

# North Somerset Council

## Report to the Council

**Date of Meeting:** 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021

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

**Town or Parish:** All

**Member Presenting:** Executive Member of Climate Emergency and Engagement

**Key Decision:** No

**Reason:** Not an Executive Decision

## Recommendations

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

## 1. Summary of Report

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

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

- 1.6 Emissions for the area of North Somerset continue to decrease but not at a fast enough rate. The main cause for reduced emissions is the reduction in carbon intensity of grid supplied electricity. Road transport remains the largest single sector, with emissions tending to increase over time.
- 1.7 For the area of North Somerset, 43% of greenhouse gas emissions are due to Transport, 24% are domestic emissions and 24% are non-domestic (commercial, industrial and public sector). The remaining 9% is split between Waste, Agriculture and Land Use. Transport is a key sector for emissions reductions for a number of reasons:
- it has very high emissions which have stayed high for a long time;
  - the technology to significantly reduce emissions already exists
    - walking, cycling, public transport and electric vehicles
    - investment is required to make these more accessible but less than for decarbonisation of all buildings
  - the significant co-benefits of reducing the number of polluting cars on the roads<sup>1</sup>
    - improved air quality – currently an estimated 40,000 people die a year in the UK due to air pollution
    - improved health and wellbeing from active travel
    - increased footfall in local businesses where walking supported
- 1.8 Behavioural change is going to be an important factor in significantly reducing emissions in North Somerset, and across the UK. This means that we cannot rely entirely on low carbon fuels and technologies. The Committee on Climate Change estimate that nearly 60% of the changes needed rely on societal and behavioural changes<sup>2</sup>. Engaging with our businesses and communities will be crucial in this. We will be improving the clarity of our communications to support people with behavioural changes. We are also looking at ways to expand our successful programme of Carbon Literacy into our communities, as well as supporting businesses to understand and reduce their impact on climate change.

## **2. Policy**

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

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<sup>1</sup>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/904146/greener-change-a-bold-vision-for-cycling-and-walking.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904146/greener-change-a-bold-vision-for-cycling-and-walking.pdf)

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

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

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

### **3. Details**

#### **3.1 Context:**

It is important to recognise the ambitious nature of NSC's climate aims. Reaching Net Zero twenty years earlier than the UK as a whole, without the national policy and financial levers will be a challenge. North Somerset is not alone in setting an earlier target than the UK Government. Of the 301 authorities which have declared a Climate Emergency, 181 have set 2030 or earlier as their target. This is because internationally it is recognised that global greenhouse gas emissions need to reach net zero by 2050 in order to prevent the worst impacts of climate change<sup>3</sup>. As a developed nation we have the ability to go faster than other countries.

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

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

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

#### **3.2 North Somerset Council Emissions:**

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

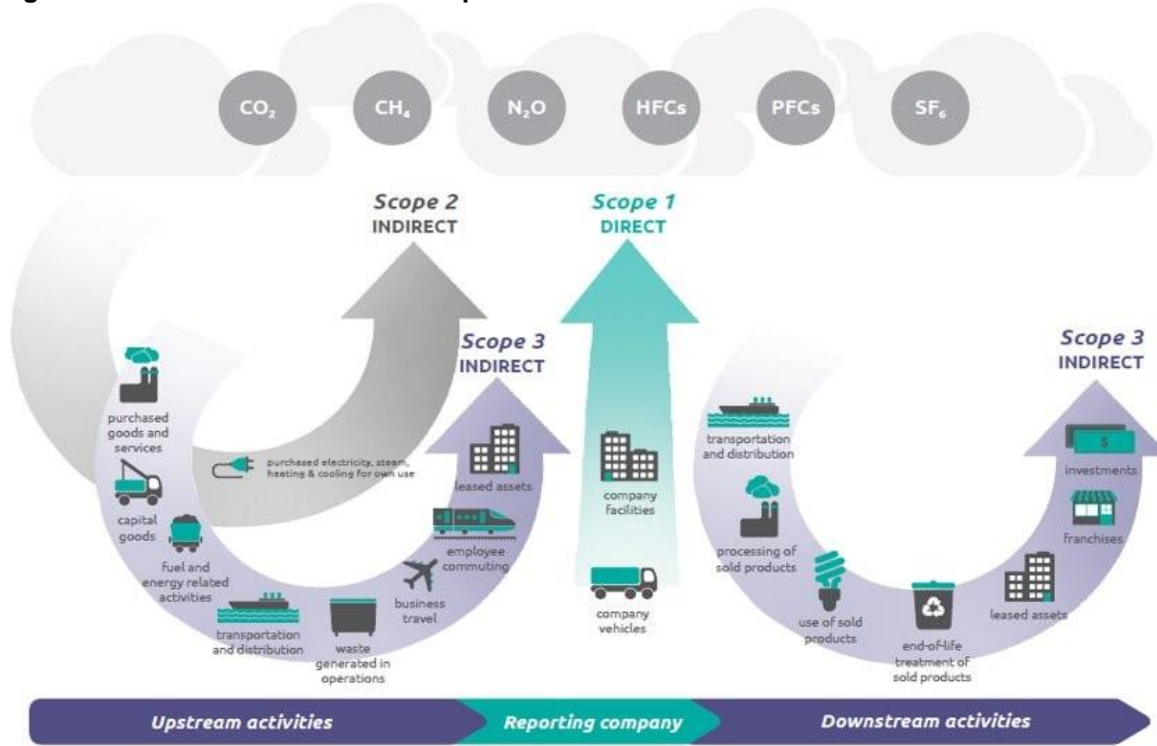
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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

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

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

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



For more information on the methodology used to report the council's emissions, please see the baselining report published on our website<sup>4</sup>. Summary information can be seen in the table below.

**Table 1 Emissions associated with North Somerset Council Activities**

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

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

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

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

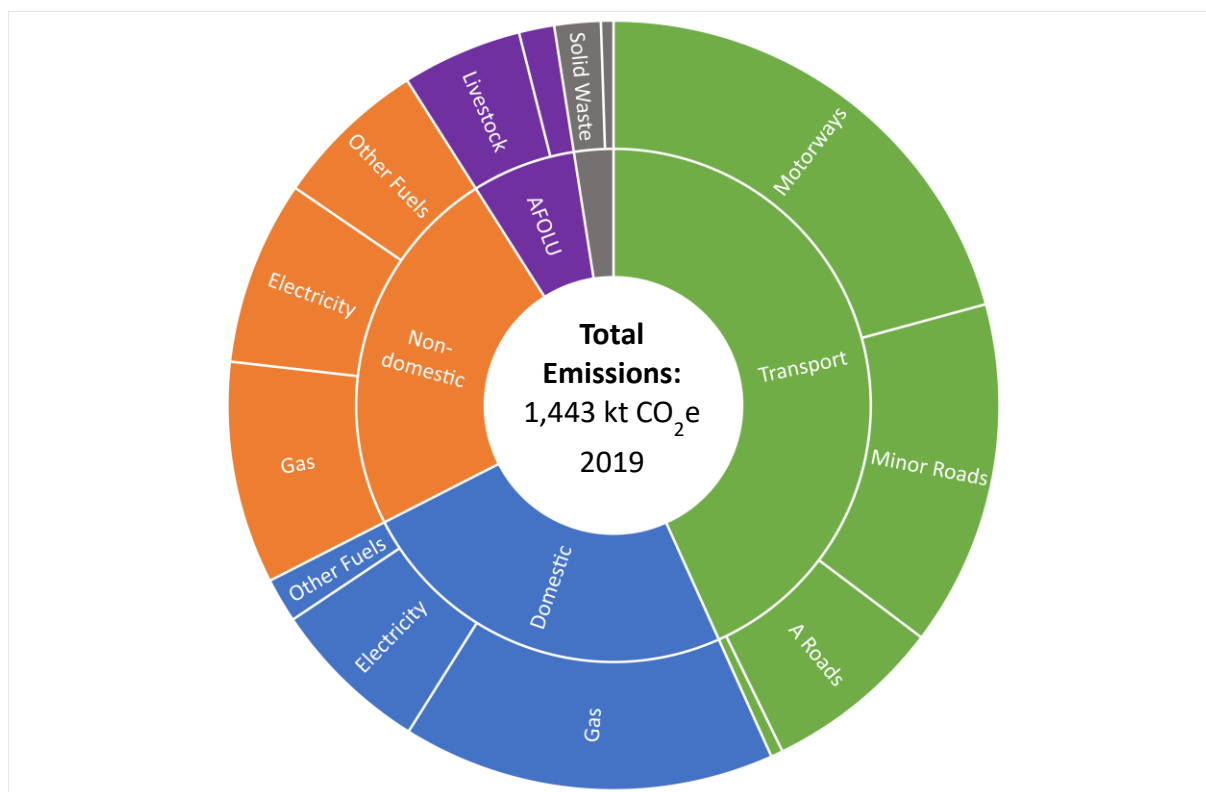
In order to meet our 2030 target of Net Zero emissions for Scope 1 and 2, we will need to reduce our emissions by at least 422 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e each year (to FY 2030/31) and we are currently more than meeting that target. However, in reality, emissions will reduce more in some years (for example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

### 3.3 North Somerset Area Emissions:

Each year an assessment is produced for the area of North Somerset using publicly available data sources on energy consumption, waste disposal, land use and agricultural statistics. It builds a picture of emissions resulting directly from activity within our district, as well as those associated with the production of the energy we use – grid supplied electricity and extraction and distribution of fuels – which happen outside the area. Detail on the methodology used to estimate emissions for North Somerset can be found on our website<sup>5</sup>.

Total emissions have decreased by 265 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e (15%) since 2005. This is not a fast enough change to meet our climate ambitions. Reaching Net Zero is not a simple task. It requires transformative change across the whole economy, across the whole country. Nationally, the Committee on Climate Change is urging the Government to go faster, and so must we.

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-11/Climate%20Emergency%20Baseline%20Report%20-%20July2020\\_0.pdf](https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-11/Climate%20Emergency%20Baseline%20Report%20-%20July2020_0.pdf)



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

Transport emission have gone up during this period for a combination of reasons. The largest contribution to this increase comes from freight. The total increase in emissions in this sector is 44 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e, 27 kt of this comes from Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs), 11 kt from Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and 9kt from cars. This does not reflect national trends (see table below). The West of England and DfT Transport Decarbonisation Strategies should give us a steer about what influence we can have over these various types of transport.

**Table 2 Change in emissions by modes of transport**

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

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

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



**Table 3 Emissions for all years for North Somerset**

<b>Emissions: kt CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Domestic</b>	515	507	490	487	464	462	427	432	421
Domestic Gas	272	268	261	253	232	230	215	218	214
Domestic Electricity	210	207	199	202	202	199	184	185	178
Domestic "Other Fuels"	32	32	30	32	30	33	28	28	29
<b>Non-domestic</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>402</b>
Non-domestic Gas	160	157	151	139	123	124	125	122	119
Non-domestic Electricity	234	241	226	235	215	218	202	206	197
Non-domestic Other Fuels	86	80	78	72	72	75	68	71	71
Agricultural Combustion	15	14	13	13	13	13	13	14	14
<b>Transport</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>581</b>
Motorways	274	264	282	286	272	268	263	276	276
A Roads	124	124	125	121	121	115	116	115	113
Minor Roads	168	179	187	191	188	186	184	180	184
Railways	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	8	8
<b>Waste</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>
Solid Waste	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Wastewater	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	8
<b>AFOLU</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>94</b>
Livestock	76	74	74	72	71	72	71	71	71
Land use, land use change and forestry	28	27	26	25	25	24	24	23	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,708</b>	<b>1,697</b>	<b>1,682</b>	<b>1,672</b>	<b>1,595</b>	<b>1,587</b>	<b>1,523</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>1,520</b>

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Table 3 continued

Table 3 continued

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

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

### 3.4 North Somerset Carbon Budgets:

The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change has produced a tool to set carbon budgets for each local authority across the UK<sup>6</sup>.

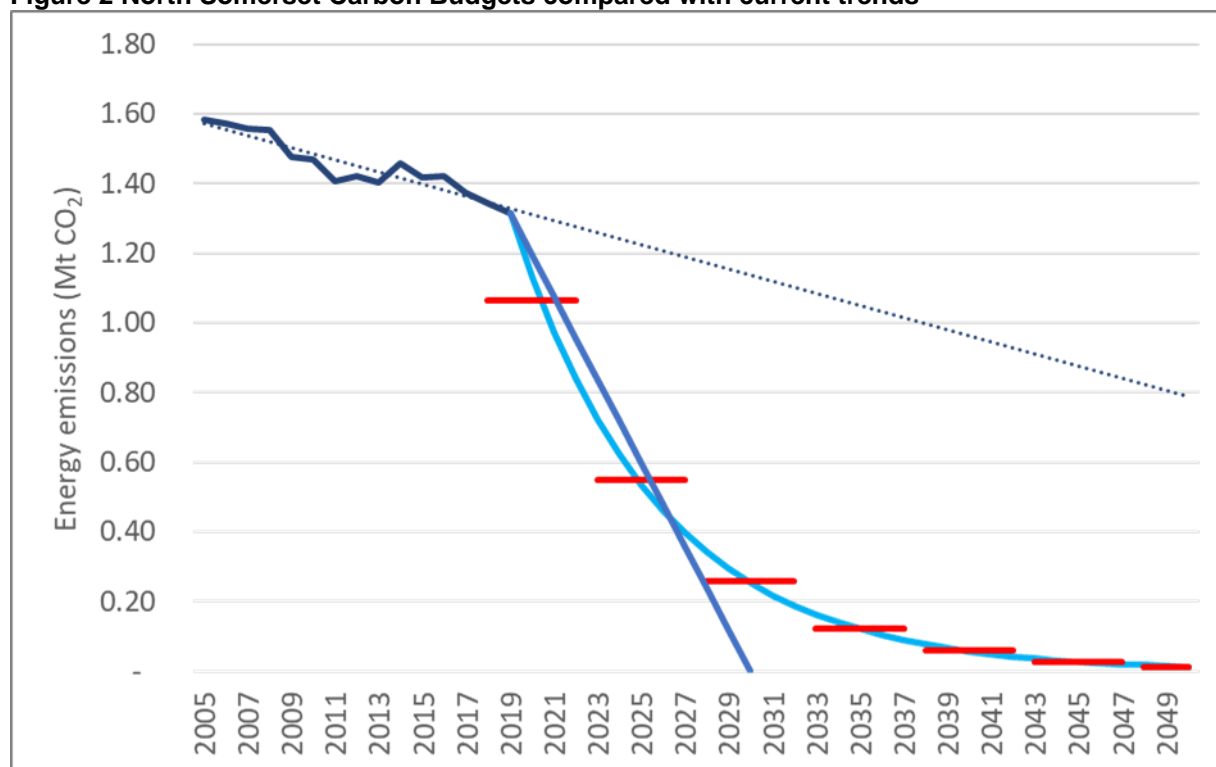
For North Somerset, the outline recommendations are:

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

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

At the current rate of reduction of 17 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e each year, it would take a further 85 years to reach zero. Even in 2020, with significantly reduced travel and activity, emissions at a national level only reduced by ~9%, with a reduction in transport emissions of 20%.

**Figure 2 North Somerset Carbon Budgets compared with current trends**



### 3.5 Climate Change Adaptation:

The Met Office have called 2020 one of the warmest, sunniest and wettest on record for the UK<sup>7</sup>, and 2021 has seen extreme weather caused by climate change on a global scale.

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

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

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

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

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

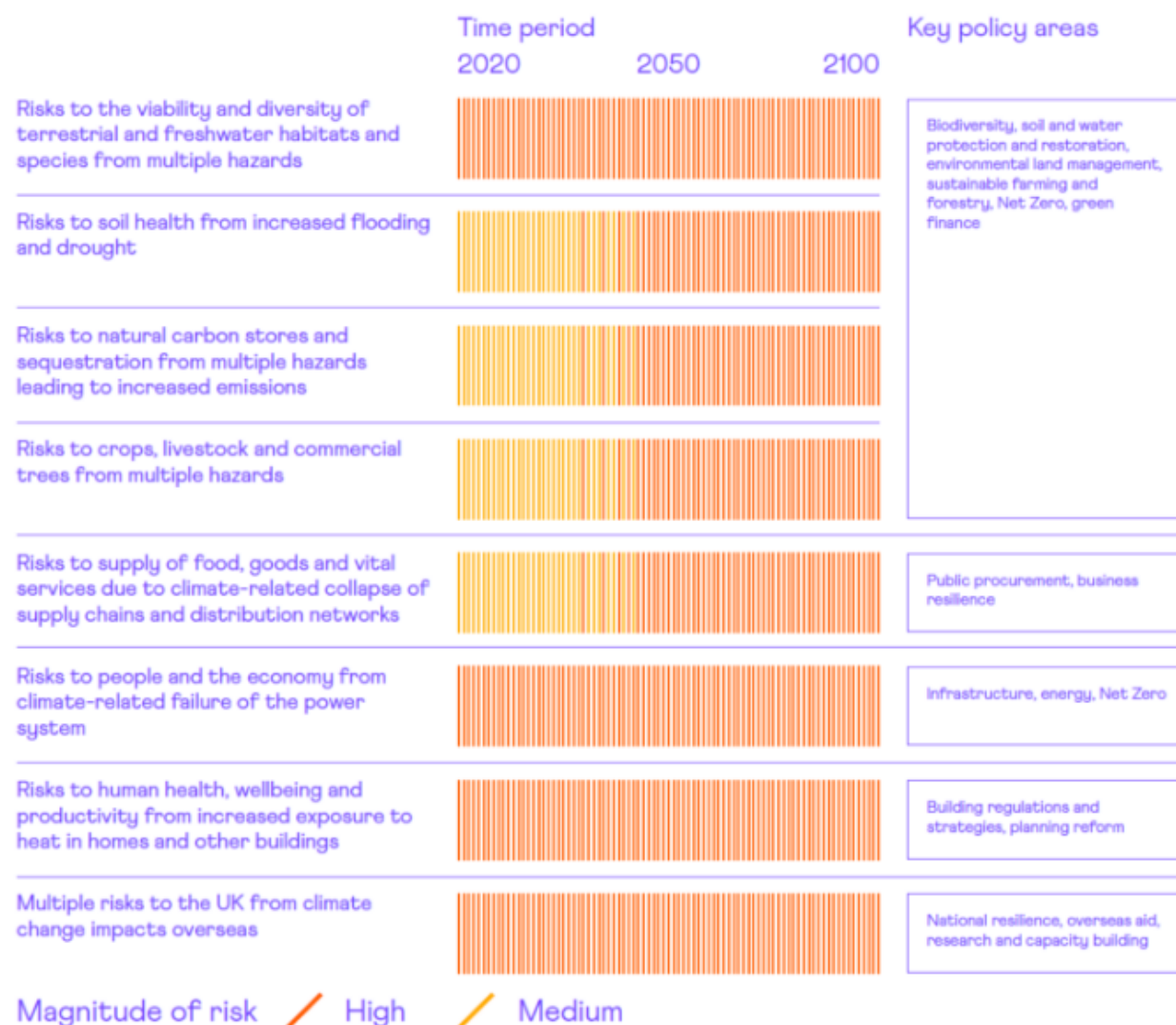
In North Somerset, like the rest of the UK, we need to adapt to climate change. We will follow Government and Committee on Climate Change guidance in updating our adaptation plan which was produced in 2011. We will need to work especially closely with the Environment Agency as well as our partners and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

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

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

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

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



Source: CCC

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

### 3.6 Update on specific Climate Emergency Projects:

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

#### **Carbon Literacy:**

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

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

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

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

### ***Communications and engagement:***

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

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

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

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

### ***Solar Together***

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

### ***Home energy volunteers:***

During 2020, the majority of NSC employees were working from home and many raised concerns that this home working could increase household energy consumption leading to higher bills and greenhouse gas emissions. While national and international research<sup>8</sup> tends to suggest that home working on average has a lower carbon impact than commuting to work, we wanted to look into how average NSC employees were in this regard.

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

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

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

Putting the home energy and commuting together, our average volunteer has saved £370 and 650 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e from working from home for a year (looking just at energy and mileage costs, not lunches or tax relief or anything else).

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

### ***Transport:***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***Local Plan:***

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

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

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

### ***Streetlighting:***

As mentioned earlier in the report, we have almost completed a project to replace all streetlighting with low energy LED units. This project began in December 2019 and is expected finish in November 2021 and reduce energy consumption from our streetlights by 60%. Since this work began, electricity consumption for streetlighting has decreased by 47%, leading to a saving of 984 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e.

### ***NSC building energy efficiency:***

The council has been working with a team at Bristol City Council to undertake audits of council buildings to assess whether measures can be introduced to improve their energy efficiency. Audits were undertaken at 33 NSC buildings and projects have been identified to take forward in 20 of these. Some smaller projects in other buildings will go forward as part of routine maintenance. These improvements are expected to produce savings of over 300 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per year.

### ***NSC Accommodation Strategy:***

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

### ***Building energy efficiency:***



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

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

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

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

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

### ***Rewilding / GI strategy:***

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

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

### ***Procurement:***

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

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

### ***Recycling and Waste:***

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

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

#### **4. Consultation**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **10. Corporate Implications**

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

## **11. Options Considered**

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

### **Author:**

Nicola Webb  
Climate Emergency Project Manager  
[Nicola.webb@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Nicola.webb@n-somerset.gov.uk)

### **Appendices:**

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

### **Background Papers:**

North Somerset Baseline Emissions Reports for the council and area:

<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-11/NSC%20Greenhouse%20Gas%20Emissions%20Report%20-%202019-20.pdf>  
[https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-11/Climate%20Emergency%20Baseline%20Report%20-%20July2020\\_0.pdf](https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-11/Climate%20Emergency%20Baseline%20Report%20-%20July2020_0.pdf)

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021
Identify landscape scale tree planting opportunities to deliver nature recovery networks especially woodland creation and linking woodlands	Mitigation Storage	An area we directly control	H	Public health outcomes Ecological diversity		Within GI Strategy	Within GI Strategy
Identify Council land suitable for changing grass cutting regime to encourage biodiversity	Mitigation Storage	An area we directly control	M	Public health outcomes Ecological diversity		Sites for tall grass on council land have been identified and established during 2020. Areas will be increased over the coming two summers	Further areas have been added and will continue to do so in the future.
Encourage and support our residents to create wildflower gardens through schemes such as the 'Blue Heart'	Mitigation Storage	An area we directly control	M	Public health outcomes Ecological diversity		Using the blue heart campaign as part of the rewilding project. Areas of tall grass will be assessed for viability to increase wildflower	A new objective in the Green Infrastructure Strategy has been identified through consultation which raises the importance of gardens.
<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 effective measures to ensure that we have a fair transition to a net-zero country where the most vulnerable groups are supported	Adaption	An area we can ask for help nationally	N/A			Council response to the Government's proposed Future Homes Standard highlighted the urgency of zero carbon homes policies.	
Ensure a resilient infrastructure in North Somerset including retrofitting our built environment where necessary	Adaption	An area we directly control	N/A			Creating Sustainable Buildings and Places SPD currently under review – includes new section on adapting to climate change.	The updated Creating Sustainable Buildings and Places SPD (2021) requires developers to demonstrate how they have considered climate change adaptation measures in their designs.
Ensure that work around our flood defences considers climate change and any local and regional effects	Adaption	An area we directly control	N/A			Summer Lane flood defence work underway.	Summer Lane flood defence work complete.
Ensure North Somerset's Emergency Management Plan is robust and resourced	Adaption	An area we directly control	N/A				
<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

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021
							renewable energy generation that has been identified by the study.
Pass a motion declaring North Somerset a Frack Free Zone to discourage the exploration and production of shale gas	Avoidance	An area we directly control	M	Investment in new technology Public engagement			
Encourage our partners and stakeholders to procure electricity supply from 100% renewably generated sources	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through our contracts or through funding/support	M	Investment in new technology Public engagement			
Encourage our residents to consider 100% renewable energy and support access to grant funding where possible	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through support	M	Investment in new technology Public engagement		Updated NSC Climate Emergency webpage and NS Life articles encourage 100% renewables. The new Home Energy and Renewable Loan for up to £8000 (4% fixed/Typical 4.2% APR) can be used for the installation of renewable and low carbon technology measures and improvement of insulation in domestic properties.  Plan to join WECA Solar Together scheme in Autumn 2021 – bulk buying scheme which allows residents to purchase PV installations at a reduced rate.	Plan to join WECA Solar Together scheme in Autumn 2021 – bulk buying scheme which allows residents to purchase PV installations at a reduced rate.
<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.
Develop policies that actively encourage the demand for and delivery of connected public transport	Reduction	An area we can influence or ask for help locally/nationally	M	Public health outcomes Ease congestion Air quality improvements		JLTP5 and the new Local Plan are likely to identify further public transport projects including Mobility as a Service	Bus Back Better announced. Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). Guidance still awaited from Government. Puts local government in the driving seat for public transport delivery. 10 new support bus contracts commenced on 1 April.



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

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – Jan 2021	Progress – Jul 2021
				Public engagement		and highlight what can be done to reduce reliance on school buses and cars.	
Consider reviewing parking planning guidance note to set maximum parking levels and reduce the number of spaces delivered for new development.	Avoidance Reduction	An area we directly control	M	Air quality improvements		Parking standards SPD currently under review. Revised standards will facilitate reductions in vehicle parking in accessible locations.	Parking standards SPD adopted in April 2021.  10 Year Parking Strategy being developed as part of motor vehicle strategy.
Encourage resident parking schemes, car sharing schemes and walking and cycling to support	Avoidance Reduction	An area we directly control and/or influence through support	M	Air quality improvements		The new Local Plan is likely to require such in new developments.	Recruitment underway for officer to progress WsM RPZ. Leigh Woods Parking Scheme due to complete October 2021.
Encourage our residents to consider their transport choices	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through support	M	Air quality improvements Public health outcomes		Work continues to deliver the DfT Access Fund, with a focus on business, schools and communities to encourage active and sustainable travel and reduce single occupancy car use. Marketing and communication has been used to publicise offers, encourage active and sustainable travel and provide information about relevant upcoming events and road and path closures.	Officers recruited to support 20mph zones and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods. Officers will liaise with Town and Parish Councils and residents.
<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.
Consider our green waste collection to encourage composting and rewilding	Reduction	An area we directly control	M	Financial savings		Charging for collections to commence from April 2021. An integral part of this is to encourage composting through subsidised composters, links to composting advice, community composting and working with Town	In the first three months of the new garden waste service, 42,000 households signed up for garden waste collection and over 3,200 NSC compost bins have been purchased by the community.



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

# Climate Emergency Progress Report



## Report to Council 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021

### Introduction

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



Chard, Somerset  
June 2021  
Source: BBC

Schuld, Germany  
July 2021  
Source: BBC



#### Met Office issues first UK extreme heat warning

By Kate Wright  
BBC News  
12 May

#### Met Office amber extreme heat warnings



Source: Met Office



## North Somerset Council Action

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

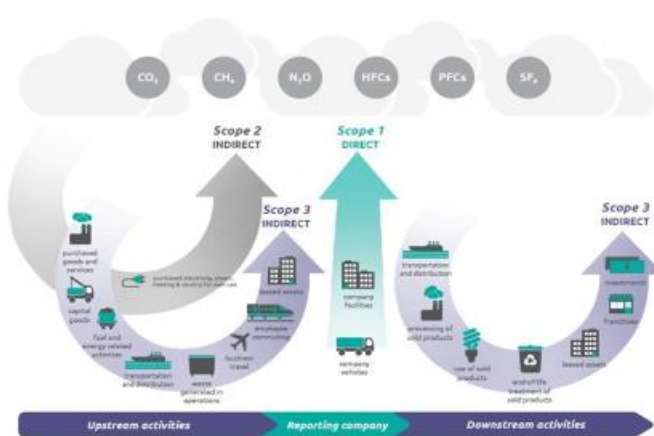
**Open**  
We will provide strong community leadership and work transparently with our residents, businesses and partners to deliver our ambition for North Somerset.

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

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



## North Somerset Council Emissions



Source: Greenhouse Gas Protocol

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



## North Somerset Council Emissions

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

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



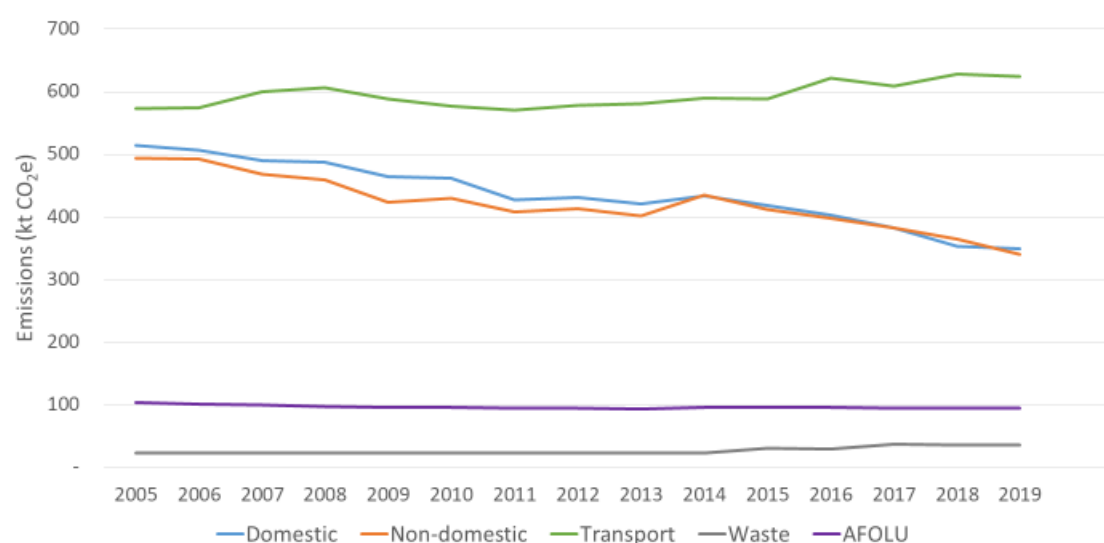


## North Somerset Council Emissions

- A number of causes for emissions reductions:
- COVID-19: reduction of use of buildings, but increase in winter heating requirements
- COVID-19: employee computing emissions have decreased by 75%
- Streetlight LED replacement project: 984 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e saved so far
- Electricity grid improvements: 10% decrease in carbon intensity each year so far



## North Somerset Area Emissions



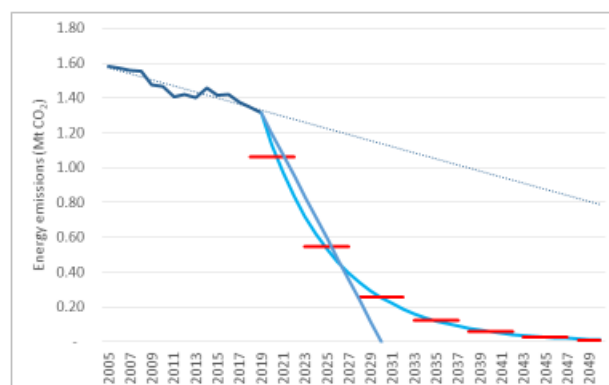
## North Somerset Area Emissions

Tyndall Centre Carbon Budgets for North Somerset recommendations:

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

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

At the current rate of reduction of 17 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e each year, it would take a further 85 years to reach zero.

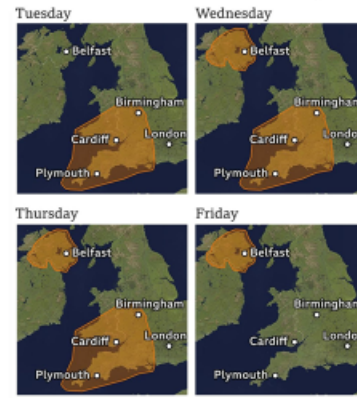


<https://carbonbudget.manchester.ac.uk/reports/>

# Climate change adaptation

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

Met Office amber extreme heat warnings



Source: Met Office

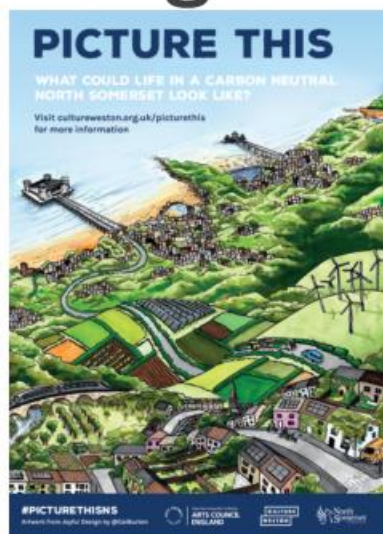


## Progress on projects

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



## Progress on projects



## Key steps for next 18 months

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

