

# Public Document Pack

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**Date:** 23 February 2022

Dear Sir or Madam

**The Partnerships, Corporate Organisation and Overview Management Policy and Scrutiny Panel – Thursday, 3 March 2022, 2.00 pm – New Council Chamber, Town Hall**

A meeting of the Partnerships, Corporate Organisation and Overview Management Policy and Scrutiny Panel will take place as indicated above.

The agenda is set out overleaf.

Yours faithfully

Assistant Director Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer

To: Members of the Partnerships, Corporate Organisation and Overview Management Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Councillors:

Geoffrey Richardson (Chairman), Stuart McQuillan (Vice-Chairman), Gill Bute, John Cato, James Clayton, Peter Crew, Mark Crosby, John Ley-Morgan, Robert Payne, Terry Porter, Richard Tucker, vacancy.

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

## Agenda

### 1. **Election of Vice Chairman for the 2021/22 Municipal Year (Agenda Item 1)**

Recommendation of election of Vice Chairman, Councillor Stuart McQuillan at Informal Panel Meeting 15 July 2021 (for ratification)

### 2. **Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes (Agenda item 2)**

### 3. **Public Discussion (Standing Order SS0 9) (Agenda item 2)**

To receive and hear any person who wishes to address the Panel on matters which affect the District and fall within the remit of the Panel. The Chairman will select the order of the matters to be heard.

Members of the Panel may ask questions of the member of the public and a dialogue between the parties can be undertaken.

Requests to speak must be submitted in writing to the Assistant Director Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer, or 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.

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

A Member must declare any disclosable pecuniary interest where it relates to any matter being considered at the meeting. A declaration of a disclosable pecuniary interest should indicate the interest and the agenda item to which it relates. A Member is not permitted to participate in this agenda item by law and should immediately leave the meeting before the start of any debate.

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

### 5. **Minutes and Notes (Agenda item 5) (Pages 5 - 48)**

5.1 Formal Panel Meeting Minutes – 4 March 2021, recommended for approval as a correct record at Informal Panel meeting dated 15 July 2021 (for ratification)

5.2 Informal Panel Meeting Notes – 15 July 2021 (attached), for information.

5.3 Minutes of Formal Panel Call-in Meeting - 5 August 2021, recommended for approval as a correct record at Informal Panel meeting dated 11 November 2021 (for ratification).

5.4 Informal Panel Meeting Notes – 11 November 2021 (attached), for information.

### 6. **Matters referred by Council, the Executive, other Committees and Panels (if any) (Agenda item 6)**

7. **Climate Emergency and Action Plan (Agenda item 7)** (Pages 49 - 84)
  8. **Accommodation Strategy (Agenda item 8)** (Pages 85 - 92)
  9. **Executive Member Briefing on Major Projects (Agenda item 9)** (Pages 93 - 94)
  10. **Community Safety Update Report (Agenda item 10)** (Pages 95 - 102)
  11. **PSPO Overview of Progress and Scrutiny Engagement for Review (Agenda item 11)** (Pages 103 - 110)
  12. **Panel's Work Plan (including discussion of informal scrutiny work undertaken since last meeting held in public in March 2021) (Agenda item 12)** (Pages 111 - 146)
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### **Exempt Items**

Should the Partnerships, Corporate Organisation and Overview Management Policy and Scrutiny Panel wish to consider a matter as an Exempt Item, the following resolution should be passed -

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

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

“(2) That members of the Council who are not members of the Partnerships, Corporate Organisation and Overview Management Policy and Scrutiny Panel be invited to remain.”

### **Mobile phones and other mobile devices**

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

### **Filming and recording of meetings**

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

Anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings may do so unless the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting or there is good reason not to do so, as directed by the Chairman. Any filming must be done as unobtrusively as possible from a single fixed position without the use of any additional lighting,

focusing only on those actively participating in the meeting and having regard to the wishes of any members of the public present who may not wish to be filmed. As a matter of courtesy, anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chairman or the Assistant Director Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer's representative before the start of the meeting so that all those present may be made aware that it is happening.

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

### **Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

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

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

Last person out to close the door.

**Do not** stop to collect personal belongings.

**Do not** use the lifts.

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

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

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



## Draft Minutes

of the Virtual Meeting of the

## Community and Corporate Organisation Policy & Scrutiny Panel

### Thursday 4 March 2021

Held via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Commenced: 2.00 pm Meeting concluded: 4.35 pm

#### Councillors:

P Steve Bridger (Chairman)

A Stuart McQuillan (Vice-Chairman)

P Gill Bute

James Clayton

Mark Crosby

P John Ley-Morgan

P Terry Porter

P John Cato

P Peter Crew

P Huw James

P Robert Payne

P Stuart Treadaway

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

**Other Councillors in attendance:** Bridget Petty

**Officers in attendance:** Lorraine Bush, Michèle Chesterman, Gemma Dando, Philippa Penney, Mike Riggall, Ayesha Tinsley, (Corporate Services), Christopher Clarke, John Flannigan, Colin Medus, Colin Russell, Lizzie Shepherd (Development and Environment)

#### CCO Chairman's Welcome

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The Chairman welcomed everyone to this virtual Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel meeting.

He explained the procedures to be followed at the meeting and confirmed that proceedings would have the same standing and validity as if they had taken place at a physical meeting of the Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel meeting in the Town Hall.

At the invitation of the Chairman a roll call was taken of the Panel members by Democratic Services for the benefit of those in attendance and members of the public watching the meeting online.

**CCO 18**     **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Agenda item 3)**

None.

**CCO 19**     **Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 November 2020 (Agenda item 4)**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2020 be approved as a correct record.

**CCO 20**     **Matters referred by Council, Executive and other Committees and Panels (Agenda item 5)**

The Chairman notified members that he would be submitting a report to Full Council on 20 April 2021 on the work of the CCO Panel. There had been a number of working group meetings convened which concentrated on small focused areas of work, particularly waste with the launch of the new LACO (wef 27 March 2021).

The Chairman had prepared a response to a question raised by Cllr Charles at Council on 20 January 21 in relation to local democracy and community engagement which would be circulated to all members in due course.

At the Council meeting on 23 February 2021 concerns were raised regarding the ongoing underfunding of the police service in North Somerset with crime becoming a significant problem in some areas. It was acknowledged that ongoing efforts were needed to secure fair funding and to ensure the needs of the area were met.

An All Member CCO session had taken place with the Chief Constable, Andy Marsh and Area Commander for North Somerset, Jess Ashton on 23 November 2020. At the session it was proposed that the Area Commander be invited to meet with members a couple of times a year to maintain engagement with the police.

At the Council meeting on 23 February 2021 Cllr Ley-Morgan had made a comment in relation to China and the supply chain. It was agreed that the Chairman liaise with Cllr Ley-Morgan to discuss.

**Concluded:** that panel members considered the above update.

**CCO Winter Gardens Community Board Annual Report and Update (Item 8)**  
**21**

The Chairman agreed a change to agenda order, to consider agenda item 8 next.

The Policy and Partnerships Development Officer presented the report which sought to update elected members on the continued work of the Winter Gardens Community Board which was established as a result of specific clauses in the Legal Transfer Agreement between North Somerset Council and Weston College in early 2016. The annual report of the Board was published in October 2020 and was attached for members' consideration at appendix 1. Members noted that it was written in the context of the current pandemic demonstrating the impact on business as usual and the approach being considered to enable a sustainable future for the facility.

Board members were scheduled quarterly with actions and work programmes developed between meetings as appropriate. The terms of reference that guided the Board's work required the Council to consider the Community Board's annual report each year. The CCO Panel considered the 2018/19 Annual report at the Panel meeting on 16 July 2019.

Since July 2019 the Community Board had continued to meet quarterly until the pandemic required the closure of the Winter Gardens in March 2020. The last event held at the Winter Gardens was a high-profile BBC Question Time episode one week prior to the first lockdown.

Members were informed that until closure the Community Board continued to work on exploring the establishment of a 'Friends of Weston Winter Gardens' Charity but this had been put on hold as it became apparent that the priority would be to rebuild community usage whilst working towards recovering from the impact of Covid 19. The Business community working group which had previously been very successful was also put on hold to enable it to realign activity with a recovery position.

It was reported that the Winter Gardens continued to examine options for re-opening when restrictions were eased but the unpredictability of the pandemic had made this difficult. In the interim, the Ballroom had been used for the performing arts curriculum to allow social distancing and to enable exams to take place in November 2020. Weston College had worked closely with the Council to help develop a lateral flow Covid testing facility at the Winter Gardens for its staff.

To support this recovery period Weston College had undertaken a review of its business operating model. This review mainly related to catering operations and how they could be more sustainable post pandemic. Experienced consultants with experience in the hospitality sector had been engaged to help with this work and the findings of the review would be considered by the Community Board later in 2021 to see how the implementation of that review could be supported moving forwards.

The Policy and Partnerships Development Officer responded to the following questions/comments from members of the Panel (with officer responses in italics):

- Why has the establishment of a 'Friends of the Winter Gardens' Charity been put on hold as it would seem to be an ideal time during the pandemic to establish such a group? – *It was something we were exploring as a Panel to establish. The motivation was that the playhouse had a 'Friends of the Playhouse' so we were looking to see if we could develop something similar and learn from that experience. Unfortunately, at the stage we were developing that initiative, the volunteers required had dispersed and were doing tremendous work in the community and the focus on the winter gardens was not quite as a high a profile. It is not that we think it is no longer a good idea but it is a recognition that bringing people together in this climate was quite difficult at the stage we were developing a work programme for it.*
- Just before the pandemic struck Weston Town Council had been in discussions with the Winter Gardens with a view to transferring the BIC to the front of the building. Weston Town Council has 100 volunteers (mainly working in the museum) and discussions involved the volunteers getting engaged in making bookings, checking the public in, selling tickets for events etc. However these had been put on hold due to the pandemic but hopefully would start again when restrictions were lifted – *that's a terrific alignment of Weston Town Council and the Winter Gardens. It will be tremendous to take forwards as we come of the current situation.*

The Chairman thanked the Policy and Partnerships Development Officer for the report.

**Concluded:**

(1) that the panel consider and note the approach taken by the Community Board to support community usage of the Winter Gardens once pandemic restrictions have been lifted.

(2) that the panel consider and note the Annual report of the Community Board published in the autumn of 2020 (appendix 1) and provided feedback as appropriate.



**CCO 22 Green Infrastructure Strategy Consultation – Progress Update (Agenda item 6)**

The Community and Environment Service Manager presented the report. The Panel was provided with an update on the Council’s consultation exercise for the draft green infrastructure strategy. The Executive agreed to publish a draft green infrastructure strategy for public consultation on 11 February 2021 for the period covering 15 February to 9 April 2021. As the CCO Panel meeting took place in the middle of the consultation exercise it provided a good opportunity to update Members on progress.

Members were made aware of the range of activities in place to promote the consultation as follows:

<b>Consultation Method</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Date</b>
Econsult	Open invitation to respond to the consultation	15 February – 9 April 2021
Web page	Dedicated web page for the strategy and link to e consult	Available from 11 February 2021
Citizens Panel	Specific invitation to the Panel	Dates currently being confirmed
E life	Emailed to 43000 individuals	April edition
North Somerset Live	Delivered to all NSC residents	March edition
Town and Parishes	Meetings with all Town and Parishes had been offered	Spoken to Town Councils and two meetings with Parish Councils w/c 8 March 2021
North Somerset Together Network	Specific invitation to the network	15 February – 9 April 2021
Press and Social Media	Press releases and social media post will be carried out	15 February – 9 April 2021
Workshops	2x workshops aimed at specific stakeholders, local volunteer groups with an interest in green infrastructure	10 and 11 March 2021
Posters	QR code on 200 posters in key locations (rights of way, parks and seafronts) to point towards econsult	15 February – 9 April 2021

Some of the consultation responses received to date were shared with members of the panel:

- 123 responses as of 3 March 2021
- One of the questions asked was ‘what do people think is important about the natural environment – 70% identified biodiversity, 45% health and wellbeing (understandable bearing in mind the restrictions under Covid), 39% mentioned climate change. 70% of these respondents visited a green infrastructure daily. It was noted that it would be interesting to see the percentage on this once lockdown had lifted as there had been a lot of interest in outside parks and spaces.
- People were also asked whether they thought the strategy included all the important features – 60% said it did and 60% also said the Council identified the key opportunities.
- 2/3rds of respondents supported the aims and objectives of the strategy.
- Members’ attention was drawn to a couple of quotes received: ‘Great to see this’ and ‘I hope to see this very soon’.

The Panel would be updated in respect of any further analysis of data as the consultation progressed.

The Community and Environment Service Manager responded to the following questions/comments from members of the Panel (with officer responses in italics):

- Portishead Town Council welcomed the strategy. In terms of the consultation session with Town Councils this was very valuable as they were not sure how to engage with it. The community groups were very appreciative of the workshop. Are you collecting demographic data at the end of the process in relation to where people found out about the consultation as this was really useful for the Local Plan? – *There are standard questions that we ask in terms of demographics. I don’t think we asked how they found out about the strategy but we can add that in.*
- In terms of helping to promote the awareness of the consultation, what would you like us to focus on in our communications? – *Generally sharing our objectives and the strategy would be really useful for people to understand. In terms of green infrastructure focus on highlighting the wide-ranging nature of it and how it cuts across all sorts of different area. I think people are becoming more aware of that and it is an important element. Another part of this is volunteering and people helping us and themselves and communities to manage their open spaces.*
- In what ways would you like people to volunteer?– *If people are outside picking up litter or clearing weeds from pavements outside their house would help. There are groups set up across North Somerset that are established and not necessarily just associated with the council that people might want to join.*

- Are there other documents that might support the strategy, for example the State of Nature report? Being able to communicate the state of nature in North Somerset would be extremely valuable - perhaps a community led project with our support? Are you aware of other areas of the country who, at a local level, publish the state of nature for their districts? (I know the Council does not have a biodiversity target but again I am also aware of you and your team's workload) – *Those sorts of activities are taking place around the country and I will research these and feedback to the panel. One of the issues that needs to be addressed generally is environmental data. Without environmental data it is hard to carry out a state of nature report. What would be good to bring back to the Panel meeting on 11 November 2021 would be the natural capital tool created by the Environment Agency. The tool starts to break down the value of the natural capital assets which is a good starting point to be able to evaluate the state of the natural world. Allied to that is some regional work about phase 1 wildlife data which will give us a better idea about how wildlife is distributed across the area.*

In discussing the Green Infrastructure Strategy members noted that it was a very important piece of work and crucial to many linked Council initiatives. It was also recognised that the Community and Environment Service Manager and his team had not been as well-resourced as other teams.

It was stressed that this area of work was a priority for North Somerset Council being foremost in the corporate plan. The Chairman highlighted the need to investigate how the Panel could better support the work of Council officers in terms of communications and engagement. Members agreed the Community and Environment Service Manager and team provided an excellent service on limited resource and were responsive when there was a problem.

It was agreed that representations be made to the relevant executive member in respect of support for the Community and Environment Service Manager and their team in terms of communications.

The Chairman thanked the Community and Environment Service Manager and team for the report.

**Concluded:**

- (1) that the Panel consider the update of the green infrastructure strategy consultation;
- (2) that the Panel provide feedback about the green infrastructure strategy;
- (3) that the Panel help to promote awareness of the consultation on the green infrastructure strategy
- (4) that representations be made to the relevant Executive member in respect of support for the Community and Environment Service Manager and his team in terms of communications.

## CCO Your Neighbourhood Consultation and Engagement – Update and Actions (Agenda Item 7)

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The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Management presented the report on Your Neighbourhood Consultation and Engagement – Update and Actions. It was reported that the CCO Panel received a report at its meeting on 16 July 2020 which contained a summary of the outcomes of the Your Neighbourhood Consultation and Engagement, an overview of the proposed next steps, and a discussion about the role of scrutiny in the emerging action plan.

The intention of the Your Neighbourhood work was:-

- To gather quality information about local communities and their neighbourhood services, and use the information to inform the strategic, policy and delivery framework for those services.
- To initiate a new way of working with local councils, local communities, businesses and other stakeholders that was collaborative and which offered opportunities for people to influence what happened in their neighbourhoods.

It was reported that a considerable amount of work had taken place to gather quality information about local communities and their neighbourhood services using the information to inform the strategic, policy and delivery framework for those services.

The next phase of the Your Neighbourhood work would include continued focussed scrutiny engagement with all of the work areas and would also concentrate on building a new way of working at a more local level – to be developed alongside the unlocking of the Covid restrictions due to take place in 2021.

Members were reminded that the services covered by the Your Neighbourhood work were as follows:-

- **Garden waste** – to help the Council to shape the new garden waste collection service and options for home and community composting;
- **Leisure and sports centres** – to help the council to understand the way North Somerset’s leisure and sports centres were currently used and how people would like to see them used in the future;
- **Libraries** – to help the council to understand what was important to people about library services and how it could be ensured that they were fit for the future;
- **Parks and open spaces** – as the Council reviewed the parks and open spaces maintenance contract, to help understand which parks and open spaces people used and how they would like to see them used in the future;

- **Street cleansing** – as the Council reviewed the street cleansing contract, to help to shape how it would look in the future.

CCO sub groups and focus sessions had been arranged to input into the action planning for each of the areas covered by the Your Neighbourhood Work as follows:-

<b>Work Area</b>	<b>Scrutiny Role</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
Garden Waste	Waste sub group input	<p>Process and engagement for charging for garden waste has been designed.</p> <p>Residents will be notified from early March.</p> <p>Payment system and discounts agreed and in place.</p> <p>Composting support and equipment offer in place.</p>	<p>Implementing charging scheme from 1 April 2021.</p> <p>Develop and expanding composting initiatives and uptake</p>
Leisure and Sports Centres	Leisure Sub group – task and finish group	Leisure strategy written and formally adopted by North Somerset Council Executive – December 2021	<p>Action plan to deliver leisure strategy from March 2021.</p> <p>Engage with local councils and local communities.</p>
Libraries	Libraries focussed scrutiny engagement session	Libraries strategy written and formally adopted by North Somerset Council Executive in February 2021	<p>Action plan to deliver libraries strategy from March 2021.</p> <p>Engage with local councils and local communities.</p>
Parks and Open Spaces	Parks and open spaces focussed engagement session	<p>Contract extension agreed with council purchasing some vehicles.</p> <p>Green infrastructure</p>	<p>Review of contract for long term solution 2021.</p> <p>Engage with local councils and local communities.</p>

		strategy drafted for consultation.  Portishead Lake Grounds partnership work underway.	
Street Cleansing	Waste Sub Group	Contract extension agreed with council purchasing some vehicles.  Additional enforcement support being procured. Waste strategy development underway.	Review of contract for long term solution 2021.  Cleansing scrutiny session to be arranged. Waste strategy consultation

Members were informed that just under 2000 people had responded to the consultation.

Since the consultation had closed in May 2020 a number of pieces of work had taken place alongside scrutiny and the Executive

#### Leisure and Sports Centres

People were asked about the leisure provision they used, whether it was council or non council leisure provision. They were asked what was required in their neighbourhood and how they exercised. Specific questions were asked which helped in the finalisation and formulation of a leisure strategy for North Somerset. The strategy was adopted by the Executive having been through a scrutiny working group a number of times to obtain good scrutiny input.

Members noted that a strategy was in place that set out what the Council intended to do with its leisure provision over the next 16 years (up to 2036). The next steps were to turn the strategy into an action plan with specific actions.

The first step involved liaising with town councils to get an update from them regarding their own plans and views on leisure provision in their area. That information combined with other data from the consultation and work alongside scrutiny would result in the development of an action plan over the next year. The strategy was being developed alongside the Council's asset strategy and the intention was to have a draft action plan with specific projects to take forward in the autumn 2021.

## Libraries

Members were informed that a libraries strategy had been developed which identified the service provision and achievements to be delivered through the district's libraries:-

- Education, reading, literacy
- Community engagement and libraries being places in the community where people visited and had social interactions and met their community
- Libraries as places where people got support with skills and employment and boost the local economy
- Health and wellbeing and the role that libraries played in enhancing the health and wellbeing of local communities.

It was reported that the strategy had been adopted at the Executive on 11 February 2021 and the next stages involved developing aspirations into clear time scaled actions to deliver against the strategy. During the development of the libraries strategy there had been an opportunity for town and parish councils to look at the draft strategy and comment on it. It was intended to re-visit local councils and liaise with them about provision in their areas alongside working with councillors, using the information from the consultation and working with some other groups to start developing the strategy towards the end of 2021.

The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Management, responded to the following questions/comments from members of the Panel (with officer responses in italics):

- We submitted a bid for some government money in relation to leisure along with some other authorities, has there been a response? – *The Council was successful in securing £470,000 of grant funding to support the leisure providers through the various periods of lockdown and to make sure they were able to re-open on 12 April 2021 or beyond to ensure the leisure provision was in place when able to open. We bid slightly more than that and are waiting to hear if there is possibility of getting any more.*
- Would there be consideration given to where the libraries are? In terms of Weston library, for example, it is not necessarily the best place for all residents - *Yes and that is why the action planning work is being done alongside the asset strategy planning work. We want to make sure our facilities are in the right place for people to use them.*
- I was hoping that some of that money could be used to purchase outdoor gym equipment? – *the grant funding money cannot be used for that. The funding criteria was quite specific in that it had to be used to bring our indoor existing leisure facilities back into use after Covid. However, we will certainly include the idea about outdoor gym equipment and similar initiatives. There are ongoing conversations and we can include that in some of the considerations for some of the parks and green spaces*

*work. It would be really interesting if people could respond to the green infrastructure consultation with those sorts of requests because we can use them later. We didn't get a great deal of requests for outdoor gym equipment either in parks or in the leisure consultation but if that is something that people would like then it would be great if people could complete the green infrastructure consultation and include those ideas.*

- *Are we on track for Backwell pool to be open in April 2021? I know it had some refurbishments and could you also provide a live update on where we are with Churchill pool? There is a local working group that we are supporting as a council – The works in Backwell are going well and on track to be completed on or around 12 April 2021. In terms of when the facilities will be re-opened the Council is working with the contractor. As it was shut for some time during Covid instead of people being furloughed people were moved around and others made redundant. The works will be complete but we will need to make sure that it is ready to open and will remain open. If there is any uncertainty with that date there is a chance that it might open slightly later than the others as it takes a while to recruit people but the works are done and it is ready to open.*

*With Churchill pool the contract was up for renewal in 2021. Due to Covid it was not able to open. We are still working on some options about what happens next for Churchill. One of the original ideas was a community ownership model (perhaps a trust involving the school and some local people). There is a working group in the area who are really involved. At the moment a school even thinking about taking on something like a trust is not the right timing because children have missed so much school and there are so many educational priorities to think about. We are starting to think a little bit wider about what the future options are. We are working closely with the community. We have some really good information coming back from the survey posted by the local community. Some contractors have been approached to see what they could do with the facility if we need to do something different for the next few years. There isn't an obvious solution but we are keen to continue working with the local community and explore every possible option and as usual look at costs and investment required.*

A discussion took place in relation to a report presented to the CCO Panel on 12 November 2020 by the Customer and Digital Service Manager on the Town Hall Gateway. When the council officers re-opened members of the public would not be able to drop in to reception at the gateway but would need to make an appointment.

Members understood the reasoning behind that but there were a number of concerns. Panel members were interested in being able to explore the potential for a more dispersed federal system so that if people were able to make appointments to speak to someone in a library/community hub closer to where they lived they could do so. It was suggested that with the gateway closing what was needed was to build up the local library services so that people could access services normally only available at the town hall such as applications for blue badges, other council services as required, or book an appointment to see someone. Using a local facility such as the Campus, for



example would be beneficial for people instead of having to use public transport to get to the Town Hall.

This could possibly be an informal piece of work with a few interested elected members outside the panel. Members were mindful that there might be opportunities with the library strategy and resulting action plan being aligned to the asset strategy. It was certainly a concern and obviously needed a solution for people who lived in Weston too.

In addition, it was suggested that If job centres could de-centralise and use North Somerset it would be beneficial. Travelling to Clevedon was difficult for a lot of the district's residents when there was a lack of bus infrastructure. It was also suggested that if the libraries' work with digital enablement could continue when lockdown ended this would also be helpful.

The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Management thanked Members for their comments which were really helpful because they were all aspirations and would be included in the action plan. Members noted that the aim was to get to the point where it was known how the action plan would be delivered and whether there were any cost implications. Already some of the partnerships and conversations were being set up. The action plan would focus specifically on some of those areas because they were all crucial - Libraries as a community hub and libraries as a place to go to get work and employment and skills and access to digital. Scrutiny's involvement as the action plan was being worked through was crucial to ensuring that everything was picked up.

### Parks and Open Spaces

Members were provided with an update on the parks and open spaces element of the Your Neighbourhood Consultation. Some of the information gathered as part of the consultation helped to mould some of the content for the Green Infrastructure Strategy which was currently out for consultation. At the Executive on 11 February 2021 the contract extension for parks and green spaces and street cleansing was approved for 5 years with a 2 -year break clause. North Somerset Environment Company (NSEC) would be taking over the contract with effect from 26 March 2021.

Some of the information gleaned from the Your Neighbourhood Consultation would be used to ensure that moving forwards into the next 2 years of the contract the Council was addressing some of the elements people said they would like to see more of in the contract.

The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Management responded to the following Members' queries (with officer's responses in italics):-

- There were some good engagement sessions with town and parish councils towards the end of 2021. Parks and open spaces was a common theme throughout a lot of these and there was the potential for communities to shape the community assets rather than the council providing services. Have there been any further conversations with the Policy & Partnerships Service Lead and team in relation to these engagement sessions? – *I regularly liaise with them as we are trying to*

*blend our pieces of work so that we make the most of the contact and local communities. Just before Christmas 2020 we started a piece of work with Portishead on the lake grounds. We are using it as a pilot to see how best the Council and town councils can work together on green spaces in their areas. We are looking at refreshing the plan for the lake grounds through joint visioning and action planning to enable NSC and the town council to be completely aligned about what is best for the green space. Potential models and a proposal for Portishead is being developed around how NSC and Portishead Town Council are going to work together, what the town council might invest in and what NSC is able to provide and potentially invest in. The intention is to use as a model for other areas. It is being done with a small selection of town councillors initially with each reporting back to their respective organisations with the aim of developing some good models of collaborative working for the future.*

- When you are able to widen it out to Portishead district councillors that would be really useful because it is obviously of interest to the community. At the Town Council meeting on Wednesday 3 March 2021 they wondered how third party money (community funding/community support) might be used to add to the money NSC and Portishead Town Council add to their pot? – *We are doing it in a collaborative way at the moment so we have no reports to share but as soon as we do we will. With regards funding the answer is yes, any money added to the pot would be welcome so we can invest in green space. A meeting is taking place w/c 8 March 2021 to see how we can produce some wider updates to keep people informed.*

### Garden Waste

The Waste Minimisation Officer provided Members with a presentation on the new garden waste service. Member were shown the brand that had been created, communication figures were shared and the next steps explained:-

#### What had Happened so Far

- The Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Environment emailed all councillors and town and parish councils on Thursday 25 February 2021 hopefully answering many of the questions received from residents;
- W/c Monday 1 March some of the managing agents of blocks of flats had also been contacted to share the information more widely with them.
- North Somerset e-life was emailed out on Friday 26 February 2021 with nearly 17000 clicks through to waste pages;
- On Monday 1 March the webpages were published with new service information (including the reduction of the home compost bins from £15 to £10 and the new sign up forms were due to go live;
- On Monday 1 March there were technical difficulties with sign-ups until 3.00 pm. The pages were tested and were mainly working.

- On Wednesday 3 March the council tax information was loaded into the system to offer the correct discount.
- The Contact Centre – Civica pay issue has been resolved (3 March 2021).
- Still receiving a few enquiries with errors occurring with payments mainly incorrect prices showing. The team was working really hard to respond to everyone's queries.
- Improvements had been made to the web page wording following resident and councillor feedback. The Waste Minimisation Officer thanked everyone who had contributed so far and asked members if there were questions they were getting regularly asked they would like to know if the FAQs were not answering those questions in order for them to be updated.

#### Common Themes in Comments/Enquiries

- Concerns about more fly-tipping
- Bonfires (fly-tipping and garden fires had not been seen to rise in other local authorities that had introduced the charge)
- Generally disagree about an additional charge
- Asking how to get rid of an unwanted waste bin if they choose not to sign up to the service (the intention was not to collect the unwanted bins immediately as the Council did not want to put a resource into collecting a bin from someone who would take their garden waste bin to the recycling centre for a couple of weeks and then potentially change their mind. It would be expensive to collect the bin in to only have to re-deliver it in a couple of weeks' time. There were a number of different options for how to do this later in the year. Residents would be notified later in the year of the process)
- Questions about how the service will work answered by FAQs
- Issues with payment

#### By Number

- Sign-ups (as of end of play 3 March 2021) were 3438
- Compost bin orders (since the weekend 27/28 March) – 358 (this compared with 225 in 2019)
- Home composting webpage views 438 (2/3/21)
- Email enquiries to garden waste in box 150 (average 100 a day)
- Garden waste web page views 3358
- My account new container front page views 9043 (some people would have viewed the pages more than once)

- Since Monday 1 March five out of the top ten web pages viewed were related to waste
- Contact centre calls – 394 (Monday) 450 (Tuesday) 716 (Wednesday)

#### Next Steps – Future Communications and Dates

- w/c 8 March bin hangers on all the garden waste bins for anyone putting out a garden waste for collection as a reminder;
- Middle – end March – confirmation letters and bin permit stickers for bins or tags for bags start to be sent;
- 25 March e life email reminder to sign up with early bird discount;
- 29 March full price early bird discount closed;
- 1 April new service commences – continue to collect all presented garden waste bins throughout April;
- w/c 19 April 'oops' hangers for bins presented but not paid for.

The Waste Minimisation Officer responded to the following queries from members (with officer's responses in italics):

- It is excellent news about the take up of the compost bins. Is there any information being published about the dimensions? – *the dimensions of the compost bin were not published with the leaflet but I do have a template email for residents that includes a photograph and the full specifications of the compost bins I will email to you.*
- Have all the letters issued to people on the existing scheme now been posted? Also what is the purpose of the permit sticker on the bin and if someone who is signed up but does not stick the permit sticker on their bin will it make a difference? - *The letters were out for printing and ready to be sent from Monday 8 March 2021 and should all be delivered by the end of the week. The purpose of the permit (stickers or tag) is so that the waste crew can clearly, easily and quickly identify which bins have been paid for. The crew will also have the addresses on their in-cab devices on which they can log if the bin is not out for collection or contains the wrong items or accidentally put in the back of a collection vehicle. The device can be used to log all service issues and also contains their route and the bins that they are supposed to be collecting. But we hope that residents will present their permit which confirms they have paid.*

*In particular we are introducing a chargeable service - residents who already have existing containers can use them. Some people might feel they are not getting a lot for the money we are asking them for. It helps to recognise that they have paid for a service. The enclosed letter with the permit is a good reminder for them about what they can and cannot place within the bin and how to use the service to make the most of it. If a resident pays for the service and chooses not to stick a permit on the bin the crew have the address but there is a risk that the bin may not be collected on the first occasion purely because the crew haven't seen the easily identifiable tag on the bin.*

- I received a call today from a resident who was struggling to get through to the call centre in connection with the green bins and green composting bins. I explained that it was probably the high volume of calls and to try again later - *funding is in place for two additional officers for the contact centre with effect from next week (8 March 2021) to help manage the high volume of calls being received which should help.*

Members praised the hard work of the waste team in the promotion of the new service and ensuring there was high quality of information on the website. The team has worked really hard and had taken the feedback from councillors on the FAQ and tone of the letter. It was accepted that there would be some negativity with the introduction of the green waste charge but members also noted conversations with residents who were happy to pay the charge and felt it was good value.

The Chairman thanked officers for the excellent work on the Your Neighbourhood Consultation.

**Concluded:**

(1) that the Panel receive the report on the Your Neighbourhood Consultation;

(2) that the Panel considers its role in developing and shaping the strategies and service design leading on from the consultation.

**CCO 24 Community Safety Presentation**

The Waste Minimisation and Enforcement Team Leader provided Members with a presentation on the new powers for enforcement officers in relation to Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). Members were aware that PSPOs were designed to stop individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in a public space. A PSPO could include blanket restrictions of requirements or can be targeted against certain behaviour by certain groups at certain times.

The main points raised were as follows:-

**PSPOS**

- The PSPO review process began in October 2019 and led to the decision by the Executive on 9 September 2020 to renew all the existing orders as they currently stood at the time;
- The review process also identified some additional PSPO requirements which have now been subject to public consultation;
- New and amended orders were signed off by the Council's Executive in February 2021;

Local Authority Support (LAS) (due to start mid-late April, early May)

- The PSPO will be enforced by authorised Council staff and Local Authority Support Staff (12 month trial) who will help the Authority take robust action on many of the offences covered by the PSPO:-
  - Littering
  - Dog fouling
  - Not having means to pick up (not having a dog bag)
  - Dog exclusion area and dogs on lead
  - Urination/Defecation
  - Driving a vehicle (including bicycles) in a manner likely to cause distress
- LAS officers will undertake regular patrols of problem areas (seafront, town centres, visitor attractions);
- Some offences will be zero tolerance such as littering, dog fouling, urination/defecation etc: for these offences fixed penalty notices will be issued on the spot;
- For other offences such as street drinking a warning will be issued first.
- LAS officers will also undertake educational visits, engage with the public and run school talks;
- LAS officers will act as eyes and ears across the district so issues are recorded efficiently to relevant teams

#### Waste Enforcement Team - Working with Businesses

- Inspections will be carried out once lockdown measures are eased to allow businesses to re-open to ensure businesses have arrangements in place to manage their waste/recycling;
- Businesses found not complying will be given two opportunities (warning and statutory notice) to comply before being issued a fixed penalty notice (£110);
- This work follows on from the educational flyer mailed out with the business rates letter;
- This will allow officers to pre-empt some of the issues we face around the town centres including overflowing bins.

#### Fly-tipping Prosecutions

- November 2020 – a Bristol man was given a suspended prison sentence and ordered to pay costs of over £4k following prosecution

for waste related offences relating to fly-tips in Dundry and Abbots Leigh.

- February 2021 – A Bristol man was ordered to pay fines and costs totalling £1133 following a prosecution for fly-tipping brought by North Somerset Council. Evidence included CCTV footage from the Council's enforcement cameras.

The following questions/queries were raised by Members (with officer responses in italics):

- In Hutton we have a couple of places where people continually fly-tip every few weeks. I have been in touch with the team to install cameras although I have not received a response as yet. I have been told that if there is a large footfall in an area it is no good as the cameras will activate too often - *Unfortunately the cameras we use are based on the fact that any movement activates them and so were not ideal in high footfall areas however LAS have cameras that work on the principle of ANPR so there was the potential to tag on to their work with the CCTV cameras.*
- It was noted that Weston Town Council had purchased 2 CCTV cameras and that perhaps 2 or 3 parishes could get combine resources to buy cameras.
- I welcome the enforcement work in relation to fly-tipping and litter enforcement. We've just had the big clean in Portishead. There have been commercial waste problems and a letter has been sent to a serial offender in relation to blue plastic gloves who did not respond. Would that go to you if I wanted the company to respond? – *Yes, businesses have to responsibly deal with their waste which includes ensuring the area around their business is litter free. If you forward it to me I will investigate.*
- At the Executive meeting there was concern raised by some members in relation to the PSPO on aggressive begging. My concern is that there is the potential for some young people to be pushed out of the only place they are welcome, ie public spaces. Could you reassure us that we won't aggressively target street beggars and/or young people in using PSPOS and that it would be proportionate? – *For aggressive begging and other PSPOs some more work is being done on them to make sure we have the procedures in place to deal with difficult issues in the town centre and when the appropriate time is to use the right enforcement and when other methods can be used to better deal with the issues we come across. In terms of the application of environmental legislation we generally do not target people under 18. We try to take an educational approach with young people and factor in the individual circumstances.*
- Dog fouling is affecting every village, road and street in the district. Leaving dog waste is bad but putting it in a bag and leaving it in people's trees and hedges is disgusting. Could there be a greater push with more warning signs on lampposts etc? – *We can include more*

*signs in areas. It is included on the PSPO. All the authorised officers can issue a fixed penalty notice. LAS will be requested to patrol heavy dog walker traffic areas. With regards dog waste in trees and hedges we can get them cleared by our street cleansing contractor if there are bad areas. If people report where there are issues we can clean them up. The problem is that people don't report them and we find out about them later.*

- A discussion took place on dog fouling. Members agreed it was essential that the message be relayed there was zero tolerance in relation to dog fouling and that also included the important note about not being able to produce a bag. Members discussed the feasibility of the introduction of a nationwide DNA bank with dog owners being required to have their dog's DNA taken so that the owners of dogs could be identified. It was noted that a couple of years ago there had been a problem area with dogs and several fixed penalty notices had been issued. Putting notices on lampposts had the effect of reducing dog fouling dramatically. When the Council was in a position to extend the ability to police PSPOs then signage erected in the right places could be re-visited to act as a deterrent.
- Last year (2020) we put out more litter bins, signage, information on social media. Are we prepared if we get a re-occurrence of the littering epidemic we had last year? - *We all recognise that this summer will be particularly challenging in terms of littering and other things happening outside and in the environment particularly with the various stages of lockdown lifting. There are periods when things can be open but indoor toilets and premises will not be open at the same time or people can do things outside but there will be a lot of pressure on litter teams. We are working with colleagues in the Executive to see if we can put additional plans in place to help us to deal with these issues. Having enforcement is part of the solution but we are going to be under more pressure than ever. For example, an extra crew to work weekends to pick up rubbish from overflowing litter bins or put out extra bins at key hot spots at weekends. That is something we are looking at and costing to see how much it will be this spring and summer. We can keep scrutiny informed of the progress on that. There is also dangerous litter such as broken glass and things from outdoor parties etc in beauty spots. We are aware of it and are doing as much as we can this year as an exception.*
- I received an email in relation to bins overflowing on Clevedon seafront and Portishead quite early in the mornings. Even when they are emptied mid-morning they are overflowing again by lunchtime. It seems the problem is that they are small bins that we used to have in Weston before they were replaced with larger bins – *We did put some bigger bins out at Clevedon last year at Salt House fields. We are planning to have an additional resource. The plan will be to have a couple of additional crews and for those crews to work later in the day from 12 noon to 8.00 pm. Both crews would be working over the weekend which will be the busier time. Both crews will be working at Clevedon and Portishead. These were the two areas that we were aware of that was causing issues last year. The bins in Weston were very small (60 litres) and were increase in size. The ones at Clevedon and Portishead*



*are the larger ones. The larger bins at Weston are collected via a waste collection vehicle. In terms of manual handling the bins are hooked onto the vehicle and then off loaded. The bins at Portishead and Clevedon have to be manually lifted and put in a vehicle. We don't have the facility to lift the bins up and put them into the vehicles. I am sure what we are planning will relieve the problem.*

- At Portishead on 3 March 2021 there were four bags around the bin itself rather than in the bin. I am aware of some licensing applications in relation to food vendors around the marina. Do you know if these businesses pay some fee or charge to accommodate for extra collections – is there a charge or general fee? – *Officer to research and feedback to Councillor.*

The Chairman thanked the Waste Minimisation and Enforcement Team Leader and Community Safety Officers for the excellent work on the report.

**Concluded:** that the Panel receive and comment on the Community Safety Report.

## **CCO Panel's Work Plan (Agenda item 9)**

**25** The Electoral Services and Scrutiny Manager presented the Work Plan:-

- **Your Neighbourhood Consultation** – discussed at the Panel meeting along with the waste collection and recycling;
- **Members' ICT Steering Group** – a meeting had taken place earlier this week. It was noted that there were no specific issues at the moment with Members ICT. Some feedback was received in relation to the recent Modern Gov session for members in that it there was a lot of information and it appeared to be a complicated meeting management system. The Electoral Services and Scrutiny Manager reassured members that a lot of simplified information was on the way in relation to the system and that it was a good system that was used by the majority of councils in the UK.
- **Community Safety and Enforcement** – covered in today's Panel meeting
- **Asset and Accommodation Strategy** – this had not been picked up in today's Panel meeting but two sessions had been held since the last Panel meeting on 25 January 2021 and 2 December 2020 and would remain high on the Panel's work plan as it developed.
- **On 11 January 2021 a Member session took place on the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC)** - this was well attended and there was good positive feedback from members in relation to an interesting session on how police complaints were being responded to and touched on the local area and how the pandemic had affected activities.
- **Budget Scrutiny element** - A budget scrutiny session was held for all members in December 2020 in advance of the budget setting in February. Members noted that the Chairman was very keen to work with finance officers to ensure that it is a much more forward thinking

programme to enable scrutiny to influence the budget at an early stage rather than looking at the last iteration before agreement of the budget at council. This was a process that would be put in place for members.

- **Consultation and Engagement Strategy** – Early days but already raised with the Assistant Executive Member for Community Engagement and Head of Business Insight, Policy and Partnerships. This work is central to the delivery of the Corporate Plan. Tied into that work and also remit of the panel is the work of Policy and Partnerships Service Lead, closely aligned with consultation and engagement
- **Climate Emergency Action Plan** – a report was presented to the panel meeting in November 2020. It was understood that this would be a six-monthly update to CCO – to flag for July panel meeting.
- **Waste Scrutiny Steering Group** - Since the Council's decision to set up the Local Authority Training Company (NSEC) from 27 March 2021 there had been a number of break off sessions as well as the core group steering group meetings looking at governance (articles of association of the new company close to being signed off), new governance structures, scrutiny engagement going forwards as we revert to business as usual role going forwards. It had been challenging with scrutiny taking a role in it but led by officers. The Chairman thanked officers and members for their hard work.

**Concluded:** that the Panel receive and comment on the Work Plan.

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Chairman

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## Draft Notes

of the informal Meeting of the

# Partnerships, Corporate Organisation and Overview Management Scrutiny Panel

## Thursday, 15 July 2021

held as a Virtual Meeting on MS TEAMS.

Meeting Commenced: 14:00      Meeting Concluded: 16:30

### Councillors:

P Geoff Richardson (Chairman)  
P Stuart McQuillan (Vice Chairman)

Gill Bute  
P John Cato  
P James Clayton  
P Peter Crew  
P Mark Crosby  
P Huw James  
P John Ley-Morgan  
Robert Payne  
Terry Porter  
Vacancy

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

**Other Members in attendance:** Councillors Mike Bell, Ash Cartman, Catherine Gibbons, Sandra Hearne, Bridget Petty

**Officers in attendance:** Brent Cross, Michèle Chesterman, Emma Diakou, Philippa Penney, Amy Webb (Corporate Services), Nicola Webb (Place)

### PCOM Election of the Vice-Chairman (Agenda Item 1)

**Recommended:** that Councillor Stuart McQuillan be elected as the Vice-Chairman of the Partnerships, Corporate Organisation and Overview Management Scrutiny Panel for the Municipal Year 2021/22, to be ratified at the formal Panel meeting on 11 November 2021.

### **PCOM Minutes (Agenda Item 3)**

**Recommended:** that the minutes of the COCO meeting held on 4 March 2021 be approved subject to being ratified at the formal Panel meeting on 11 November 2021).

### **PCOM Policy and Scrutiny Overview and Work Planning (Agenda Item 5)**

The Electoral Services and Scrutiny Manager presented a report on Policy and Scrutiny Overview and Work Planning. The report provided an overview of the policy and scrutiny function and ways of working, scrutiny of Executive and Executive Member decisions, confirmed the remit of the panels, considered the scrutiny overview and management role and invited discussion and agreement on the work plan.

Members noted that with the introduction of PCOM as a new panel there was an opportunity to examine the changes taking place in respect of policy and scrutiny both within the council directorates and the Executive Member portfolios and panels and the changes to the way that scrutiny was being structured. PCOM panel had a new remit and there was a new role to North Somerset scrutiny which was the overview and management perspective which involved co-ordinating and prioritising the work plans across all policy and scrutiny panels.

Members were advised that the Centre for Public Scrutiny had become the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny and were directed to the link to website at the end of the report.

In the discussion that followed, Members sought and received clarification that with the panel remit changes there would be an audit trail of previous decisions; that the crime and disorder requirements of the Police and Justice Act were being enforced but discussions were still taking place under which panel the crime and disorder role sat and whether there was some degree of crossover with other panels.

In the discussion on the PCOM Work Plan a number of working groups and steering groups were agreed as follows:

#### ICT Scrutiny Steering Group:

Heightened importance given accelerated reliance on ICT due to COVID pandemic and home working  
Modern Gov implementation  
To lead on related strategy development – IT, Information and Digital  
Review of Agilisys contract

#### Accommodation Strategy Working Group:

Development of a strategic framework setting core principles for the future use and management of the council's assets in order to enable the successful delivery of council services  
Council's ways of working and use of office accommodation

Investment, divestment or disposal for our potential development sites, including legal and financial advice on delivery mechanisms

#### Financial planning

Engagement in the rolling financial planning programme and in the budget setting process.

Consider the Council's approach and policy for any bid funding applications, including match funding requirements

MTFP

Capital programme

Bid funding process

#### **Concluded:**

(1) that the report and information provided on policy and scrutiny engagement be received and considered and Members' comments forwarded to officers in the form of minutes

(2) that the Panel agrees the PCOM work plan

(3) that the Electoral Services and Scrutiny Manager contact panel members in relation to their interest in becoming members of the agreed working groups and steering groups (above).

#### **PCOM Medium Term Financial Plan Briefing Note (Agenda item 6)**

The Director of Corporate Services provided Members of the panel with a summary of the main points contained in a briefing note on the Medium Term Financial Plan. Members noted that the briefing had been prepared to provide an opportunity for the Panel to take part in some pre-engagement. The briefing note had also been shared with the Executive and the internal management team to introduce and provide context around the MTFP in response to feedback that earlier engagement would be helpful.

The Council was currently developing an action plan and detailed MTFP timetable to determine its next steps which would feature engagement with senior officers, Members and broader engagement with the public and other stakeholders. A communication plan would also be developed to support it. Members were directed to Appendix A which contained detailed timetables and engagement plans.

An interesting challenge that had been posed was how the Council achieved pre-engagement while the budget was being assembled. The intention was to seek support from town and parish councils in the lead up but also to present some meaningful options to the Citizens Panel. Members noted that the Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Engagement led on those interactions specifically and how the Council engaged thoroughly across the demographic. There were ideas, for example, about using more visual representation and to implement a soundbite shorter approach.

Members agreed there had been a shift in the way the council engaged with the public on budgets and finance in terms of being more open and transparent about the financial situation. Members stressed the importance in the run up to the budget in relaying the message to the public that the Council did not have control of everything as some parts were statutory. There was control over a very small amount of the budget and there should be engagement on that element of the budget.

Members also discussed the need to provide a very simple overview of how finances worked in a Council. One opportunity was the annual financial statement, a short version of which could help people to understand why the Council was subject to such budget constraints. Members were aware that a constant improvement journey was in place and advised that some infographics were provided as part of last year's budget consultation which the Authority would continue to provide in the future.

**Concluded:**

(1) that the 2022/23 timeline and engagement plan for officers, members and public engagement be received and considered with comments forwarded to officers in the form of minutes;

**PCOM Accommodation Strategy (Agenda Item 7)**

The Director of Corporate Services presented the report which provided an outline of the main project activity, future decision points and associated timeline in delivering the Accommodation Strategy approved by the Council in February 2021.

The Council, with its consultant Arcadis, was working to support the spatial planning and some of the culture and people aspects. Different work streams had been established to inform the workplace stream (physical buildings). There had been considerable engagement with Council staff to establish what they might need to be doing and where, the policies that the Council would need to support it, the ICT infrastructure and then finally inform what the Council might require in terms of space before any changes were made. The business case for Castlewood rested in the property team and the Place directorate but would be supported through Corporate Services and Finance.

Members commented and received clarification on the following: touch points in communities for officers and what they would look like and the importance of people being around others to provide a break from working from home; improving the libraries to provide a better service to the community and providing a possible drop in for staff; the timescales involved in the Smarter Working Transformation Map (Appendix 1).

Members were informed that currently the Council was looking at its terms and conditions and how its staff worked which was the element being consulted on and not specifically what those customer interactions would look like or what the Town Hall accommodation would look like as that would be subject to formal decisions, which was when the member

involvement would come in. Members were asked to provide any observations or comments.

**Concluded:**

(1) That the report be received and Members consider the main project activity as outlined in the report along with the associated timeline and future decision points, comments forwarded to officers in the form of minutes.

**PCOM Bid to Levelling up Fund (Agenda Item 8)**

The Head of Development presented the report which provided information on the submission of a bid to the government's Levelling up fund to support placemaking and regeneration in Weston-super-Mare, including information on the process for deciding and authorising the content of the bid. The report related to a bid to the national levelling up fund which was opened in April with a deadline for submissions of 18 June. The purpose was to bring some areas which suffered from disadvantage and deprivation up to the standards of living in other parts of the country.

Members were informed that the local MP for Weston John Penrose along with Liam Fox had hosted a parliamentary debate on the Weston bid specifically in Westminster Hall attended by the Minister responsible for the decision making. A decision was expected in the autumn although not confirmed. If successful work would be required to start on site with one of the projects before the end of the financial year.

Members asked whether the bid was an all or nothing one; the element of community engagement in the projects selected and whether carrying out this work would mean the council would need to give up doing something else.

It was noted that although the guidance suggested it was an all or nothing bid previous bids had had similar terms and the Council had received 80% of the bid or similar. Members were advised that the reality of any funding bid was that they could take up a lot of time but these were projects in the Weston Placemaking strategy which had been widely consulted on with the public and local businesses in support so it was considered there would be pressure on the Council to work on them regardless.

**Concluded:**

(1) that the report be received and the Members' comments on the submission of the bid to the government's Levelling up fund be forwarded to officers in the form of minutes

**PCOM Climate Emergency Six Month Progress Report (Agenda Item 9)**

The Climate Emergency Project Manager presented the Climate Emergency Six Month Progress Report. The report provided members

with a progress update on a few key activities related to the Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan. It summarised the annual update of council carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions for the area. Members were directed to more detailed reports on emissions updates for the council carbon footprint and area emissions (Appendix 2 and 3) and an annotated version of the climate emergency action plan, giving brief descriptions of progress (Appendix 1).

Members welcomed the report and agreed it was important to keep Climate Emergency on the agenda and have sometimes challenging conversations about how the Council was progressing. It was suggested that it would be helpful for the Council to advise all of its partner organisation in North Somerset that progressing through a carbon literacy programme was the way forwards. Members also stressed the importance of increasing the number of electric vehicles in the Authority and providing additional charging points and bays for visitors.

A discussion took place on metrics and at what stage the Council was at in terms of carbon reduction and not reducing quickly enough. The report referred to achieving 2% per annum for the area of North Somerset between 2005 and 2019, 13.9% per annum is required from 2020 to get to net zero by 2030. It could take 75 years (2095) to get to net zero at the current percentage reduction per year. A discussion also took place on the merits of trying to reduce the speed on motorways by 20% to 50 mph.

Members noted that although the Council declared net zero it could not control every element. A suggestion was made that there should be more data about the consequences of the actions the Council had taken in relation to how much carbon had been saved and would also provide data in relation to benchmarking.

**Concluded:**

(1) That Members receive the report and consider the progress with specific initiatives within the Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan; the annual update of council carbon footprint; the annual update of North Somerset area emissions and comments forwarded to officers in the form of minutes.

**PCOM End of Year Performance Update 2020/21 (Agenda Item 10)**

The Head of Business Insight, Policy and Partnerships presented an update on the End of Year Performance 2020/21. Members were informed that the Business Planning and Performance Management Framework was designed to monitor progress against the Corporate Plan priorities and against the vision for an open, fairer, greener North Somerset. This was done on an annual basis by developing, implementing and monitoring Annual Directorate Statements which were the business plans for the directorate and gave the key strategic commitments for the year ahead. Progress against these commitments was monitored by Key Projects and Key Corporate Performance Indicators.



Members asked for clarification on the open data platform. The Head of Business Insight, Policy and Partnerships explained that this was an interactive dashboard and attached a copy in the Team Chat of the Covid 19 interactive dashboard as an example. Members noted that ward profiles were in the process of being transferred into it. It had been launched as a platform on the website for residents and businesses to access as much data as possible. Members also requested to be provided with details on the annual directorate statements for the five service areas.

**Concluded:**

(1) that the report on the end of year performance update 2020/21 be received and considered and comments be forwarded to officers in the form of minutes.

**PCOM Executive Members' Scrutiny Report (Agenda Item 11)**

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Cartman, Executive Member for Corporate Services spoke in relation to his portfolio area and confirmed that he agreed with the importance of consultation with the Council's scrutiny panels.

He referred to the challenges in his portfolio which included:

- HR in terms of homeworking during Covid,
- how residents access their services on a digital first basis.
- Finances – next month engagement would be taking place with scrutiny panel chairmen which has worked well last year
- Assets, capital strategy – an area where the Council could influence change in the community make quite a bit of change in the community

He welcomed any feedback and was open to discussions with the Chairman on future topics for discussion.

**Concluded:**

(1) that the oral report of the Executive Member for Corporate Services be received.

(2) Executive Members to contact the Chairman to discuss the subject matter of future Executive Member Scrutiny Reports to PCOM Panel.

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Chairman

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## Draft Minutes

of the Meeting of

# The Partnerships, Corporate Organisation and Overview Management Policy and Scrutiny Panel Thursday, 5 August 2021

New Council Chamber - Town Hall

Meeting Commenced: 6.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 6.55 pm

### Councillors:

P Geoff Richardson (Chairman)  
A Stuart McQuillan (Vice Chairman)

N Gill Bute	P Wendy Griggs (substituting for Robert Payne)
P John Cato	P Patrick Keating (substituting for Huw James)
N James Clayton	P Phil Neve (substituting for Stuart McQuillan)
P Peter Crew	
P Mark Crosby	
A Huw James	
P John Ley-Morgan	
A Robert Payne	
N Terry Porter	
Vacancy	

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

N: Not present

**Other Councillors in attendance:** Mike Bird, Steve Bridger

**Officers in attendance:** Nicholas Brain, Philippa Penney, (Corporate Services), Jenny Ford, Lucy Shomali (Place)

### PCO Chairman's Welcome

1

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and also to those watching online as the meeting was being live streamed on YouTube. He explained that the Panel had been convened following the call-in of Executive Member decision 21/22 DP 130 Appropriation of open space to planning purposes: land south of The Uplands, Nailsea.

The purpose of the meeting was to debate the decision and the reasons for the call-in, at the end of which, the panel would agree either: to recommend to the Executive Member that the decision should be reconsidered or; not to recommend

that the decision should be reconsidered.

The subject of the decision was specific to the appropriation of the land, which was a legal process distinct from any matters relating to planning for that land.

The Council's power to appropriate was detailed in the decision notice and was an independent process to that of planning.

The Council needed to be satisfied that a) land was no longer required for the current purpose, and b) the purpose for which the Council was appropriating was authorised by statute.

In respect of the use of the land The Executive member needed to be satisfied that on balance the benefits to North Somerset residents and the wider community would be greater for the proposed use than for the existing one.

**PCO 2 Public Discussion (Standing Order SSO 9) (Agenda Item 1) -Executive Member decision 21/22 DP 130 Appropriation of open space to planning purposes: land south of The Uplands, Nailsea (1)**

Ms Angela Love, local resident, addressed the Panel.

Ms Love stated that she believed the council had not provided compelling evidence demonstrating that it had properly addressed the issue of whether the land south of the Uplands, Nailsea was no longer needed for its current purpose – public open space. She stated that no robust and recent Public Open Space Assessment (as required by both NPPF & NPPG) had been carried out prior to inclusion in the SAP, the planning application, or the Appropriation Decision. She also stated that evidence of claimed benefits, which genuinely outweighed its current benefit to the community, were not substantiated by the EIAs for both Appropriation and Development Proposal and in particular with regard to the impact on disabled people, people in particular age groups and on health and wellbeing. She added that sufficient scrutiny had not been given to public concern about the change of public use with negative impact on between 3000 to 7000 existing residents of Nailsea. She concluded that it was clear from much documentation, including the Business Case, that the motivation to develop the 'Land South of the Uplands' was financial, with council processes and timings including the Appropriation Decision, being made to fit this predetermined aim.

The Chairman asked members if they wished to question Ms Love. There were no questions.

The Chairman thanked Ms Love for her address.

**PCO 3 Public Discussion (Standing Order SSO 9) (Agenda Item 1) - Executive Member decision 21/22 DP 130 Appropriation of open space to planning purposes: land south of The Uplands, Nailsea (2)**

Mr Anthony Evans, local resident, addressed the Panel

Mr Evans stated that he was in favour of retaining the land to the south of the Uplands as green public open space for which it had been for many years and for which there was documentary evidence dating back to 1966. He noted that it was widely felt in the community that this had not been sufficiently taken into account. Far from presenting truly compelling evidence for the case, in his opinion, the council had stretched points to suggest that it was surplus to requirements without any suggestion that the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.

The Chairman asked members if they wished to question Mr Evans.

The Chairman asked Mr Evans if he felt that the alternative areas of open space were sufficient. Mr Evans replied that these were small and too far away.

The Chairman thanked Mr Evans for his address.

**PCO 4 Public Discussion (Standing Order SSO 9) (Agenda Item 1)- Executive Member decision 21/22 DP 130 Appropriation of open space to planning purposes: land south of The Uplands, Nailsea (3)**

Ms Jo Duffy, Town Clerk, Nailsea Town Council, addressed the Panel.

Ms Duffy informed the Panel that Nailsea Town Council believed that North Somerset Council had not carried out due diligence when looking at the land that was no longer required for the current purpose. The land was identified in 1966 as public space and had been under the local authority jurisdiction since 1997 for the purposes under the Community Land Act. It had been planted, had fencing and a footpath. It had been used as a football pitch in the past and for football, recreation and play for as long as people could remember. She noted that it had not been shown in any evidence that the land was no longer required. There was limited space in Nailsea and during the current pandemic this space was in even greater demand. The Uplands was special to the local community and evidence could be provided to show the land was genuinely valued by the local community and held a particular local significance for its recreational value, its tranquillity and for the richness of its wildlife. No alternative had been offered by North Somerset to replace this much-loved space. Ms Duffy concluded that without the evidence from North Somerset the land could not be shown to be no longer required for the purpose for which it was currently used.

The Chairman asked members if they wished to question Ms Duffy. There were no questions.

The Chairman thanked Ms Duffy for her address

**PCO 5 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Standing Order 37) (Agenda item 3)**

None

**PCO 6 Call in of Executive Member Decision - Appropriation of open space to planning purposes: land south of The Uplands, Nailsea (Agenda item 4)**

Councillor Crosby, as proposer, explained his reasons for the call in. He felt that there was little that described the efforts in the report to assess the public value of the site and the social and economic contribution that public open space made towards the welfare and wellbeing of the public. He stated that without compelling evidence he was not convinced that the proposed housing was a greater community benefit that outweighed the site's value and use as public and open space. He pointed out that this was not the only site within the district that the Council may have to consider appropriating in response to the government's demands for housing. The Council would need to be able to demonstrate to its communities that the evidence put to them was assured and compelling and that the decisions taken were truly tested and balanced in their conclusions.

Councillor Crew, as seconder, explained his reasons for the call in, giving his full support to the comments made by Councillor Crosby. He stated that it was clear the Council had not convinced the residents of Nailsea, the town councillors and its own district councillors that the Council had given due diligence in the appropriation of the land and therefore he endorsed what had been said and that a recommendation be made by the Panel for the decision to be reconsidered.

The Executive Member for Assets and Capital Delivery welcomed the debate. As a former Chair to the precursor of the Panel he respected and supported the role of elected members to test and challenge Executive member decisions. He felt that it was a good report and he was very happy with the documents that supported it. He referred to the phrase contained in the report 'no longer required for the purpose for which it is held' which had been referenced from the Local Government Act 1972 Section 122 A and that the phrase needed to be contained in the report, but he understood why that would be questioned if taken literally. It had been considered in a number of legal cases and in particular the London Borough of Merton case which was referenced in the report.

He further added that he had taken everything into account when making the decision and in particular in relation to the land being used as public space during the pandemic and the increased use of public space that had been referenced in Section 4.4. He rejected the notion that it had been a financially motivated decision. It was not a decision he had taken lightly and was one he had considered at great length, reading all the comments from those who responded to the consultation and visiting the site on two occasions. He noted that the site itself would not be fully taken up with the development as there was a small open area of woodland, and a bridleway. He pointed out that the council was the sole judge of whether or not the land was required for the purpose of which it was held immediately before the appropriation decision. That was not to suggest it was not being used by the public for its current use. Neither was the council bound by any previous uses with regards to the previous uses of the land. He added that the decision was subjective.

In supporting the call in, members of the panel made reference to the fact that as owner of the freehold of the site the Council needed to be fully satisfied that the land was no longer required for a particular purpose for which it was currently

held. It was felt that North Somerset Council had not shown enough evidence that the open space was no longer required for the purpose for which it was held and that nothing in the history of the current site seemed to have been taken as evidence in the document.

Reference was made to The Green Book (Central Government Guidance on Appraisal and Evaluation) which considered that when balancing exercises were required in decision making there should be consideration of the need for a cost benefit analysis to weigh up all the factors having regard to the existing and proposed use of the land. The metrics in the book were wide ranging and presented the perspective of society and from the context of different stakeholders. These would be calculated over the lifetime of the project and should be considered over a period of 60 years.

Metrics to be considered were numerous but included: carbon emissions assessment (before and after); social cost benefit analysis; social cost effectiveness analysis; biodiversity assessment; community wellbeing; transport impact assessment; quality provision of public space in general (not merely the assertion that something one kilometre away is an acceptable alternative); what are the other benefits such as whether more schools, leisure centres, parks are to be provided.

The Green Book raised some key points regarding appraisal and evaluation underlining the inclusion of welfare economics and concerns regarding overall social welfare efficiency. The decision-making process should begin with an open and objective evidence base. Members agreed the need to weigh all these factors in a way that was meaningful using proper metrics, and that this was not apparent in this decision.

It was proposed by Councillor Crosby and seconded by Councillor Crew that the Executive Member be requested to reconsider his decision for appropriation of open space to planning purposes: land south of The Uplands, Nailsea for the reasons outlined below.

The proposal was put to the vote by Members of that Panel and was CARRIED (7 votes in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention).

**Recommended:**

that the Executive member for Assets and Capital Delivery be requested to reconsider the decision number 21/22 DP 130 (Appropriation of open space to planning purposes: land south of The Uplands, Nailsea) for the reasons that the measured social value had not been carried out sufficiently against the benefits of the development and to also take into account other relevant metrics including: quality of provision of replacement public open space; carbon emissions; social cost benefit analysis; social cost effectiveness analysis; biodiversity assessment; community wellbeing; transport impact assessment; other benefits such as schools, leisure centre, new parks and health centre provision.

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Chairman

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## **Draft Notes**

of the informal Meeting of the

# **Partnerships, Corporate Organisation and Overview Management Scrutiny Panel Thursday, 11 November 2021**

held as a Virtual Meeting on MS TEAMS.

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

### **Councillors:**

P Geoff Richardson (Chairman)  
P Stuart McQuillan (Vice Chairman tbc)

A Gill Bute  
P John Cato  
    James Clayton  
P Peter Crew  
P Mark Crosby  
A John Ley-Morgan  
A Robert Payne  
P Terry Porter  
P Richard Tucker  
Vacancy

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

**Other Members in attendance:** Cllrs Steve Bridger, Mike Bell, Mark Canniford, Ash Cartman, Huw James, Bridget Petty, Mike Solomon, James Tonkin

**Officers:** Amy Webb, Mel Watts, Lorraine Bush, Howard Potheary, Hannah Gray, Michèle Chesterman, Philippa Penney, Leo Taylor

### **PCOM Election of the Vice-Chairman (Agenda item 1)**

Recommendation of election of Vice Chairman, Cllr Stuart McQuillan at informal Panel meeting on 15 July 2021 (to be deferred for ratification at next formal panel meeting).

### **PCOM Minutes and Notes (Agenda item 3)**

Formal Panel Meeting Minutes – 4 March 2021, recommended for approval as a correct record at Informal Panel meeting dated 15 July 2021 (to be deferred for ratification at next formal Panel meeting)

Informal Panel Meeting Notes – 15 July 2021 attached for information.

Minutes of Formal Panel Call-in Meeting 5 August 2021 attached for information – agreed as correct record for approval at next formal Panel meeting.

### **PCOM Provisional Dates for Panel meetings 2022/21 (Agenda item 5)**

21 July 2022, 10 November 2022, 2 March 2023

**Concluded:** that the Panel note the provisional dates for Panel meetings in 2022/23

### **PCOM Accommodation Strategy (Agenda item 6)**

The Director of Corporate Services presented the report which provided members with an update on delivering the Accommodation Strategy, which was approved by Council on 23 February 2021 and the progress in relation to:

- The Programme
- Phase 1: Concept Design (Space Planning)
- Castlewood Transition
- Policies and Strategies
- Consultation / Comms and Engagement
- Key decisions and timeline

Members were informed that the PCOM Accommodation Strategy Steering Group met informally on the 11 October 2021 and received an update on the activity which has been undertaken to support the delivery of the Accommodation Strategy (Appendix i)

The date for the business case for Castlewood would be presented to Council on 11 January 2022 and a scrutiny-led all-member briefing on the Accommodation Strategy was scheduled for 2 December 2021. (since re-scheduled to 9 December at 5.00 pm)

Members discussed the future requirements for group rooms and IT provision for members, including whether a common room with the option of booking rooms for private meetings would suffice. This would be addressed at a future stage of office accommodation provision, and Members noted there would be a clear decision point in terms of the design of members rooms and engagement with members and asked for a 'plan on a page' with regards to the Accommodation Strategy as a whole.

**Concluded:**

- (1) that the Panel received and commented on the Accommodation Strategy.
- (2) that the Director of Corporate Services liaise with Group leaders in relation to group rooms.
- (3) that the Director of Corporate Services provide the Panel with a 'Plan on a page' GANTT chart in relation to the Accommodation Strategy incorporating timelines etc.

**PCOM Financial Management Report (Agenda item 7)**

The Head of Finance presented the report, providing members with an opportunity to review the council's most recent forecasts for the current financial year and also an update in terms of the activities associated with the Medium-term financial planning.

Members commented and received clarification in relation to a number of issues including: the Dedicated Schools Grant; register of strategic opportunities; capital projects; and levels of debt in the council and the Winterstoke £3m overspend.

With regards to the risk section, it was suggested that the section be amended to a more conventional 5x5 format instead of 3x3 and that the risks be ranked to enable members to have clarification of where the issues were across the Council, what the mitigating actions were and the person responsible for each.

Capital budget allocation when considering project overspends – how are we controlling these

Members agreed that integrated reporting would be helpful to improve understanding in relation to how all the various elements interlinked and that planned sessions with scrutiny be set up in advance as part of the decision-making process. It was also agreed that simpler terminology would aid understanding.

Members were informed that an all-Member Scrutiny Budget Briefing was scheduled to take place on 21 December 2021 at 9.30 am via Teams.

**Concluded:**

- (1) that the Panel received and commented on the report
- (2) that the Head of Finance works with the Chairman to provide Panel members with process charts in relation to financial management and amend the format risk section as suggested.
- (3) that planned sessions on financial management be set up with the scrutiny steering group as a forward-looking part of the decision-making process.

## **PCOM Executive Members' Reporting to Scrutiny (Agenda item 8)**

### **Cllr Petty – Carbon Emissions**

Councillor Petty addressed the Panel on the issue of how the Council could improve its reporting on carbon emissions associated with decision making. It was noted that in the case of decisions based on capital projects such as new schools or roads, carbon emissions were easier to calculate than in relation to some other decisions such as foster homes where it became more complicated.

Members agreed capital projects were the right area to target and discussed how financial thresholds should be set given the additional financial costs to carbon accounting in terms of resources and officer time. Further consideration should be given to drafting a council policy stating that projects over a certain size must engage in carbon accounting. Standard carbon accounting methodology

The Director of Corporate Services informed members that a presentation had been given by Cornwall Council on environmental impact assessments and that carbon accounting was on the horizon with the development of International Financial Standards.

Members discussed house building, recognising the importance of positive action such as tree planting and developing projects that would reduce carbon emissions.

#### **Concluded:**

- (1) that the Panel received and considered the report.
- (2) that the Panel consider work around the policy development of carbon accounting and that this be incorporated into the Work Plan. The panel pursue development of carbon accounting and that this be incorporated across the council

### **Cllr Bridger – Metro West Project**

Cllr Bridger provided an oral report updating members on the progress of the Metro West Project. Officers were assessing the impact of Department of Transport delay of up to six months with the concern that a delay beyond mid-January 2022 would have a significant impact on the project. The issue appeared to relate to carbon budgets.

#### **Concluded:**

- (1) that the Panel received and considered the oral report.
- (2) that Councillor Bridger provide the Panel with an update on the effectiveness of the Capital Programme Board at the next PCOM Panel meeting.

(3) Metro West – impacts of delay and tipping point for go/no go to be kept under review

(4) that a meeting be convened between Cllr Bridger, Alastair Shankland, Cllr Richardson and the Electoral Services and Scrutiny Manager to agree the approach scrutiny engagement with major projects

### **PCOM Domestic Abuse Report (Agenda item 9)**

The Safer Communities Project Co-ordinator, Domestic Abuse, presented the report which provided an opportunity for the Panel to review the work led by North Somerset Council's Safer and Stronger Communities Team in partnership with other agencies to meet the statutory requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, and on local service developments. The report provided an opportunity for the Panel to feed into the future priorities and planned actions for the development and future funding of the council's response to domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women and girls.

The Domestic Abuse Act was passed on 29 April 2021 and placed statutory duties on local authorities including: the formation of a Local Strategic Partnership Board; a full domestic abuse needs assessment to be undertaken; Domestic Abuse Strategy to be published by the end of October 2021; safer accommodation for those experiencing domestic abuse; and other support for survivors and children within the safe accommodation.

The work being carried out in response to the Act was being supported by partnership working with local agencies as well as Next Link, the Council's commissioned specialist support service.

The Safer Communities Project Co-ordinator, Domestic Abuse, extended an invitation to members to attend one of the 'lunch and learn' sessions on domestic abuse, and Members further agreed support by way of a scrutiny-led briefing for all councillors. This could include further information on how the need for support was being identified, the actions and projects being undertaken to address the perpetrators of domestic abuse, and work being undertaken in schools to tackle domestic abuse.

#### **Concluded:**

(1) that the Panel provided feedback on the report.

(2) that the Electoral Services and Scrutiny Manager liaise with Community Safety in relation to a scrutiny-led briefing on Domestic Abuse for all councillors.

(3) that the Panel receive a further report on domestic abuse in 12 months' time.

## **PCOM Winter Gardens Community Board Annual Report (Agenda item 10)**

The Policy and Partnerships Development Officer presented the annual report which sought to update members on the continued work of the Winter Gardens Community Board. The report provided an overview of the work of the Community Board during the past year and detailed the Board's recommendations which reflected its commitment to continue to support the Winter Gardens in its recovery from the impact of COVID-19 and enable the valuable asset for WsM to thrive for the benefit of North Somerset communities.

Members thanked officers for the annual report and were reassured by the ongoing community commitment being shown at the Winter Gardens.

### **Concluded:**

that the Panel considered the annual report of the Winter Gardens Community Board and provided feedback as above.

## **PCOM Panel's Work Plan (including Steering/Working Group updates)**

The Electoral Services and Scrutiny Manager presented the Forward Plan providing updates on the panel's steering/working groups including:

- ICT Scrutiny Steering Group
- Financial Plan and MTFP
- Accommodation Strategy
- Major Projects Capital Projects – (Alex Fear, Alastair Shankland, Programme Management Office and how to co-ordinate the strategic approach to all major projects and capital projects)
- Procurement Strategy, both generally and specifically in relation to the Council's energy supply contracts
- Climate Emergency
- Social Value and Added Value and outcomes and measures
- Contract Management – risk matrix (updated quarterly) to be circulated to panel members to respond by exception.
- Living Wage (item 2) - Director of Corporate Services provided members with an update confirming that the living wage had been adopted across all local authorities and that the financial implications for this were now being considered.
- Confirmation provided that the legal crime and disorder responsibilities was within the remit of this Panel
- Section 3 of the Work Plan – Street cleansing, road obstructions, closures etc now sat with Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel remit

A discussion took place on informal panel meetings and the need to ensure the public were aware of the work being undertaken by scrutiny in the absence of formal meetings held in public.

**Concluded:**

- (1) that the Panel received and commented on the Panel's Work Plan and Steering/Working Groups
- (2) that the Chairman liaise with Cllr Petty regarding the engagement strategy
- (3) that Cllr Richardson discuss press release arrangements for Audit with Cllr Cato in view of undertaking something similar for this Panel.

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## North Somerset Council

### Report to the Partnerships, Corporate Organisation and Overview Management Policy and Scrutiny Panel

**Date of Meeting: 03/03/2022**

**Subject of Report: Climate Emergency Progress Report**

**Town or Parish:**

**Officer/Member Presenting: Nicola Webb**

**Key Decision: No**

**Reason:**

For information and discussion only.

**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**

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).

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 September 2022 update.

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).

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.

**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 a just transition to Net Zero and addressing the nature emergency. To summarise, this included the following:

- Buying land to develop a number of North Somerset nature parks for wildlife and biodiversity to thrive. An example of this was the adoption of Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve last year. 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.
- 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.

### **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 a fabric first approach is taken where possible.

### **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 CO<sub>2</sub> savings every year.

### **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 energy\*, 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.

*\*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*

### 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 Spring 2022 to win a whole house retrofit plan with the Centre for Sustainable Energy's Future Proof team discussing home retrofit at events in Weston-super-Mare, Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead.

## 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.

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 are awaiting confirmation that they 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 January 2022, over 250 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**

Companies in North Somerset can 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 is 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.

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 is 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e 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 42,108kg CO<sub>2</sub>e 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<sub>2</sub>e 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

### **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. 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.

### **3.9.2 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 Officer 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 will be sought from PCOM 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 Feb 2022

### **Background Papers:**

[Click here to enter Background Papers]

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# North Somerset Climate Emergency Strategic Action Plan – Progress October 2020

**Our commitment: North Somerset aims to be a carbon neutral council and a carbon neutral area by 2030**

## Impact

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 – Jan 2022
<b>Become a Net Zero Carbon Council</b>								
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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 – Jan 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 for their impacts on carbon emissions	All	An area we directly control	M			Current WECA project to produce a Carbon assessment tool is due to be delivered in 2021.	All major projects are assessed for carbon emissions using PAS2080 or similar appropriate methodologies.	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 – Jan 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"> <li>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)</li> <li>Building maintenance to improve energy efficiency - review the Council's estate to investigate means of increasing energy efficiency of heating, lighting and cooling systems</li> <li>Reducing the scale and increasing the performance, cost and carbon efficiency of the office estate, resulting in a sustainable future Town Hall site</li> </ul> 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"> <li>The principle of repair, reuse, reduce and recycle will be used for any future, fittings and equipment (FFE)</li> <li>Any surplus furniture can be re-purposed in a way that benefits the local community.</li> <li>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</li> <li>The Green Travel Plan objectives are considered and incorporated (reflected) within the programme</li> </ul>
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 – Jan 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 – Jan 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"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Skanska have a decarbonisation plan in place and are currently review this in line with the North Somerset contract.</li> </ul>	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 – Jan 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.
<b>An energy efficient built environment</b>								
Page 68	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 <b>DM6: Net Zero Construction</b> . 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: • 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 – Jan 2022
								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A landscape led approach, with a high proportion of green space.</li> <li>• Electrical vehicle charging for all homes, as well as contributions to fund an electric vehicle car sharing club.</li> <li>• Planning policies require a Habitat Regulations Assessment demonstrating ecological mitigations and enhancements.</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• 'To deliver higher residential densities through good design, particularly at town centres, transport hubs and on brownfield sites.'</li> <li>• To prioritise the location of new development close to places with a wide range of services, facilities and job opportunities.</li> <li>• 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.'</li> </ul> <p>Further detail is contained in the following policies:</p> <p><b>Policy SP1: Sustainable Development</b>, will require new development proposals which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Support regeneration particularly in town centres'</li> </ul> <p><b>Policy SP5: Towns:</b></p> <p>'Town centres will be the primary focus for a wide range of retail, leisure, educational,</p>

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Jan 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><b>Policy DP8: Efficient use of land:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'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.'</li> </ul> <p><b>Policy DP23: Town Centres:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'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'</li> </ul>
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><b>Green Homes Grant (LAD1b)</b> scheme extended to June 22 with additional funds allocated for a further 24 park home improvements.</p> <p><b>Sustainable Warmth</b> – 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><b>Retrofit</b> – 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 – Jan 2022
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 park home full retrofit improvements</li> <li>• 50 social housing (Alliance Homes) combination EWI, renewables</li> <li>• 25 private sector dwellings identified through existing warm homes project</li> </ul>	<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 off-gas grid). The LAD scheme is as outlined above but HUG potentially offers £25k per dwelling. Currently in discussion with WoE about a consortium bid, closing date for submissions 4th August 2021. Programmes will run until March 2023.</p>	<p>providers, builders merchant supply issues, retrofit coordination &amp; 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 – Jan 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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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 – Jan 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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"> <li>• climate change and what it means for their business</li> <li>• measures to understand and calculate greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>• actions to reduce emissions.</li> </ul> <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.

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Jan 2022
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 <b>DP46: Homes for all:</b></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>
<b>Replenish our carbon stores</b>								
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 – Jan 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
<b>Adapting to climate change</b>								
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.		

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Jan 2022
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 <b>DM5 – Climate adaptation and resilience</b> , 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 <b>DP9: Flood risk</b> , 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.

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Jan 2022
Plan is robust and resourced								
<b>Renewable energy generation</b>								
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 <b>DM7: Large-scale renewable energy generation</b>. 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 <b>DM6: Net Zero construction</b> 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 – Jan 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		Updated NSC Climate Emergency webpage and NS Life articles encourage 100% renewables. The new Home Energy and Renewable Loan for up to £8000 (4% fixed/Typical 4.2% APR) can be used for the installation of renewable and low carbon technology measures and improvement of insulation in domestic properties.  Plan to join WECA Solar Together scheme in Autumn 2021 – bulk buying scheme which allows residents to purchase PV installations at a reduced rate.	Plan to join WECA Solar Together scheme in Autumn 2021 – bulk buying scheme which allows residents to purchase PV installations at a reduced rate.	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



Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Jan 2022
								from residents and other performance indicators to decide whether to repeat the scheme in future rounds.
<b>Reduce emissions from transport</b>								
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"> <li>• Reducing traffic speeds, for safer streets</li> <li>• Introducing parking measures, offering better resident access</li> <li>• Improvements for greener streets, with better walking and cycling routes</li> </ul> <p>A number of engagement events have already taken place both indoors and outdoors looking at local issues and design ideas.</p>

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Jan 2022
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 <b>DP16: Public Transport accessibility</b> 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>



Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Jan 2022
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 Local Plan Preferred Options document will be consulted on between March - April 2022. This includes Policy <b>SP10: Transport:</b> which states:  <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>

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							Moor Leisure Centre, Budgens in Cleeve and Langford.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of infrastructure to facilitate the use of electric vehicles'</li> </ul> <p>Also policy <b>DP14: Active and sustainable transport</b>, which states:</p> <p>'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.'</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.
Consider reviewing parking planning guidance note to set maximum parking levels and reduce the number of spaces delivered for new development.	Avoidance Reduction	An area we directly control	M	Air quality improvements		Parking standards SPD currently under review. Revised standards will facilitate reductions in vehicle parking in accessible locations.	Parking standards SPD adopted in April 2021.  10 Year Parking Strategy being developed as part of motor vehicle strategy.	
Encourage resident parking schemes, car sharing schemes and walking and cycling to support	Avoidance Reduction	An area we directly control and/or influence through support	M	Air quality improvements		The new Local Plan is likely to require such in new developments.	Recruitment underway for officer to progress WSM RPZ. Leigh Woods Parking Scheme due to complete October 2021.	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

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Jan 2022
								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.
<b>Repair, reuse, reduce and recycle</b>								
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 <sup>th</sup> 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 encourage composting and rewilding	Reduction	An area we directly control	M	Financial savings		Charging for collections to commence from April 2021. An integral part of this is to encourage composting through subsidised composters, links to composting advice, community composting and working with Town and Parish councils and the local community	In the first three months of the new garden waste service, 42,000 households signed up for garden waste collection and over 3,200 NSC compost bins have been purchased by the community. Compost generated by North Somerset's garden waste collections have begun to be donated to community schemes in the area.	Funding for community composting initiatives agreed for 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.

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021	Progress – Jan 2022
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	

## North Somerset Council

### Report to the PCOM Policy and Scrutiny Panel

**Date of Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022**

**Subject of Report: Accommodation Strategy**

**Town or Parish: All**

**Officer/Member Presenting: Amy Webb, Director of Corporate Services**

**Key Decision: N/A**

**Reason: N/A**

### Recommendations

That the Panel receive and consider the contents of the report.

#### 1. Summary of Report

The report provides the PCOM Policy and Scrutiny Panel with an update on delivering the Accommodation Strategy, which was approved by Council on 23 February 2021 and an update in relation to:

- The Programme
- Key decisions and timeline
- Financial implications and the budget position

#### 2. Policy

This project supports the aims and objective within the Council's Corporate Plan, Economic Plan, Climate Emergency Plan, Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy.

#### 3. Background

##### Council decisions

In February 2021, the Council agreed to:

- The adoption of the following corporate strategies:
  - Strategic Asset Management & Property Plan (SAMPP)
  - Accommodation Strategy (AS)
  - Development Strategy (DS)
- Feasibility and Business Cases proceed, in relation to the recommendations arising from these strategies
- The allocation of capital funding to progress these strategies
- To deliver in accordance with the key timelines of June 21, October 21 and March 22 and utilise the findings of the business cases to inform the Council's 5-year Capital Programme

**Accommodation Strategy overview**

- NSC undertook an organisation-wide Office Amalgamation Programme and an ICT Transformation Programme between 2007 – 2012
- This programme improved desk ratios from 1:1 to 7:10 (based on 1200 staff = 840 workstations)
- Since this programme, overall staff numbers across NSC have reduced from c.1800 to c.1400 and this will have impacted on office space requirements
- COVID-19 has increased the amount of flexible working and there is a clear acceptance from managers and staff to maintain a flexible working model into the future

In February 2021, the Council agreed to the progression with the accommodation strategy in order to find the optimum flexible working model which takes in to account the following drivers:

- Reduced staff travel linked to our climate change ambition
- Improved work: life balance due to reduced commutes
- Improved productivity
- Opportunity to reduce our asset base in line with our Medium Term Financial Planning (MTFP)

The Council acknowledged that this work could lead to the closure of Castlewood, but this was not a primary driver.

#### **4. Update / Progress to date**

##### **The Programme**

The governance and joint sponsorship for the programme has been agreed with Amy Webb, Director of Corporate Services and Lucy Shomali, Director of Place. A Programme Board (monthly) and a Project Board (2 weeks) has been set up and meetings are happening. The programme organisation is captured at Appendix 1.

The Council's Accommodation Strategy has identified three workstreams which are:

##### **Workstream 1: Re-imagine ways of working and invest in Town Hall**

- o Retention of the Town Hall as the primary office location and culture heart of the Council, but with a recognised need to invest in the building to support new ways of working

##### **Workstream 2: Castlewood transition**

- o A phased transition from Castlewood

##### **Workstream 3: Touch-down locations**

- o Identification and validation of touch-down locations beyond the Town Hall required to support the provision of council services in communities across North Somerset

The focus has been on developing the next phase, which is to progress the detailed design and delivery of the reconfiguration of the New Town Hall site at Weston.

##### **Workstream updates**

##### **Workstream1: Reimagine ways of working and invest in the Town Hall**

The focus has been building on the "test fit designs" and high-level business and the customer (NSC) requirements captured by Arcadis in October 2021 to progress to the next stage of the detailed design and delivery of the reconfiguration of the New Town Hall site at Weston. The work to gather detailed business and customer requirements is being progressed and will be finalised to support the design.

##### **Members Requirements (Group rooms)**

It is important to understand the requirements for Group rooms, prior to a decision being reached on the option to retain these or if they can be removed and the space to be used collaboratively.

Early discussions with CLT had been inconclusive about Group rooms. Members of the PCOM Scrutiny considered and discussed Group rooms (November 2021) and the option / need to retain these in the Town Hall and it was concluded that there was support of removing them and ensuring that space is used collaboratively.

A survey was sent to all NSC councillors, as agreed at the Informal Exec meeting (December 2021) to understand the need for member specific space to make sure there has been an opportunity to inform the final decision, which will be made by Informal Exec. The date for responses has been extended by a week and closes on 23 February 2022.

### **Partners and Tenants**

Partner and Tenants (based in the Town Hall and Castlewood) were not included in the numbers for the space planning and these requirements will be needed as part of the design stage. The Ways of Working Group are leading the work to understand their needs and future space requirements and plans. The agreed date for this data to be provided is 9 March 2022.

### **Project Initiation Document**

A Project Initiation Document (PID) has been created and defines the brief, scope and associated programme to deliver Workstream 1: New ways of working and the investment works in the Weston Town Hall site, including the relocation of staff, partners and tenants from Castlewood.

The PID will be a key resource for Inner Circle Consulting (ICC) who have been commissioned to finalise the client brief and cost plan so that a procurement route and tender exercise can be completed at pace, to appoint the multi-disciplinary professional design team and the works contractor to deliver this project.

A list of backlog maintenance of both Town Hall sites, dating back to February 2019 has been updated to reflect the current position. The works captured on this list are not currently planned or budgeted for and have been categorised in order of priority based on legal / health and safety compliance and relate to key actions identified in NSC's Climate Emergency Action Plan which will help towards the Council's aspiration to net zero carbon council by 2030. The areas requiring priority works to be considered in line with Town Hall reconfiguration works have been captured. The recommendations based on the PID is to be provided to Programme Board (CLT) for decisions and approvals on the scope and level of the works.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is being completed for this workstream and will be subject to the agreed approval process.

### **Workstream 2: Castlewood transition**

A summary of the Strategic Outline Case (SOC) for the potential development of the Council's Clevedon office (Castlewood) was presented at the scrutiny session for all members (17 January 2022) ahead of a formal Council meeting.

The Strategic Outline Case documentation was published for consideration at the Full Council meeting (15 February 2022). No decision was reached to transition from Castlewood as not all members had been able to read the exempt appendix. The Council



agreed a recommendation to commission the production of a detailed options analysis, preferred option and an associated development and delivery strategy that would include a recommendation to transition out of the building, and for this to return to Council. This is anticipated to be the 10 May 2022.

Following the decision at Full Council (15 February) on the future of Castlewood, work has been commissioned for the customer services strategy to be the vehicle to resolve physical access issues in Clevedon ahead of the revised paper in May 2022. An update will be provided at the Customer Strategy Engagement Scrutiny session (17 March 2022).

### **Managing the use of energy in Castlewood**

A project is underway to understand measures that could be implemented to reduce the usage of energy in the building since it is so underutilised. For energy and building management system purposes, there are three vertical zones (A, B and C) that cut through each of the three floors. This means that it is not straightforward to just turn off energy in a zone on only one floor. The project is not yet complete, but the interim conclusions are as follows.

It is not possible to switch off Zone A because:

- There are no toilets or access to a lift on any floor
- The ground floor has the main entrance to the building
- Job Centre space is on the ground floor and needs to be accessed from the main entrance
- It has the main server room which cannot be moved without significant disruption to the council's IT system delivery

There may be scope to close parts of Zones B and C subject to:

- Physical works to further subdivide the zones so that an area could be mothballed
- Renegotiation of current arrangements with tenants to relocate them
- Detailed examination of Fire safety, ICT considerations, access/security modifications, worker to toilet and worker to lift floor occupancy ratios
- Working through accessibility implications in relation to the Equality Act access

The costs of these works and the impact on income from tenants are being estimated so that they can be compared with the energy savings. This will represent the business case for making an investment. Any plans for mothballing the building will only go ahead if the decision is reached to close Castlewood and therefore will be subject to decision by full Council, now due in May 2022.

Smaller interventions that would require investment include reconsidering cold-water storage and cooling and air handling management controls.

Subject to a clarification of government guidance on office ventilation, there would be an immediate saving without investment to be had from reducing the hours of operation of the buildings ventilation system to pre-pandemic levels.

### **Workstream 3: Touch-down locations**

Work needs to be progressed over the next period on the Touchdown locations scope and brief to determine the need for these and the priority of this work. Decisions are also needed on if this work is critical in respect of the programme and timeline. This will be provided to the Programme Sponsors and the Programme Board for decision and approval.



## Key decisions and timelines

An indicative programme (phased approach) and a critical path, based on reconfiguration work has been produced. The phased approach will be further defined by the Design Team.

The programme and milestones are subject to the decisions being reached on the Repairs and Maintenance (R&M) backlog work to be undertaken (based on priority and compliance) and the extent of these works, as this will impact on the overall programme, dates and delivery.

Key Milestones (indicative)	Timescale
Agree brief for Town Hall reconfiguration works	February 2022
Professional Team – procure and appoint	March - April 2022
Works Contractor Procurement	April – June 2022
Design Period and Approval	April – May 2022
Departmental Sign-Off	June 2022
Place furniture order (8-12 weeks lead time)	June 2022
Contractor appointment	July 2022
Phase 1 Works (6 weeks)	*August – September 2022
Phase 1 Moves – Relocation complete	*September 2022
Phase 2 Works (6 weeks)	*September - October 2022
Phase 2 Moves – Relocation complete	*October 2022
Phase 3 Works (6 weeks)	*October – November 2022
Phase 3 Moves – Relocation Complete	*December 2022

\*These phases and dates are subject to any decisions to complete the R&M backlog maintenance works being undertaken.

Work is underway with the Procurement team to understand and consider the strategy and the procurement thresholds that need to be applied.

A clear programme will be agreed for enabling activities (IT, staff, declutter and decant) which will run concurrently within the above overall programme. The key milestones for each of these will be added in once further defined.

## Links to Other Work / Projects

There are a number of NSC projects that are linked to the Accommodation Strategy programme and these considerations and dependencies have been and will continue to be identified. The Programme team will work with colleagues / officers to align with these, including the Council's Customer Service Strategy, Digital Strategy and Traffic and Parking Strategy.

## Climate Change and Environmental

The programme team are working closely with colleagues to make sure we are joined up to support the Council's ambition to be a net zero carbon council by 2030 and are working with the Waste Team and the Sustainable Travel teams to ensure:

- 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

## **5. Consultation / Comms and Engagement**

A comms and engagement strategy and plan has been developed, with the key messages and activity developed to provide regular, timely and relevant updates. This will be reviewed and updated as required during the duration of the programme. Regular consultation and engagement with key stakeholders are reflected in the comms and engagement plan. This will serve as a guide for communications throughout the life of the project, updated as required.

## **6. Financial Implications**

A budget of £1 million pounds for the programme has been committed (revenue and capital expenditure). The initial costings, based on the indicative cost plan for reconfiguration of Town Hall, the Town Hall Repairs and Maintenance (R&M) backlog and ICT equipment suggested the initial budget was insufficient.

An additional £1m in the capital programme for 22-23 was requested and approved on 15 February 2022, however this revised budget envelope is potentially challenging and will be a constraint.

The Medium Term Financial Plan does not currently assume any revenue savings as a result of changes to the council's Estate. Savings opportunities will be captured at the point at which formal decisions are taken about the future of Castlewood.

## **7. Legal Powers and Implications**

N/A

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

Engagement with the council's Climate Emergency Project Manager in the delivery of the Accommodation Strategy, including the development of the business cases and new ways of working will continue to ensure that it aligns with the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

## **9. Risk Management**

A risk register has been developed and will be updated as part of the programme. Risks will be captured and fully assessed and managed by the Working Group leads with oversight from the CLT Programme Board.

Project risks and issues plus any mitigating actions will be logged on the risk / issue log. Risks and issues will be prioritised for resolution weekly, based on their impact and probability ratings. Where standard escalation procedure is insufficient, the Lead / Programme Manager will escalate the risk / issue directly with the Programme Sponsor.

## **10. Equality Implications**

Equality Impact Assessments will be completed for relevant components of the Accommodation Strategy.

## 11. Corporate Implications

The Accommodation Strategy has been developed within the overarching priorities contained within the Corporate Plan and the emerging priorities from 2038 Local Plan.

## 12. Options Considered

N/A

### Author:

Amy Webb, Director of Corporate Services

### Appendices:

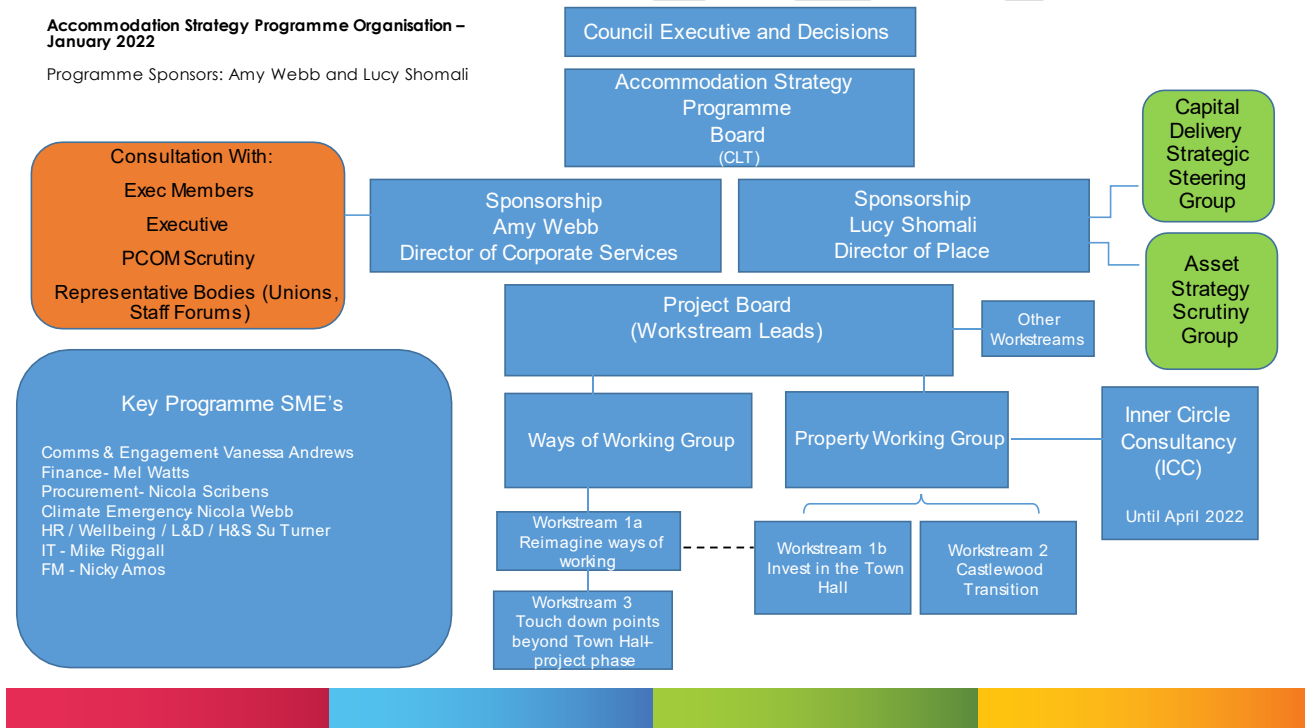
Appendix 1: Accommodation Strategy Programme Organisation – January 2022

### Background Papers:

Accommodation Strategy – COU 168 Council 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Accommodation Strategy Update – Strategic Outline Business Case: The future of Castlewood – COU 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022

## Appendix 1: Accommodation Strategy Programme Organisation – January 2022



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# Agenda Item 9

## Partnerships and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel

**Executive Member reporting:** Cllr Steve Bridger, Executive Member for Assets and Capital Delivery

**Date of meeting:** 3 March 2022

### **Capital delivery**

A priority for me is that our major projects are exemplar schemes that deliver against our vision for an open, fairer, and greener North Somerset, and to constantly look for opportunities to be imaginative and innovative with particular regard to active travel and green infrastructure. But there are significant challenges delivering high profile projects within approved timescales and within budget, with uncertainties arising because of the pandemic and inflationary pressures.

We are also taking steps to increase the knowledge and understanding of our carbon reduction work across our major projects and capital plans.

### **MetroWest**

We are still in the procurement stage with Network Rail. Continued delay to central government decision on the Development Consent Order (DCO). We continue to lobby on this through engagement with DfT. Outcome of DCO is critical for the timeline and completion of procurement process. Project is at commercially sensitive stage but evidence that costs have increased due to the pandemic, inflation and more risk being priced in.

### **Banwell bypass**

The next round of non-statutory public consultation on the Banwell bypass will start in March (date TBC) and last 6 weeks. We are exploring the possibility of joint events with the Local Plan team. The consultation will include further detail on the design of the preferred route and the emerging package of local mitigation measures. This will all inform the planning application which is on track for submission to the LPA at the end of May.

### **A38 MRN**

After finalising the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the A38 MRN bid (which included working with Somerset CC to address additional questions from National Highways on measures at J22), I paused the submission of the OBC to DfT in the light of the Bristol Airport appeal decision. While we must take the long-term view and not miss out on the opportunity for investment where it's needed, it is right that we take some time to consider the implications of the planning decision and to fully understand the funding position in the context of the appeal outcome.

### **Additional note**

I would like to acknowledge that all these projects have required more project and senior officer input than originally planned for because of the level of interest, complexity, need to maintain and build relationships and to ensure appropriate levels of scrutiny and member briefings. I am hugely grateful to the officer team, and we are lucky to have them.

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## **North Somerset Council**

### **Report to the Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel**

**Date of Meeting:**

**Subject of Report: Community Safety Update**

**Town or Parish: North Somerset**

**Officer/Member Presenting: Howard Potheary, Safer Communities Service Manager & Harry Mills, Senior Safer Communities Officer**

**Key Decision: No**

### **Recommendations**

#### **1. Summary of Report**

- 1.1 This report provides an opportunity for the Panel to review the work led by North Somerset Council's Community Safety Team in partnership with other agencies to build safer and stronger communities in North Somerset.
- 1.2 The report provides an opportunity for the Panel to feed into the future priorities and planned actions of the Safer Communities Service.

#### **2. Policy**

- 2.1 Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 (subsequently amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006) places a duty on a number of organisations (the Local Authority, Police Force, Probation Trust, Community Rehabilitation Company, Clinical Commissioning Group and Fire Service) to work together in a Community Safety Partnership to prevent and tackle crime and disorder. This includes specific requirements to reduce re-offending, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour. The People and Communities Board fulfils the role of Community Safety Partnership in North Somerset.

### **3. Details**

#### **3.1 Street-based Anti-Social Behaviour**

3.1 Street-based anti-social behaviour (ASB) covers aggressive begging, street drinking and leaving personal property unattended or abandoning items.

#### **3.2 Support for vulnerable people**

3.2.1 It is important to stress that individuals that are rough sleeping and those that are engaging in street-based anti-social behaviour should be looked at as separate matters.

3.2.1 North Somerset Council works in partnership with a variety of agencies and also works directly with such individuals to provide alternatives to this lifestyle. A wide range of support is available to those who are genuinely rough sleeping in North Somerset, such as the 'Everyone in Policy' where accommodation is offered to those who are sleeping rough.

3.2.3 However, some individuals choose not to engage with the services offered and remain entrenched in street community life, engaging in behaviours that have a detrimental impact on the wider community

3.3 Tackling anti-social behaviour in North Somerset is one of our key service priorities, which includes street-based anti-social behaviour which can have a significant impact on our town centres. This why we have introduced a number of initiatives to address these issues.

#### **3.4 Aggressive begging & Street drinking**

3.4.1 Aggressive begging covers anyone asking for money, food, cigarettes or other goods in a public place in a manner which causes or is likely to cause someone to feel harassed, alarmed or distressed.

3.4.2 Street drinking covers unlicensed drinking in public spaces. While drinking in the street is not an offence in North Somerset, it often leads to rowdy or disruptive behaviour which can cause passers-by to feel intimidated.

3.4.3 The Safer Communities Service coordinates a weekly Street Community Meeting which is a multi-agency group that discusses individuals who are rough sleeping and/or engaging in street-based ASB such as begging and street drinking. The group discusses each individual and their needs to put in place action to ensure all the support available to that individual has been offered to address their needs such as housing, substance misuse and healthcare.

3.4.4 Where individuals refuse offers of support and engage in anti-social behaviour, the council has to balance the rights and needs of all sectors of the community including local residents, businesses and visitors and will use our tools and powers to address these issues.



- 3.4.5 Examples of these tools and powers which are regularly used to tackle street-based ASB include (but not limited to):

*Education letters* – Issued to anyone believed to be engaging in street-based ASB to make the individual aware that ASB will not be tolerated and the potential consequences if they continue to cause ASB.

*Community Protection Warnings/Notices* – Used by the Council and Police to target persistent offenders by putting in place requirements and prohibitions to stop the ASB from occurring.

*Public Space Protection Orders* – Implemented by the Council but enforced by a wider group including the council and the police, they are an effective tool for tackling anti-social behaviour in public spaces including street drinking.

- 3.4.6 To streamline enforcement around aggressive begging, the council is due to be consulting on the inclusion of a restriction on aggressive begging in the PSPO to provide an effective means of dealing with aggressive begging.
- 3.4.7 Over the next few months, we will be stepping up the usage of our PSPOs to take a zero-tolerance approach to street drinking through confiscating alcohol under the PSPO, especially in hotspot areas.

### 3.6 Abandoned Waste/Unattended belongings

- 3.6.1 In response to a large number of unattended, personal items being left around Weston Town Centre in shop doorways, we have introduced a Clearance Protocol.
- 3.6.2 Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Refuse Disposal (amenity) Act 1978, any items left unattended could be treated as an act of fly-tipping or littering for which a person could be issued with a £75 fine or up to £2,500 if prosecuted. However, we have taken a more pragmatic approach towards dealing with unattended items in the town centre by introducing this protocol.
- 3.6.3 The Clearance Protocol addresses how we will deal with three main issues:

***Items considered as abandoned, soiled or hazardous*** - If belongings are left and are not being cared for such as strewn around in the street rather than placed together or are placed against a bin, they will be treated as litter and disposed of. Items or bedding which are soaked or considered as hazardous such as items believed to contain illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia or anything with bodily waste on it, will be removed and disposed of immediately.

***Unattended belongings*** - As part of this clearance protocol, a 'Bag & Tag' scheme has been introduced that covers any belongings which do not appear abandoned and are not hazardous or soiled.

Where unattended items are left in the town centre, our Community Response Officer will note the time and location. If the items remain unattended after three

hours, our Community Response Team will collect the items into sealed property bags, which will be sealed with a unique serial number.

The items will be retained for a maximum of 14 days in a secure location. If the items are not reclaimed in this period, they will be disposed of.

***Private landowners*** - As rough sleepers often bed down in shop and office doorways, many town centre businesses encounter rough sleeping on a daily basis.

We all have a part to play in keeping Weston Town Centre safe and clean and it is the responsibility of the property owner to manage any persons and property on their land, including shop doorways.

North Somerset Council, together with a number of community services, provide support to businesses around rough sleeping. This includes:

- speaking to rough sleepers and assessing the situation
- advising businesses what their rights and responsibilities are
- providing contact details for support services
- reporting rough sleeper locations to the outreach team
- liaising with the outreach team and Police as necessary
- ongoing advice and support.
- Where private land (which includes doorways) is persistently attracting anti-social behaviour or public health concerns, the council will do everything they can to support private landowners.

However, if after a reasonable period of time nothing is being done to rectify the matter, the council will take action against private landowners to ensure measures are taken to prevent the anti-social behaviour at the property from reoccurring.

We will not use our anti-social behaviour powers on somebody just because they are sleeping rough or are homeless.

## **3.2 North Somerset CCTV Upgrade 2021/22**

### **3.2.1 Context for the need for the CCTV upgrade**

- The Emergency Control Centre which operates the CCTV cameras in Weston, Clevedon, Nailsea & Portishead has undergone a transformation. The 80-year-old analogue public surveillance cameras throughout the district have been upgraded with state-of-the-art digital ones which provide clearer, better images, and therefore help when bringing prosecutions.
- The new technology allows police to log in, where authorised, to access and view live and recorded cameras remotely from agreed locations.
- The upgrade has also seen the introduction of a number of separate mobile cameras which can be deployed to hotspots to deal with issues such as anti-social behaviour and littering.
- The previous system which had been in place for 20 years and was fast becoming obsolete and the rejuvenated model will now enable the authority to make North

Somerset a safer place to live, work and do business into the future. This upgrade has been made possible thanks to contributions from each of the four town councils in North Somerset - Clevedon, Nailsea, Portishead and Weston-Super- Mare.

### **CCTV Progress Repot to Completion.**

- **July 2020** – Physical work commenced on upgrade of CCTV system from analogue to IP
- Changes to specification introduced at the same time. These changes were the result of a business case whereby it was deemed that using our own networks (affecting Nailsea, Clevedon & Portishead) instead of private, high-cost alternatives, to transmit images would mean greater financial savings in the future.
- Agilisys were commissioned to upgrade the networks from the towns. (Clevedon & Nailsea library and Somerset Hall, Portishead). This involved several aspects which delayed the project significantly, These included reliance on Virgin Media (acting for Agilisys) and B.T work as well as excavation of the ground to make connections to the libraries and Somerset Hall. It also increased the cost, but the business case was strong – 2.5-year payback then ongoing savings in excess of £23k per annum.
- **October 2020** Weston CCTV cameras back online, Nailsea **March 2021**, Clevedon **April 2021**, Portishead **May 2021**.

#### **3.2.2 Issues still outstanding:**

- As part of the procurement process, we specified the need for a ‘Call Logging System’ which would be fit for the purpose of producing reports of all types and record analysis. The incident reporting system delivered did not meet our expectations and was rejected.
- We are currently using the old reporting system, so we *are* providing reports, but not via the new system. We are continuing to press our contactor & HIK to supply to our expectations.

#### **3.3.3 Overall Outcomes of Upgrade:**

- Replacement of failing system (most of which was obsolete)
- Clearer images which better provide evidence for convictions
- Ability to link any IP camera from any location via the internet or SIM card & add to the system.
- Cost savings (as highlighted above), by using a combination of wireless and our own network for transmission.
- Future proofed (by replacing old system with latest technology)
- Created ability to create revenue streams.

#### **3.3.4 CCTV Upgrade Conclusion**

- Following a rigorous assessment by the National Security Inspectorate the Control Room has been awarded the Surveillance Camera Commissioner's Certification of Compliance to further endorse our commitment to providing the best possible service.

- The Emergency Control Room is staffed 24/7 365 days a year by a team of 10 dedicated operators all vetted to the highest level and fully trained to ensure that the cameras are only used in accordance with current legislation.
- Although the most visual element of the Emergency Control room is the image display wall and although mostly known for CCTV, the team also deal with emergency calls to the authority out of office hours, lone worker monitoring and provide a dedicated operator for the night-time Carelink service.
- The Emergency Control Room comes under the Safer Stronger umbrella and boasts good partnership working with the police, night-time economy and other businesses via a radio system linking retail outlets and licenced venues. CCTV also works with Community Response Officers and Town Centre Wardens.

### **3.3 Local Operation Remedy Update**

- 3.3.1 North Somerset will be one of the first areas in Avon and Somerset to go live with an uplift of Police staff under the name 'Remedy Local'.
- 3.3.2 From the 28 February 2022, the Remedy Local Team will be comprised of four Police Constables (PCs) and one Police Sergeant. By the end of August 2022, the team will be made up of eight PCs and one Sergeant.
- 3.3.3 The team will be tasked fortnightly at the local tasking meeting and will be principally deployed against local issues including drugs supply, ASB, acquisitive crime. They will also take responsibility for all warrants and outstanding offenders as well as providing additional support for policing events in North Somerset.

## **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 Not applicable

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The activities referred to within the report are accommodated within existing approved budgets and resources.

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

- 6.1 This work is undertaken in line with the Council's responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) and subsequent amendments.
- 6.2 A range of enforcement powers are available to the Council and Police to support the aims of the work described in this report.

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

7.1 There are no implications on climate change or the environment arising directly from this report.

## **8. Risk Management**

8.1 Not applicable

## **9. Equality Implications**

9.1 Being safe and feeling safe affect some communities disproportionately (including those with protected characteristics). For example, some members of the community are more at risk of being the victim of crime – particularly some types of crime.

## **10. Corporate Implications**

10.1 This report sets out key work areas, which contribute to corporate priorities

## **11. Options Considered**

11.1 Not applicable

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### **Appendices:**

[Click here to enter Appendices]

### **Background Papers:**

[Click here to enter Background Papers]

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## North Somerset Council

### REPORT TO THE PARTNERSHIPS, CORPORATE ORGANISATION AND OVERVIEW MANAGEMENT POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL

**DATE OF MEETING: 03 MARCH 2022**

**SUBJECT OF REPORT: PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS**

**TOWN OR PARISH: ALL**

**OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: DEE MAWN**

**KEY DECISION: NO**

#### **REASON:**

This is not a key decision because it will not result in the authority incurring expenditure or making savings in excess of £500,000 and will not be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in more than one ward in the area.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- To commence public consultation on the Public Space Protection Orders that were recommended for further consultation at the meeting of the Executive dated 11 February 2021 as set out in **Section 3.1**
- To commence public consultation on amendments to existing Public Space Protection Orders to facilitate improved operational performance as set out in **Section 3.2**.
- To commence public consultation on new Public Space Protection Orders where we have identified an urgent public safety reason to do so, as set out in **Section 3.3**.
- To commence member engagement on several new proposals that have been put forward for review as set out in **Section 3.4**.

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

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) were first introduced across the district by North Somerset Council on the 20 October 2017 to deter individuals or groups of individuals committing anti-social behaviour in public places. Subsequent reviews conducted in 2020 and 2021 saw additional provisions added to the area wider order and new orders were introduced such as “no swimming” at Abbots Pool in Abbots Leigh and “no dogs” at Court Hay in Pill and Easton-in-Gordano.

At a meeting of the Executive dated 11 February 2021 it was agreed that further consultation would take place on the following matters. A commitment was made by officers to progress this during the financial year 2021/22, so it is now expedient to do so, more detail on them can be found in **Section 3.1**

- Aggressive begging
- Broadcroft Play Area, Claverham - no dogs allowed

- Hutton Moor Playing Fields – all dogs on leads
- Worle Recreation Ground – all dogs on leads
- Weston-super-Mare Beach – amending the Summer Beach Ban restrictions to allow dogs on the beach between Royal Sands and The Pier between the hours of 18:00 to 08:00.

Since then and as a direct result of the recent success in the enforcement of PSPOs some minor amendments to the area wide order are proposed to facilitate improved operational performance in enforcement. These amendments are listed in **Section 3.2**, and it is recommended that these are added to the list above for expedient consultation.

In addition, it is also recommended that we commence expedient consultation on an order for Portishead Marina where it has become known that the former Portishead Dock byelaws are no longer in force in respect of controls needed around swimming in the harbour. More detail on this can be found in **Section 3.3**.

Engagement with members is required in respect of new and amended orders listed in **Section 3.4**. Councillors, NSC staff and other stakeholders including the police have provided officers with a list of proposals to address concerning issues occurring in local communities and how best to respond to them.

## **2. POLICY**

Attention is drawn to the following policy documents (full details of which can be found in the reference section of this report)

- The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Statutory guidance for frontline professionals - provides guidance to local authorities on the steps it must take before introducing a PSPO.
- The Regulatory Services Enforcement Procedure – explains the council approach to enforcement in line with the Regulators Code.

Tackling anti-social behaviour supports the vision and ambition of the council to “build and sustain great places to live and visit that are vibrant, accessible and safe”.

## **3. DETAILS**

3.1 Matters deferred for further consultation following Executive meeting 11 February 2021

- **New AREA WIDE provision** relating to **aggressive begging** that will apply to **any land to which the public is entitled or permitted to have access with or without payment** to be subject of immediate consultation (exact wording subject to change)

*No person without reasonable excuse shall approach people for money or goods, or be stationary and directly asking for money or goods, or be positioned on the floor to invite the offer of money or goods within 10 metres of a cash or payment machine or in a manner which is aggressive or intimidating or is likely to cause someone to feel harassed, alarmed or distressed*

- **New DOG CONTROL PSPO** relating to **Broadcroft Play Area in Claverham** to be subject to immediate consultation (exact wording subject to change)



*No person shall take a dog onto, or permit a dog to enter, or allow a dog to remain on any land within the boundary of Broadcroft Play Area, save for when passing and re-passing along footpath, unless*

*(i) the person is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948, or*

*(ii) the person is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and upon which he relies for assistance, or*

*(iii) the person has a disability which affects his mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which he relies for assistance, provided that the dog is on a lead.*

- **New DOG CONTROL PSPO** relating to **Hutton Moor Playing Fields** in Weston-super-Mare (exact wording subject to change)

*All dogs are required to be kept on a lead*

- **New DOG CONTROL PSPO** relating to **Worle Recreation Ground** in Weston-super-Mare (exact wording subject to change)

*All dogs are required to be kept on a lead*

*All dogs are to be kept off games pitches unless*

*(i) the person is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948, or*

*(ii) the person is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and upon which he relies for assistance, or*

*(iii) the person has a disability which affects his mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which he relies for assistance, provided that the dog is on a lead.*

- **New DOG CONTROL PSPO** relating to **Weston Main Beach** in Weston-super-Mare (exact wording subject to change)

*No person shall take a dog onto, or permit a dog to enter, or allow a dog to remain on the beach within the area shown on the plan between 01 May and 30 September, between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00 unless*

*(i) the person is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948, or*

*(ii) the person is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and upon which he relies for assistance, or*

*(iii) the person has a disability which affects his mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which he relies for assistance, provided that the dog is on a lead*

- 3.2 Consultation is recommended to commence consultation regarding the inclusion of the following provisions into existing Public Space Protection Orders to aid improvements in operational enforcement.

- *If a Police Constable or Authorised Person reasonably believes that a person has acted, or likely to act, contrary to the restrictions placed upon them by this Order, they must provide their name and address when required to do so.*
- *A definition of what is a “receptacle” for picking up dog faeces*

3.3 Consultation is recommended to commence on a new Public Space Protection Order where we have identified an urgent public safety reason to do so,

- **NEW WATER SAFETY PSPO** relating to the **Marina** in Portishead (exact wording subject to change)

No person shall enter the water unless participating in an authorised water activity.

(No person without a reasonable excuse shall act in an anti-social or disorderly manner that causes or is likely to cause nuisance, harassment, alarm or distress to any other person.

If a Police Constable or Authorised Person reasonably believes that a person has acted, or likely to act, contrary to the restrictions placed upon them by this Order, they must provide their name and address when required to do so.

If a Police Constable or Authorised Person reasonably believes that a person has acted, or likely to act, contrary to the restrictions placed upon them by this Order, they must leave “the Controlled Zone” or specified location forthwith and not return within a specified period up to a maximum of 48 hours when instructed to do so by a Police Constable or Authorised Person.

3.4 Engagement with members is required in respect of several newly proposed provisions for:

- Weston-super-Mare seafront
- New dog control orders at Ashton Court, Long Ashton Community Centre and the Putting Green, Beach Lawns, Weston-super-Mare (formerly the site of Miniature Railway)
- A new Town Centre, Retail and Managed Parks Order; and
- A new gating order at Worthy Place Weston-super-Mare to restrict general access because the route is being used to commit anti-social behaviour.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

Before making or amending a PSPO, the council must consult with the local police. This should be done formally through the chief officer of police and the Police and Crime Commissioner, but details could be agreed by working level leads. This is an opportunity for the police and the council to share information about the area and the problems being caused as well as discuss the practicalities of enforcement. In addition, the owner or occupier of the land should be consulted.

The council must also consult whatever community representatives they think appropriate. This could relate to a specific group, for instance the resident's association, or an individual or group of individuals, for instance, regular users of a park. The creation, extension, variation or discharge of a PSPO must be published in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None to be considered at this stage

### **Costs**

N/A

### **Funding**

N/A

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

PSPOs were brought in under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act in 2014, which came in to force on 20 October 2017. PSPOs can be challenged in the high court within a period of six weeks following introduction.

North Somerset Council has not been challenged on the orders that have been introduced so far. Any new or amended PSPOs that the council proposes to introduce will be open to challenge within the first six weeks of adoption. Any district wide controls will come under particular scrutiny.

Revised guidance issued in August 2019 helps police and councils to continue to take appropriate action against nuisance behaviours while ensuring the most vulnerable, including the homeless, are not disproportionately targeted.

This guidance follows feedback from charities and other groups who raised concerns nationally that the orders were being used in some cases to disproportionately target certain groups in some areas rather than focusing on behaviour that is genuinely anti-social and causing others distress or alarm.

Particular concerns were raised around the use of the orders against the homeless, buskers, dog walkers and, in some cases, people simply gathering together in small groups in town centres who were not engaged in anti-social behaviour.

The guidance puts greater emphasis on the need to ensure the powers are used to target specific nuisance behaviours and are not applied in a blanket way against specific groups or behaviour that is not in itself anti-social. It reminds councils that powers should not, for example, target normal everyday behaviour that is not having a detrimental effect on the community's quality of life, such as skateboarding.

Where young people are concerned, councils should think carefully about restricting activities that they are most likely to engage in. Restrictions that are too broad or general in nature may force the young people into out-of-the-way spaces and put them at risk. In such circumstances, councils should consider whether there are alternative spaces that they can use.

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

The orders, whilst introduced mainly to tackle Anti-social Behaviour issues in our communities, they do also offer considerable benefit to the environment, i.e tackling litter and dog fouling.

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

There has been a lot of interest nationally over the introduction of Public Space Protection Orders. Our previous consultation generated interest from the local and national media.

The timeline for implementation allows scope for reviewing the wording of the orders to ensure that they have sound legal basis to protect them from challenge.

## **9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? No

A full Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out as part of the consultation process on any new, extended, varied or discharged PSPOs.

## **10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

The wide scope of this PSPO review is an example of a one council approach to tackling anti-social behaviour in North Somerset.

## **11. OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

The recommendation is to

- To undertake a public consultation on any new and amended Public Space Protection Orders in accordance with section 72 of the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Options considered would be

- To **not** undertake a public consultation on any new and amended Public Space Protection Orders in accordance with section 72 of the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. The consequences of such would mean that any new orders put forward to deter individuals or groups of individuals committing anti-social behaviour in public places could not be brought into force.

## **AUTHOR**

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/12/contents/enacted>

Revised Statutory Guidance for frontline professionals  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/823316/2019-08-05\\_ASB\\_Revised\\_Statutory\\_Guidance\\_V2.2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/823316/2019-08-05_ASB_Revised_Statutory_Guidance_V2.2.pdf)

Local Government Public Space Protection Orders Guidance for Councils  
[https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/10.21%20PSPO%20guidance\\_06\\_1.pdf](https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/10.21%20PSPO%20guidance_06_1.pdf)

Information Note on Public Space Protection Orders  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/364851/Public\\_and\\_open\\_spaces\\_information\\_note.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/364851/Public_and_open_spaces_information_note.pdf)

Report to the Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel – Nov 2016  
<http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/docs/doc27670.pdf>

Report to Full Executive – June 2017  
<http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/docs/doc28128.pdf>

FPN Policy and Associated Papers  
<http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/committees/comidx219-2017.asp>

The Regulatory Services Enforcement Procedure  
<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/regulatory-services-enforcement-procedure-pdf.pdf>

North Somerset Council's Public Space Protection Orders  
<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/community-safety-crime/public-space-protection-orders/public-space-protection-orders/>

Report to the Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel – Nov 2019  
<https://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/Meetings/document/report/NSCPM-117-144>  
<https://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/Meetings/document/report/NSCPM-117-143>

Report to Full Executive – 11 Feb 2021  
<https://n-somerset.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g647/Public%20reports%20pack%2011th-Feb-2021%2015.00%20Executive.pdf?T=10>

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## **North Somerset Council**

### **Report to the Partnerships, Corporate Organisation and Overview/Management (PCOM) Policy and Scrutiny Panel**

**Date of Meeting: 3 March 2022**

**Subject of Report: Policy and Scrutiny Work Plan**

**Town or Parish: N/A**

**Officer/Member Presenting: Philippa Penney, Electoral Services and Scrutiny Manager**

**Key Decision: No**

**Reason: N/A**

#### **Recommendations**

That the members consider and agree the panel's work plan.

#### **1. Summary of Report**

At the start of the Covid pandemic, the authority for holding virtual meetings was enabled by emergency regulations made under section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020. Following the cessation of these regulations in May 2021, the requirement for constitutional meetings to be held in person resumed.

In line with Public Health recommendation and our own North Somerset Council health and safety advice, meetings held in public were limited to decision making meetings only. As Policy and Scrutiny Panel meetings are largely non-decision-making, these meetings continued to take place as previously scheduled in the Municipal Calendar but were held informally using a remote virtual platform.

This report therefore presents the panel's extended work plan in full to reflect all the work undertaken since March 2021 i.e., throughout the period since the last meeting that the panel was able to hold in public.

#### **2. Policy**

Policy and scrutiny contributes towards the council's corporate aim of improving the way we work. It can also contribute towards the council's corporate aim of building safer and stronger communities and protecting and improving the environment

#### **3. Details**

Policy and scrutiny is an essential part of ensuring that decision makers remain effective and accountable. It helps in ensuring that the Executive's decision-making process is clear

and accessible to the public and that there are opportunities for the public and their representatives to influence and improve council policy and services.

There are two distinct elements: policy, which develops and examines the council's aims and priorities to ensure they are being achieved; and scrutiny, which questions and challenges major decisions that are being made about delivering services to help drive improvement.

The work plan is published and considered at each of the panel's meetings. It is updated on a rolling basis as existing matters are concluded and new areas of focus are agreed.

#### **4. Consultation**

Members agree policy and scrutiny panel work plans taking a number of factors into account, including cognisance of council, executive and directorate priorities and considering views and issues that local residents may have expressed.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report although in undertaking future work the panel recognises that they may make recommendations that have financial implications for the council.

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

N/A

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

The council's Climate Emergency falls within the remit of this panel, and direct involvement is continuing with the development and implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

#### **8. Risk Management**

N/A

#### **9. Equality Implications**

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? No

The work of policy and scrutiny is based on the council's commitment to ensure that the consideration of equality and diversity is an integral part of decision-making to bring about positive changes that are felt by service users, councillors and employees

#### **10. Corporate Implications**

Policy and scrutiny reviews and work align to the Corporate Plan and emerging priorities.

#### **11. Options Considered**

N/A

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#### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – PCOM Panel Work Plan



- Annex A – updated finalised decision 21/22 DP 233
- Annex B - working/steering group and public participation updates

**Background Papers:**

Reports and work plans from all panels:

<https://n-somerset.moderngov.co.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

Centre for Governance and Scrutiny guidance: <https://www.cfgs.org.uk/>

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# Partnerships, Corporate Organisation and Overview/Management Policy and Scrutiny Panel Work programme March 2022

(to be updated following each Panel meeting)

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

**Section One – Active & Scheduled panel projects as identified in the overarching Strategic Work Plan.** Projects are ranked in priority order. Scheduled projects will commence as active projects are completed or if reprioritised as circumstances require

Topic	Reason for scrutiny	Method of scrutiny and reporting process	Timeline	Progress	Contact
ICT (including Members’ ICT)	Heightened importance given the current pandemic and increased reliance on ICT  Modern Gov implementation  Consultation and Engagement Strategy  Current contract coming to an end	<b>Steering Group</b> with extended invitation to the Executive Member  To lead on related strategy development  To identify improvements to use of Modern.Gov to maximise its functionality	Meeting held 28 September  Member mentoring meeting held 14 October  Cyber/data security review as a priority for March 2022	Regular steering group meetings	Mike Riggall
Financial planning and Medium-Term Financial Plan	Review of budget development plans for 2021/2022 and beyond. Budget engagement plan	<b>Steering Group</b> to develop forward looking engagement with financial pressures and the budget setting process	Meeting held 28 September  Finance scrutiny plan to be agreed March 2022	Regular steering group meetings	Amy Webb / Mel Watts

Accommodation Strategy	<p><b>Strategic Asset Management &amp; Property Plan (SAMPP):</b> a strategic framework setting core principles for the future use and management of the council's assets to enable the successful delivery of council services.</p> <p><b>Accommodation Strategy (AS):</b> a specific piece of work focused on the council's ways of working and use of office accommodation.</p> <p><b>Strategic Development Programme (SDP):</b> the preparation of a programme of investment, divestment or disposal for our potential development sites, including legal and financial advice on delivery mechanisms</p>	<p>All member engagement sessions</p> <p>Focused <b>working group</b> meetings as required</p>	<p>Programme of work throughout the longer-term development of the strategies</p> <p>Regular review of Accommodation Strategy</p>	Ongoing	Nicola Crabtree
Major Projects / Capital Projects	<p>Strategic approach to programme management</p> <p>Engagement with <b>Metro West</b>. Awaiting grant of DCO. Scrutiny engagement prior to implementation</p>	<p>Engagement with Project Management Office and approach to managing major projects</p> <p>Referred from Council in July 2021 as appropriate to involve PCOM to scrutinise the financial aspects of this project</p>	<p>DCO that was due to be granted in October has been delayed (6 months).</p>		Alex Fear / Alastair Shankland

**Section Two – proposed projects (listed in priority order). These must be agreed by the Panel and will be referred for discussion with Chairs and Vice Chairs as part of PCOM’s overview remit (for inclusion in the Strategic Work Plan):**

Topic	Reason for scrutiny	Proposed method of scrutiny and reporting process	Timeline	Contact
Domestic Abuse – Next Link contract	Considered by CCO in November 2020 and PCOM in 2021	Agreement for feedback on the service provided by Next Link to be considered one year on	Complete (to be reviewed November 2023)	Howard Potheary

**Section Three – briefings, workshops, and informal panel meetings. Outcomes may, with Chairman’s agreement, generate panel agenda items (for inclusion in S4 below) or, with panel agreement, be escalated to S2 above:**

Topic	Reason for scrutiny	Date	Outcome	Progress	Contact
Street cleansing – road obstructions and closures	Policy around closing roads for litter picking along verges	22 April		Engagement with PLACE Panel Chairman	
Chairs and vice chairs	Informal discussion on work planning priorities	Held monthly	To inform the panel work plans		Cllr Geoff Richardson
IT, Information and Digital strategies – Face to face	To examine the aims and objectives of the individual strategies and how they collectively address the challenges ahead both for the council and for North Somerset	17 June	Agreement for further action plan development input	Further session being arranged to consider the Customer Service Strategy	
Communications Strategy	To scrutinise the council’s draft Communications Strategy	22 July	To feed into the aims and objectives of the strategy and how it addresses the challenges ahead both	Complete	Vanessa Andrews

			for the Council and for North Somerset		
Financial Planning	To consider financial planning, MTFP, Capital Programme, bid funding process	6 September	Agreement for engagement in the rolling financial planning programme and the budget setting process	Engagement timetable for 2022/23 to be agreed	Melanie Watts
Public participation in meetings	To consider points raised by public speakers regarding public participation at meetings	9 September	Identification of any issues to be addressed	Implementation of changes as identified	Cllr Geoff Richardson
Budget Scrutiny session (for all members)	Briefing on the latest financial planning assumptions include within the MTFP 2022-2025	13 December	As part of the ongoing budget setting process	Rolling programme	Melanie Watts
Energy supply contract procurement	Briefing to engage members' views for the procurement and commissioning plan	14 December	Agreement for engagement in the plan's development	Further session to be agreed for March 2022	Mark Roddan
Customer Services Strategy	Strategy to reshape and improve the way that people and the council interact	10 January	Input into public consultation document. Further session following consultation close to inform strategy for Executive approval	Further session to be agreed for March 2022	Simone Woolley
Procurement Strategy 2021-25	Engagement with the Procurement Strategy 2021-25	11 January	Clarity and understanding as to the approach taken to procurement		Mark Roddan
Accommodation Strategy (for all members)	To consider a summary of the outline business case	17 January		Further engagement in the wider strategy agreed for March Panel	Alex Hearn

**Section Four - agenda reports to the Panel meetings as agreed by the Chairman.** This section primarily provides for the rolling forward planning of agendas and a useful record of panel meeting activity. When considering reports at meetings, outcomes may include proposing a workstream, escalating it to S2 above for potential inclusion on the Strategic Forward Plan.

### CCO Panel 4 March 2021

Report Title	Purpose of Report	Outcome (actions)	Progress	Contact
Green Infrastructure Strategy Consultation – Progress Update	To agree draft GIS following public consultation for comment prior to Executive decision	To feedback on responses to the consultation prior to finalisation of the report to Executive	Complete	John Flannigan
Your Neighbourhood Programme Consultation and Engagement – Update and Actions	To further consider the role of the panel in developing and shaping the strategies and service design	Agreed role in monitoring action plans and implementation	Complete	Gemma Dando
Winter Gardens Community Board Annual Report	Ensuring the continuation of community use at the Winter Gardens following transfer to college ownership	Review of annual report	Complete	Lorraine Bush

### PCOM Panel 15 July 2021

Report Title	Purpose of Report	Outcome (actions)	Progress	Contact
Policy and Scrutiny Overview and Work Planning	To consider the contents of the report and information provided on policy and scrutiny engagement and consider and agree the panel’s work plan.	Agreed work plan and identified the following pieces of work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICT Scrutiny Steering Group</li> <li>• Accommodation Strategy Scrutiny Working Group</li> <li>• Financial Planning Scrutiny Steering Group</li> </ul>	Complete	Philippa Penney
Medium Term Financial Plan Briefing Note	To receive a briefing on the MTFP and consider the 2022/23 timeline and engagement plan for officers, members and public engagement	To be progressed by the Financial Planning Scrutiny Steering Group	Complete	Amy Webb

Report Title	Purpose of Report	Outcome (actions)	Progress	Contact
Accommodation Strategy	To receive and consider the main project activity as outlined in the report along with the associated timeline and future decision points	To be progressed by the Accommodation Strategy Scrutiny Steering Group	Complete	Amy Webb/ Richard Penska
Bid to Levelling up fund	To receive and comment on the submission of a bid to the government's Levelling Up fund, in the context of the report to Council on 19th July seeking retrospective approval for the submission	Agreement to keep in view the council's policy for funding bids	Ongoing	Jenny Ford
Climate Emergency Six Month Progress Report	To receive and consider the progress with specific initiatives within the Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan; to consider the annual update of council carbon footprint; to consider the annual update of North Somerset area emissions estimates	Ongoing engagement and support for the climate emergency strategy and action plan Green energy and green energy tariffs	Ongoing	Nicola Webb
End of Year Performance Update for 2020/21	To receive and consider the end of year performance update for 2020/21	Further engagement with the annual directorate statements, to be circulated to panel members	Complete	Emma Diakou
Executive Members' Scrutiny Reporting	To receive and consider Executive Members' scrutiny reporting	Finance update from Cllr Cartman	Complete	Ash Cartman

### PCOM Panel call-in meeting 5 August 2021

Report Title	Purpose of Report	Outcome (actions)	Progress	Contact
Call-in of Executive Member Decision 21/22 DP 130	To debate the decision and reason for the call-in, at the end of which the panel would agree	That the Executive member for Assets and Capital Delivery be requested to reconsider the decision number 21/22 DP 130 (Appropriation of open space to planning purposes: land south of The Uplands, Nailsea) for the reasons that the measured social value had not been	Publication of Executive Member Decision 21/22 DP 233 re-confirming the original decision	Cllr Steve Bridger



Appropriation of open space to planning purposes: land south of The Uplands, Nailsea	either: to recommend to the Executive Member that the decision should be reconsidered or; not to recommend that the decision should be reconsidered	carried out sufficiently against the benefits of the development and to also take into account other relevant metrics including: quality of provision of replacement public open space; carbon emissions; social cost benefit analysis; social cost effectiveness analysis; biodiversity assessment; community wellbeing; transport impact assessment; other benefits such as schools, leisure centre, new parks and health centre provision.	to appropriate open space to planning purposes at The Uplands, Nailsea  Complete	
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### PCOM 11 November 2021

Report Title	Purpose of Report	Outcome (actions)	Progress	Contact
Accommodation Strategy	To receive and comment on the information provided in the report on the Accommodation Strategy	Liaison with group leaders in relation to group rooms  Provision of a 'plan on a page' overview incorporating timelines	Report to March Panel meeting	Amy Webb
Financial Management	To receive and comment on the information provided in the report in relation to Financial Management.	Development of financial management process charts and amended risk section  Planned forward-looking financial scrutiny engagement to be agreed	March 2022	Melanie Watts
Executive Members' Reporting to Scrutiny	To receive and consider Executive Members' Reporting to Scrutiny	Agreed engagement in developing carbon accounting to be included in the work plan with a view to developing across the council  Update on the effectiveness of the Capital Programme Board to next PCOM meeting	Agreed  March 2022 panel meeting	Cllr Bridget Petty  Cllr Steve Bridger

Domestic Abuse Report	To note the ongoing implementation of the statutory duties set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and provides feedback on our plans for future development in tackling domestic abuse and violence against women and girls.	Further engagement extended to an all-member scrutiny-led briefing on domestic abuse		Howard Pothecary/ Hannah Gray
Winter Gardens Community Board Annual Report	To consider and note the Annual report of the Winter Gardens Community Board published in October 2021 (appendix 1) and provides feedback on the recommendations as appropriate.	Feedback by way of thanks and reassurance of the ongoing community commitment being shown at the Winter Gardens		Tansin Benn/ Lorraine Bush
Panel's Work Plan (including Steering/Working Group Updates)	To receive and comment on the Panel's Work Plan and Steering/Working Groups	Extended work plan for publication in full to demonstrate the work undertaken in an informal setting during the period of Covid restrictions	Rolling work plan	Philippa Penney / Working Group Chairs

## Section Five - Recommendations - Response from Executive Member

<b>Area for investigation/ Recommendations</b>	<b>When were the recommendations to the Executive agreed?</b>	<b>Expect answer by</b> (first panel meeting after recommendations were submitted)
Call-in of Executive Member Decision 21/22 DP 130 Appropriation of open space to planning purposes: land south of The Uplands, Nailsea	5 August 2021	11 November 2021  The response is provided with the work plan as updated decision 21/22 DP 233 (Annex A)

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

Panel Recommendation	Date of response	Actions – implementation progress
Call-in of Executive Member Decision 21/22 DP 130 Appropriation of open space to planning purposes: land south of The Uplands, Nailsea	November 2021	The response is provided with the work plan as updated decision 21/22 DP 233 (Annex A)

### Regular matters:

Avon and Somerset Police – bi-annual briefing for all members with the Chief Constable and the Area Commander to provide insight and reassurance in response to current pressures [to be considered in line with crime and disorder responsibilities]

Winter Gardens Community Board – review of Annual Report

North Somerset Environment Company (NSEC) – PCOM Chairman is a member of the Shareholder Advisory Board.

### Annexes:

Annex A – updated finalised decision 21/22 DP 233

Annex B – working/steering group and public participation updates

- ICT Scrutiny Steering Group
- Financial Management Scrutiny Steering Group
- Accommodation Strategy Scrutiny Working Group
- Public participation

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## North Somerset Council Decision

**Decision Of: Executive Member for Assets**  
**With advice from: Director of Place and Assistant Director**  
**Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer**  
**Directorate: Place**



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**Decision No: 21/22 DP 233 (update to DP130)**

**Subject: Review of appropriation decision for The Uplands**

**Key Decision: No**

**Reason:** The decision will not result in expenditure or savings of more than £500,000 and is not significant in terms of its effects on two or more wards.

### **Background:**

This report responds to the recommendation of the Partnerships, Corporate Organisation and Overview Management (PCOM) Scrutiny Panel meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021, as follows:

*“That the Executive member for Assets and Capital Delivery be requested to reconsider the decision number 21/22 DP 130 (appropriation of open space to planning purposes: land south of The Uplands, Nailsea) for the reasons that the measured social value had not been carried out sufficiently against the benefits of the development and to also take into account other relevant metrics including: quality of provision of replacement public open space; carbon emissions; social cost benefit analysis; social cost effectiveness analysis; biodiversity assessment; community wellbeing; transport impact assessment; other benefits such as schools, leisure centre, new parks and health centre provision.”*

### **Decision:**

That the Executive Member re-confirm Decision Notice 21/22 DP 130: Appropriation of Open Space to Planning Purposes: Land South of The Uplands, Nailsea, which approved the following recommendations:

1. To consider the representations, along with the information contained in this report, received in respect of the intention to appropriate the open space land to the south of The Uplands, Nailsea shown edged red on the plan attached to this report (the ‘Site’).
2. To agree, in terms of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972, that the Site, which is held by the Council for the purpose of open space/recreation is no longer required (as that phrase and the applicable principles in deciding that question has

been judicially stated) to be held for those purposes and should be appropriated for planning purposes with a view to its subsequent future development.

3. To resolve to authorise the appropriation of the Site from open space / recreation purposes for planning purposes under Section 122(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, in order to facilitate the carrying out of residential development.
4. To authorise the Director of Place to note the appropriation process in the Council's records.

## **Reasons:**

### **Background to decision-making**

- 1 The Decision Notice and associated appendices to which this report relates can be viewed on the Council's website at <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/council-democracy/councillors-committees/decisions-meetings/executive-member-decisions/2021-executive-member-decisions/july-2021-executive-member-decisions>.
- 2 The Decision Notice was published on the Council's website on 9<sup>th</sup> July and was approved by the Executive Member for Assets, following consideration of further comments received on 16<sup>th</sup> July.
- 3 The decision was called in by the Partnerships, Corporate Organisation and Overview Management (PCOM) Scrutiny Panel, who, following discussion, agreed the recommendation set out in paragraph 1.1 above.
- 4 As set out in the Decision Notice, the applicable principles for the Council in deciding whether or not the land is no longer required as open space are as below:
  - (i) Whether land is no longer required for a particular purpose, meaning no longer needed in the public interest of the locality for that purpose, is a question for the local authority, subject to Wednesbury principles of reasonableness, and not the Court;
  - (ii) The power to appropriate is concerned with relative needs or uses for which public land has been or may be put. It does not require it to fall into disuse before the authority may appropriate it for some other purpose;
  - (iii) The authority is entitled when exercising its appropriation power to seek to strike the balance between comparative local (public interest) needs: between the need for one use of the land and another with the wider community interests at heart. It is for the authority to keep under review the needs of the locality and is entitled to take a broad view of local needs.
5. The principles listed above do not require that local people must have stopped using the land as open space before its use can be changed. However the council must act in the public interest and balance the comparative needs of the wider community.

6. The panel, during discussion, suggested a Green Book analysis of the appropriation decision be undertaken. This is not believed to be appropriate, for the following reasons:
- A Green Book analysis focuses fundamentally on the economic impacts of a proposal and quantifies the outcomes in financial terms. This, even if only presentationally, would suggest financial motivations as the driving factor, which is not the case.
  - A Green Book analysis is based on testing alternative scenarios. The Uplands site is allocated for development and included in the North Somerset five-year housing supply. If not brought forward for development, another location that is realistically deliverable within the same timescale would need to be considered within the scenarios (e.g. as the consequential impact of not developing at The Uplands). As the council does not know what the alternative location might be, or who might bring it forward or how, it is not possible to carry out this scenario testing in a suitably robust manner.

### **Consideration of issues raised by Scrutiny Panel**

*Transport impacts, biodiversity and other benefits such as schools, leisure centre, new parks and health centre provision.*

7. The impacts of developing the site at The Uplands in terms of transport, biodiversity and impact on local infrastructure have previously been assessed and accepted through the planning process. It is not the role of the appropriation process to re-open these debates.
8. All documents relating to the planning application, including comments from technical consultees (highways, ecology etc), can be viewed on the council's website at: <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/> under the planning application reference number 20/P/2000/R3.

### *Carbon emissions*

9. As above, the site's status as an allocated site for housing and part of the council's five year housing supply means that a failure to develop the site would require alternative provision of the same number of homes elsewhere. The council has no particular means of determining whether the alternative provision would be better or worse in terms of carbon emissions, therefore there is no robust means of assessing the impact. Given NSC's level of control at The Uplands site, and the high levels of sustainability criteria incorporated into the development proposals, it is probable that an alternative would be more rather than less damaging in terms of climate change.

### *Quality of provision of replacement open space*

10. The appropriation of land does not require replacement provision, and none is proposed in this case. Theoretically, even if there were an acknowledged deficiency of open space, it would still be possible that other interests / requirements could be sufficient to justify the appropriation of land for another purpose, if the wider benefits justified such a decision.

*Social cost benefit analysis; social cost effectiveness analysis; community wellbeing*

11. The social costs and benefits and community well-being are agreed to be central to the appropriation decision, both in relation to the provision of housing at this site, and to the alternative of retaining the open space.

**Assessment of issues**

12. In debating the Decision Notice, members of PCOM commented that further information was required as to the 'compelling reason' for the appropriation of the site.
13. Appendix A sets out a report from officers summarising reasons for supporting housing at this location. These include:
  - 52 homes will provide housing for approx. 125 residents at any given time.
  - The inclusion of the site in North Somerset's five-year housing supply, which means that, if not developed, an alternative must be found which can be delivered within a similar timescale.
  - A shortfall of 346 homes per year against annual housing supply targets.
  - A waiting list across of 2,492 active applicants on the North Somerset housing register for social and affordable rented housing, with 887 seeking homes in the Nailsea West End area in which this site is located.
  - A waiting list of 41 people in the same area seeking adaptable properties and 14 requiring accessible properties ("wheelchair homes"); with this site providing at least eight properties of each type.
14. In relation to social costs and benefits, the provision of good quality housing will have a significantly positive health and well-being for future residents. The design of the housing as well-constructed and energy efficient in a landscape-led setting will add to these benefits.
15. The loss of open space, its amenity value and the impact on physical and mental health and well-being of former users of the space is also a significant impact and must be weighed against the benefits of housing described above.
16. Appendix B considers the importance of the open space to local residents, and the availability of open space overall in Nailsea. This cannot in itself "measure" the impacts of the loss of space, but provides some context in which to consider the balance of issues, including the following:
  - Across the various planning and appropriation consultations that have been held, a combined total of 366 responses have been received, including representations from Nailsea Town Council and Nailsea Action Group (note this refers to the total number of responses, not the total number of respondents, as some individuals have responded on multiple occasions). In addition, a further 92 representations were received following the PCOM decision. The loss of open space has been the overwhelming concern throughout these responses.



- The quantum of open space and other green infrastructure in Nailsea is at least 34.7ha. If The Uplands and sites of less than 500sqm are excluded, this is reduced to 30.7ha. This equates to 19.73sqm per person or 47.34sqm per household, which is almost triple the amount typically requested of new developments, which is 15sqm per household.
- At 2.5ha, the site at the Uplands is the largest area in Nailsea listed as “open space” on the council’s asset register and is one of only three sites larger than 2ha (although there are other spaces designated as parks and playing fields that are larger). If fully developed, it would represent a 7.7% reduction in the green infrastructure listed in the asset register.
- The closest alternative open space to The Uplands is land at Sedgemoor Close. At 2.1ha, is it comparable in size to The Uplands and is described in the Sites & Policies Plan as open space with trees, used for informal recreation.
- The straight line distance from the centre of the site at The Uplands to the centre of land at Sedgemoor Close is approximately 500m, which is in excess of the 480m required for Neighbourhood Open Spaces on new developments, but less than the 600m required for Community Parks. The walking distance is further.
- The development of The Uplands would significantly change the open nature of the site, but would not result in the wholesale loss of green infrastructure. In particular, more than 0.5ha (5,000sqm) will remain in the form of publicly accessible woodland and bridleway. Overall, more than 50% of the site will remain ‘green’ in some way, although this includes private/shared gardens.

## Conclusions

17. It is not disputed that the loss of open space that would result from appropriating the Uplands site for development would impact on local residents. Responses to consultations demonstrate strength of feeling on this point.
18. Nonetheless, the overall quantum of green infrastructure across Nailsea would remain very significantly above standards used by North Somerset in relation to new developments. Parts of The Uplands will also remain available for public access, including the woodland area and bridleway.
19. The reasons given for supporting development of the site, as listed at paragraph 3.15 are of genuine relevance, in particular the waiting list for affordable housing in this location, the provision of which will provide a very significant benefit to health and well-being. The allocated status of the site is significant, in that if not developed, an alternative must be found elsewhere, which may well be less rather than more sustainable in location and detail.
20. On balance, it is recommended that the appropriation of the site be re-confirmed.

## Options considered:

The options in this case are to re-confirm or rescind Decision Notice 21/22 DP 130 as discussed in the body of this report.

**Financial implications:**

As detailed in Decision Notice 21/22 DP 130.

**Legal powers and implications:**

As detailed in Decision Notice 21/22 DP 130.

**Climate change and environmental implications:**

As detailed in Decision Notice 21/22 DP 130.

**Consultation:**

Information on consultation in relation to appropriation was provided in Decision Notice 21/22 DP 130 and is further summarised in Appendix B below.

**Risk management:**

As detailed in Decision Notice 21/22 DP 130.

**Equality implications:**

As detailed in Decision Notice 21/22 DP 130.

**Corporate implications:**

As detailed in Decision Notice 21/22 DP 130.

**Appendices:**

Appendix A: Evidence of need for residential development  
Appendix B: Consideration of impacts of loss of open space

Please note the considerations in these appendices are *additional* to those in Decision Notice 21/22 DP130, which should also be referenced.

**Background papers:**

Decision Notice 21/22 DP 130, available at: <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/council-democracy/councillors-committees/decisions-meetings/executive-member-decisions/2021-executive-member-decisions/july-2021-executive-member-decisions>.

**Signatories:**

**Decision-maker(s):**



Signed:

Executive Member for Assets and Capital Delivery

Date: 4 October 2021.



Signed:

Director of Place

Date: 4 October 2021

And Assistant Director Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer

## EVIDENCE OF NEED FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

### 1. Five-year housing supply

The Council is required to demonstrate a deliverable supply of 10,349 dwellings for the five year period from April 2020 – March 2025. This translates to an annual figure of 2,070 dwellings per year.

The current forecast housing supply (including this site) is 8,618 homes, equating to 1,723 dwellings per year.

Overall this represents a shortfall of 346 homes per year.

The weight placed on the importance of a five-year housing supply is shown in the appeal case which permitted 450 homes on nearby land at Youngwood Lane (planning ref 16/P/1677/OT2), in which the Inspector commented that:

*“There would be social benefits arising from the provision of up to 450 new dwellings 30% of which would be affordable. This is the weightiest factor in the overall balance. Indeed, given that the Council is unable to demonstrate a 5-year supply of housing and in view of the Framework’s aim to boost significantly the supply of housing, it must, in accordance with the Framework, carry significant weight.”*

The Uplands site will provide 52 homes, equivalent to 2.5% of the annual requirement.

Whilst this is a relatively small amount, it remains a part of the five-year supply, and in the event that it does not come forward, alternative provision must be found that can be delivered within the same timescale.

This increases the likelihood of development taking place on unallocated and potentially less suitable sites.

In total the dwellings will provide homes for around 100 – 150 residents at any given time.

### 2. Evidence of local housing need

In Q1 of 2021/22, North Somerset Council had 2,492 active applicants on its housing register for social and affordable rent (the HomeChoice Register).

This figure typically grows by approximately 100 each month, as around 140 new requests are received in comparison to around 40 – 45 being homed. The register is reviewed in January each year to ensure non-current requests are removed; this typically leads to the removal of about 100 applicants.

The Uplands site is in the area categorised on the register as Nailsea West End. The figures for those seeking housing in this location are as shown in the tables below:

	<b>Band A</b>	<b>Band B</b>	<b>Band C</b>	<b>Band D</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Seeking houses / bungalows</b>					
2	5	33	109	45	192
3	5	29	80	15	129
4+	4	14	22	0	41
<b>Seeking apartments / maisonettes</b>					
1	30	75	177	42	324
2	4	12	29	6	51
3+	1	1	7	3	12
<b>Seeking sheltered housing</b>					
1	13	24	76	15	128
2	1	2	6	1	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>887</b>

Waiting lists for other parts of Nailsea are similar, but will include duplicates, as applicants can register for housing in more than one location.

Comments from the affordable housing team are that the register does not give a full picture of housing need, because some who are eligible do not register (typically this may happen in locations where it is known that no affordable housing is available), nor does it include the need for other types of affordable housing such as shared ownership. There is a separate register held by Help to Buy South and not all people in need will register in both.

Assuming policy compliance, nearby developments at Engine Lane and Youngwood Lane will provide a total of 189 affordable homes. This falls significantly short of meeting the requirements identified above.

The Uplands will provide a minimum of 30% affordable housing, equating to 15 homes. 12 will be social rent and 3 shared ownership, providing housing for around 36 people at any given time. The council will seek to increase this amount through procurement and grant processes.

### **3. Adaptable and accessible housing**

The HomeChoice housing register includes information on those needing a home that is wheelchair adaptable (meeting M4(2) standard) or fully accessible (M4(3) standard). For the Nailsea West End area, there are 41 people seeking M4(2) properties and 14 requiring M4(3) properties, all within Bands A – C need.

This represents those who need of adaptable / accessible social or affordable rented units. There will also be people who are seeking market properties that are adaptable/accessible.

At least eight of the homes at The Uplands will meet M4(2) requirements, and eight of the affordable homes will meet M4(3) standards. This exceeds planning policy requirements.

#### **4. Other considerations in relation to housing needs**

- The housing at The Uplands is in line with a specific mix specified for Nailsea in the Local Plan, designed to meet local needs. This results in a greater than average proportion of two-bedroom houses.
- A number of the homes have been designed to be suitable for downsizing.
- Most of the homes have been provided with offices, 'snugs' or other spaces suitable for working from home.

## CONSIDERATION OF SOCIAL IMPACTS OF LOSS OF OPEN SPACE

### 1) Importance of issue to current users of space and other consultation respondents

The table below provides information on the numbers of responses raised during each of the consultations in relation to this site (not just the appropriation consultation), along with a summary of the issues raised. This is provided as a means of gauging the value of the open space to local people.

Consultation	No. responses	Summary of issues raised
Sites & Allocations Plan	28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contrary to designation as Public Open Space</li> <li>• Inadequate highway access Poor surrounding road network</li> <li>• Impact on wildlife</li> <li>• Landscape impact</li> <li>• Lack of employment opportunities in Nailsea.</li> <li>• Outside the mains drainage area.</li> </ul> <p>Nailsea Town Council: request for site allocation to be reduced from original proposal of 100 homes to 50 (this was agreed and actioned).</p>
1 <sup>st</sup> stage pre-application consultation (public event)	<p>Approx. 60 residents attended exhibition.</p> <p>16 written responses received.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of open space.</li> <li>• Vehicular access.</li> <li>• Emergency access.</li> <li>• Parking.</li> <li>• Cumulative impacts alongside other developments.</li> <li>• Appropriateness of design to setting.</li> <li>• Height of properties.</li> <li>• Traffic increase.</li> <li>• Previous planning application.</li> <li>• Ecology.</li> <li>• Maintenance &amp; upkeep.</li> <li>• Density.</li> <li>• Crime.</li> <li>• Conflict of interest.</li> <li>• Drainage.</li> </ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> stage pre-application consultation (web-based / postal)	8	<p>As above, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased importance of open space due to Covid.</li> <li>• Underestimate of traffic impacts.</li> <li>• Insufficient provision for occupants with mobility issues.</li> <li>• Concern that use of footpath will increase.</li> </ul>

Consultation	No. responses	Summary of issues raised
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation materials / methods inadequate.</li> </ul>
Planning application (statutory consultation)	151 + a further 32 following re-consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close proximity to existing houses, overlooking, overshadowing, loss of light and overbearing.</li> <li>• Insufficient car parking provision on site and roads too narrow.</li> <li>• Increased traffic in neighbourhood and nearby lanes. Hazardous highway access from The Uplands, insufficient visibility for neighbouring properties.</li> <li>• The development should have more green open space and will impact on ecology.</li> <li>• Overdevelopment and out of character with neighbourhood. New houses are too high</li> <li>• Insufficient community facilities for new residents.</li> <li>• Loss of public open space, dog walking and sports area.</li> <li>• Too many houses in neighbourhood in combination with sites at Youngwood and Engine Lane.</li> <li>• Increased flood risk and pollution.</li> </ul>
Appropriation	131 (129 objections; 2 support). Subsequent to Panel meeting further 92 (91 objections; 1 support)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of open space and recreation area.</li> <li>• Ecology impacts and loss of wildlife; richness of flora and fauna on site.</li> <li>• Lack of alternative similar open space nearby.</li> <li>• Other developments in the area are contributing to an increase in residents, increasing the need for this open space.</li> <li>• Proposals are contrary to NSC policies on climate change, green infrastructure and health &amp; well-being.</li> </ul>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>458</b>	

Links to full consultation reports are as follows:

- Sites & Allocations Plan: <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/SD14%20consultation%20draft%20consultation%20statement.pdf>
- Pre-application consultations: [https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/files/CE758522BFD8AABF70C05C5261071AEE/pdf/20\\_P\\_2000\\_R3-PUBLIC\\_CONSULTATION\\_REPORT\\_1\\_-2957288.pdf](https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/files/CE758522BFD8AABF70C05C5261071AEE/pdf/20_P_2000_R3-PUBLIC_CONSULTATION_REPORT_1_-2957288.pdf)
- Planning consultation: [https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/files/30C400C7D381EC4C91139FED3D925100/pdf/20\\_P\\_2000\\_R3-COMMITTEE\\_REPORT\\_17\\_FEBRUARY\\_2021-3013094.pdf](https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/files/30C400C7D381EC4C91139FED3D925100/pdf/20_P_2000_R3-COMMITTEE_REPORT_17_FEBRUARY_2021-3013094.pdf)
- Appropriation: see Appendix III.



Comments on the mix of respondents and weight of responses are that:

- A number of individuals responded on multiple occasions to the different consultations. An analysis of the responses to the first pre-application consultation, for example, shows that 13 of the 16 respondents also submitted comments to the appropriation consultation. This demonstrates strength of feeling, but also that the total number of individual respondents is less than 410.
- Responses objecting to the development and appropriation included Nailsea Town Council and the Nailsea Action Group (NAG) thereby representing a greater number of residents.
- If all 410 responses were from different individuals, this would represent 2.6% of the population of Nailsea, which is 15,546 (ONS 2019 mid-year estimate).
- In the view of officers who have read these responses, the loss of open space was the overwhelming concern of respondents. This is shown in the analysis of the first round of pre-application consultation, when all 16 written respondents raised concerns about the loss of space in their submissions.

## **2) Availability of alternative open space**

### **a) Standards for provision**

North Somerset Council's Development Contributions SPD sets standards for the provision of green infrastructure on new developments, taking account of the amenity, biodiversity and other benefits provided by such spaces.

These standards are designed for new developments, rather than for assessing levels of existing infrastructure, but are a useful proxy in the absence of an over-arching NSC standard.

As an overall standard (although not specifically referenced in the SPD), landscape officers at NSC typically ask for an average 15sqm per dwelling on new developments across a mixture of typologies. These typologies are not all necessarily open to the public; some may be for the benefit of biodiversity etc.

The open space at The Uplands falls into the typology of "Neighbourhood Open Space", for which the requirement of is 6 sqm per person within a maximum 480m straight line distance from any property. This type of space is described as "*Accessible. Informal green spaces offering opportunities for recreation and biodiversity. Used by residents of the local neighbourhood.*"

Potentially it could be argued that the site could be considered as a Community Park. The description of community parks is "*Accessible. Informal green spaces offering opportunities for recreation and biodiversity. Used by local people from, and beyond, the immediate neighbourhood.*" The standard of provision required is the same as for neighbourhood space (6sqm per person), but the maximum distance specified is 600m.

Part of the site is woodland, however that area will remain unchanged by the development (other than some careful clearance of scrub to improve access and biodiversity).

The Nailsea population according to the ONS 2019 mid-year estimates was 15,546. Based on the North Somerset average number of residents per household of 2.4 persons, this equates to an estimated 6,478 households.

**a) Availability of open space – quantitative assessment**

This section refers to two records of open space available to the council:

- i. Sites designated in the Sites and Policies Plan (SAP) as Local Green Space. These are a limited number of spaces identified as the most important locally, and protected against development, both publicly and privately owned. The list was created as part of a Local Green Space (LGS) Evidence Paper, which was consulted on in 2013. The consultation led to the addition of a number of extra sites nominated by respondents, primarily Town and Parish Councils. The list does not include the land at The Uplands.
- ii. The council’s asset register, listing land specifically in the ownership of North Somerset Council (therefore excluding any land owned by the Parish Council or private bodies). The phrase “public open space” in the context of the asset register does not represent a formal planning designation, but is generally used to refer to any sort of undeveloped space to which the public have access. The asset register lists 159 landholdings in Nailsea within this category (including land at The Uplands). In addition, the register separately identifies 12 locations as allotments, play areas, nature reserves, parks, playing fields and woodland, which are referred to in the table below as “other green infrastructure”.

The table below sets out the quantum of open space available according to these two records, both including and excluding The Uplands:

		Sites & Policies Plan	Asset register – open space only	Asset register – all green infrastructure
Including land at The Uplands	Number of sites	18	159	171
	Total quantity of space (sqm)	227,500	184,866	347,457
	Sqm per person	14.63	11.89	22.35
	Sqm per household	35.12	28.54	53.64
Excluding land at The Uplands	Number of sites	N/a (Uplands not designated as LGS)	158	170
	Total quantity of space (sqm)		159,256	321,846
	Sqm per person		10.24	20.70
	Sqm per household		24.56	49.69

The council's asset register includes a number of very small spaces, which may have less benefit in amenity value as open space. Taking account only of sites of more than 500sqm, revised figures for quantity are provided below:

		Asset register – open space only, > 500sqm	Asset register – all green infrastructure, > 500sqm
Including land at The Uplands	Number of sites	37	49
	Total quantity of space (sqm)	169,700	332,291
	Sqm per person	10.92	21.37
	Sqm per household	26.20	51.30
Excluding land at The Uplands	Number of sites	36	48
	Total quantity of space (sqm)	144,089	306,680
	Sqm per person	9.27	19.73
	Sqm per household	22.24	47.34

Comments are as follows:

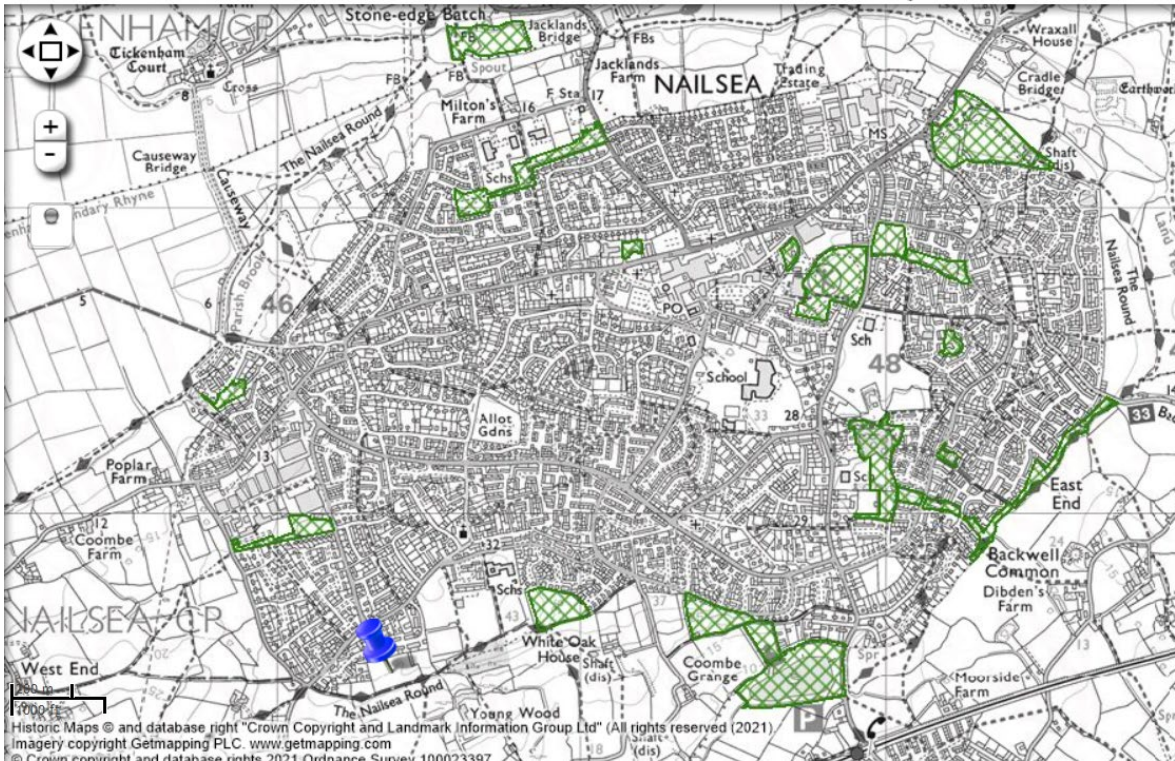
- The loss of The Uplands at 25,610. square metres, if fully developed, would represent a 7.7% reduction in the open space / green infrastructure listed in the asset register. It is the largest site at Nailsea specifically listed as open space and one of only three that are more than 2ha (although other forms of green infrastructure are larger).
- Even after the loss of The Uplands and excluding sites of less than 500sqm, the quantum of open space is very significantly above the 15sqm per household standard, potentially double or triple this amount.
- The Uplands is not listed as a Local Green Space in the Sites and Allocations Plan, so its loss does not impact on the availability of that category of space.

**b) Availability of open space – distance from The Uplands**

The sites referred to above are shown on the maps below:

(i) Local Green Spaces (Sites & Allocations Plan):

The spaces listed for Nailsea are shown on the plan below. The blue pin indicates The Uplands site and Local Green Spaces are shown hatched green:



(ii) Asset register:

The map below shows all land at Nailsea which is in the ownership of North Somerset Council (not just open space / green infrastructure). The location the site at The Uplands is marked with a blue cross. Other open space sites of more than 0.5ha are marked with red crosses, and Millennium Park and Nowhere Woods with purple crosses.



- It can be seen from these two maps that the majority of LGS / open spaces are in central / East Nailsea.
- The closest alternative open space to The Uplands is land at Sedgemoor Close. This 2.1ha, making it one of the three largest open spaces in the ownership of North Somerset Council (but smaller than other forms of green infrastructure).
- The straight line distance from the centre of the site at The Uplands to the centre of land at Sedgemoor Close is approximately 500m, which is in excess of the 480m required for Neighbourhood Open Spaces, but less than the 600m required for Community Parks. The walking distance is further.

### **c) Availability of open space – other factors**

The quantitative information above takes no account of qualitative factors in terms of whether or not the sites are similar to The Uplands, or whether or not the sites are fully publicly accessible (for example, some of the playing fields are for school use).

Six of the sites listed in the SAP are referred to as “informal” in nature, including the Sedgemoor Close site.

The sites listed as ‘open space’ on the council’s asset register will mostly be informal and open in character, as those which are formal are generally designated as other forms of infrastructure (playing fields, parks). However as above, many are very small and only three, including the Uplands site, are more than 2ha in size.

### **d) Continued provision of open space at The Uplands**

The development of The Uplands would significantly change the open nature of the site, but would not result in the wholesale loss of green infrastructure.

Around 35% of the site will remain unchanged, or enhanced, as green areas, most notably the woodland at 0.5ha, the bridleway, and ecological buffer areas adjacent to these. The bridleway and woodland will remain fully accessible to the public.

Overall, more than 50% of the site will remain ‘green’ in some way, although this includes private / shared gardens.

A landscape masterplan of the proposed development is provided below:



**SHARED GARDENS:**  
The private back gardens of the terrace will have access on to a communal garden.

**THE GREEN HUB:**  
The landscape adjacent to the Shared Gardens will be vibrant and interactive. The planting will be naturalistic in character with herbs and fruits carefully integrated into the meadow and hedgerows. Informal seating will define the spaces.

**SHARED WOODLAND COURTYARD GARDEN:**  
The building clusters will open up onto a shared communal space. Each of these gardens will have a different landscape character.

**BAT / ECOLOGY CORRIDOR:**  
This corridor is predominantly for bats but will be a haven for other wildlife.

EXISTING BIRCHWAY

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↑  
Scale: 1:1000 @ A3

SEED\_landscape design LTD

<b>Partnerships and Corporate Organisation Overview Management Policy and Scrutiny Panel</b>	
<b>Steering/Working Group Activity, Progress and Outcome Report</b>	
Title	<b>ICT Scrutiny Steering Group</b>
Membership	Councillors: Geoff Richardson, John Cato, Peter Crew Officers: Mike Riggall, Stuart Anstead, Simone Woolley (as required)
Purpose	To meet as required to a) maintain a forward view of council ICT arrangements and b) consider any issues arising
Report	<p>Matters considered by the group to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICT Strategy – whilst Council ICT had developed rapidly over the past 18 months, the need for further improvements had been recognised. Forward planning was looking at the capital planning sequence until 2026, with a 3 year forward view on capital spend. Following a discussion on the various ICT systems in current use across council services, members asked for this to be mapped on a single page for discussion at the next meeting. Members also spoke about data quality given that this is largely to a good standard within acknowledged systems but could be more problematic when considering unstructured information and how that is stored and retained.</li> <li>• Members' ICT - it was agreed that any thematic issues should be channelled through this working group. Cllr Crew agreed to contact members who were persistently having problems with their iPads and arranged a support session at the Town Hall earlier in October. A review of ICT equipment for members was timely, particularly given that ModernGov implementation had broken the reliance on iPads that had been incumbent from previously used meetings platforms.</li> <li>• ModernGov – this was at an early stage of implementation, and members agreed the value of early useability evaluations to monitor progress. A review of other functionality will be undertaken.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agilisys contract – members considered the timetable outline and agreed to review a high level options appraisal at their next meeting.</li> </ul> <p>The next meeting will review cyber/data security as a priority issue.</p>
Title	<b>Financial Management Scrutiny Steering Group</b>
Membership	Councillors: Geoff Richardson, Peter Crew Officers: Amy Webb, Melanie Watts
Purpose	Financial planning – forward engagement in the rolling financial planning programme and budget setting process
Report	<p>The group has met to consider an MTFP update, including resource and spending assumptions, along with potential and emerging pressures and risks. The approach to closing the budget gap focused on transformation rather than cuts to front line services. The group supported the development of an engagement plan to support both internal and public engagement with positive messaging for service cuts/reviews.</p> <p>PCOM hosted a budget scrutiny session in December for all Councillors</p>
Title	<b>Accommodation Strategy Scrutiny Working Group</b>
Membership	Councillors: Geoff Richardson, Stuart McQuillan, Peter Crew, John Cato, Robert Payne Officers: Amy Webb, Alex Hearn, Jenny Ford
Purpose	<p>To scrutinise development of the Accommodation Strategy which considers the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The development of a strategic framework setting core principles for the future use and management of the council's assets to enable the successful delivery of council services</li> <li>The Council's own ways of working and use of office accommodation</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The investment, divestment or disposal for our potential development sites, including legal and financial advice on delivery mechanism</li> </ul>
Report	<p>The Panel has hosted several sessions, some of which were extended to include all councillors to maximise engagement with the strategy.</p> <p>The working group met in October to consider a progress update and the phased timeline.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>July-Oct 2021 – concept design (space planning) – developing a vision: staff survey completed to help shape workstyle development – mobile, flexible, fixed. Workstyles may evolve and will also take personal circumstances into account. The relevant policies and strategies such as homeworking, flexible working and ICT have also been reviewed, along with the development of toolkits and guidance for staff</li> <li>Oct-Dec 2021 – feasibility and definition</li> <li>Jan-Sept 2022 - design delivery</li> <li>Sept-Oct 2022 – completion of Town Hall refurbishment and exit from Castlewood</li> </ol> <p>Members remain reassured by the extensive internal communication and engagement work with staff to identify workstyles, capture teams specific space requirements and capture feedback, supported by clear and regular messaging to staff throughout.</p> <p>There was more detailed discussion as to concept design and the flexible working models, to which members were supportive. Carbon issues remained fundamental to the scoping of the district wide picture to deliver services</p>
Title	<b>Public Participation in meetings</b>
Membership	Councillors: Geoff Richardson, John Cato Officers: Nick Brain, Sue Efford, Philippa Penney
Purpose	This piece of work was to respond to the points raised by public speakers at the most recent call-in meeting about public participation and to review any areas for improvement.

Report	<p>The main areas for review were grouped as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NSC website navigation and terminology</li><li>• Public speaking arrangements</li><li>• Publication of reports and minutes</li></ul> <p>The is an ongoing piece of work which will report its conclusions to a future Panel meeting.</p>
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