

Public Document Pack

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Date: 3 March 2022

Dear Sir or Madam

The Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel – Thursday, 10 March 2022, 2.30 pm – New Council Chamber, Town Hall

A meeting of the Place 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 Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Councillors:

John Crockford-Hawley (Chairman), Peter Crew (Vice-Chairman), Mike Bird, Gill Bute, John Cato, James Clayton, Sarah Codling, Mark Crosby, Karin Haverson, Patrick Keating, James Tonkin and Richard Westwood.

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

Agenda

1. Election of the Vice Chairman

Endorsement of the Panel's nomination of the Vice-Chairman at the informal meeting of the Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel held on 14th July 2021.

2. Apologies for absence and notification of substitutes

3. Public Discussion (Standing Order SS09)

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 Head of Legal and Democratic Services, 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. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

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 (Pages 5 - 16)

5.1 Minutes of the last formal Meeting of the Panel held on 10th March 2021 – to approve as a correct record

5.2 Notes of the informal panel meetings held on 14th July 2021 and 24th November 2021 – for noting

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

7. Development Programme (Pages 17 - 22)

Report of the Head of Development and Placemaking.

8. Place finance update (Pages 23 - 30)

Report of the Finance Business Partner (Place).

9. Place Panel Work Plan - March 2022 (Pages 31 - 36)

Discussion to include items listed on the Work Plan and:

- future delivery of the highways service – establishment of working group
- bus services
- any other items proposed by Members

Exempt Items

Should the Place 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 Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel be invited to remain.”

Mobile phones and other mobile devices

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

Filming and recording of meetings

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

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

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

Emergency Evacuation Procedure

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

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

Last person out to close the door.

Do not stop to collect personal belongings.

Do not use the lifts.

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

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

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



Minutes

of the Meeting of the

Strategic Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Panel Wednesday, 10th March 2021

held in the Virtual Meeting.

Meeting Commenced: 14:30 Meeting Concluded: 16:22

Councillors:

P John Crockford-Hawley (Chairman)
P Peter Crew (Vice Chairman)

P Richard Tucker
P Steve Bridger
P Gill Bute
P Sarah Codling
P Mark Crosby
P Karin Haverson
A Steve Hogg
P Huw James
P Patrick Keating

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

Also in attendance: Councillor James Tonkin

Officers in attendance: Michael Reep, Richard Kent, Claire Courtois, Joy Milsom, Marcus Hewlett, Colin Medus, Alex Hearn, James Wigmore, Jack Wyatt (Place); Mike Rigall, Leo Taylor, Brent Cross (Corporate Services)

SPR 16 Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interest (Standing Order 37)

None.

SPR 17 Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 November 2020 (Agenda Item 4)

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting be approved subject to the following amendment: the attendance list in the minutes be corrected.

**SPR 18 Reference from the full Council Meeting – 23rd February 2021
Motions by Members (Standing Order No. 14) End our Cladding and
EWS1 Scandal (Councillor Keating) (COU153) (Agenda Item 5)**

Concluded; that a joint task-and-finish working group with the ASH Panel be

established to take evidence from residents, appropriate officers and elected Members, and make policy recommendations to a future meeting of the Council in all urgency.

SPR 19 North Somerset Local Plan (Agenda Item 6)

The Chairman explained that this item was part of a series of briefings brought before the Panel to seek the input of SPEDR, and thanked Cllr Tonkin for his engagement with town and parish councils as well as Cllrs James and Cronnelly for their engagement with young people on this topic as the Council's Young People's Champions. He also emphasised that the intention was not to discuss any specific sites for development at this stage, as this would happen later in the development of the Local Plan.

The Planning Policy Manager delivered the report recommending that the Panel consider the issues arising from and feedback received on the Challenges and Choices stage of the North Somerset Local Plan and make recommendations to the Executive Committee in respect of the approach to be taken to the selection of the preferred spatial strategy and key issues identified in the report.

The following questions and comments were received from Members (officer replies in italics):

- The Council's Young People's Champion asked that his thanks be put on record for the communication the Planning Team and the Executive Member had had with young people. He also wished to investigate the possibility that the views of younger and disabled people be given more weight in the consultation process.
- The misconception that people had of green fields versus Green Belt land was discussed, which led to the question of what the 'exceptional circumstances' were for being able to place development in the Green Belt. *There is no specific definition as to what constitutes an exceptional circumstance in relation to amendments to the Green Belt.*
- The Local Housing Needs Assessment was being jointly prepared with the West of England authorities, and was to be ready before the end of April. Would housing design be incorporated in the Local Plan? *Work was being done with WECA on the Placemaking Charter, and design aspects were being actively considered.*
- What was the weighting for planning application appeals between the existing and the new local plan? *The new local plan is at an early stage of preparation and will acquire weight as plan making progresses.*
- Under the existing plan, renewable energy projects had not been permitted in the Green Belt. Would this be changing? *This was one of the policy areas that were being looked at.*

Concluded: that it be **recommended** to the Executive:

that it applies the following principles to inform its consideration of the Local Plan preferred spatial strategy:

1: Priority should 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 where there are opportunities to

encourage active travel, particularly at locations which are currently, or have the potential to be, well served by public transport.

2: Employment opportunities should be encouraged at accessible locations well-related to the urban areas and on sustainable transport corridors.

3: Residential development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided outside the towns.

4: The amount of development at villages and in the countryside should be minimised and should relate to local community needs.

In addition, the Local Plan must ensure that new development demonstrates high quality design standards and energy efficiency.

SPR 20 Wyndham Way Study (Portishead) Area (Agenda Item 7)

The Assistant Director (Placemaking and Growth) presented a report on the collaborative working between North Somerset Council, Portishead Town Council and Aberdeen Standard Investments along with local business representatives, in which the challenges and opportunities of development of brownfield land near the site of the future MetroWest station.

Members were asked to consider and support the partnership approach used, the policy and commercial issues presented by the enterprise, and the overall intended Stage 2 process in preparation of a Development Framework.

Concluded:

(1) that the report be noted, and comments sent to officers in the form of minutes; and

(2) that the Panel supported the work thus far, as well as the forthcoming Stage 2 work.

SPR 21 North Somerset Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Review (Agenda Item 8)

The Lead Transport Planner and the Transport Policy Officer jointly gave a presentation on the preparatory work that had been done before public consultation on the review of the Parking Standards SPD.

The review set out the approach to parking, cycle parking, electric vehicle charge points and the minimum number of parking spaces for new developments. The reduction in spaces was not being imposed on developers, but rather allowed them flexibility in design and did not include features such as garages and rear parking courts.

The Panel's approval of the review was being sought prior to taking the proposal to the Executive Committee before public consultation could begin. The results of the consultation would then be brought back before the Panel.

Officers responded to Members' comments and queries as follows:

- There were issues with parking spaces in existing developments, such as in Portishead and Locking Castle; would the new SPDs help in these developments? *Prior to the 2013 standards, NSC used 'maximum standards' at new developments which resulted in parking*

issues at Port Marine/Locking Castle. The 2013 standards introduced minimum standards to avoid these issues. The proposed update would retain these minimum standards but enable a reduction in accessible locations in line with the proposed assessment. In the cases of Locking Castle/Port Marine, the revised standards, even with the proposed discount, would provide more usable spaces than was provided at these developments and the required parking provision would exclude garage spaces and rear parking courts to ensure spaces are usable.

- Some surfacings were more environmentally friendly for parking spaces, such as grasscrete compared to concrete. Was this within scope of the SPD? *This was not covered by the SPD.*

Concluded:

(1) that the report be noted, and comments sent to officers in the form of minutes; and

(2) that the Panel supported the work thus far, and would consider the consultation results when they were available.

SPR 22 SPEDR Panel Work Plan - March 2021 (Agenda Item 9)

The Democratic Services Officer presented the Panel's Work Plan and asked for Members' input into areas to focus on.

The Sustainability Coordinator updated Members on the review of the Creating Sustainable Buildings and Places SPD, which was out for public consultation and was to be an interim improvement on the existing SPD until the Local Plan was introduced in 2023.

The Scrutiny Officer referred Members to the Work Plan appendix containing a note of Members' conclusions at the informal Draft Active Travel Plan briefing held on 18th February 2021. It was confirmed that the Panel endorsed these conclusions supporting the draft strategy, including the proposed areas for strengthening following the public consultation and:

Concluded: that it be **Recommended** to Council that the proposed Active Travel Strategy be endorsed.

In response to a query about the outcome of the recent Planning Peer Review, Members noted that a report would be provided at or before the next formal SPEDR meeting.

Concluded: that the work plan be updated, picking up actions and discussion outcomes from the present meeting.

Chairman

Notes

of the Informal Meeting of the

Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Wednesday, 14th July 2021

held in the Virtual Meeting.

Meeting Commenced: 14:30 Meeting Concluded: 16:15

Councillors:

P John Crockford-Hawley (Chairman)

P Peter Crew

A Mike Bird

A Gill Bute

A Sarah Codling

P Mark Crosby

A Karin Haverson

P Huw James

A Patrick Keating

P James Tonkin

A Richard Westwood

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

Also in attendance: Councillor Steve Bridger; Councillor Geoff Richardson.

Officers in attendance: Lucy Shomali, Michael Reep, Richard Kent, Jane Harrison, Alastair Shankland (Place); Leo Taylor, Brent Cross (Corporate Services)

PLA Nomination of the Vice Chairman

Cllr Crew indicated that he was content to continue as the Vice chairman for the 2021-22 municipal year. The Panel agreed that he be duly nominated pending formal endorsement at the next full meeting of the Panel.

PLA Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 March 2021 (Agenda Item 2)

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting be approved.

PLA Place Annual Directorate Statement (Agenda Item 3)

The Director of Place set out the Place Annual Directorate Statement for 2021/22. The work programme reflected the breadth of activities and work

streams to be delivered by the directorate, and the names and teams dealing with each work area would be able to be shared shortly.

There was discussion around the key challenges facing the directorate with Members noting that the new directorate structure had been developed as a means to addressing these by better integrating and streamlining the directorate functions and more effectively utilising teams on the ground.

There was also debate about how the Panel might more effectively contribute to the directorate's work with the view expressed that there was a need to manage expectations and for mutual understanding around resource and statutory constraints. This was a two-way process though and clarity around the prioritisation of resource was key.

In further discussion, Members commented on the need for realism about the long list of planned work and the need for prioritisation. The Director acknowledged the point but emphasised that all of the work identified was important. It was not about quantity but rather about timescale: the need for realistic actions plans and for managing expectation around timeframes for delivery.

Members also noted the high rate of successful funding bids and congratulated officers.

Concluded;

- (1) that the report be noted, and comments sent to officers in the form of minutes; and
- (2) that a working group be set up towards the end of the year to contribute to the development of the priorities for the 2022/23 Annual Directorate Statement.

PLA North Somerset Local Plan Update (Agenda Item 4)

The Planning Policy Manager presented the report updating Members on the progress of work on the Local Plan. Work had been progressing on refining the broad locations for growth, the role of the Green Belt, the approach to rural areas and policy development.

Concluded:

- (1) that the report be noted, and comments sent to officers in the form of minutes; and
- (2) that a working group be set up to scrutinise and advise the emerging work streams.

PLA Inward Investment in North Somerset (Agenda Item 5)

The Head of Economy, assisted by the Principal Economic Development Officer, presented a report updating, informing and requesting input from Members on the work around inward investment and the Junction 21 Enterprise Area.

Discussion centred around premises for inward investment outside the Weston Business Quarter, engaging with site owners, the demographics of

towns in the district and how this would be of value to investors, identifying symbiotic opportunities for investment, liaising with Local Plan officers to identify investment opportunities, how areas for investment are investigated by investors, and the need for buy-in from residents.

Concluded:

That the report be noted, and comments sent to officers in the form of minutes.

PLA SPEDR Panel Work Plan - July 2021 (Agenda Item 6)

The Scrutiny Officer presented the Panel's Work Plan and asked for Members' input into areas to focus on. Members were reminded that the recommendation to the Executive Member, to support the adoption of the Local List procedure, would need to be retrospectively endorsed. The Panel agreed the recommendation, noting that this would be formally endorsed by the Panel at its next formal meeting.

The current status of the Cladding Working Group was reported on. The Head of Legal Services had given the advice to not sign up to the End Our Cladding Scandal campaign. The affected buildings in Portishead were being used for a case study, and the Panel was waiting for more details about this to emerge before proceeding. Officers would liaise with national government.

Members also suggested that an all-Member briefing about WECA would be useful. It was agreed that scrutiny officers explore options with WECA officers

Concluded: that the work plan be updated, picking up actions and discussion outcomes from the present meeting.

Chairman

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Notes

of the Informal Meeting of the

Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel Wednesday, 24th November 2021

held as a Virtual Meeting.

Meeting Commenced: 14:30 Meeting Concluded: 16:15

Councillors:

P John Crockford-Hawley (Chairman)

P Peter Crew

P Mike Bird

A Gill Bute

P John Cato

A James Clayton

A Sarah Codling

P Mark Crosby

P Karin Haverson

P Patrick Keating

P James Tonkin

A Richard Westwood

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

Also in attendance: Councillor Mike Solomon.

Officers in attendance: Lucy Shomali, Jo Jones, Gemma Dando, John Flannigan, Emma Wellard, Michael Reep, Richard Kent (Place); Leo Taylor, Brent Cross (Corporate Services)

PLA Notes of the Meeting held on 14 July 2021 (Agenda Item 2)

Resolved: that the notes of the meeting be approved.

PLA Month 5 Place Directorate Budget Monitor (Agenda Item 6)

As officers needed to attend another meeting, the Panel agreed that this item be moved forward.

The Finance Business Partner went through the Month 5 Place Budget Monitor report and highlighted the current predicted overspend of £1.856m. This was mostly the result of the Covid-19 pandemic impacts which were detailed in the report, although other pressures on the budget, such as the

increased demand on the Home to School Transport Service and reduced programme savings related to staffing, played a role. The Director of Place confirmed that the budget position statement for month 7, which was currently being worked on, showed that some of the deficits were decreasing and some of the overspends were expected to reduce through the year.

Members and officers then discussed: recovery of parking receipt and library service shortfalls and managing these through MTFP planning; whether parking charges across the district would be looked at over the long term; that the outsourced litter enforcement team was not yet making a surplus due to staffing issues, but that once a surplus was reached this would be shared with North Somerset Council; options were being explored with town and parish councils to share resourcing for assets such as street lighting, litter bins, dog waste bins and allotments; how the garden waste service income had exceeded anticipated targets, but a cost could be incurred in providing compensation for gaps in service; that ways to relieve pressure on the Home to School Transport Service were being explored and would be an area of focus for the coming year.

Concluded: that the report be noted, and comments sent to officers in the form of minutes.

PLA Rewilding and Great Lakes Update (Agenda Item 3)

The Community and Environment Service Manager updated the Panel on work being done on Rewilding and the Great Lakes Project.

In discussion, the following points were raised on rewilding: whether there had been any negative feedback from communities regarding tree planting work, and the resulting changes in policy that open spaces which were targeted for tree planting were now better signposted beforehand, and that communities that preferred their open spaces not be planted would have these rewilded instead; that the aim of the rewilding projects was to increase biodiversity and not to save the Council money by reducing maintenance; the success rate of tree planting and the impacts of vandalism; the feasibility of and costs associated with planting wild flowers instead of natural growth; the land targeted for rewilding, and the peatland recovery project with Natural England on moorland; whether tree planting or hedgerows could be part of planning policy for new developments under the new Local Plan; encouraging the planting of memorial and birth trees.

Members then discussed the Great Lakes Project and the following points arose: the importance of Weston Marine Lake being reopened by the summer season; that the MMO licence was expected to be granted around February, and the direction from consultants that the aim was to redistribute the estuary's silt budget from the Lake; that EDF were allocating some of their contractors to assist with work at Portishead Lake Grounds, and details on this were expected imminently; that as Portishead Lake Grounds was a freshwater lake, silt build-up could not be redistributed to the estuary and could potentially be used as topsoil depending on the level of pollutants.

Concluded: that the report be received, and comments sent to officers in the form of minutes.

PLA Libraries Strategy Update (Agenda Item 4)

The Head of Libraries and Community went through the update report on the Libraries Strategy, which reflected community needs pre-Covid and during the post-Covid recovery phase. She highlighted that the report covered activity in the first two quarters, as well as work done to secure funding from Arts Council England.

Discussion centred around: library support for speakers of other languages to further position libraries as learning spaces within communities; the possibility of using libraries as surgeries for town and District Councillors; the progress of the asset review, and the possibility of an Arts Centre in Nailsea; how S106 funds had been used for libraries; and the possible expansion of the music service in libraries.

Concluded: that the report be received, and comments sent to officers in the form of minutes.

PLA Local Plan Update (Agenda Item 5)

The Planning Policy Manager presented the report on the Local Plan, and reminded Members that the final report on the preferred option would go to the Executive Committee in February. He thanked the Community and Environment Service Manager for his input on the suggestion that a tree planting policy for new developments could be incorporated into the Local Plan, and would further investigate this. He drew attention to paragraph 3.9 of the report, which detailed critical issues that had been raised during the plan-making process, and asked the Panel to consider these.

In discussing the report, Members were concerned that there would be a perception that the public had not been consulted on the plan, and were assured that the draft plan would be consulted on in the new year, and again after the final draft plan had been written.

Members discussed how people could be informed that North Somerset Council had no control over the housing numbers allocated by national government.

Members also discussed the training for Members of the Planning and Regulatory Committee.

There was additionally to be an all-Member briefing on the Local Plan on the 1st of December.

Concluded: That the report be received, and comments sent to officers in the form of minutes.

PLA Place Panel Work Plan - November 2021 (Agenda Item 7)

The Scrutiny Officer presented the Panel's Work Plan and asked for Members' input into areas to focus on.

Members were reminded that the Highways and Transport Steering Group meeting was scheduled for the 1st of December, and that a working group to help inform the Annual Place Directorate Statement would be formed and meet imminently.

Concluded: that the work plan be updated, picking up actions and discussion outcomes from the present meeting.

Chairman

North Somerset Council

Report to the Place Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Date of Meeting: 9th March 2022

Subject of Report: Development Programme

Town or Parish: All

Officer/Member Presenting: Jenny Ford, Head of Development & Placemaking

Key Decision: NO

Reason:

Report is for information and discussion

Recommendations

- To note and discuss the proposed Development Programme sites consultation and to consider the priorities for the programme from a Place perspective.
- To note the updates on sites that are already being progressed.

1. Summary of report

1.1 This report provides members with information on the forthcoming Development Programme sites consultation. It invites discussion on:

- How the consultation can best engage with interested parties.
- The key principles and priorities for the sites, from the perspective of the Place Panel.

1.2 The report includes an update on sites that are already being progressed.

2. Policy

2.1 In February 2021, North Somerset Council adopted a Development Strategy setting out ambitions for the use of land it owns to deliver new homes and jobs.

2.2 The Development Strategy can be viewed on the council's website at <https://n-somerset.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s780/22%20Asset%20Accommodation%20and%20Development%20Strategies.pdf>

2.3 The Development Strategy supports delivery of the Council's Corporate Priority objectives of Creating a Thriving and Sustainable Place.

3. Details

- 3.1 In February 2021, North Somerset Council adopted a Development Strategy setting out ambitions for the use of land it owns to deliver new homes and jobs. The Strategy can be viewed at: <https://n-somerset.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s780/22%20Asset%20Accommodation%20and%20Development%20Strategies.pdf>
- 3.2 In proposing development on land owned by the council, the strategy was clear that the council would not want to replicate what the private sector is already doing. Objectives can be summarised as follows:
- To provide homes and jobs that meet the needs of our communities – current and future – while helping deliver government targets for housing supply.
 - To offer better quality and more sustainable developments..
 - To deliver sites that the market won't, including difficult brownfield land and employment sites.
 - To generate funding to help deliver other priorities, such as investing in schools, transport links and leisure facilities.
- 3.3 When agreeing the Strategy, the Council made a commitment to undertake public consultation on the programme of sites to be developed. This consultation is proposed to take place from March.
- 3.4 The purpose of the consultation will be to agree which sites should be taken forward for development, and to inform discussions on the priorities for those sites – for example, the relative importance to communities of affordable housing, employment, sustainability or quality of design. It also provides an opportunity for the council to explain the reasons behind the proposed programme and to set out some of the positive options for development, such as opportunities for community-led housing.
- 3.5 The sites in the consultation are a mix of allocated sites and potential future sites. In total, the sites have the potential to deliver around 1,500 new homes and over 1,000 new jobs.
- 3.6 Where potential future sites are identified, some of these are relatively small and within existing settlements, so may be able to come forward ahead of Local Plan changes. Other potential future sites are outside of existing settlement boundaries and would be dependent on the Local Plan. The approach taken in the consultation is that these sites would only be promoted / taken forward for development if the Local Plan first confirmed the general location in question as an area of growth. If the Local Plan did not confirm the general location, the sites would not be pursued further at this time.
- 3.6 The Panel is asked to consider:
- How the consultation can best engage with interested parties, in particular those such as working-age people who might not regularly engage with council consultations.
 - Its own views, from a Place perspective, as to the relative priorities for the overall development programme and how these can be reflected in criteria set for future development procurement processes.

- How in due course the council should consider the results of the consultation to finalise the programme of sites, e.g. what factors should or should not be taken into consideration?

3.7 Points for consideration could include:

- Six of the fifteen potential sites are allocated for development in the current Local Plan. These could deliver a significant quantum of development (c. 900 homes, plus employment), however if the council wants to ensure an ongoing and diverse development programme beyond 2025 it would need to agree to further sites coming forward.
- The brownfield sites in the programme could deliver around 600 – 700 homes (plus commercial/community development). This could be boosted if there is any potential to build on car parks – which could include building *above* car parks (i.e. on stilts). The consultation asks respondents to identify any such locations that are suitable.
- Financially, the total value of the programme could be as much as £15 - 20m, which would be a significant contribution to delivering priorities identified in the council's capital programme such as leisure improvements. However almost all of this sum would come from greenfield sites, with the brownfield locations struggling financially and in some cases likely to need cross-subsidy. In terms of objectives such as the provision of affordable housing, or net zero homes, it will be more viable to deliver these on sites without pre-existing financial challenges.
- Financial development appraisals do not represent all costs and benefits involved with development. Traditional modelling does not, for example, look at cost savings to revenue budgets created by providing alternative specialist accommodation for older or vulnerable people that avoids them needing to move into care homes. It does not take account of council tax or business rate income, or of energy savings through the provision of better quality of premises, or of the health & well-being benefits of good quality homes. These factors can be difficult to calculate but are nonetheless considerations for NSC both in its landowner and wider roles.

3.8 The following paragraphs provide updates on sites already being progressed as part of the development programme, and illustrate some of the additional benefits the council can garner through its landowner role:

- Parklands Village, Weston-super-Mare: conditional contract awarded to Keepmoat Homes for 425 dwellings, including 128 affordable homes. Groundworks have commenced with first homes expected late 2022/early 2023. Our ownership of the land meant we were able to specify the pace of delivery at a rate of no less than 85 homes per year. The homes will be built using “Modern Methods of Construction” (MMC). 75 will be net zero carbon, with the development as a whole achieving a 75 – 80% reduction in carbon output against baselines.
- Uplands, Nailsea: Full planning consent has been secured for a 100% Passivhaus scheme designed by award winning architects, Mikhail Riches. We are currently in the final stages of procuring a development partner, with

selection of the preferred developer due in June and a start on site late 2022/early 2023.

- Weston Business Quarter: this 30ha site is one of the most significant employment sites in North Somerset and sub-regionally, expected to deliver over 1,000 new jobs. In 2019, we opened the Food Works SW Innovation Centre at the site. It is the only centre of its kind in the South West and was a response to feedback from food and drink producers that the type of facilities and support that they needed weren't available to them anywhere in the region. This limited their ability to grow their business, create jobs and help better promote the region for food and drink. We are now preparing a Full Business Case for funding from the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to forward fund infrastructure to open up the rest of the land for employment.
- Weston Town Centre sites: £1.075m Brownfield Land Release Funding has been secured to carry out remediation work on the former police station site in preparation for development. We are at an advanced stage of negotiations to acquire further sites in the town centre from Homes England and a report setting out a Commissioning Plan for the procurement of a development partner was approved at Full Council in February.
- Millcross, Clevedon and Selworthy Road, Weston: these sites were passed to Alliance Homes through commercial deals but on the basis of delivering 100% affordable housing. Planning applications are expected to be submitted shortly.
- Community-led housing (CLH): Community-led housing is when groups of local people come together to take charge of a housing project in their community. Officers have been working with a specialist consultant and engaging with local communities to investigate the options for them to develop small pieces of council-owned land as CLH.

4. Consultation

4.1 The subject of this report is the launch of a public consultation on the development programme of sites. Consultation is intended to include:

- A web-based consultation (but with paper copies available at libraries).
- A short video to be published on the council's facebook page encouraging participation.
- Face-to-face meetings with ward members and Town and Parish Councils, where they have potential sites in their areas.
- In addition to the Place Scrutiny Panel session, an informal briefing / discussion session with members of the PCOM Panel.

4.2 It is fully recognised that there may be confusion between this consultation and the Local Plan consultation happening at the same time. The consultation documents will be as clear as possible in explaining the relationship and differences. Where possible, officers will link up engagement meetings on the two consultations so as to explain the differences in person.

- 4.3 The consultation will be followed by recommendations for decision in the autumn, although in a limited number of cases there may be cause for earlier reporting and decisions.
- 4.4 For those sites agreed to be taken forward for development, there will be further site-specific consultations required, in particular through planning and in agreeing business cases and procurement routes.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1 The potential total value of the development programme could be as much as £15 – 20m, if all sites were taken forward.
- 5.2 The revenue costs of commercial, procurement and legal advice to dispose of sites is the realm of £150 – 250k for each procurement exercise. Officers will be seeking to create efficiencies and reduce costs by grouping sites together.
- 5.3 In some cases there may be need for direct or indirect subsidy to support site delivery. An example would be the £700k grant agreed for the Weston Town Council sites in February, which will be used to boost affordable housing and sustainability.
- 5.4 Officers will seek grant from Homes England, One Public Estate and other government sources or investors to assist in delivery of sites and to minimise the council's financial exposure and risk.

6. Legal Powers and implications

- 6.1 The Local Government Act 1972 gives the Council the power to acquire and dispose of land held by it in any manner it wishes provided that the council achieves the best consideration that can reasonably be obtained.

7. Climate Change and environmental implications

- 7.1 The development programme has significant climate change and environmental implications.
- 7.2 An aspiration of the programme is to provide high sustainability homes and employment premises that minimise environmental impact, create good conditions for end-users, offer better choices for those buying or renting, and which encourage other developers to in turn increase their own standards.
- 7.3 The development of land can have negative environmental implications. However North Somerset has a government target to deliver 1,339 new homes per year. If homes are not delivered on allocated or otherwise policy-compliant sites by the council, they will be required to be delivered by other parties who may have lower standards of sustainability.

8. Risk management

- 8.1 Development projects hold a significant number of physical, financial, environmental and reputational risks, which will be assessed on a site-by-site basis.

9. Equality implications

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? – No

- 9.1 Individual sites will be subject to Equality Impact Assessments, if taken forward for development.

10. Corporate implications

- 10.1 The Development Strategy supports delivery of the Council's Corporate Priority objectives of Creating a Thriving and Sustainable Place.
- 10.2 The delivery of a development strategy will require input and support from a wide range of council teams, including planning, legal and finance.

11. Options considered

- 11.1 Not to pursue a Development Programme: the principle of a development programme was agreed at Full Council in February 2021 and set a number of objectives to be delivered.
- 11.2 Not to consult on the range of sites or priorities: this would be counter to the agreement in February 2021 and contrary to the council values of being fair, open and transparent.

Author: Jenny Ford, Head of Development & Placemaking

Appendices: None

Background papers:

Report to Full Council, 21st February 2021 recommending approval of Development Strategy: <https://n-somerset.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s780/22%20Asset%20Accommodation%20and%20Development%20Strategies.pdf>

North Somerset Council

Report to the Place Panel

Date of Meeting: 10 March 2022

Subject of Report: Place Finance Update

Town or Parish: All

Officer/Member Presenting: Finance Business Partner (Place)

Key Decision: No

Recommendations

That the Panel notes the current forecast against budget for Place and the medium-term financial position.

1. Summary of Report

- 1.1 This report summarises and discusses the current forecast against budget for Place, highlighting key variances. It builds on the information received by the Executive at its meeting on 2 February 2022.
- 1.2 The overall projected year end position for Place, as at the end of month 9, is a **£1.384m** overspend on a net budget of £29.870m.
- 1.3 The directorate has been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic which currently represents £0.844m of the overspend, with £0.541m relating to non-Covid operational impacts.
- 1.4 The position has improved from the £1.856m overspend reported to the panel as at the end of month 5.
- 1.5 The council has been allocated a one-off grant by the government which it can use to fund Covid related impacts which may arise during the year. The council will release a proportion of this funding to offset the Covid reported pressures.
- 1.6 Since this funding is one-off, some of the impacts which are likely to be sustained into future years have been recognised within the 2022/23 budget as growth in order to ensure we are setting a robust budget, the most significant impact has been a reduction in parking income at station car parks and on-street in Weston-Super-Mare.
- 1.7 An additional £1.365m of savings have been proposed as part of the 2022/23 medium-term financial plan.

2. Policy

The council's budget monitoring is an integral feature of its overall financial processes, ensuring that resources are planned, aligned and managed effectively to achieve successful delivery of its aims and objectives.

3. Details

3.1 Budget Monitor

The overall forecast for the Place directorate is a net over spend of £1.384m. The directorate is still being significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic which currently represents £0.844m of the latest variance, with forecasts showing that £0.541m relates to non-covid operational impacts.

The table below shows the net projected variance by service within the directorate:

PLACE DIRECTORATE	Net Budget	Net Projected Outturn	Net Projected Variance
	£	£	£
Environment and Safer Communities	12,351,470	12,417,436	65,966
Operations Management & Support Services	0	0	0
Highway & Parking Operations	2,733,619	3,069,721	336,102
Highway Technical Services	(63,895)	(32,381)	31,514
Libraries & Community	2,029,243	2,208,187	178,944
Open Space, Natural Environment & Leisure	3,179,906	3,267,797	87,891
Regulatory Services	(547,410)	(578,725)	(31,315)
Transport Planning	7,716,571	8,164,391	447,820
Neighbourhoods & Transport	27,399,504	28,516,427	1,116,923
Property Asset & Projects	(84,017)	(35,588)	48,429
Recharges - Property Assets & Projects	0	0	0
Economy	552,435	509,044	(43,391)
Major Infrastructure Projects	0	0	0
Major Projects	(102,251)	(227,344)	(125,093)
Placemaking & Development	857,801	825,195	(32,606)
Planning Service	645,451	856,910	211,459
Placemaking & Growth	1,869,418	1,928,216	58,798
Place Directorate Management	300,137	606,621	306,484
Place Central Recharges	232,000	134,174	(97,826)
Directorate Overheads	532,137	740,795	208,658
Special Expenses	69,410	69,410	0
Overall Total	29,870,469	31,254,848	1,384,379

The main areas of pressures are:

- Home to Schools Transport demand and market costs £610k
- Shortfall of Parking income £587k
- Shortfall of Planning income £286k
- Other income shortfalls £416k
- Mothball costs associated with Churchill Leisure Centre £65k

These are offset by:

- Staffing vacancies
- Street Lighting Energy savings

3.2 Medium Term Financial Planning and 2022/23 Budget

The 2022/23 budget approved by Full Council on 15 February includes the following key items:

Planned Additional Spend:

2022/23 Spending Pressures	£'000
Major contract inflation	460
Demand Pressures Home to School Transport	300
Re-base parking income budget	650
Funding for Ash Die-back action Plan	250
Energy Inflation	162
Leisure budget pressure	100
Total	1,922

In order to ensure the 2022/23 budget is robust a number of issues within the Place directorate needed to be addressed to ensure the issues are not carried forward into 2022/23. The two main legacy issues are as follows:

Home to School Transport

There is significant pressure on the Home to School Transport budget in 2021/22, the reported variance at month 9 is £0.472m however it should be noted that some one-off funding has been supporting the service in the current year so the variance is likely to increase in 2022/23.

The additional funding included in the 2022/23 budget is likely to be insufficient to address the budget pressures alone, the service are looking at a number of transformational projects to try and mitigate the growing financial pressure.

The pressure is arising from an increase in demand for special educational needs (SEND) transport and an increase in market costs due to market failures and the driver shortages.

Parking Income

The parking income shortfall in 2021/22 is estimated to be £0.718m, in order to ensure the income budget is set at an achievable level additional budget has been approved to reduce the budget to match the forecast income for 2022/23 and future years.

Planned Additional Savings:

The savings approved as part of the 2022/23 budget are detailed in appendix two.

The proposals are focused on protecting core front line services where possible and support the delivery of Corporate Plan priorities.

Themes include:

- Reflecting reduced demand in some areas within the budget
- Reviewing delivery models to make financial efficiencies
- Maximising Income

Future Financial Year

The current forecast position for the Council for the medium term, indicates a potential budget gap of close to £9m in each of the years 2023/24 and 2045/25.

The Place Directorate has started planning early for those years looking to use the transformation programme to support the medium-term financial plan.

3.3 Risks

There are several financial risks in the Place budget, the key ones are as follows:

- Home to school transport demand continue to increase over and above the allocated additional budget within the 2022/23 budget
- The continued impact of covid-19 on services for example Leisure
- The impact of covid-19 on public transport once covid funding ceases in April 2022
- Risks arising from the shortfall of HGV driver
- Waste disposal costs are increasing due to increased volumes of waste
- Income losses across the directorate could be sustained and not recover post pandemic
- Inflation across all services, currently higher than budgeted
- Capacity to deliver transformation and MTFP savings

4. Consultation

Not applicable.

5. Financial Implications

Financial implications are contained throughout the report.

6. Legal Powers and Implications

The Local Government Act 1972 lays down the fundamental principle by providing that every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs, although further details and requirements are contained within related legislation. The setting of the council's budget for the forthcoming year, and the ongoing arrangements for monitoring all aspects of this, is an integral part of the financial administration process.

7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

There are no direct or specific climate change and environmental implications associated with the recommendations within this report although they remain an important factor in many areas of the council's revenue and capital budgets and are considered and integrated where appropriate.

8. Risk Management

See paragraph 3.3.

9. Equality Implications

There are no specific equality implications with regard to the recommendations contained within this report.

Individual savings proposals incorporated into the revenue budget are supported by an Equality Impact Assessment.

10. Corporate Implications

With continuing financial pressures and demands for services, it is essential that the councils' limited resources continue to be prioritised and allocated in line with the identified priorities.

11. Options Considered

Not applicable

Author:

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Financial Overview Place Directorate

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF THE PLACE DIRECTORATE AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

Directorate Summary					
	Original Budget 2021/22 £000	Virements £000	Revised Budget 2021/22 £000	Projected Out-turn 2021/22 £000	Projected Out-turn Variance £000
- Gross Expenditure	53,987	7,866	61,853	65,434	3,581
- Income	(21,014)	(5,036)	(26,051)	(28,091)	(2,040)
- Central Recharge Recoveries	0	0	0	0	0
- Transfers to / from Reserves	(3,408)	(2,524)	(5,932)	(6,089)	(157)
= Directorate Totals	29,565	305	29,870	31,254	1,384
				Projected Out-turn Variance	4.63%
- Neighbourhoods & Transport	27,259	141	27,400	28,516	1,117
- Placemaking & Growth	1,741	129	1,869	1,928	59
- Directorate Overheads	496	36	532	741	209
- Special Expenses	69	0	69	69	0
= Directorate Totals	29,565	305	29,870	31,254	1,384
				Projected Out-turn Variance	4.63%

Extract showing material variances compared to the revised budget

Service area and projected budget variance	Revised Budget 2021/22 £000	Projected Out-turn 2021/22 £000	Projected Out-turn Variance £000
Environmental Services & Enforcement			
MTFP DE16 Litter enforcement - contract income not expected in 2021/22	(30)	(2)	28
Safer Community Services - CCTV (includes historical £95k budget saving)	243	325	82
Mitigated by one-off use of earmarked reserves	0	(50)	(50)
Highway & Parking Operations			
COVID Income related income losses:			
On-street parking (WSM)	(895)	(556)	338
On-street parking (Leighwoods)	(198)	(17)	182
Off-street parking	(1,722)	(1,453)	269
Civil Parking Enforcement	(657)	(579)	79
Seafront parking	(669)	(818)	(150)
Mitigated by Q1 Sales, Fees & Charges claim		(140)	(140)
Highway Electrical & ITS (prudential borrowing charge - budget will be required for 2022-23)	243	162	(82)
Highway Electrical & ITS - Saving expected on Street lighting energy costs	470	360	(110)
Highway Network & Traffic Management - expected to exceed income target (net expenditure position)	(81)	(200)	(119)
Materials testing Lab - expected shortfall on external fee income (net expenditure position)	(97)	9	106
Open Space, Natural Environment & Leisure			
<u>Leisure:</u>			
Loss of income from Leisure Contracts	(417)	0	417
Agreed mitigation: planned use of reserves	0	(343)	(343)
Mitigated by Q1 Sales, Fees & Charges claim	0	(74)	(74)
Covid Leisure Grant - Receipt of income	(316)	(316)	0
Covid Leisure Grant - Payments to Providers	316	316	0
Churchill Sports Centre - additional costs associated with the closure	0	65	65
Other Leisure Impacts - inc NNDR charge not due for 2021-22	68	(65)	(133)
<u>Parks & Seafront:</u>			
Shortfall in Concessions income - new concessions and closure of existing concessions	(408)	(354)	54
Bay Cafe - COVID related income losses (net of SFC claim and provisions saving)	(276)	(137)	139
Transport Planning			
<u>Home to Schools Transport (HTST):</u>			
Home to School Transport	4,281	5,138	857
Use of ZXB380 Home to School Transport Pressures	0	(185)	(185)
Draw down of S106 funding	0	(214)	(214)
Covid HTST Grant - Receipt of income	(414)	(371)	43
Covid HTST Grant - Payments to Providers	414	371	(43)
<u>Public Transport & Sustainable Travel:</u>			
Increased cost of Public Transport, Bus Services & Concessionary Fares (ticketing income shortfall)	2,325	2,300	(26)
Bus Lane Enforcement (Scheme Delayed until 2022-23)	(20)	0	20
Bus Services Improvement Plan	163	163	0
Bus Services Improvement Plan - grant received	(163)	(163)	0
Covid Bus Services Grant - Receipt of income	(108)	(101)	7
Covid Better Deal for Users Grant - Receipt of income	(134)	(134)	0
Covid Active Travel Grant - Receipt of income	(95)	(95)	0
Covid Active Travel Grant - Initiatives and costs	95	95	0

Extract showing material variances compared to the revised budget (contd)

Service area and projected budget variance	Revised Budget 2021/22 £000	Projected Out-turn 2021/22 £000	Projected Out- turn Variance £000
Libraries & Community			
Shortfall in Libraries income (could be COVID related)	(158)	(132)	26
Shortfall in Campus income - reduced internal meetings / more virtual	(179)	(120)	59
Shortfall in Campus income - external income, after cost reductions and Covid S,F&C	(153)	(94)	60
Shortfall in Somerset Hall income - used as a testing site, net of S,F&C	(97)	(47)	50
Placemaking & Development			
<u>Events:</u>			
Shortfall in Events income (incl Tropicana) - Covid related, net of S,F&C	(268)	(237)	31
Planning Service			
Planning income (net of refunds) - early year peak not sustained, recovery to budget target less likely	(1,560)	(1,299)	261
Directorate Salary Position			
Shortfall on salary recharges to the capital programme	(3,086)	(2,216)	870
Mitigated by salary underspends (£687k relates to the capital projects delivery teams)	16,721	15,681	(1,041)
Property Assets & Projects team consultancy costs off-set by salary underpend	0	123	123
Mitigated by one-off use of reserves	0	(80)	(80)
Place COMF staff recharges	0	(101)	(101)
Use of S38 income reserve	(68)	(68)	0
Sub total - material budget variances			1,274
Other minor variations to the budget			110
= Directorate Total			1,384

Appendix 2 – Saving Proposals 2022/23

MTFP SAVINGS PROPOSALS - FEBRUARY 2022					
Directorate	Ref	Idea / proposal	Financial Impact		
			2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000
Place	PD S1	Increase of recycling materials income	-500	0	0
Place	PD S2	Re-base garden waste income budget to align to actual levels	-230	0	0
Place	PD S4	Use income from Permit Scheme to fund existing staff	-50	0	0
Place	PD S6	Establishment of a single, council-wide transport function and improved commissioning	0	-50	0
Place	PD S7	Revisit safe Home To Schools Transport routes	-100	-100	0
Place	PD S8	Safer roads initiatives (additional sites meeting relevant criteria)	-30	0	0
Place	PD S9	Events programme to become cost neutral or minimal support	-65	0	0
Place	PD S10	Introduce break-even policy for Building Control	-20	0	0
Place	PD S11	Libraries income	0	-50	0
Place	PD S12	Seafront concessions - additional income / review model of service	0	-40	0
Place	PD S13	Parking income - range of proposals to apply inflationary measures to existing charges	-150	0	0
Place	PD S14	Reduction in Concessionary Fares costs - aligned to lower levels of demand for the service	-50	0	0
Place	PD S15	Reduction in staff travel costs - to reflect the new ways of working	-25	0	0
Place	PD S16	Reduction in street lighting energy costs - aligned to roll-out of LED investment programme	-40	0	0
Place	PD S17	Increase in income levels, e.g. public conveniences	-15	0	0

Place 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.

Topic	Reason for scrutiny	Method of scrutiny and reporting process	Timeline	Progress	Lead
Local Plan	To enable Member engagement with Local Plan (LP) development. Providing meaningful engagement with, and hence assurance around, the development of the Plan	<p>Informal SPEDR-led panel meetings (including the wider Council Membership as required)</p> <p>Meetings synchronised with key stages in the Local Plan development process</p> <p>To feed views and recommendations to officers and/or decision maker(s) at key stages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27/01 Challenges and Choices: • 16/02 Preferred spatial Strategy • 13/05 Airport and Port • 11/10 Emerging allocation thinking <p>Draft Local Plan for consultation in late 2021</p>	<p>Preferred spatial strategy: reported to Exec on 28th April.</p> <p>Consultation on Draft Local Plan date 16/07/21, 16/08/21, 13/09/21, 11/10/21,</p>	Michael Reep
Cladding and other fire safety issues in the district (following Grenfell outcomes)	Reference from Council: requesting Panel to establish policy recommendations on a series of specific points raised	<p>Joint Task and Finish group established with ASH Panel</p> <p>To report to a future meeting of the Council “in all urgency”.</p>	To report back to Council at the earliest opportunity	WG mtgs: 08/04/20; 30/11/21 Progress delayed due to passage of legislation. Further meeting tba	Howard Evans
Directorate Statement 2022/23	Members to engage with officers on development of the 2022/23 Directorate Statement	Task & Finish working group	TBA in early 2022		Emma Diakou/ Lucy Shomali

SECTION TWO – proposed projects (listed in priority order). These must be agreed at Panel and will be referred for discussion at Chairs and Vice Chairs – for potential inclusion within the Strategic Work Plan:-

Topic	Reason for scrutiny	Proposed method of scrutiny and reporting process	Timeline	Lead

SECTION THREE planned 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, escalation to S2 above:-

Topic	Reason for scrutiny	Date	Outcome	Progress	Lead
Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF)	Briefing	26/07/20	Agreed ongoing Panel engagement	Series of briefings	Tom Foster
Marine Lake	Briefing/engagement	20/04/21	Informal WG established	In progress Mtgs: 20/04/21 28/05/20	Gemma Dando
A38 MRN	Written briefing for feedback and response	02/06/21	Email dialogue with Members continuing	completed	Rebecca Kinnersley
National Bus strategy (Bus service improvement plan)	Place-led All Councillor briefing/engagement	16/06/21 07/10/21	Engagement with Members – Panel supported implementation of plan	Completed	Bella Fortune
Travel Plan SPD	Briefing/engagement	20/07/21	Members briefed – further briefing after public consultation	In progress	Lindsay Margerison
Parking Standards SPD	Briefing/engagement	08/09/21	Members engaged/briefed	completed	Jack Wyatt/James Wigmore
WECA briefing	To update/inform Members	11/10/21	Members briefed	completed	Weca
Article 4 (Heritage) directions	Briefing/engagement	27/09/21	Members briefed	completed	Cara MacMahon
Approval of the Neighbourhoods & Transport Capital Works Programme	Briefing/engagement	TBA (Jan/Dec)			Lindsay Margerison
Highways Service: future delivery model	Briefing/engagement	02/03/22	Agreed ongoing Panel engagement	ongoing	Gemma Dando
Waste Scrutiny Steering Group	Updating and seeking feedback on the development of the waste strategy	10/11/21	Agreed ongoing Panel engagement	ongoing	Gemma Dando

SECTION FOUR - agenda reports to the Panel meetings as agreed by the Chairman. This section provides for the forward planning of agendas for the coming year and a record of recent panel meeting activity. Item outcomes may include proposing further work such as additional briefings or potential projects for inclusion on the STRATEGIC WORK PLAN (S2 above).

Informal Panel Meeting 24 November 2021

Report Title	Purpose of Report	Outcome (actions)
Rewilding and Great Lakes update	Update on existing projects	Panel feedback noted
Libraries Strategy update	Engage with Members on the direction for the delivery of library services in North Somerset between 2021 – 2031	
Local Plan update	To note the Local Plan progress to date and to make any recommendations to Executive Committee to help inform its consideration of the Preferred Options document.	Officers noted Panel feedback - further engagement with the Panel to be arranged to consider public feedback after the public consultation
Month 5 Budget Monitor	That the Panel to note and feedback on the current forecast against budget for the Place directorate	Panel feedback noted

Panel Meeting 7 February 2022

Transport update	Panel to consider and feedback on NSC Risk Register re bus service cuts and Transport Decarbonisation	
Weston Town Centre development sites	For Panel engagement/feedback	
Budget Monitor	That the Panel to note and feedback on the current forecast against budget for the Place directorate	

Panel Meeting 13 July 2022

SECTION 5 - Recommendations - Response from Executive Member

Area for investigation/ Recommendations	When were the recommendations to the Executive agreed?	Expect answer by (first panel meeting after recommendations were submitted)

SECTION 6 - Progress and follow-up on implementing Panel recommendations

Panel Recommendation	Date of Response	Actions – implementation progress

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