Somerset Community Safety Partnership
- William Hill
- Ladbrokes
- Bet Fred
- Paddy Power
- Mecca Bingo/Rank
- Association of British Bookmakers
- British Amusement Catering Trade Association
- Bingo Association
- Lotteries Council
- Gamcare
- Gamblers Anonymous
- GambleAware
- Mencap
- NSPCC
- CAB
- Director of Public Health

Representatives of the holders of the various licences for premises in the District who will be affected by this policy.

Members of the public who will be affected by this policy.

Note: This list is not intended to be exclusive. Comments and observations will be welcome from anyone who will be affected by this policy.

Interested Parties' can make representations to the Licensing Authority, in respect of an application for a 'Premises Licence', or in respect of an application for a 'Provisional Statement', submitted to the Licensing Authority by an applicant, under the Act.

Interested parties can also initiate, (or make representation in respect of), a review of a Premises Licence, the detail of which is outlined under the heading of 'Reviews'.

The Act states that a person is an 'Interested Party', if in the opinion of the Licensing Authority, that person:

- Lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities
- Has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities, or
- Represents persons who satisfy the criteria at paragraph a) or b)
- These persons include trade associations, trade unions, and residents' and tenants' associations. However, the Licensing Authority will not generally view these bodies as interested parties, unless they have a member who satisfies the criteria in paragraphs a) or b) above; and they have written Authority of representation.

'Interested Parties' can also be persons who are democratically elected, such as Councillors, (including Town Councillors), and Members of Parliament. In such circumstances, no specific evidence of being 'asked' to represent an interested person will be required, provided the relevant Elected Member represents the ward or town likely to be affected.

Child sexual exploitation and Trafficking of children and young people

This Council is helping to tackle child sexual exploitation and trafficking by working together with key partners particularly the North Somerset safeguarding Children Partnership.

Through agencies working together and sharing information, we aim to identify and prevent sexual exploitation, disrupt the activities of perpetrators, protect children and young people, and prosecute perpetrators of sexual exploitation. Sharing information with the Avon and Somerset Police and North Somerset Council Child Protection service helps to protect young people from harm. Safeguarding children and young people is everyone's business and everyone's responsibility.

Child sexual exploitation and trafficking is a crime that can affect any child, anytime, anywhere – regardless of their social or ethnic background.

Sexual exploitation of children and young people involve exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive something, e.g., food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money, etc. as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Violence, coercion, and intimidation are commonly involved in such exploitative relationships.

Child sexual exploitation involves perpetrators grooming youngsters and using their powers to sexually abuse them. Sexual exploitation of children and young people can take many forms, whether it occurs through a seemingly 'consensual' relationship with an older boyfriend, or a young person having sex in return for attention, gifts, alcohol, or cigarettes.

How gambling premises licence and permit holders and their employees can help tackle child sexual exploitation

Gambling establishment licence and permit holders and their employees are in a good position to help identify victims of sexual exploitation because, through the operation of certain gambling activities, licence and permit holders and their employees regularly encounter children, young and vulnerable people. This means that licence and permit holders and their employees are in an ideal position to help protect young and vulnerable people.

Licence and permit holders and their employees should ask themselves the following questions when they see young and vulnerable people in their gambling premises:

- Do any of your customers appear to be under 18 years old?
- Are they with a much older person and appear to be in a relationship?
- Do you think that they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs?
- Are children/young people being brought regularly to your premises by older people? If so, ask yourself why?

If you have reason to suspect that a child is being abused or at risk of abuse it is your responsibility to report your concerns to and share information with the Police (Tel: 101) and North Somerset County Council Child Protection Team. (Tel: 01275 888808).

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Council – 12 April 2022

REPORT OF POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Hearing held to appoint Deputy PCC, it was agreed by everyone that Claire Hiscott be appointed

Somerset County Council confirmed they were no longer the host the Panel and will cease doing so in September at which time another Authority will need to take over. The Staffing and operation of the Panel is funded by the Home Office, there was a shortfall this year because of extra meetings appointing our new Chief Constable and new staff for PCC's office.

The PCC outlined his recent visits to the area including three in North Somerset

Presentation was given on Integrated Offender Management.

IOM combines resource, knowledge and expertise of Police, Probation, Prison and Recovery Workers in a multi-agency approach to working effectively with the most prolific offenders involved in committing serious crime. This currently operates in Bridewell, Bristol but there is a plan to shortly open a facility in Worle.

An example 358 offenders involved in 1494 crimes to the value of £4.4M pounds

A team of 23 PC's are being recruited (8 so far). IOM is designed to be a pathway to rehabilitation including,

Education/training and Employment.

Attitudes, thinking and behaviour.

Accommodation (a high and unmet need).

Dealing with drugs.

Peter Crew / Richard Westwood

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North Somerset Council

Report to the Council

Date of Meeting: 12 April 2022

Subject of Report: Climate Emergency 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 note the progress with specific initiatives within the Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan
- Members note the proposal for an update to the Climate Emergency and Action Plan update, and provide any comments.

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. An annotated version of the climate emergency action plan, giving brief descriptions of progress is attached to this document (Annex 1).
- 1.2 Embedding Climate Action across the whole organisation is progressing well, however, monitoring policy changes and climate actions against greenhouse gas emissions is still challenging (this is seen locally and globally).
- 1.3 The North Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan is now over two years old and much has changed since that time. It is therefore appropriate to update the plan and this work will be concluded in time for the next six month progress report. Work will not pause during that time.
- 1.4 While a progress report is produced every six months, updated emissions data for North Somerset Council and area are produced once annually due to data availability. These will next be included in the next six-monthly update, however the following paragraphs give a recap on emissions data and core messages from the [previous progress report](#).
- 1.5 Emissions for North Somerset Council's own operations have seen a year-on-year 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%.

- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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 roads
 - 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
- 1.9 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 changes. Engaging with our businesses and communities will be crucial in this.

2. Policy

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 will include climate change as a deciding factor in all policy and strategy decisions going forward.

Budget approval made in February Full Council meeting have recognised the commitment to addressing the nature and climate emergency. A number of these projects are aimed at adapting to climate change – reducing and preparing for the impacts – rather than reducing greenhouse gas emissions. To summarise, this included the following:

- Buying land to develop a number of North Somerset nature parks for wildlife and biodiversity to thrive. In addition to helping our protected species flourish the land will be a valuable recreational and educational resource.
- Funding more work on Weston super pond at Weston Villages to reduce flood risk further in the area, giving homes a better level of protection.

- Funding more active travel initiatives which will benefit cyclists and encourage a better mix of travel options in neighbourhoods.
- Work planned to maintain sea defences in the coming year at Clevedon and Weston.
- Funding work to reduce emissions from Council buildings and seeking sustainable suppliers for Council energy use.
- Investing additional funding into a sales re-use recycle area at Backwell recycling centre to maximise the environmental benefits of the scheme.

In the last year, a number of policies and strategies have been developed and updated which support responding to the Climate Emergency, some key examples below:

- The **Recycling and Waste Strategy** was adopted in February 2022. Reducing the amount of waste produced by following the waste hierarchy and progressing towards a circular economy, where waste is treated as a valuable resource rather than disposed of will support our transition to being a zero carbon area.
- The **Active Travel Strategy** 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'.
- North Somerset Council now uses updated **Climate Emergency Procurement Plan Guidance**. The Council spends around £140m per year with suppliers and many of the services that we provide are delivered through these suppliers. There is therefore a huge opportunity for Procurement and Contract Managers to support the Council's resolution and Strategy. The Procurement Plan is a key stage in the procurement process and sets out the detail of how the procurement will operate. This is the stage in the process where environmental risk and opportunities should be considered.
- The **Parking Standards** Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was adopted in November 2021. It requires a level of electric vehicle charging infrastructure to be provided at all new developments in North Somerset which puts North Somerset ahead of both national government initiatives, as well as the majority of other Local Authorities. It also introduced a 'Parking Needs Assessment' which looks to promote low-car developments in sustainable locations by incentivising developers to deliver excellent Active and Public Transport provision in exchange for a lower number of parking spaces. It also included the promotion of car club vehicles and far more extensive cycle parking guidance in line with LTN 1/20, as well as greater numbers of cycle parking spaces at residential development, to ensure that alternatives to private vehicle ownership are as attractive as possible.
- North Somerset Council is preparing a new **Local Plan** with a 15 year plan period 2023-2038. Once adopted it will replace the current development plan which comprises the Core Strategy, Site Allocations Plan and Development Management Policies and which has an end date of 2026. The **Local Plan Preferred Options** document will be consulted on between March – April 2022. Promotion of sustainable development and addressing the climate emergency are at the heart of the Local Plan strategic priorities.

North Somerset Council is also working closely with the West of England Combined Authority. The Combined Authority are currently updating their Climate and Nature Emergency Strategy and Action Plan. The West of England Transport Decarbonisation Study is due to be published on the 8th April 2022.

3. Details

3.1 Highlights of last six months:

3.1.1 Care Home Innovation and Sustainability Grant

The Innovation and Sustainability Grant is a good example of innovative partnership working. Regular engagement between the Adult Social Care team and residential and nursing homes highlighted the main concerns providers had relating to the recovery from the pandemic.

A fund of £600,000 was ringfenced for residential homes and nursing homes to apply for funding to help with projects relating to the three major themes of - innovation, climate emergency or community asset. Bids were invited between November and December 2021 and 18 of the 64 applications received related to climate emergency action. Bids included the following projects:

- 9 providers looking for solar panels
- Smart heating controls
- Electric vehicles and charging points
- Loft insulation
- Window replacement to improve insulation and energy efficient appliances
- Whole Home energy efficiencies project
- Electric bikes for staff

Some providers have also requested newer, more efficient boilers and we are working with them to ensure non fossil fuel boilers and improved energy efficiency are considered first where possible.

This is a demonstration of our action plan commitment to work with our contractors and service providers to support them in reducing their carbon footprint, take advantage of renewable energy sources, consider an electric fleet, and reduce their use of single-use plastic.

3.1.2 Pier to Pier cycle path

Construction work has begun to build missing sections of the keenly awaited cycle route between Clevedon and Weston-super-Mare. The £3.1m Pier to Pier Way, which is jointly funded by North Somerset Council, National Highways, Department for Transport via Sustrans and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, is set to open in the summer.

The Pier to Pier Way will provide an important active travel route, that will welcome walkers, cyclists and horse-riders, and is expected to serve 70,000 one-way trips a year. It is estimated that this will result in approximately 145 tonnes of CO₂ savings every year.

This is a demonstration of our action plan commitment to develop and secure funding for projects to grow the walking and cycling network across the district.

3.1.3 SEE Monster

This one of a kind installation and user experience will be a showcase for renewable energy generation, a learning environment about weather and demonstrating the first ever re-use of a North Sea oil platform to be on land and for free public access. To host this in Weston-super-Mare is an opportunity to lead and champion action on climate change and low carbon lifestyle. Work has begun to ensure the event has a lasting legacy for its community in Weston, and that the user experience is in keeping with a council who has declared a climate emergency and takes the responsibility seriously as a visitor experience.

3.1.4 Winterstoke Hundred Academy Expansion

The project is to provide additional pupil places through the delivery of a new secondary school. This will meet the growing need for pupil places in North Somerset as a result of general population increases and to factor in potential housing developments. The project will target net zero carbon in regulated energy¹, a 10% biodiversity net gain and BREEAM excellent, which is only achieved by the top 10% of projects.

The following are the key measures which have been incorporated into this design to achieve this

Reduce demand

- The building form has been optimized for heat load reduction
- The u-values have been optimized for heat loss reduction and overheating prevention
- Operable window strategies are employed to cool the spaces in the summer

Increase efficiency

- LEDs are specified throughout the school
- Daylight and occupancy sensors have been included to reduce the lighting load
- Heat recovery has been added to the classroom ventilation systems to decrease the heating load
- Air source heat pumps are employed to provide the low temperature hot water.

Renewable Energy

- PV panels are to be added to the roof to cover at least 15% of the regulated energy.

3.1.5 UK Community Renewal Fund

North Somerset Council, in partnership with local organisations, received more than £2.8m of government funding from the UK Community Renewal Fund.

Enabling Thriving Places in North Somerset is one of four projects delivering this investment in skills, communities and businesses, and supporting people into employment.

£672,562 was awarded to deliver a placemaking research project. This will inform the interventions, projects and spaces to build social fabric, boost recovery and resilience, and create places where people want to work, visit and live. The project includes a decarbonisation feasibility study programme across schools, leisure and public buildings which is taking place in partnership with Bristol City Council.

The decarbonisation programme also includes engagement work with those building management teams and local residents. A [competition](#) will be running during until the end of April to win a whole house retrofit plan with the Centre for Sustainable Energy's Future Proof team discussing home retrofit at events across North Somerset. Residents will be able to enter the competition online or in our libraries. The Future Proof team will be attending the following events:

- Clevedon Market – 7th April

¹ Regulated emissions are those arising from the operation of the building systems, i.e. heating, cooling, ventilation (emissions which can be controlled at the design stage) as opposed to unregulated emissions which are those arising from items plugged into the wall which the design team can have no control over

- Eat:Weston – 9th April
- Nailsea Farmers Market – 16th April
- Portishead Library Earth Day event – 22nd April

The Enabling Thriving Places in North Somerset project reflects our commitment to becoming a carbon neutral council through reducing emissions in Council buildings and working with service providers to reduce theirs as well as our commitment to reducing emissions from the built environment through working with schools and residents to improve energy efficiency in existing buildings.

3.2 Become a Net Zero Carbon Council:

3.2.1 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. 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.

This year we set targets within the Annual Directorate Statement commitments for 15% of the workforce to become Carbon Literate and 100% of senior officers to have received the training. The training was also used to produce directorate action plans which are now being finalised to be written into the directorate commitments for the coming year. Almost 15% of the workforce have now taken the course.

The feedback received most often on Carbon Literacy training is whether we can deliver it to residents and businesses within our communities. The Community Renewal Fund (CRF) Enabling Thriving Places programme includes Carbon Literacy training for community groups which will be delivered between April and June 2022. We are also delivering a pilot programme of Carbon Literacy and Carbon Monitoring to local businesses, which began in March 2022.

3.2.2 North Somerset Council owned buildings

Decarbonisation of the Council's own buildings is an important priority. Decarbonisation is the term used to encompass work to reduce energy use of a building and stop the use of fossil fuels for heating. This might include the introduction of renewable energy generation, but the priority is to reduce energy consumption first. Energy efficiency improvements will begin shortly, following audits completed 2020/21. Energy efficiency improvements will reduce energy costs as well as greenhouse gas emissions.

The CRF Enabling Thriving Places programme includes the production of decarbonisation plans for 25 buildings including leisure centres, schools and other public buildings. This work will be complete by June 2022 and will enable investment into the decarbonisation of our buildings.

A decarbonisation road map is currently being commissioned for North Somerset Council's own estate. This will enable decarbonisation projects – such as improved

insulation and replacement of gas boilers with renewable technologies – to be planned alongside routine maintenance and improvement work.

The libraries team have been successful in their bid to Arts Council England / Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport for funds for capital improvements at Clevedon Library. The work will include measures to help lower the carbon footprint on site, as well as to transform the library to enable more flexible use of the space and facilitate community hub development. Environmental sustainability of the site will be improved through installation of energy saving improvements to include replacing gas heating with an air-sourced carbon efficient system, replacing lighting with LED alternatives and improving loft insulation. An estimated 50% reduction in energy consumption is predicted. The project helps the Library Service to meet the objectives set out in the Libraries Strategy 2021-31, which includes a response to the Climate Emergency

3.2.3 Ecosia Search Engine

During COP26 in November, internal North Somerset Council communications placed an emphasis on climate action. We took part in Carbon Literacy Action Day, training a number of staff and councillors; staff shared their own experiences and progress with reducing carbon emissions and we held an all staff webinar looking at various actions happening across the area.

A change was also made to the search engine used on North Somerset Council systems. We now use <https://www.ecosia.org/>, which is a search engine that uses advertising revenue generated by internet searches to plant trees where they are needed most.

There are over 15 million worldwide active users already using Ecosia as their search engine of choice, and as a result over 136million trees have been planted, at more than 9,000 planting sites around the world. Up until the end of February 2022, over 180 trees had been planted as a result of North Somerset Council's Ecosia searches.

3.3 An energy efficient built environment

3.3.1 Business Support

From January to March 2022, companies in North Somerset were invited to book a free package of business carbon support made up of Carbon Literacy training, a carbon baseline assessment report and carbon reduction plan. The support was specifically designed for small to medium sized enterprises and will help businesses to understand:

- climate change and what it means for their business
- measures to understand and calculate greenhouse gas emissions
- actions to reduce emissions.

A total of 17 businesses are being supported with over 200 employees through this support programme.

North Somerset business can also currently apply for the third round of Green Business Grants through the West of England Combined Authority. Green Business Grants help small and medium enterprises make energy-saving improvements to their buildings and business operations. The grants of up to £15,000 pay for 50% of eligible capital costs.

As part of the LGA's Economic Growth Advisers Programme, a team from Eunomia are supporting development of the action plan to support North Somerset's SMEs' green economic recovery. In Autumn 2020, North Somerset Council adopted a new Economic Plan. Three foundations underpin the 16 commitments that we hope will deliver economic renewal and growth. One of the key foundations is that economic recovery in North Somerset should be 'green'.

The main objectives of this work are for North Somerset Council to understand which SME sectors have the highest carbon emissions and are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change; and to own a tangible action plan of SME engagement to understand how the Council can enable reduction of the emissions within different sectors, adoption of net zero pledge and investment in future skills to support business growth. The outputs of this work are due to be complete in March 2022.

3.3.2 Improvement to domestic properties

The **Green Homes Grant** (LAD1b) scheme has been extended to June 22 and North Somerset Council has received additional funds for a further 24 park home improvements.

Retrofit – the challenges of accelerating a retrofit programme are acknowledged i.e. contractor numbers, training providers, builders merchant supply issues, retrofit coordination & householder technical advice and support, business growth and local authority roles. Encouragingly, sub-regional work has started through work with both the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) and the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) to build the local supply chain. The work to establish the various building blocks will take time but its critical each element is sufficiently advanced with capacity before delivering a programme.

It's estimated around 250,000 homes across the West of England require measures to achieve net zero carbon emissions.

CSE net zero homes – the next steps involve mapping demand, funding and training opportunities leading to driving growth across sectors e.g. apprenticeships and the long term coordination and design of process.

WECA Capacity Building Fund has funded the recruitment of Domestic Retrofit Caseworker solely for North Somerset Council which will considerably enhance our work locally. The funding includes training which will increase technical expertise which can be applied to own stock also. Supporting future funding bids will be valuable.

North Somerset Council has commissioned a **Stock Condition Survey** which includes a specific energy model to focus on mapping interventions based on property type, income and carbon reductions. The report is due Spring 2022.

A draft **Housing Strategy** has been developed which includes home energy projects; a sub-regional Retrofit Strategy; an Affordable Warmth Delivery Plan, Private Rented Sector intervention.

The ongoing energy cost crisis has increased number of households in fuel poverty; therefore, providing additional support to Warmer Homes, Advice and Money (WHAM) has been priority. The CCG have been approached for further funding to target fuel poor households to improve home energy efficiency. Short term funding to help with costs does nothing to reduce carbon, better insulated homes is the answer.

Greater focus on promoting and education of home energy improvements will be encouraged, subject to resources.

3.4 Renewable energy generation

3.4.1 Renewable Energy Consultation

Six North Somerset town and parish councils are currently taking part in a detailed engagement process. Led by **Centre for Sustainable Energy** they reached out to local communities to identify projects that they would welcome, and the sort of ownership and development structures that could be controlled, to some extent, by planning policy. The parishes – Nailsea, Tickenham, Yatton, Kenn, Congresbury and Puxton – were selected due to the potential for wind turbines. The engagement process seeks to increase the participants' knowledge and awareness of the design, development and installation of renewables through the production of a community energy plan, which outlines the mix of energy generation and energy saving technologies that they think is appropriate for their area. This in-depth intervention has three phases, and is delivered over several days, which allows the participants time to process complex decisions, reflect and test their views with friends, family and colleagues, and build comprehensive conclusions. Find out more here:

<https://communityenergyplan.commonplace.is/>

3.4.2 Solar Together

In autumn 2021, North Somerset Council took part in the WECA Solar Together scheme. Solar Together is a bulk buying scheme which allows residents to purchase rooftop solar PV installations at a reduced rate.

The whole scheme, which ran across North Somerset, Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire [will have] resulted in over 1,300 installations including solar PV and additional battery storage where residents already had PV installed. In North Somerset, 292 solar PV installations took place including 173 which included battery storage and an additional 53 batteries were installed in other homes.

It is estimated that these installations will lead to savings of over 300 tonnes CO₂e per year in North Somerset. WECA and the Unitary Authorities are currently reviewing feedback received from residents and other performance indicators to decide whether to repeat the scheme in future rounds.

3.5 Repair, reuse, reduce and recycle

3.5.1 Waste Strategy

North Somerset Council adopted a new Recycling and Waste Strategy in February 2022. The key principle of the waste strategy is to reduce waste with minimal environmental impact. North Somerset achieved a recycling rate of 60.6% in 2019/20 (percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting), which placed North Somerset Council in the top 10 for recycling rates in England and the highest in the South West. We want to increase this recycling rate to 70% by 2030 while also significantly reducing the amount of residual waste produced and sending none of that residual kerbside collected waste to landfill by the end of 2022.

Reducing the amount of waste produced by following the waste hierarchy and progressing towards a circular economy, where waste is treated as a valuable resource rather than disposed of will support our transition to being a zero carbon area.

There is still more progress to be made in encouraging more residents to take up food waste recycling which is estimated to be 27% of the average household black/general waste bin.

3.6 Replenish our carbon stores

3.6.1 Green Infrastructure Strategy

The North Somerset Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy has now been adopted. The overall aim of the Strategy is to protect and enhance the GI network within North Somerset, in order to maximise the multiple benefits (ecosystem services) that the natural environment delivers, which are essential to the survival and wellbeing of humanity, and also in helping to tackle the nature and climate emergency. It aims to raise awareness of the importance and multiple benefits of GI and sets out actions (within an Action Plan) that can be undertaken by the Council and partners to both protect and enhance GI.

Simply put, the protection, enhancement and provision of GI should ensure that green spaces are bigger, better and more joined up which will help us all address the Climate and Nature emergency in North Somerset.

3.7 Reduce emissions from transport

3.7.1 Vehicle to Grid (V2G) Trial

This cutting-edge work Vehicle to Grid is part of the next step in energy supply management. In 2021 North Somerset Council commissioned a Government funded project with Cenex and Virta called Vehicle to Grid (V2G). V2G charger technology enables the option to sell surplus electricity from our NSC Nissan vehicle batteries back to the electricity grid, helping to supply energy at times of peak demand. At peak times, the grid sometimes has to increase the amount of fossil fuels used to produce electricity, so V2G chargers can reduce this. Car batteries can be charged and discharged based on different signals — such as energy production or consumption nearby.

Following the trial period from October to December 2021, it is estimated that with 15 vehicle to grid chargers, North Somerset Council could reduce emissions by a total of 42 tonnes CO_{2e} per year through a combination of replacing petrol/diesel miles with electric and exporting electricity during peak times.

3.7.2 Gritters running on Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO)

North Somerset road gritters, as well as other highway support vehicles, plant and tools, now run on Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO). Using HVO in place of diesel reduces the greenhouse gas emissions associated with fuel use by approximately 90% and an expected 150 tonnes CO_{2e} will be saved each year through this measure. HVO also burns more cleanly meaning a reduction in air pollutant emissions and vehicle maintenance. This measure has been tried and tested by some other local authorities but this is a first for North Somerset. There may be some opportunities to extend this to other vehicles in the future.

3.7.3 Banwell Bypass – approach to carbon

Banwell Bypass is being designed and planned PAS2080, which is the standard for carbon management in infrastructure. Embodied or construction phase Carbon is

being calculated using the National Highways Carbon Tool and is based upon measurements of the design.

Carbon emissions from the use of the road is being calculated using the DEFRA Emissions Factors Toolkit and is based upon the traffic modelling. Carbon is considered on a regular basis as the design is being progressed and is a key part of all design decisions.

We have calculated the carbon footprint twice so far:

- A high level estimate was made during options assessment to help inform the decision on bypass route;
- A baseline estimate was made based upon the details of the bypass that were included in the tender for the contract.

These estimates have helped to identify the parts of the design that produced the most carbon and where carbon savings can be made in design. Examples to minimise embodied carbon include reducing earthworks volumes by designing a single carriageway road rather than a dual carriageway and by building the cycleway at the toe of the highway embankment, minimising lighting of the road.

We will calculate further carbon footprints

- at planning submission so that we can assess the success of the design in reducing the carbon footprint
- at the end of detailed design; and
- at the end of construction to confirm how successful measures in construction have been.

3.7.4 Proposals and consultations for Weston residents

As part of a changing era for town centres, North Somerset Council has been consulting with residents, visitors and businesses on a new vision planned around residential streets across Weston's town centre. The new proposals, covering between Alfred Street, Ashcombe Road, Locking Road and Gerard/Milton Road, will look at:

- Reducing traffic speeds, for safer streets
- Introducing parking measures, offering better resident access
- Improvements for greener streets, with better walking and cycling routes

A number of engagement events have already taken place both indoors and outdoors looking at local issues and design ideas. Online consultation is running between late February and March.

3.8 Adapting to climate change

3.8.1 LGA Adaptation Toolkit

The UK average surface temperature has already warmed by 1.2°C since the pre-industrial period, and is predicted to warm further by mid-century, even under an ambitious decarbonisation scenario. It is important that climate action in North Somerset is not restricted to reducing greenhouse gas emissions but also to preparing for and adapting to changes in our climate.

In January 2022, the Local Government Association released a new Local Authority Climate Change Adaptation Toolkit to support. North Somerset Council are now working with this toolkit to develop and update existing climate change adaptation

plans. These plans will help to improve the resilience of Council services and North Somerset communities in the coming decades.

3.8.2 Flood Risk Management Plans

The Environment Agency's National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy was published in 2020. Consultation of Flood Risk Management Plans by the Environment Agency is now complete and will be published soon. Local Flood Risk Management Strategy including a Flood Resilient North Somerset module is being developed.

3.9 Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan Update

The North Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan is now over two years old and much has changed since that time. It is therefore appropriate to update the plan and this work will be concluded in time for the September six month progress report. Work will not pause during that time.

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen dramatic and widespread changes across the world, with reduced travel, increased homes working and economic impacts on residents and businesses everywhere.

Internationally, we saw the UN Conference of the Parties (COP26) in 2021 where countries agreed to an annual ramping up of ambition as opposed to the previous five year cycle. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has released parts of its Sixth Assessment Report, showing the climate change is widespread, rapid and intensifying. This report will be complete during 2022. Nationally, the Government has adopted the sixth carbon budget and published the Net Zero Strategy and Transport Decarbonisation Plan and various other plans and strategies relating to decarbonisation. The Committee on Climate Change have released reports showing that the UK is off target with delivering on its ambition climate promises and has not moved quickly enough on climate change adaptation.

Locally, and regionally many things have also changed, not least the mobilisation of North Somerset Council staff to responding to the Climate Emergency. Understanding across the council of the part that we can play in implementing and influencing climate action has increased during this time. The Council has also been working closely with neighbouring authorities and the West of England Combined Authority and shared learning can be incorporated into any update.

This year has also seen the publication of a league table of local authority climate action plans. While not all of the feedback from this scoring system was accurate, it has provided North Somerset Council with some useful feedback and will be used to inform our update.

3.9.1 Feedback from Climate Emergency UK League Table

Climate Emergency UK is a group which exists to support UK Local Authorities which have declared a climate emergency and are developing and updating action plans to deliver on their ambitions. They are currently focusing on creating a database of UK Local Authority climate & ecological emergency declarations and action plans to help interested parties quickly identify best practice.

The scoring system developed by Climate Emergency UK looked at the published plan at a single moment in time and didn't take into account the wide range of successful council projects already under way which are reducing carbon emissions across North Somerset.

It is difficult to compare the action being taken by councils across the UK as they each have their own approach to tackle climate change, but highlighting the need for everyone to act now is the right message. However, the results of the analysis give us good insight to required changes and have helped to identify opportunities where we can learn from other councils.

3.9.2 Outline of the Updated Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan

The updated plan will be presented as a formal strategy document with more explanation of the why we are prioritising responding to the Climate Emergency:

- The implications of climate change on a local, national and international scale
- The impact climate change is having on the most vulnerable in our communities
- The scale of the response required to meet national and international commitments
- The co-benefits of climate action

The updated plan will remove reference to the seven key principles as laid out in the original plan; these principles do not align with all of the work required to respond to the Climate Emergency. Instead, the following themes will be introduced, subject to further development. These align more closely with work required, planned and currently underway as well as with plans of our neighbouring authorities.

- Cross-cutting actions & Council organisation
- Transport
- Buildings / Built Environment
- Business & skills
- Renewable Energy
- Resources & waste
- Green infrastructure, Carbon Sequestration & Nature Recovery
- Adaptation & Resilience

The plan will include a section for each theme with an explanation of the relevant emissions, vulnerabilities and opportunities for that theme. At the end of each section there will be a table of actions which will include an explanation of the action, co-benefits of the action, named team / committee responsible for the action and SMART targets. There will also be a table showing progressed and completed actions and an explanation of whether an action is discrete or continuous – for example a discrete action may be to complete a specific active travel scheme and a continuous action might be to support schools to encourage active travel.

3.9.3 Improved monitoring, reporting and decision making

The current action plan format does not easily support progress reporting. Monitoring the success of climate policy and action against changes in emissions is a considerable challenge across the world. The Committee on Climate Change estimates that 60% of the changes required in their “Balance Pathway” towards Net Zero rely on societal or behavioural changes and these types of changes are particularly difficult to monitor.

The updated action plan will need to identify different measures of success and methods of reporting progress – for example:

- Quantitative emissions reporting – this is the overall change we are aiming for. However, for the area of North Somerset these can only be reported on annually, and with a two year lag so earlier signalling is required.

- Quantitative activity reporting – things which will have a direct impact on greenhouse gas emissions – for example the amount of energy consumed or miles driven– these can be reported on more regularly but bespoke data collection may be required.
- Quantitative action reporting – things which will have an indirect impact on emissions – for example the number of businesses receiving sustainable business training, the number of renewable installations or homes insulated.
- Qualitative progress reporting – progress on specific projects and changes.

Where possible target dates will be defined, and quantitative targets will be identified using local or national research. Many of these are either already in place or in development, but will be laid out clearly within the updated Climate Emergency Action Plan.

A North Somerset Council Programme Management Office is currently under development and one of the objectives for the office is to improve the climate governance in individual project delivery and service planning. To ensure that all projects are delivered with emissions reduction and climate resilience at their core. One method that is being considered for making these improvements is the Cornwall Decision Wheel which is based on Doughnut Economics. This means that environmental impacts such as greenhouse gas emissions, climate adaptation, and biodiversity are considered alongside human impacts such as fuel poverty, community and equalities. The wheel is currently being reviewed and adapted to North Somerset requirements and will be trialled in the coming few months.

4. Consultation

Updates on progress have been sought from the Officers Working Group as well as other relevant officers. This report has been shared with the Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Engagement and the Director of Place. Feedback was sought from the Partnerships, Corporate Organisation and Overview Management Policy Scrutiny Panel; the Climate Emergency Steering Group and the Cross Party Climate Emergency Working Group before Full Council in April.

5. Financial Implications

This report is for progress update only, there are no financial implications.

6. Legal Powers and Implications

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

7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

The details in this report relate directly to the Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan. Projects described within this report and Annex 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

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

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

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

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:

Annex 1 – North Somerset Climate Emergency Action Plan Progress April 2022

Background Papers:

Climate Emergency Strategy:

<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/North%20Somerset%20climate%20emergency%20strategy%202019.pdf>

Climate Emergency Action Plan:

<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/North%20Somerset%20climate%20emergency%20action%20plan.pdf>

Climate Emergency Baseline Evidence reports:

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

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

Previous progress report:

https://n-somerset.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s1530/21%20Council%20Report%20NSC%20ClimateEmergencyProgressSept2021_Final.pdf

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North Somerset Climate Emergency Strategic Action Plan – Progress April 2022

Our commitment: North Somerset aims to be a carbon neutral council and a carbon neutral area by 2030

Impact

H: high
M: medium
L: low
TBC: to be confirmed

Note, these are estimates subject to further work

Deliverability

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	Progress – Apr 2022
Become a Net Zero Carbon Council								
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			<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>80 Council employees certified as Carbon Literate. Aim for 15% (~180) by March 2021 to qualify for Silver Carbon Literacy accreditation.</p> <p>A new climate communications officer has been appointed to support and enable businesses and residents to reduce emissions.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Picture This, an artistic competition to picture a carbon neutral future in North Somerset will run during summer 2021 in partnership with Culture Weston.</p> <p>NSC has partnered with North Somerset Enterprise Agency and the Future Economy Network to deliver a series of events aimed a</p>	<p>144 Council officers and councillors are certified as Carbon Literate. NSC will be applying for Silver Carbon Literacy accreditation in March 2022.</p> <p>Climate comms in internal and external publications – feature article in ELife magazine every month.</p> <p>Picture this competition during summer 2021 and entries were displayed in the Sovereign Centre during COP26 in November 2021. The Picture This art display is now touring North Somerset Libraries with exhibitions in different libraries between 7th January and 26th April.</p> <p>Weston-Super-Mare will be hosting SEE MONSTER during the Summer of 2022 – the world's first and only repurposed North Sea offshore platform, and the largest outdoor installation ever see in Weston which will harness renewable energy from the natural elements. Among other themes, SEE MONSTER will include exhibits focusing on weather, climate change and green technologies.</p>

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Apr 2022
Appoint a Climate Emergency Project Manager to oversee the CE Strategy delivery and Action Plan implementation							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.	Additional Project Officer appointed in September 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.		Programme of emissions reporting in place. Additional progress reporting improvements to be made.
Assess all major Council projects and 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.	Ongoing.
'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.	Climate Emergency Procurement Guidance has now been approved, relevant staff have been trained and the guidance is being utilised for new procurements, and specific actions are approved as part of the Procurement Plan. In addition, work has begun to produce specific category guidance for key areas of council spend, and initial workshops have been held to assess, IT, Construction, Care Homes and Home to School Transport.

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Apr 2022
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.	The accommodation strategy supports the Council's ambition to be a net zero carbon council by 2030. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting flexible working and home working to reduce the carbon footprint of our workforce (and enabling us to make more efficient use of our corporate buildings) Building maintenance to improve energy efficiency - review the Council's estate to investigate means of increasing energy efficiency of heating, lighting and cooling systems Reducing the scale and increasing the performance, cost and carbon efficiency of the office estate, resulting in a sustainable future Town Hall site The Accommodation Strategy Programme team are also working with the Waste Team and the Sustainable Travel team / with teams to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The principle of repair, reuse, reduce and recycle will be used for any future, fittings and equipment (FFE) Any surplus furniture can be re-purposed in a way that benefits the local community. The energy efficiency of the Town Hall is assessed and for any changes needed to be considered as part of the design and investment works The Green Travel Plan objectives are considered and incorporated (reflected) within the programme
Continue to provide/promote schemes such as 'cycle to work' and 'Travelwest challenge' to	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can directly control or can influence through our contracts or through	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	EV Salary Sacrifice Scheme currently at procurement stage and following that will await Director's decision.

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Apr 2022
encourage sustainable transport choices by our workforce		funding/support/policy					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.	
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.		The current energy procurement framework will come to an end in September 2022. The commissioning and procurement plan for the next round of energy contracts is planned to go to Full Council in April. The current energy crisis is causing significant increases to energy bills so an additional focus will be on own generation of renewable energy.
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.	Energy efficiency projects to be undertaken during 2022/23. CRF Funding awarded in November 2021 to carry out feasibility studies on a number of community buildings in the area, as well as providing Carbon Literacy training to building management personnel.
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.	Almost complete – the project has been extended slightly due to lower than anticipated project costs. An additional 485 lantern replacements are to be ordered and upgraded on site providing additional energy and carbon savings.

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Apr 2022
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.	In 2021 North Somerset Council commissioned a Government funded project with Cenex and Virta called Vehicle to Grid (V2G). V2G charger technology enables the option to sell surplus electricity from our NSC Nissan vehicle batteries back to the electricity grid, helping to supply energy at times of peak demand.
Work with our contractors and service providers to support them in reducing their carbon footprint, take advantage of renewable energy sources, consider an electric fleet, and reduce their use of single-use plastic	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through our contracts or through funding/support	H	Supports investment in technology		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2020, NSC and Alliance Homes signed a partnership agreement which featured an objective working together to 'Support the achievement of carbon neutrality in 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. 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. 	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.	<p>North Somerset road gritters, as well as other highway support vehicles, plant and tools, now run on Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO). Using HVO in place of diesel reduces the greenhouse gas emissions associated with fuel use by approximately 90% and an expected 150 tonnes CO2e will be saved each year through this measure.</p> <p>Working with our highways contractor, Milestone, road surfacing projects are now being delivered using warm asphalt and foambase rather than more traditional methods of using hot asphalt. The foambase material is produced using the council's recycled tar-bound material at OCL in Avonmouth. The warm asphalt has approximately 30 per cent lower embodied carbon compared to hot, and has many other benefits such as cooling and setting at a quicker rate, meaning the road can reopen quicker, minimising disruption to our residents and keeping traffic management costs lower.</p> <p>A fund of £600,000 was ringfenced for residential homes and nursing homes to apply for funding to help with projects relating to the three major themes of - innovation, climate</p>

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Apr 2022
								emergency or community asset. Bids were invited between November and December 2021 and 18 of the 64 applications received related to climate emergency action.
An energy efficient built environment								
Page 150	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	Creating Sustainable Buildings and Places SPD currently under review. 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.	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.	The Local Plan Preferred Options document will be consulted on between March – April 2022. The Plan contains policy DM6: Net Zero Construction . This policy details that new buildings will be required to demonstrate net zero operational energy compliance on plan adoption and net zero embodied carbon by 2030. The draft policy is compatible with changes in Buildings Regulations and the future Homes Standard 2025. Comments received during the consultation will be taken into consideration within the next version of the Plan.
	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			The Winterstoke Hundred Academy Expansion project will target net zero carbon in regulated energy*, a 10% biodiversity net gain and BREEAM excellent, which is only achieved by the top 10% of projects.
	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.	The Council will deliver 52 homes on its land south of The Uplands, Nailsea. This development seeks to be an exemplar of environmental sustainability. Features of the scheme include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All homes to be Passivhaus certified. This represents a very high standard of sustainability which also helps ensure good build quality and low energy bills. The scheme will not include any provision of domestic gas.

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Apr 2022
								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A landscape led approach, with a high proportion of green space. • Electric vehicle charging for all homes, as well as contributions to fund an electric vehicle car sharing club. • Planning policies require a Habitat Regulations Assessment demonstrating ecological mitigations and enhancements.
Aim to focus new mixed-use development on brownfield land, in town centres with public transport and proximity to major employment hubs	Avoidance Reduction Mitigation	An area we can directly control or can influence locally and nationally	H	Critical mass for transport and community infrastructure Protect habitats Affordable housing		The Local Plan 2038 is currently in development. The first document, outlining the 'Challenges for the 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.	The Executive endorsed the preferred spatial approach in April 2021. '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	The Local Plan preferred option document sets out the strategic priorities for the development and use of land. Key strategic policies identified include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'To deliver higher residential densities through good design, particularly at town centres, transport hubs and on brownfield sites.' • To prioritise the location of new development close to places with a wide range of services, facilities and job opportunities. • To address the decline in the town centres of Weston-super-Mare, Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead through supporting regeneration and place-making initiatives which revitalise these places as the focus for retailing, community uses, housing and jobs.' Further detail is contained in the following policies: Policy SP1: Sustainable Development , will require new development proposals which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Support regeneration particularly in town centres' Policy SP5: Towns : 'Town centres will be the primary focus for a wide range of retail, leisure, educational,

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Apr 2022
							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.	<p><i>cultural, community and other services which support, maintain or enhance their viability and vitality and their role and function.'</i></p> <p>Policy DP8: Efficient use of land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Enable the reuse and regeneration of previously developed land; prioritise higher densities at more accessible locations such as town centres, local centres and transport hubs.' <p>Policy DP23: Town Centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Support will be given for proposals which use land efficiently, support the residential use of upper floors and for the re-use of underused, poor quality or vacant land and buildings including appropriate temporary uses'
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 Supports green skills/jobs		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 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>Green Homes Grant to improve 100 homes was successful. NSC and Alliance Homes are progressing with improvements – expected completion data March 2022.</p> <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</p>	<p>Green Homes Grant (LAD1b) scheme extended to June 22 with additional funds allocated for a further 24 park home improvements.</p> <p>Sustainable Warmth – initial bid unsuccessful but BEIS now indicate will receive HUG (Home Upgrade Grant) funding in April; amount TBC but estimate around 75 dwellings.</p> <p>Retrofit – the challenges of accelerating a retrofit programme are acknowledged i.e. contractor numbers, training</p>

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Apr 2022
						<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>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 oof-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>	<p>providers, builders merchant supply issues, retrofit coordination & householder technical advice and support, business growth and local authority roles.</p> <p>Encouragingly, sub-regional work has started through work with both WECA and CSE to build the local supply chain. The work to establish the various building blocks will take time but its critical each element is sufficiently advanced with capacity before delivering a programme. It's estimated around 250,000 homes across the WoE require measures to achieve net zero carbon emissions.</p> <p>CSE net zero homes – next steps involve mapping demand, funding and training opportunities leading to driving growth across sectors e.g. apprenticeships and the long term coordination and design of process.</p> <p>WECA – working on capacity building, funding provision and collaboration.</p> <p>WECA Capacity Building Fund has funded the recruitment of Domestic Retrofit Caseworker solely for NSC which will considerably enhance our work locally. The funding includes training which will increase technical expertise which can be applied to own stock also. Supporting future funding bids will be valuable.</p> <p>LGA funded Housing Retrofit Action Learning Set Programme has concluded – currently collating the actions and learning from participants. A deep dive into the challenges and barriers,</p>

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Apr 2022
Support, encourage and enable homeowners and businesses								<p>led by West Midlands Energy Hub. Report due April 22.</p> <p>Stock Condition Survey commissioned including a specific energy model to focus on mapping interventions based on property type, income and carbon reductions. Report due Spring 22.</p> <p>Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund – WECA successful Wave 1 bid are working with Elim HA & Livewest to improved home to minimum EPC level C. Wave 2 to be announced soon.</p> <p>Housing Strategy (draft) – home energy projects included; Retrofit Strategy (sub-regional); Affordable Warmth Delivery Plan, Private Rented Sector intervention. These projects will require resourcing. Links to health & Wellbeing Strategy.</p> <p>The ongoing energy cost crisis has increased number of households in fuel poverty; providing additional support to Warmer Homes, Advice and Money (WHAM) has been priority. CCG have been approached for further funding to target fuel poor households to improve home energy efficiency. Short term funding to help with costs does nothing to reduce carbon, better insulated homes is the answer. Greater focus on promoting and education of home energy improvements will be encouraged, subject to resources.</p>
	Reduction	An area we can influence through our contracts or through funding/support	M	Public health outcomes Supports investment in technology		North Somerset Council have expanded the range of loan assistance available to include lending money to homeowners or landlords to make homes more	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	Companies in North Somerset can book a free package of business carbon support made up of Carbon Literacy training, a carbon baseline assessment

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Apr 2022
to improve energy efficiency of existing buildings.				Supports green skills/jobs		<p>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>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.</p>	<p>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> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>report and carbon reduction plan. The support is specifically designed for small to medium sized enterprises and will help businesses to understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • climate change and what it means for their business • measures to understand and calculate greenhouse gas emissions • actions to reduce emissions. <p>North Somerset business can also currently apply for the third round of Green Business Grants through the West of England Combined Authority. Green Business Grants help small and medium enterprises make energy-saving improvements to their buildings and business operations. The grants of up to £15,000 pay for 50% of eligible capital costs.</p> <p>As part of the LGA's Economic Growth Advisers Programme, a team from Eunomia are supporting development of the action plan to support North Somerset's SMEs' green economic recovery. In Autumn 2020, North Somerset Council adopted a new Economic Plan. Three foundations underpin the 16 commitments that we hope will deliver economic renewal and growth. One of the key foundations is that economic recovery in North Somerset should be 'green'.</p> <p>The CRF programme includes presence at local events to discuss home energy and a competition to win one of four home retrofit plans.</p>
Work with schools and other	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through our contracts or	H	Supports investment in technology		Energy efficiency scheme to be offered to schools. To be funded through 0% Salix Loans, or	NSC have submitted a bid to produce a decarbonisation survey for all maintained schools	The CRF programme includes the production of decarbonisation plans for maintained school.

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stakeholders to ensure their estate is energy efficient and install renewable energy sources		through funding/support		Security of own supply		Government decarbonisation grants where appropriate.	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.	<p>The Local Plan Preferred Options document will be consulted on between March- April 2022. This includes Policy DP46: Homes for all:</p> <p><u>Self-build and custom build housing</u></p> <p>'Proposals for self-build and custom housebuilding will be supported. On development sites of 100 homes or more 5% of the total homes should be made available for sale as serviced self-build and custom housebuilding plots. For phased developments, self-build plots must be delivered and serviced at the earliest stage possible.</p> <p>Plots must be made available and priced and marketed appropriately as self-build or custom build plots for at least 18 months.</p> <p><u>Community-led housing</u></p> <p>Proposals for community-led housing will be supported because of the benefits they are expected to bring in terms of community cohesion, permanent affordability and sustainable development.'</p>
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	Green Infrastructure strategy has now been adopted – add link, with one line summary

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Apr 2022
Identify Council land suitable for rewilding with aim of reducing amenity grass by 20%							going to exec in September for review	
	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.	We are continuing our rewilding project winter 2021-22, when we will be aiming to plant around 5,000 trees on our open spaces.
Identify landscape scale tree planting opportunities to deliver nature recovery networks especially floodland creation and linking woodlands	Mitigation Storage	An area we directly control	H	Public health outcomes Ecological diversity		Within GI Strategy	Within GI Strategy	Climate priority - it is the council's intention to deliver improvements in the strategic management of wildlife and biodiversity by purchasing land and creating North Somerset Nature Parks.
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.	Ongoing
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.	This project is due to commence in 2022/23
Adapting to climate change								
Ask Government to rapidly review the impacts which achieving net-zero will have across society and put in place	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.		

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effective measures to ensure that we have a fair transition to a net-zero country where the most vulnerable groups are supported								
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.	The Local Plan Preferred Options document will be consulted on between March- April 2022. This includes Policy DM5 – Climate adaptation and resilience , which states that : All development will need to demonstrate that the vulnerability to climate change has been taken into consideration through the provision of a climate change adaptation statement.
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.	Management Plans consultation (by EA) has finished and will be published soon. Local Flood Risk Management Strategy including Flood Resilient North Somerset module is being developed The Local Plan Preferred Options document will be consulted on between March - April 2022. This includes Policy DP9: Flood risk , which states that: All development must consider its vulnerability to flooding, taking account of all sources of flood risk and the impacts of climate change, up to 100 years ahead on residential or mixed-use sites and 60 years ahead on non-residential sites.
Ensure North Somerset's Emergency Management	Adaption	An area we directly control	N/A					Work has commenced using the recently published LGA Climate Adaption Toolkit to update the Council's Climate Adaptation Plan.

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Plan is robust and resourced								
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 renewable energy generation that has been identified by the study.	<p>The Local Plan Preferred Options document will be consulted on between March - April 2022. This contains Policy DM7: Large-scale renewable energy generation. This policy references the maps produced from the Renewable Energy Resource Assessment (RERAS) Study. The maps identify the Search Areas, which are those with the best potential for solar and wind in the District.</p> <p>DM7 states that: <i>'proposals will be supported in principle when identified within the Search Areas on these maps.'</i></p> <p>The policy also states that <i>'where community support is identified for a specific technology at a specific location, this will be identified as a preferred location for that technology.'</i></p> <p>The Centre for Sustainable Energy are leading community consultation with residents from six parishes which have been identified as having good potential for wind energy.</p> <p>The intention is to further refine the policy and the accompanying maps as part of the consultation process.</p> <p>Policy DM6: Net Zero construction requires that on-site renewable energy generation is maximised, to at least meet the onsite energy demand. Where this is demonstrated to be not technically feasible, then a renewable energy offsite</p>

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Apr 2022
Pass a motion declaring North Somerset a Frack Free Zone to discourage the exploration and production of shale gas Encourage our partners and stakeholders to procure electricity supply from 100% renewably generated sources Encourage our residents to consider 100% renewable energy and support access to grant funding where possible	Avoidance	An area we directly control	M	Investment in new technology Public engagement				contribution may be implemented.
	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through our contracts or through funding/support	M	Investment in new technology Public engagement				
	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through support	M	Investment in new technology Public engagement		<p>Updated NSC Climate Emergency webpage and NS Life articles encourage 100% renewables.</p> <p>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>Plan to join WECA Solar Together scheme in Autumn 2021 – bulk buying scheme which allows residents to purchase PV installations at a reduced rate.</p>	<p>Plan to join WECA Solar Together scheme in Autumn 2021 – bulk buying scheme which allows residents to purchase PV installations at a reduced rate.</p>	<p>In autumn 2021, North Somerset Council took part in the WECA Solar Together scheme. Solar Together is a bulk buying scheme which allows residents to purchase rooftop solar PV installations at a reduced rate.</p> <p>The whole scheme, which ran across North Somerset, Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire [will have] resulted in over 1,300 installations including solar PV and additional battery storage where residents already had PV installed. In North Somerset, 292 solar PV installations took place including 173 which included battery storage and an additional 53 batteries were installed in other homes.</p> <p>It is estimated that these installations will lead to savings of over 300 tonnes CO2e per year in North Somerset. WECA and the Unitary Authorities are currently reviewing feedback received</p>

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Apr 2022
								from residents and other performance indicators to decide whether to repeat the scheme in future rounds.
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.	<p>Construction work has begun to build missing sections of the keenly awaited cycle route between Clevedon and Weston-super-Mare. The £3.1m Pier to Pier Way, which is jointly funded by North Somerset Council, National Highways, Department for Transport via Sustrans and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, is set to open in the summer.</p> <p>The Pier to Pier Way will provide an important active travel route, that will welcome walkers, cyclists and horse-riders, and is expected to serve 70,000 one-way trips a year. It is estimated that this will result in approximately 145 tonnes of CO2 savings every year.</p> <p>As part of a changing era for town centres, North Somerset Council has been consulting with residents, visitors and businesses on a new vision planned around residential streets across Weston's town centre. The new proposals, covering between Alfred Street, Ashcombe Road, Locking Road and Gerard/Milton Road, will look at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing traffic speeds, for safer streets • Introducing parking measures, offering better resident access • Improvements for greener streets, with better walking and cycling routes <p>A number of engagement events have already taken place both indoors and outdoors looking at local issues and design ideas.</p>

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Develop policies that actively encourage the demand for and delivery of connected public transport								Online consultation is running between late February and March.
	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.	<p>Local Plan Preferred Options document will be consulted on between March - April 2022. The spatial strategy states that priority will be given to locating new development in and close to urban areas, which are or have the potential to be well served by public transport. This supports the delivery of public transport connections where they do not currently exist.</p> <p>Policy DP16: Public Transport accessibility states that:</p> <p>All residential development should be within reasonable distance of a direct and frequent bus service providing access to a good range of facilities, services and jobs via a direct, safe and attractive pedestrian route. Infrastructure improvements to provide direct pedestrian or cyclist access to, and improvement of, bus stops may also be required.</p> <p>Developments will, as appropriate, be expected to encourage the use of public transport and delivery of effective and convenient services. This will include the integration of routes within residential areas, bus priority measures, direct routes to well-located public transport infrastructure, improved bus stop facilities, supporting interchange between different modes, higher density development in proximity to public transport, and contributions to enhanced levels of service.</p>

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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.	The Active Travel Strategy has been adopted. Active Travel 3 announcement in March after DfT delay
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.	Project complete. Both rapid chargers are in the top 5 most used chargers in the West of England out of approx. 300 chargers. This site was chosen using socio economic data to see where the highest propensity to buy or lease and EV was in North Somerset.
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	Six new EV charging sites are progressing, including Nailsea & Backwell station, Worle Parkway, Melrose car park on W-s-M seafront, Great Western car park in Clevedon, Cleeve and Hutton Moor Leisure Centre. These will be complete by Autumn 2022. The Parking Standards SPD, adopted in November 2021, sets out requirements for electric vehicle charging infrastructure at all new developments. This will encourage the uptake of Electric Vehicles amongst residents and will help futureproof our developments in the transition away from Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles.

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Apr 2022	
Page 164							Moor Leisure Centre, Budgens in Cleeve and Langford.	<p>The Local Plan Preferred Options document will be consulted on between March - April 2022. This includes Policy SP10: Transport: which states:</p> <p><i>'In order to facilitate the delivery of net-zero emissions and reduce the adverse environmental effects of transport, development proposals and transport schemes must include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Delivery of infrastructure to facilitate the use of electric vehicles'</i> <p>Also policy DP14: Active and sustainable transport, which states:</p> <p><i>'New development will be designed and located to minimise the need to travel and support a hierarchy which prioritises walking, then cycling, public transport, car clubs and finally private electric vehicles.'</i></p>	
	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 Public engagement		Work beginning on Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy (SMOTS) for secondary schools. Strategy will audit current travel data and infrastructure and highlight what can be done to reduce reliance on school buses and cars.	Work continues on SMOTS strategy for Secondary schools. Sustrans Bike IT officer in post until March 2022 to support capital programme schemes.	We are working with a larger number of schools through the Modeshift STARS programme.
	Review Parking Planning Guidance to provide fewer parking spaces in sustainable locations	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.	<p>Parking standards SPD went to public consultation April 2021.</p> <p>10 Year Parking Strategy being developed as part of motor vehicle strategy.</p>	The Parking Standards SPD, adopted in November 2021, sets out requirements for electric vehicle charging infrastructure at all new developments. This will encourage the uptake of Electric Vehicles amongst residents and will help futureproof our developments in the transition

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Apr 2022
Encourage resident parking schemes, car sharing schemes and walking and cycling to support								away from Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles.
	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.	Leigh Woods parking scheme is on track to be completed by the end of February 2022. It will see the introduction of on-street charges alongside a residents permit scheme, the first of these to be introduced in North Somerset. This pilot scheme will help balance demands from different users enabling commuters, residents and visitors to park when they need to and charges will help discourage unnecessary car trips.
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.	A new officer has been appointed for 20mph, Liveable Neighbourhood schemes and EV provision. A further new role will focus on travel plans engagement and transport planning.
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.	Waste Strategy adopted Feb 2022. The strategy sets out key objectives and will report progress against these on an annual basis.
Consider our green waste collection to	Reduction	An area we directly control	M	Financial savings		Charging for collections to commence from April 2021. An	In the first three months of the new garden waste service, 42,000	Funding for community composting initiatives agreed for

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encourage composting and rewilding						integral part of this is to encourage composting through subsidised composters, links to composting advice, community composting and working with Town and Parish councils and the local community	households signed up for garden waste collection and over 3,200 NSC compost bins have been purchased by the community. Compost generated by North Somerset's garden waste collections have begun to be donated to community schemes in the area.	2022/23 and Garden organics are supplying training to 'composting champions'. Procurement exercise carried out to allow residents to purchase a greater range of subsidised composters.
Increase the percentage of Improved reuse areas to be negotiated with contractors and encourage third sector involvement, such as Changing Lives in Clevedon	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.	Reuse strategy has been drafted and will be finalised in 2022. This will identify different groups, reuse opportunities and outline how North Somerset are able to identify and facilitate ongoing reuse initiatives.
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	Recycling campaign being drawn up which will include resident engagement in some areas, vehicle banners and the use of cards/stickers for crews to help them engage with residents. The next phase of food waste collections from flats has been planned and will be rolled out February/March 2022. These areas have also been assessed to ensure adequate provision of other recycling collections, with provision being made where required.
Sign-post community groups to expertise 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	