

Democratic Services

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Date: 3 September 2014

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To: All Members of the Council

Chief Executive and other appropriate officers
Press and Public

****PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER START TIME****

Dear Member

Council: Thursday, 11th September, 2014

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **Council** to be held on **Thursday, 11th September, 2014** at **5.30 pm** in the **Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath.**

The agenda is set out overleaf.

Refreshments will be available for Councillors from 4pm in the Aix-en-Provence Room (next to the Banqueting Room) on Floor 1.

Yours sincerely



Jo Morrison
Democratic Services Manager
for Chief Executive

Please note the following arrangements for pre-group meetings:

Conservative	Brunswick Room, Ground Floor
Liberal Democrat	Kaposvar Room, Floor 1
Labour	Small Meeting Room, Floor 2
Independent	Independent Group room

If you need to access this agenda or any of the supporting reports in an alternative accessible format please contact Democratic Services or the relevant report author whose details are listed at the end of each report.

This Agenda and all accompanying reports are printed on recycled paper

NOTES:

1. **Inspection of Papers:** Any person wishing to inspect minutes, reports, or a list of the background papers relating to any item on this Agenda should contact Jo Morrison who is available by telephoning Bath 01225 394358.
2. **Details of decisions taken at this meeting** can be found in the minutes which will be circulated with the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime, details can be obtained by contacting as above. Papers are available for inspection as follows:

Public Access points – Guildhall – Bath, Riverside – Keynsham, Hollies – Midsomer Norton, and Bath Central and Midsomer Norton Public Libraries.

For Councillors and officers, papers may be inspected via Political Group Research Assistants and Group Rooms/Members' Libraries.

3. **Recording at Meetings:-**

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 now allows filming and recording by anyone attending a meeting. This is not within the Council's control.

Some of our meetings are webcast. At the start of the meeting, the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed. If you would prefer not to be filmed for the webcast, please make yourself known to the camera operators.

To comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, we require the consent of parents or guardians before filming children or young people. For more information, please speak to the camera operator.

The Council will broadcast the images and sound live via the internet www.bathnes.gov.uk/webcast An archived recording of the proceedings will also be available for viewing after the meeting. The Council may also use the images/sound recordings on its social media site or share with other organisations, such as broadcasters.

4. **Spokespersons:** The Political Group Spokespersons for the Council are the Group Leaders, who are Councillors Paul Crossley (Liberal Democrat Group), Tim Warren (Conservative Group), John Bull (Labour Group) and Dave Laming (Independent Group).
5. **Attendance Register:** Members should sign the Register, which will be circulated at the meeting.
6. **Public Speaking at Meetings:** The Council has a scheme to encourage the public to make their views known at meetings. They may make a statement relevant to what the meeting has power to do. They may also present a petition or a deputation on behalf of a group. They may also ask a question to which a written answer will be given. **Advance notice is required not less than two full working days before the meeting. This means that for meetings held on Thursdays notice must be received in Democratic Services by 5.00pm the previous Monday.** Further details of the scheme can be obtained by contacting Jo Morrison as above.
7. THE APPENDED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ARE IDENTIFIED BY AGENDA ITEM NUMBER.

8. **Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

When the continuous alarm sounds, you must evacuate the building by one of the designated exits and proceed to the named assembly point. The designated exits are sign-posted.

Arrangements are in place for the safe evacuation of disabled people.

9. **Presentation of reports:** Officers of the Council will not normally introduce their reports unless requested by the meeting to do so. Officers may need to advise the meeting of new information arising since the agenda was sent out.

A G E N D A

1. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman will draw attention to the emergency evacuation procedure as set out under Note 8.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

At this point in the meeting declarations of interest are received from Members in any of the agenda items under consideration at the meeting. Members are asked to complete the green interest forms circulated to groups in their pre-meetings (which will be announced at the Council Meeting) to indicate:

(a) The agenda item number in which they have an interest to declare.

(b) The nature of their interest.

(c) Whether their interest is **a disclosable pecuniary interest** *or* **an other interest**, (as defined in Part 2, A and B of the Code of Conduct and Rules for Registration of Interests)

Any Member who needs to clarify any matters relating to the declaration of interests is recommended to seek advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer or a member of his staff before the meeting to expedite dealing with the item during the meeting.

4. MINUTES - 10TH JULY 2014 (Pages 9 - 18)

To be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair(man)

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

These are matters of information for Members of the Council. No decisions will be required arising from the announcements.

6. TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

If there is any urgent business arising since the formal agenda was published, the Chairman will announce this and give reasons why he has agreed to consider it at this meeting. In making his decision, the Chairman will, where practicable, have consulted with the Leaders of the Political Groups. Any documentation on urgent business will be circulated at the meeting, if not made available previously.

7. REPORT OF CHIEF OFFICER URGENT DECISION

In accordance with the rules within the Constitution concerning Chief Officer's action (Urgency, Part 4G, rule 3), it is reported that the Chief Executive has taken the

following decisions since the last meeting of Council;

1. To approve an increase from 217 million to 229 million of the authorised borrowing limit for 2015/16 and from 183 million to 195 million of the operational budget for 2015/16 to enable the Council to be in a position, if it is considered to be financially beneficial, to finance an element of the capital costs of the enhancement of the Council's leisure facilities; and
2. To approve the virement of £800,000 of capital funding from the approved capital contingency for the Keynsham Development Project to enable the acquisition of land and rights over land to facilitate future redevelopment at Manvers Street.

These decisions were deemed as urgent and were taken following consultation with Political Group Leaders, the Chief Financial Officer and the Monitoring Officer.

8. QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Democratic Services Manager will announce any submissions received under the arrangements set out in note 5 above. The Council will be invited to decide what action it wishes to take, if any, on the matters raised in these submissions. As the questions received and the answers given will be circulated in written form there is no requirement for them to be read out at the meeting. The questions and answers will be published with the draft minutes.

9. OPTIONS TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION AND CIVIC GOVERNANCE WITHIN BATH (Pages 19 - 60)

This report invites the Council to consider the outcomes of the work undertaken by the cross-party member working group on options to strengthen community representation and civic governance within Bath, and resolve accordingly.

10. YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2014 - 2015 (Pages 61 - 104)

The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan. The Plan sets out work to be undertaken to prevent youth offending and re-offending across Bath and North East Somerset.

11. CORPORATE AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 105 - 114)

The Corporate Audit Committee has specific delegated powers given to it from Full Council and as such is required to report back annually to Council under its Terms of Reference. This is the Annual Report of the Committee which details its work over the last year.

12. REFERRAL FROM WELLBEING POLICY DEVELOPMENT & SCRUTINY PANEL - "HALVE IT" CAMPAIGN (Pages 115 - 120)

Following a presentation to the Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on 25th July 2014 regarding the prevalence of, and related issues to, HIV infection in Bath and North East Somerset, the Panel resolved to ask Council to sign up to the *Halve It*

campaign to reduce the proportion of people undiagnosed, or diagnosed late, with HIV, through policy reform and good practice.

13. MOTION FROM THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - PUBLIC TOILET CLOSURES
(Pages 121 - 122)
14. QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM
COUNCILLORS

The Democratic Services Manager will announce any submissions received. The Council will be invited to decide what action it wishes to take, if any, on the matters raised in these submissions. As the questions received and the answers given will be circulated in written form there is no requirement for them to be read out at the meeting. The questions and answers will be published with the draft minutes.

The Committee Administrator for this meeting is Jo Morrison who can be contacted on 01225 394358.

Protocol for Decision-making

Guidance for Members when making decisions

When making decisions, the Cabinet/Committee must ensure it has regard only to relevant considerations and disregards those that are not material.

The Cabinet/Committee must ensure that it bears in mind the following legal duties when making its decisions:

- Equalities considerations
- Risk Management considerations
- Crime and Disorder considerations
- Sustainability considerations
- Natural Environment considerations
- Planning Act 2008 considerations
- Human Rights Act 1998 considerations
- Children Act 2004 considerations
- Public Health & Inequalities considerations

Whilst it is the responsibility of the report author and the Council's Monitoring Officer and Chief Financial Officer to assess the applicability of the legal requirements, decision makers should ensure they are satisfied that the information presented to them is consistent with and takes due regard of them.

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BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 10th July, 2014

Present:- **Councillors** Simon Allen, Patrick Anketell-Jones, Rob Appleyard, Sharon Ball, Tim Ball, Colin Barrett, Cherry Beath, David Bellotti, Sarah Bevan, Mathew Blankley, Lisa Brett, John Bull, Neil Butters, Anthony Clarke, Nicholas Coombes, Paul Crossley, Gerry Curran, Sally Davis, Douglas Deacon, David Dixon, Peter Edwards, Michael Evans, Paul Fox, Andrew Furse, Terry Gazzard, Charles Gerrish, Ian Gilchrist, Francine Haerberling, Alan Hale, Katie Hall, Liz Hardman, Nathan Hartley, Steve Hedges, Eleanor Jackson, Dave Laming, Malcolm Lees, Marie Longstaff, Barry Macrae, David Martin, Loraine Morgan-Brinkhurst MBE, Robin Moss, Paul Myers, Douglas Nicol, Bryan Organ, June Player, Vic Pritchard, Liz Richardson, Manda Rigby, Caroline Roberts, Nigel Roberts, Dine Romero, Will Sandry, Brian Simmons, Kate Simmons, Jeremy Sparks, Ben Stevens, Roger Symonds, David Veale, Martin Veal, Geoff Ward, Tim Warren, Chris Watt and Brian Webber

Apologies for absence: **Councillors** Bryan Chalker and Les Kew

10 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure as set out on the agenda.

11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Nicholas Coombes declared an 'other' interest in item 8, Core Strategy, due to being employed as a manager at the Planning Inspectorate.

12 MINUTES - 8TH MAY 2014

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor Tim Warren, it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of 8th May 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

13 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chairman made the customary announcements regarding mobile phones being switched to silent, the meeting being webcast and a comfort break at an appropriate point.

14 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business.

15 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Chairman made reference to the printed Q&A document which had been circulated at the meeting.

Statements were made by the following people;

Guy Matthews made a statement regarding the Fairer Rate Contribution policy and the negative effect the application of it had had on him. He also talked about difficulties with housing costs. Following his statement, the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing offered to meet Mr Matthews to discuss his concerns.

Susan Charles made a statement regarding warm water swimming. In response to a question from Councillor Gerrish regarding the cost to the Council, Ms Charles responded that she didn't have those figures, but said there were grants available towards building and that it wouldn't be a free facility. She urged the Council to think of its equalities duties. In response to a question from Councillor John Bull about the difference in recreational swimming and hydrotherapy, Ms Charles responded that small pools for rehabilitation were between 33 and 34 degrees, too hot for other activities, regular swimming pools were usually 28 degrees, a little too cold unless actively swimming, so the 32 degrees of the warm water pools was the ideal temperature for physical and mental relaxation. The statement was referred to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, attached to the online minutes and added to the Minute book.

The following statements were all made at the Core Strategy item;

David Redgewell made a statement in support of the Core Strategy, making a case for even more housing to be provided and calling for appropriate transport infrastructure to be in place to support it. The statement is attached to the online minutes and added to the Minute book.

Petra Scofield made a statement on behalf of Residents Protecting Peasedown. She raised the problems of extra development at Peasedown and the effect this had had on traffic, schools, GP surgeries etc. A sustainable planning policy was needed so that developers didn't always win at appeal.

Bob Elcome-Thorpe, Friends of Breaches Gate, made a statement in support of the green belt around East Keynsham and Saltford, outlining the many benefits to the community of this area. He argued there were no extraordinary circumstances to warrant development in this area.

Peter Duppa-Miller, Combe Hay Parish Council, made a statement putting forward the views of the Parish Council. The statement is attached to the online minutes and has been placed on the Council's minute book.

Robert Hellard, South Stoke Parish Council, made a statement opposing adoption of the Core Strategy and calling for more work to be done to produce a properly balanced plan. In response to a question from Councillor Eleanor Jackson asking for evidence to support Mr Hellard's assertion that this policy will 'create a student

ghetto', he referred to the 461 units being built in Green Park and a further application in James Street West. The statement is attached to the online minutes and has been placed on the Council's minute book.

Colin Webb, South of Bath Alliance, made a statement opposing adoption of the strategy. The statement is attached to the online minutes and has been placed on the Council's minute book.

Mary Walsh, Whitchurch Village Action Group, made a statement in support of adopting the Strategy. She acknowledged the loss of some green belt land but highlighted the greater damage that could be inflicted across the region and urged Councillors to be brave enough to vote for adoption. The statement is attached to the online minutes and has been placed on the Council's minute book

Peter Holland, Friends of Breaches Gate, made a statement opposing adoption of the strategy. He objected to residents being excluded from the process to date and presented 300 letters of protest which had been collected over 3 days from local people opposing the removal of land from the green belt between Keynsham East and Saltford.

Caroline Kay, Bath Preservation Trust, made a statement welcoming the fact that development will not be permitted at Weston but expressing regret that it will be permitted at South Stoke. A full copy of the statement is attached to the minutes and has been placed on the Council's Minute book.

Brian Huggett, Englishcombe Parish Council, made a statement opposing the loss of green belt, but supporting adoption of the Strategy to give a degree of certainty and control. He stressed that alternative traffic routes would be needed so that it wasn't all travelling on single lanes through villages. He suggested that providing retirement housing would introduce fluidity to the housing market.

The Chair explained that the statements would be taken into account during the debate.

16 B&NES CORE STRATEGY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

The Council considered a report seeking a decision on accepting the Inspector's recommendations regarding necessary modifications needed to enable adoption of the Core Strategy. It was noted that, earlier that day, Cabinet had met and commended the proposals to the Council.

On a motion from Councillor Tim Ball, seconded by Councillor Paul Crossley, it was

RESOLVED

- 1 To accept the main modifications listed in attachment 1 to the report, which the Inspector considers are needed to make the Plan sound in accordance with section 23 (3) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004;

- 2 To agree the Minor Modifications listed in Attachment 2 to the B&NES Core Strategy, which are needed to ensure consistency and accuracy in the Plan;
- 3 To adopt the B&NES Core Strategy (Local Plan Part 1) as modified in (1) and (2) above for the purposes of section 38(6) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act;
- 4 To agree the B&NES Policies Map is amended in line with (1) and (2) above;
- 5 To agree that the adopted Supplementary Planning Documents/ Guidance listed in Attachment 3 should supplement the Core Strategy;
- 6 To note the success this Council has had in recent years in developing on brownfield sites across the Council area and encourage Cabinet to endeavour to maximise development on brownfield sites that are earmarked for housing across the District; and
- 7 To delegate responsibility to the Divisional Director for Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Homes & Planning, to make minor textual amendments to the Core Strategy prior to publication.

[Notes;

- a) *The wording underlined in resolution 6 above was proposed by Councillor Katie Hall and accepted by the mover and seconder of the motion.*
- b) *The motion was carried with 40 Councillors voting for, 21 Councillors voting against and 2 abstentions. The following Councillors asked to have their vote recorded;*

Against the motion; *Councillors David Veale, Neil Butters, Cherry Beath, Nigel Roberts, Steve Hedges, Roger Symonds, Geoff Ward, Marie Longstaff, Matthew Blankley, Francine Haerberling*

For the motion; *Councillor David Dixon*

Abstaining; *Councillor Nicholas Coombes*

17 PETITION FOR DEBATE - INDEPENDENT SHOPS OF BATH PROTESTING B&NES INCREASE OF PARKING CHARGES IN BATH CITY CENTRE

A petition had been received, gathered by the independent shops of Bath, protesting the increase in parking charges in Bath city centre. According to the Council's petition scheme, if a petition with over 1000 qualifying signatures of people who live, work and study in Bath & North East Somerset is received, a debate is held at Council.

Tim Newark, as one of two lead petitioners, addressed the Council in support of the petition. He explained how the petition had originally been started by Jo Grasse at the start of the year after her shop was directly affected by parking charges. He outlined the recommendations from the petition which they hoped would achieve agreement at this meeting.

Following a debate by Council, Councillor Anthony Clarke moved the following motion, seconded by Councillor John Bull, which was then

RESOLVED that

This Council:

- Notes that, within the budget approved by Council, the level of parking charges are a matter for Cabinet, and so Full Council is in a position only to make recommendations to Cabinet on this matter.
- Believes that, in addition to the social and environmental impact, the Council also has a responsibility to consider the economic impact of its policies.
- Believes that it is essential to Bath's economic prosperity for residents and visitors to be able to make short shopping trips into the city centre.
- Believes that the Council does need to seek ways to reduce the number of cars needing to enter the centre of Bath, but that simply hiking the cost of parking is not the best way to achieve this.
- Is concerned that recent significant increases in on-street parking charges in Bath could have a detrimental impact on economic activity in the city, and believes that the new 'Ultra-Premium Zone' is particularly unfair and punitive.
- Is concerned that recent changes to evening parking charge times at Charlotte Street could have a detrimental impact on the evening economy.
- Is concerned that these changes in on-street parking charges were not undertaken as part of a broader review of parking charges, which should have included consideration of the impact on the local economy.
- Is concerned at the lack of consultation prior to these changes being implemented.

Council resolves:

1. To ask that Cabinet undertake a review of current on-street parking charges, which includes an assessment of demand and supply at each location, and an assessment of the economic impact resulting from the Council's policy towards on-street parking charges.
2. That as part of this review, Cabinet is asked to take into serious consideration the proposals of the petitioners, and in particular seek to reduce or remove the new 'ultra-premium' on-street parking zone rates.
3. That, in addition, Cabinet is asked to seek to either reinstate a reduced evening parking charge from 6pm to 8pm, or alternatively amend the start time of free parking to 7pm rather than the current 8pm.

[Notes;

1. *The above resolution was passed with 33 Councillors voting in favour, 29 against and with 1 abstention.]*

18 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY AND CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

The Council considered a report inviting it to consider various constitutional and proportionality issues.

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor Tim Warren, it was

RESOLVED

1. To approve the allocation of seats on the Committees and Panels listed in Appendix 1 (such seats to be filled in accordance with the nominations made by the political groups) with the following changes
 - a. Labour group to lose one seat on Development Control and one on Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny
 - b. Conservative group to gain one on Development Control
 - c. Independent group gain one on Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny
2. To appoint to chair each committee and panel those Councillors as may from time to time be nominated by the political group to whom the chairmanship of the body is allocated;
3. To authorise the Monitoring Officer to fill any casual vacancies in membership of all the bodies constituted and vacancy in the office of Chair of such bodies in accordance with the wishes of the political groups;
4. To agree the revisions to the existing Petition scheme regarding petitions for debate at Council subject to the variations shown in the revised Appendix 2 (linked to these minutes);
5. To agree that no notices of motion, councillor statements, councillor petitions or councillor questions be permitted at the Budget Council and the Annual Council Meeting and amend the Constitution accordingly;
6. To authorise the Monitoring Officer to make and publicise any amendment to the Council's Constitution required, or take any other necessary action, as a result of decisions taken at this meeting on this and other reports within the agenda, or otherwise as required by law.

19 POLICY FOR APPOINTMENT OF FREEMEN AND FREEWOMEN

The Council considered a report asking it to adopt a scheme for appointing as Honorary Freemen and Freewomen of Bath and North East Somerset, those

persons who have been appointed to this honorary office by resolution of full Council, in accordance with section 248 of the Local Government Act 1972.

During the debate, Councillor Paul Crossley moved, seconded by Councillor Tim Ball, that the meeting continue until 10.20pm in accordance with Council rule 48. This was accepted by the meeting.

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor Tim Warren, and supported by Councillors Dave Laming and John Bull, it was

RESOLVED to adopt the scheme.

[Notes;

1. *The above resolution was passed with 57 Councillors voting in favour, 3 Councillors abstaining and the following Councillors voting against – Councillors Nicholas Coombes, Eleanor Jackson and Roger Symonds.]*

20 AVON PENSION FUND COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Councillor Paul Fox, as Chair of the Avon Pension Fund Committee, introduced this report from the Avon Pension Fund setting out the work it has undertaken in the previous twelve months and the future work programme. In doing so, he thanked officers, the Committee and Vice-Chair Councillor Paul Gerrish.

On a motion from Councillor Paul Fox, seconded by Councillor Charles Gerrish, it was

RESOLVED to note the report.

21 TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2013/14

The Council considered a report giving details of performance against the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Plan for 2013/14.

On a motion from Councillor David Bellotti, seconded by Councillor Andy Furse, it was

RESOLVED

1. To note the 2013/14 Treasury Management Annual report to 31st March 2014, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice;
2. To note the 2013/14 actual Treasury Management Indicators; and
3. To note the debt rescheduling actions highlighted at paragraphs 5.8 to 5.10 of the report.

22 MOTION FROM CLLR NIGEL ROBERTS - AIR POLLUTION

The Council considered a motion brought by Councillor Nigel Roberts on behalf of the Liberal Democrat group regarding air pollution in B&NES as set out below.

On a motion from Councillor Nigel Roberts, seconded by Councillor Lisa Brett, it was

RESOLVED as set out below;

This motion recognises that by reducing air pollution in B&NES we may be able to reduce residents' risk of respiratory diseases, heart disease, and lung cancer.

It also recognises that no one single agency, government department or community has all the answers; improvements to air quality can only be achieved by taking a nationally integrated, collaborative approach. It acknowledges that economic growth and improving the local environment are not mutually exclusive. The Government has advised local authorities to bear in mind the synergies between air quality and climate change, and the benefits of having an integrated approach to economic development, housing and tackling climate change and air quality objectives.

Nevertheless, it is the UK government that is responsible for implementation of clean air laws and remains the major source of finance for clean air policy, both for national policies and through the funding of local authorities. The government's Localism Act sought to transfer more responsibility for air quality from central government to local authorities, especially attempting to make them potentially liable for a share of EU fines, but has failed to give Local Authorities the power they need.

B&NES Council's report on air pollution source apportionment shows that road traffic contributes up to 92% of the total NO_x concentration. The most recent modelling suggests that road traffic contributes 74% to NO₂ concentration.

We therefore call on Central Government to give Local Government greater powers to influence polluters in their areas. It is unacceptable that councils outside London have no ability to influence the air quality in relation to major transport routes since this falls to the Highways Agency. This limits our ambition to respond to residents' concerns when developing a Transport Strategy for Bath

As host to the UK's only World Heritage City, we request the same powers as London to manage traffic flow and to decriminalize certain moving traffic offences. We also demand that the Highways Agency develops a strategy for the A46/A36 that does not direct HGVs and other traffic through the city of Bath, thus contributing to the serious air quality problems within the city.

In addition we request that

1. The Department for Transport and DEFRA should continue to support developing a wider network of Low Emissions Zones to cut emissions in locations where limit values for NO₂ are being breached, piloting in B&NES if found viable and in breach.
2. B&NES are permitted to test differentiated parking permit charges based on emission of vehicles.

3. B&NES is allowed to pilot a Berlin-type system in their city, where cars have to display colour-coded visible road tax permits based on the emissions levels (where, for example, a low polluting car would display a green sticker and high polluting one a red).
4. More central government funding is made available to reduce the NO2 emissions from buses by retrofitting buses with SCRT pollution filtering systems. While welcoming the £5 million Clean Vehicle Technology Fund made available to local authorities to bid for across England and make improvements to local bus fleets, we do not feel this is sufficient funding to make the impact needed.
5. Central government funding is made available to provide incentives to clean up the emissions of local taxis as the highest mileage urban vehicles.
6. Greater regulation of Bus Fares, to encourage modal change.
7. Financial support be made available for improved walking and cycling routes as an alternatives to the motor car
8. Diesel vehicles are subject to the same small surcharge under Vehicle Excise Duty as they are under the Company Car Tax. This would help ameliorate the current, arguably perverse, encouragement of diesel vehicles and bring consistency to the treatment of private and company cars.
9. Smoke control and air quality management rules should not be weakened as government attempts to promote renewable energy in homes and businesses, and if necessary should be strengthened to ensure that local authorities have discretion to determine whether biomass installations are right for their area.
10. Once officers have completed work on assessing the effectiveness, feasibility and social fairness of all of point 1 – 9 above, the findings are fed into the emerging draft Transport Strategy for consideration.

B&NES Council has been proactive in attempting to deal with the problem of poor air quality. It is time for the government to take a bold and radical approach to cutting pollution by giving councils greater influence over polluters in their areas and investing to save taxpayers from footing these huge health bills in the future.

Government needs to give local communities the powers to implement traffic management measures and the finance to ensure that economically those areas are not disadvantaged, by offering alternatives to polluting vehicles.

[Notes;

1. *The underlined wording in resolution 10 above was offered by Councillor Anthony Clarke and accepted by the mover and seconder of the motion.*
2. *This motion was passed with all Councillors voting in favour except for one abstention from Councillor Matthew Blankley*
3. *During this debate, Councillor Chris Watt asked for the Chief Executive to ensure that taxis licensed by this Authority comply with proper regulations regarding diesel*

particulate filters, and that our own garages that run checks on taxis also check this aspect.]

23 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

The Chairman made reference to the printed Councillor Q&A document which had been circulated at the meeting.

The meeting ended at 10.20 pm

Chairman

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING	Council	
MEETING	11 September 2014	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	Options to strengthen community representation and civic governance within Bath	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
<p>List of attachments to this report:</p> <p>Appendix 1: Cross-Party working group to consider options to strengthen community representation and civic governance within Bath- Interim Report for Comment - July 2014</p> <p>Appendix 2: Comments received</p>		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report invites the Council to consider the outcomes of the work undertaken by the cross-party member working group on options to strengthen community representation and civic governance within Bath, and resolve accordingly.

2 RECOMMENDATION

Council is requested to:

- 2.1 Note the interim report of the working group to strengthen community representation and civic governance within Bath and thank its members for their work so far
- 2.2 Agree that the working group continue its work, based on the next steps set out in paragraph 5.8 of this report, to provide an evidence base for the newly-elected Council in May 2015 to determine this issue

- 2.3 Agree to extend the life of the working group, as currently comprised, to deliver the remit set out in 2.2.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 Secretariat and related support for the working group has been provided so far by the Strategy and Performance team, with other specialist advice provided from service areas as required. This will continue, and can be met within existing resources.
- 3.2 The working group will continue to develop its evidence base on this issue, and this will involve further community engagement. A report containing detailed proposals for this will be brought to the working group. Again, these proposals will be delivered from within existing Council resources.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

4.1 The key issues Council requested the working group to consider were strengthening community representation and civic governance within Bath. Throughout the work of the working group a number of more detailed considerations were highlighted, including:

- The scope the various models had to make a real difference in local communities in Bath
- Timing and implementation issues, notably whether a scheme could be put in place before the new Council is elected in May 2015
- Emerging impacts such as the local spend element of the new Community Infrastructure Levy
- Cost and resource implications
- Impacts on existing arrangements such as the Charter Trustees for Bath and in particular the Mayoralty

4.1 The working group also requested public comments on its interim report and considered these at its meeting of 28th August. Following consideration of these, the group agreed that a more detailed evidence base was required before a preferred option could be drawn up, hence the recommendations in this report.

4.2 The working group also considered the potential equality impacts of the options under consideration. The proposal for further development of the evidence base will allow for further equality analysis so that impacts can be properly assessed in line with Council policy and the Public Sector Equality Duty.

5 THE REPORT

5.1 Council on 8th May resolved that a cross-party working group (with a membership proportionate to the make-up of the Council) be established to consider, with officer support, options to strengthen community representation and civic governance within Bath, and to report back on these options, including a preferred option (with proposed Terms of Reference) to the July Council meeting, or if this was not possible then no later than the September Council meeting, for consideration.

5.2 The working group was subsequently established with the following membership:

Conservative Group-
Councillor Brian Webber
Councillor Paul Myers
Councillor Francine Haerberling
Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones
Councillor Anthony Clarke
Councillor Tim Warren (reserve)

Liberal Democrat Group-
Councillor Douglas Nicol
Councillor Paul Crossley
Councillor Ben Stevens
Councillor Cherry Beath
Councillor Ian Gilchrist
Councillor Manda Rigby (reserve)

Labour Group-
Councillor John Bull
Councillor Robin Moss (reserve)

Independent Group -
Councillor Malcolm Lees
Councillor Dave Laming (reserve)

5.3 The working group has met 8 times to consider in depth how best to address the issues identified by the Council. It started by identifying a wide range of options. Through its discussions, the group then identified the advantages and disadvantages of each of these options, receiving information and reports from officers as appropriate. There was an initial request for comments from a large number of groups (including parish councils) and minutes of working group meetings were also made available online.

5.4 At its meeting of 24th July, the working group agreed that an Interim Report be issued for public comment, prior to preparing a final report to Council. This Interim Report is attached at Appendix One and contains a smaller number of options based on the detailed work undertaken by the group. These options were:

A. No Change

- B. A “Voice for Bath” committee (to include co-opted stakeholders as well as B&NES elected members)
- C. The parishing of Bath - either as a single parish for the City or multiple parishes for different parts of the City. This would require a Community Governance Review
- 5.5 A number of additional documents were also made available as Appendices to the Interim report to help inform comments at this stage, and these are now identified as background documents to the report. These documents reflect the consideration given by the working group and contain information on:
- Voting rights for co-opted members of area committees
 - Powers of parish councils
 - The Charter Trustees for Bath
 - The Community Infrastructure Levy “local spend” element
 - The impact on the Bath Mayoralty of options for parishing in the City
 - An example case study of the Winchester Town Forum
 - Comparisons between the parish council and area committee approaches.
- 5.6 The working group agreed to publish the Interim Report and request comments for the period 28th July – 26th August on the options set out in it. The specific questions asked were:
1. Of the three options set out, which is your preferred option?
 - 2.1 For the “Voice for Bath” committee option, what should be its role and functions?
 - 2.2 Which stakeholders should be co-opted onto the “Voice for Bath” committee option?
 - 2.3 Should the stakeholders have voting rights for the “Voice for Bath” committee option?
 - 2.4 How many of the 32 Bath elected members of Bath and North East Somerset should serve on the ‘Voice for Bath’ committee.
 - 3.1 Should consideration be given to multiple parishes for Bath or a single parish (for Bath as a whole)
 - 3.2 If there were to be multiple parishes, how should Bath be parished?
- 5.7 56 responses were received during the comments period. These comments are attached as Appendix 2.
- 5.8 The comments were considered by the working group at its meeting of 28th August 2014. It recognised the progress that had been made in identifying the issues and opening up conversations on options, but considered that this

process now needed be continued and developed further. It therefore agreed that the following next steps be recommended to Council:

- 1 To continue to build and refine the evidence base through continuing to encourage feedback from parish councils, residents and other interested parties, including arranging new engagement sessions as appropriate
- 2 To continue to meet as a working group (on a 6-weekly basis) to oversee this process and to agree a suitable engagement plan
- 3 Through this process, to provide a robust foundation for the newly-elected Council in May 2015 to determine its approach to this issue

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 This report has been prepared following the work of the member working group, which was established in response to agreement at Council on 8th May. A “pros and cons” analysis of each of the options was kept updated throughout the life of the working group in order to provide a continuous assessment of the impacts of the options under discussion. The working group has developed its recommendations in the light of this analysis and also comments received during the period from 28th July to 26th August.
- 6.2 In determining its recommendations, the group also took into account the diverse range of comments received and the breadth and complexity of the issues raised. It therefore considered that more time was needed to consider these issues fully, to gather more information, and to ensure that the newly-elected Council in May 2015 can decide how to proceed based on the best available evidence.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 The working group considered the option of adopting a preferred option to report to Council. However, in the light of the issues set out in this report, it agreed that further work was required to allow the newly-elected Council in May 2015 can determine its approach.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Monitoring Officer has provided officer advice, support and briefing to the working group throughout its life and has also been consulted on this report.
- 8.2 The Section 151 Officer has been consulted on this report
- 8.3 For the period from 28th July 2014 to 26th August 2014, the Interim Report of the working group was made available online through the Council’s consultation website and at the Bath City Conference website for comment. This was in the form of:

- An online consultation questionnaire
- A main Interim Report paper which sets out options
- A series of Appendices which together formed responses to a series of questions designed to help clarify options and inform comments

8.4 The availability of this opportunity for comment was also disseminated through

- The Council e-bulletin
- Parish Councils
- A Council press release

8.5 Although the working group recognised that consultation over the summer period was not wholly satisfactory (for example, given that parish councils do not meet at this time), it was considered appropriate to seek comments at that stage. This provided high-quality and detailed feedback.

8.6 However, at its meeting of 28th August it agreed that further engagement was required with local residents, parish councils and others. An engagement plan setting out proposals for this will be prepared and considered by the group.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

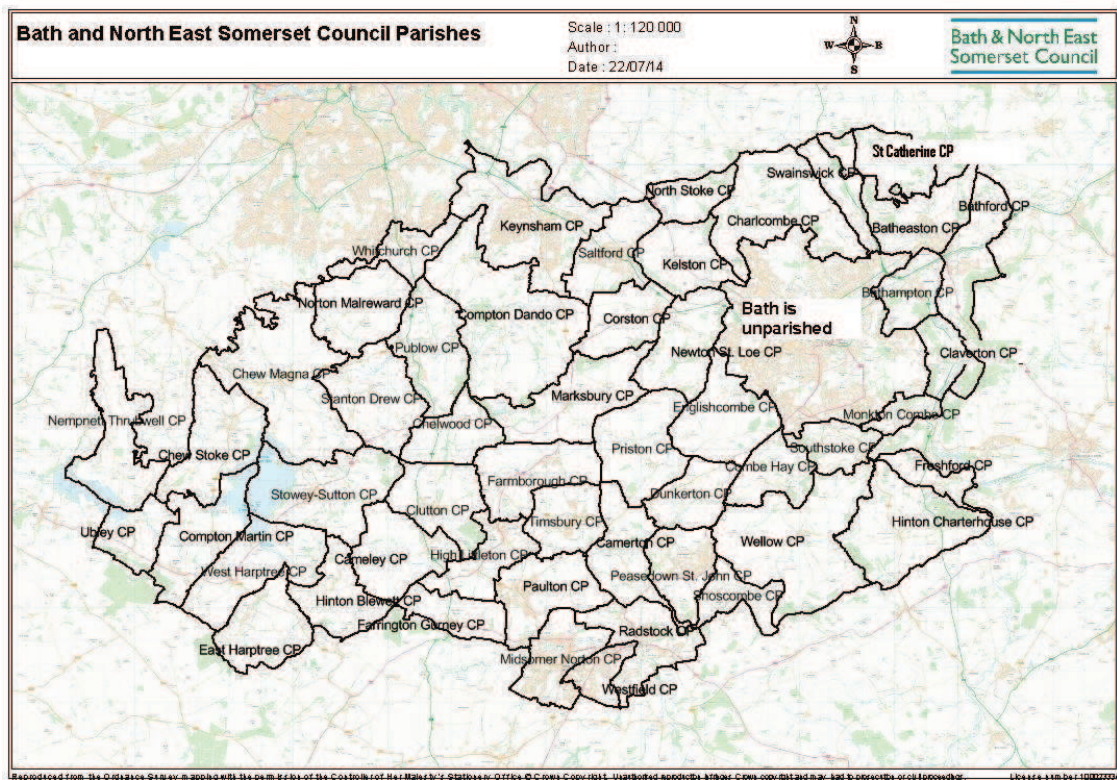
9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

Contact person	<i>Vernon Hitchman, 01225 395171</i> <i>Andy Thomas, 01225 394322</i>
Background papers	The minutes of the meetings of the Group held on 29 th May 2014, 5 th June 2014, 12 th June 2014, 19 th June 2014, 3 rd July 2014 , 17 th July 2014, 24 th July 2014 and 28 th August Appendices to Interim Report of Working Group
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

APPENDIX 1

Cross-Party working group to consider options to
strengthen community representation and civic
governance within Bath

Interim Report for Comment - July 2014



1. Summary and Key Issues for Comment

A cross-party member working group has been meeting since May 2014 to consider options to strengthen community representation and civic governance within Bath. This means the unparished area referred to on the map on the front cover of this report.

As part of the process of preparing a report to Council for its meeting on 11 September 2014, the group has agreed to request comments on this interim report, which reflects its work so far. Comments received will be considered in preparing the final report and will also be reported to the Council meeting.

This interim report considers three options. These are:

- A. No Change
- B. A “Voice for Bath” committee (to include co-opted stakeholders as well as B&NES elected members)
- C. The parishing of Bath - either as a single parish for the City or multiple parishes for different parts of the City. This would require a Community Governance Review

The key questions you are asked to consider when making your comments are:

1. Of the three options set out above, which is your preferred option?
2. For the “Voice for Bath” committee option:
 - 2.1. What should be its role and functions?
 - 2.2. Which stakeholders should be co-opted onto it?
 - 2.3. Should these stakeholders have voting rights (for information about under which circumstances stakeholder co-optees are able to vote, please see [Appendix 1](#))
 - 2.4. How many of the 32 Bath elected members of Bath & North East Somerset should serve on it?
3. For the parish options:
 - 3.1 Should Bath be parished as a whole (with one Parish Council for the City of Bath) or should there be multiple parishes for Bath?
 - 3.2 If there were to be multiple parishes, how should Bath be parished?

When responding, the member working group asks that you consider:

- ...which option best provides easier ways for local people in Bath to have their voices heard on the issues that affect them

- ...which option best provides a clear “Voice for Bath” to address the perceived “democratic deficit” in the City?
- ...which option best delivers local services in a more effective and convenient way, for example by focusing better on local priorities or by attracting new resources
- ... the costs to the Bath and North East Somerset Council Tax Payer of any new arrangements and whether the benefits to local communities are commensurate with these
- ...timescales for delivery. Please note that one or more Parish Councils can only be established following a Community Governance Review
- ...changes such as the Community Infrastructure Levy
- ...the extent to which you are satisfied with current arrangements

Comments on the interim report are invited from all residents and businesses in Bath and North East Somerset and should be sent to:

governanceoptions@bathnes.gov.uk

by 5pm on 26th August.

2. Background Information

As a result of discussions initiated at the second Bath City Conference, Bath & North East Somerset Council at its meeting of May 8th 2014 agreed to establish a cross-party member working group to identify a preferred option to Council to strengthen community representation and civic governance within Bath. The members of this group can be found at [Appendix 2](#).

The working group has met seven times to examine in detail a range of options. It has asked for reports, information and clarification. Initial input and views were requested and the minutes of the group’s meetings have been placed on the Bath City Conference website and also circulated to parish councils.

This document sets out the outcomes so far of these discussions in the form of this interim report for comment. This is designed to inform the final report to Council on September 11th.

The deadline for comments on this document is 5pm on 26th August and these will be considered by the members of the working group at its meeting of 28th August.

To comment on this report please contact

3. The Current Position

The working group, as well as considering options for change, has also examined in detail the present system of governance and community representation in Bath & North East Somerset, which comprises the following:

- Bath & North East Somerset Council is the “principal authority” and as such secures a wide range of services for local communities. Bath & North East Somerset Council levies the same Council Tax precept across all communities in Bath & North East Somerset to help pay for these services.
- The Council is made up of 65 elected councillors who make decisions on how to provide these services on behalf of local people within the 37 wards that make up Bath & North East Somerset. These councillors are elected every 4 years with the next election due to take place in May 2015.
- In addition to the Bath & North East Somerset level of governance, there are currently 48 directly-elected parish and town councils (as well as 3 parish meetings) in the area outside of the City of Bath. Parish Councils may raise their own additional precept which may be spent on a range of local services. See [Appendix 3](#) for a full list of the powers of parish and town councils.
- In the City of Bath, the 32 Charter Trustees are responsible for maintaining the Charter of the City. The Charter Trustees comprise the 32 Bath & North East Somerset councillors for the wards of the City of Bath and it is from these that the Mayor of Bath is selected. There is no parish council within the City of Bath. See [Appendix 4](#) for more information about the Charter Trustees of Bath

The working group has identified a number of concerns about these current structures, particularly the perception of a “democratic deficit” in Bath and the lack of a “voice” for Bath. “No Change” has however been identified by the working group as a potential option as implementing new structures and approaches presents potential challenges, including costs to Council Taxpayers. More detail- including potential benefits, implementation and costs - of the three options are set out in the next section.

4. Potential options for strengthening community representation and civic governance within Bath.

Including the “no change” option, the working group considered a total of 9 separate options. These are set out in [Appendix 5](#).

Following detailed discussions, the working group has now identified 3 of these as the options which it wishes to consider further and on which comment is being requested prior to the report to Council. These are:

- A. No Change
- B. A “Voice for Bath” Committee (including stakeholders as well as B&NES elected members)
- C. The parishing of Bath - either as a single parish for the City or multiple parishes for different parts of the City.

The working group agrees that options B and C in particular can help deliver the aims of strengthening community representation and civic governance within Bath, but in different ways and with different costs and benefits. Under all options, however, Bath & North East Somerset Council would remain responsible for major services such as social care, highways, school admissions, children’s services, environmental protection, planning decisions and so on. Bath & North East Somerset Councillors will continue to represent their wards as at present.

These three options are explained more fully below, under the following headings:

- What difference would we see?
- Potential benefits
- Implementation
- Costs

Option A - No change

What difference would we see?

There would be no difference to the current situation. The Charter Trustees of Bath would continue their current limited role of preserving the historic identity of the City by carrying out ceremonial functions and selecting the Mayor. The Trustees are Bath & North East Somerset councillors from Bath wards: they can raise funding for ceremonial and related purposes. The Charter Trustees cannot do this to enhance local services, nor do they have a role to act as a “voice” for the City of Bath as a whole.

Any additional powers for the Charter Trustees over and above their current functions would require central government regulations, and granting of this this is considered highly unlikely.

Potential benefits

Under these arrangements Bath & North East Somerset councillors and officers would continue to engage locally on a range of projects relevant to the City and its communities. For example, the “local proportion” of the Community Infrastructure Levy, which has to be spent in the locality of the development, would be agreed through Bath & North East Somerset Council processes, albeit requiring further engagement at local level on this.

Implementation

Under “no change”, the Council would still be required to consider how it implements the “local proportion” element of the Community Infrastructure

Levy which presents particular challenges in the unparished area of Bath. More information on this is set out in [Appendix 6](#).

Costs

Council Tax payers in Bath wards currently pay £6.58 (Council Tax band D) to the Charter Trustees of the City of Bath.

Option B- A “Voice for Bath” committee (including stakeholders as well as B&NES elected members)

What difference would we see?

This option would see a new Council committee formed of all or some of the Bath & North East Somerset elected members who represent Bath wards, alongside co-opted stakeholders such as local residents’ groups. This “Voice for Bath” committee would exercise some of the functions which are currently carried out either by Bath & North East Somerset Council, or by its Cabinet, a committee or through other delegations.

Potential benefits

At its simplest, the new body could begin by acting in an advisory capacity to the Cabinet, responding to consultations and acting as a “voice” for the City. It could advise on how best to manage issues such as the local proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy and Neighbourhood Planning, ensuring there is the right form of community engagement. More information on the local proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy is set out in [Appendix 6](#). An example of a body working in this type of way is the Winchester Town Forum. More information on the Winchester Town Forum is available at [Appendix 7](#).

Implementation

It would be possible to establish a “Voice for Bath” committee relatively quickly, drawing on models from other areas such as Winchester. However, agreement would need to be secured on exact Terms of Reference and co-options.

Cost

A “Voice for Bath” committee would not be able to raise any precept over and above the current Bath & North East Somerset precept. There would be an additional cost of running it, depending on how often it would meet. Running a “Voice for Bath” committee would cost an estimated £1500 for each meeting held. For example, if the “Voice for Bath” committee were to meet 6 times a year it would cost £9000. This would be paid for from the Bath & North East Somerset Council Tax precept.

Option C– The parishing of Bath- either as a single parish for the City or multiple parishes for different parts of the City (this would require a Community Governance Review)

What difference would we see?

This would mean either a new Bath City (Parish) Council being established to cover the whole of the unparished area of Bath or a number of parishes within Bath City. Any new parish council or councils would be directly elected, separately from Bath & North East Somerset councillors and could levy a precept to enhance local services, as with current parishes outside of Bath.

A single parish council for the whole City would take on the duties of the Bath Charter Trustees and the Chairman of that Council would become the Mayor of Bath, the Charter Trustees be dissolved and the functions be transferred. Alternatively, a number of parish councils, of smaller geographical area, could be formed within the City of Bath. Each of these smaller parishes would have the same legal powers as a larger parish. It would be possible for some parts of the City of Bath to be parished, with others not. The implications of this, particularly for the Mayoralty of Bath, are set out in [Appendix 8](#).

Potential benefits

Parish Councils are the most local form of government and can represent a wide range of populations as there are no legal limits on population sizes. The general rule is that they are based on an area which has real community identity and shared interests. (You may see the words “Parish Councils” and “Town Councils” used, but they mean the same thing - the only difference being that the Chairman of a Town Council can have the title of Mayor). If the whole City of Bath were to become one parish its parish council would have the status of a City Council as the current Charter would transfer to it.

Parish councils can choose to deliver services that improve their local area and for this they are able to raise a precept through the Council Tax. As they are directly elected they can be seen to provide an additional democratic voice offering accountability to the electorate. Parished areas are able to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan and when this happens this gives them direct access to a higher “local proportion” of the Community Infrastructure Levy. Parishes also receive this “local proportion” directly to spend in their areas.

Whatever parish council(s) were to be formed in the City of Bath, Bath & North East Somerset Council would still exist and would remain responsible for major services such as social care, highways, education admissions, children’s services, environmental protection, planning decisions etc. Bath & North East Somerset Councillors would continue to represent individuals and groups in their wards.

Implementation

Bath & North East Somerset has the power to establish parish councils. However, it may only do this following a Community Governance Review, and any implementation could only therefore take place subject to this. The process for implementing a Community Governance review is set down by central government and more information on this can be found in [Appendix 9](#). A Community Governance Review would require a period of 6-12 months to undertake.

Costs

If a single parish council were to be created covering the whole of the area of the Charter Trustees for Bath, the Charter Trustees would be replaced by the new parish council, which would be a City Council. This would then carry out its functions and recover the costs by setting a council tax precept. There would be a cost to Bath & North East Somerset Council in undertaking a Community Governance Review. Costs are currently unknown and would depend on the approach taken, but a budget of £100,000 is envisaged.

All parish costs and precepts vary depending on the size of the councils and the services they deliver. The parish precepts for residents in Bath & North East Somerset range from £5.99 to £133.85.

5. I need more information before responding

The working group has discussed the three options in detail and has prepared a detailed “pros” and “cons” list for each of them. This is set out in [Appendix 10](#). There is also a detailed analysis of the differences between the parishing and “Voice for Bath” committee options contained in [Appendix 11](#).

There are also a series of Frequently Asked Questions set out below:

1. [Under what circumstances can co-optees to the “Voice for Bath” committee vote?](#)
2. [Which members of Bath & North East Somerset Council formed the working group?](#)
3. [What are the powers of town and parish councils?](#)
4. [What is the role of the Charter Trustees of Bath?](#)
5. [What options have been considered by the working group?](#)
6. [What is the Community Infrastructure Levy and what is the relevance to this discussion?](#)
7. [What is the Winchester Town Forum?](#)
8. [What are the implications for the Mayoralty of Bath?](#)
9. [What is a Community Governance Review?](#)
10. [What are the detailed pros and cons of the options being put forward by the working group?](#)
11. [What is the difference between a parish council and an area committee?](#)

APPENDIX 2

Comments received on 'Options to strengthen community representation and civic governance in Bath'

56 responses have been received at 5pm on 26th August 2014 when the request for views closed. There are some questions that were not answered on all responses therefore each question has a different number of returns.

1. Of the three options set out above, which is your preferred option?

No Change	9
A "Voice for Bath" committee (to include co-opted stakeholders as well as B&NES elected members)	11
The parishing of Bath - either as a single parish for the City or multiple parishes for different parts of the City	30
No Response	6

2.1 For the “Voice for Bath” committee option, what should be its role and functions?”

1.	It should promote and review consultations on any topic that it votes upon to review.
2.	it shouldn't have any.
3.	This committee already exists in terms of the Charter Trustees.
4.	To recruit and resource under-represented groupings of people in the city such as young people, people on benefits, ethnic minorities so that the communities that make a city have a voice and are catered for.
5.	No role
6.	Largely the same powers as a parish, with those responsibilities delegated down by the Council Leader. Nothing strategic.
7.	Co-opted people are unelected and unaccountable and I think this option is a very bad idea. I'm certain that there are a few interested individuals who would be very keen to be involved in directing council for their own personal ends and this would allow them to do so entirely undemocratically.
8.	<p>Of the three options set out in the Interim Report (July 2014), my preferred option, as a resident and business owner, is Option C. To maintain the status quo by making no change (Option A) is to ignore an evident problem. While Option B is one solution to Bath’s lack of city-specific community representation and civic governance, it is a short-term easy ‘fix’ that adds a layer of ‘sticking plaster’ governance rather than addressing a fundamental Structural problem.</p> <p>Undoubtedly, Option C poses challenges to local residents, businesses and B&NES Council elected members and officers. But it also offers an opportunity to introduce an arrangement for Bath that will have lasting and beneficial effects on local democracy and prosperity. A Community Governance Review is a lengthy process that may take several years to complete and involve financial costs to B&NES Council tax-payers. Nonetheless, it’s the right choice for strengthening local representation and governance for future generations of Bath citizens.</p> <p>Bearing in mind current local elected representation in the B&NES Council area (65 elected councillors for 37 wards, and 48 directly elected parish and town councils, 3 parish meetings, plus an elected Member of Parliament), we should build on this democratic system. The 32 City of Bath Charter Trustees and civic Mayor were introduced as a temporary measure during Bath’s transition from borough council to B&NES unitary authority. Option C will resolve a consequent ‘democratic deficit’ and Bath’s lack of parity with other</p>

	<p>parishes and towns in the B&NES area. That is, abolish the anachronistic and mostly ceremonial Charter of Trustees group and, through a Community Governance Review, set up a directly elected, single City of Bath parish council.</p> <p>Option B ignores local people's dissatisfaction with the Charter of Trustees group and a ceremonial Mayor. Importantly, Option B if chosen would miss a timely opportunity to transform the city of Bath's political position vis-à-vis B&NES Council and wider West of England region. Many towns and cities across England are radically reforming their governance structures to take advantage of devolved powers introduced under the Localism Act (2012) and Community Infrastructure Levy. In Bath, we need the official status and coherence of a single parish council to use such powers - for influencing service delivery decisions, prioritising developments, and attracting inward investment. Furthermore, we need a strong parish council leader/ Mayor of Bath to promote the West of England's cultural capital, the economic powerhouse of B&NES and second most economically prosperous city in the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership, and a centre of world-renowned higher education research and learning. We do not need the 'talking shop' proposed in Option B's 'Voice of Bath' committee.</p> <p>In terms of Option C's value for money, abolition of the Charter of Trustees would release tax monies for Bath's parish council and more proactive mayoral activities. By contrast, Option B is a waste of tax-payers money because it proposes to maintain the Charter of Trustees and Mayor costs as well as those of a purely advisory 'Voice of Bath' committee."</p>
9.	None
10.	<p>MISSION AND ROLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion the interests of the City of Bath by taking leadership of and accountability for addressing issues that are vital to the City • Lead the City of Bath towards its potential to be the 'leading micro city' • A virtual 'Bath City Council' <p>LEADERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEES: Urban matters crucial to Bath as a city Potential portfolios:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision for Bath (framework policy document updated periodically) • Economic Development (Development and delivery of Bath Economic Strategy, a major component of the B&NES Economic Strategy) • Placemaking (Spatial planning, delivery of Bath Enterprise Area Masterplan, CIL within Bath, housing policy, commercial property portfolio management) • Transport (Development and delivery of Bath Transport Strategy and Plan) • Public Realm (Delivery of Public Realm and Movement Strategy, WHS Management Plan, Heritage Asset management)

	<p>ISSUES THAT SHOULD NOT BE ADDRESSED BY THE BATH COMMITTEE: Matters that apply equally throughout B&NES Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory and other council services • Connecting Communities • Local ward issues and initiatives <p>OPERATING PRINCIPLES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Plan with explicit Objectives and end of year Report • Subcommittee Chairs should become champions for, experts in and masters of their briefs • Strive to preclude party political behaviour • As members, all have a duty to act in the interests of the Bath Committee rather than their local wards or sponsor organisations • Every member is given at least one subcommittee job to do and is expected to do it • Expertise and resources from outside the council to be actively used where applicable <p>FUNDING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation of current budgets to Subcommittees as applicable • Bath Committee to apply and compete for budget allocations in future budgets • Private sector funding participation to be actively developed where applicable"
11.	<p>"It should be consulted on all decisions which affect the city of Bath. Ideally, it should be a statutory consultee, but if it is not possible to make the requirement statutory, there should be a formal declaration of all political and independent groups in B&NES that they will work in this sense.</p>
12.	<p>The Committee should have particular oversight of transport, environmental and World Heritage Site issues in Bath.</p> <p>The committee should draw up a Vision for Bath, taking account of the views of stakeholders expressed through the Bath City Conference and other discussion fora. The Vision should be updated every 2-3 years, ie not on the same timetable as Council elections. The Vision should then guide the Committee's views and decisions."</p> <p>Lead on issues of key importance to the City - economic development in line with the BANES economic strategy., the quality of city management, standards of cleanliness, ease of movement, public spaces etc, to reflect WH designation, Bath city's most valuable asset; transport investment and traffic management to tackle congestion and air pollution,</p>
13.	<p>To address city of Bath specific issues and pursue solutions</p>

14.	To be responsible at first instance for matters affecting only the City of Bath (as opposed to subjects across B&NES such as education). The Committee should have devolved responsibility, including financial authority, for matters such as the WHS Management Plan, Bath aspects of the Placemaking Plan, the Bath Public Realm and Movement Strategy, the Bath Transport Strategy, the Bath Air Quality Action Plan, and the Enterprise Area. Without real responsibility this would be a pointless talking shop.
15.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Champion the interests of and the economic development of Bath. 2. Elect their own Committee Chair/Leader 3. Define the long term Vision for Bath 4. Set out an Economic Development Plan for Bath 5. Set out a Transport Strategy and Plan for Bath 6. Set out a Public Realm Strategy and Plan for Bath 7. Bid for resources to support the implementation of the above Plans
16.	To only include BathNES Councillors; to spend money on projects equivalent to a parish council.
17.	Same as any Parish or Town Council, I see no reason for the cost of a meeting to be so high, The members will act in the same way as Parish councils and not claim expenses , this is key to stopping Gravy train councillors sitting on committees to claim expenses from no or little involvement.
18.	Why should Bath be treated differently to the rest of BANES residents, have parish councils and then the people of Bath will be paying their way rather than taking money from the rest of us.
19.	I don't like this idea at all; we all pay a lot to B&NES & it should be used to pay directly for services and not meetings for meetings' sake! This is even worse if we as ratepayers from the rest of NE Somerset have to pay for these meetings relating to changes specific to Bath out of our general community tax contributions!
20.	It should have delegated powers of all functions which, applying the principle of subsidiarity, it is appropriate to delegate.
21.	To consider and decide on matters which relate to the City of Bath: proposals for re-routing traffic away from the centre, parking, developing the river Avon as an amenity, development of the Rec.
22.	Co-optees: The "Voice for Bath" option evidently envisages that non-elected persons would be co-opted to the committee. I have doubts whether that would be satisfactory. The documentation explains that they would not have power to vote on decisions other than on tourism promotion, which is to some extent reassuring, but not entirely so. It has been said to me that provided a majority of the committee are elected then the requirements of democratic accountability will be satisfied, but I think that this argument does not take account of the nature of adversarial party politics, especially in an

	<p>authority as nicely balanced between two parties as B&NES. I acknowledge that the officers of residents' associations are themselves technically elected; but in my observation such elections are rarely contested, the problem being more one of finding people willing to serve, and there is little external scrutiny of the processes; moreover, residents' associations collectively only cover a part of the City, and severally only a street or two. Although the political parties may themselves find it hard from time to time to field candidates for B&NES councillor roles, it does seem to me that their democratic credentials are much better than those of residents' associations' representatives. If a new group responsible for the city of Bath is to have power to make decisions, or even to exert significant influence over them, I would feel much more comfortable if it was subject to more robust governance requirements as a parish council. The CIL rules only reinforce this feeling.</p>
23.	<p>To provide a forum for debate in Bath and manage the CIL finances when they become available</p>
24.	<p>In the absence of other such Committees in other Unitary Authorities (lack of any real public belief in a democratic deficit in present arrangements?) the only model to base a Bath Committee upon is that of Winchester. Thus I would suggest that any such Committee should be based upon the Winchester model and my own views are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Bath Committee cannot be and should not purport to be a Council for Bath. Its role would be to be a voice piece for the many particular interests of the City, to inform the Council and Cabinet Members (with whom final decisions must rest) in their forming strategy and setting budgets. 2. As far as legally permitted, the Council and its Cabinet members should delegate such powers as they think fit to the Committee, including spending within already-set budgets, in particular the CIL funds allocated to the City area. 3. To arrange public-consultation exercises and meetings and to formulate recommendations in advance of budget-setting to Council. 4. To act as a local sounding-board to convey to the Council the views and opinions of the population of the City on actions already taken or proposed. 5. In view of the closeness of both a General and Local Elections, either or both of which could bring profound changes, I do not consider it proper to engage in such a change in the local government arrangements at the present time, even as an experiment. The time and money spent on such a venture could well be wasted because of the differing views of those in office within 12 months.
25.	<p>To champion the interests of the city of Bath in BANES. Bath must be recognised and supported as the economic engine for the BANES unitary authority.</p> <p>To ensure the needs of Bath to develop as a thriving city are properly identified, developed, represented and implemented.</p> <p>Functional areas should include: trade and commerce, tourism, social and housing, transport, leisure.</p> <p>Bath must avoid at all costs being subsumed into a "greater Bristol" structure.</p>

26.	It is clear that in the proposed Voice for Bath option committee members would have a conflict of interest because as B&NES councillors they are involved in B&NES governance and B&NES decision-making processes. The role and functions of any body set up should be to represent the residents of Bath in the way parish councils in parts of B&NES outside Bath represent their constituents, most importantly in circumstances where the interests of the people of Bath are not the same as those of B&NES council and often not aligned with those of the B&NES area as a whole, so in the Voice for Bath option such a proper independent representation role and functions are absent.
27.	It shouldn't have one.
28.	The primary aim should be the protection of the World Heritage Site because the entire City of Bath is a WHS. It is regrettable that even when the UNESCO World Heritage Committee advised B&NES of what it was doing wrong, that advice has been ignored by all political parties. It follows therefore that the Voice for Bath should be able to be uninfluenced by political pressure.
29.	To have influence over issues related to Bath itself on behalf of the residents and, where necessary, at odds with the B&NES council. The proposal for an essentially appointed committee would not achieve this.

2.2 Which stakeholders should be co-opted onto the "Voice for Bath" committee option?"

1.	Those who can provide expert advice to support the Council
2.	They should all be elected.
3.	None
4.	Those who don't currently have a voice.
5.	None. The danger with co-opting is that it becomes undemocratic and we end up with the likes of FOBRA having a disproportionate voice compared to their actual constituency. FOBRA for example claims to represent residents but has a mainly central focused membership which is itself self-selecting as its unlikely for example that the young residents of say Abbey ward who enjoy going out clubbing feel welcome within the residents association seeking to clamp down on night time noise.
6.	Elect

7.	Business Community, Residents Associations, Schools, Faith Groups.
8.	There is already the opportunity to ask for outside individuals to inform council on items of their interest or expertise but not to be involved in voting or co-opted permanently. This is a poor idea.
9.	None
10.	<p>SELECTION CRITERIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-optee selection should be based on relevant expertise and independence from special interests rather than on stakeholder representation • Voters are already represented democratically by their ward councillors • Other stakeholders inherently have special interests and are able to pursue their special interests through lobbying • Potentially useful areas of expertise for co-optees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Leadership ➤ Economic Development ➤ Urban design and planning ➤ Urban Transport ➤ Finance and capital raising ➤ Property development ➤ Project management ➤ Heritage management ➤ Architecture ➤ Higher education
11.	I am not convinced that stakeholders should be co-opted. But if they are, the principal stakeholder should be the residents of Bath, nominated through FoBRA.
12.	Stakeholders who can bring expertise and dedication to the issues identified above; not those who will simply pursue special interests. Expertise of particular importance would include economic development based on a knowledge economy, the universities, and cutting edge technologies, as reflected in the West of England LEP; City design for a WH site: finance raising in a period of austerity to support public services; Urban transport.
13.	Residents, mainly if not exclusively through FOBRA, whose members have interest, experience and expertise in many of the areas listed above; the Chamber of Commerce.
14.	<p>Representatives of the following:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. City Chamber of Commerce 2. The BID 3. The Small Business Association 4. FOBRA

	5. The Universities
15.	None
16.	Councillors of the wards included.
17.	The committee should be made up of one representative from new Bath parishes plus all Councillors of BANES that are elected in Bath.
18.	Local Residents' Associations, FOBRA
19.	No.Councillors are the elected representatives, must be responsible for their actions/decisions/votes and accountable back to the electorate.
20.	The option to co-opt stakeholders is meaningless to the extent that real local representatives (i.e. residents) are co-opted because it is clear from the note on voting rights they would have no effective power to vote except in rare circumstances where in any event it will be meaningless. If the unsatisfactory Voice for Bath option is adopted, those co-opted must not have vested interests, and in particular it is vital that those co-opted do not have interests in the development or retail sectors but are truly representative of residents.
21.	If it must exist then only residents of Bath on the electoral roll.
22.	The World heritage Manager should lead the group which should be visibly a non-party organisation, so comprised of Heritage groups and all Independent Councillors. It should not be a platform to further business interests.
23.	Representatives of genuine local residents/voters only.

2.3 Should the stakeholders have voting rights for the “Voice for Bath” committee option?"

1.	No.
2.	No.
3.	No, don't be ridiculous.
4.	Absolutely
5.	None elected members only
6.	No, this is consultive, but they shouldn't vote if they haven't been elected.
7.	Absolutely undermines the democracy. To give unelected individuals the chance of voting is appalling and I wonder if you would leave yourselves open to further challenges on that basis.
8.	No.
9.	Yes
10.	Democratic legitimacy would not be lost, as elected ward councillors would comprise the vast majority of members in any case.
11.	Co-optee members would have more 'soft' authority and effectiveness within the Bath Committee if they had votes rather than being mere 'advisors'"
12.	No. The Committee will have more authority if only elected members can vote.
13.	Yes, to recognise their important contribution and on the basis that they would always be a small minority
14.	No.
15.	Ideally yes, although that might be difficult where taxpayers money was being committed.
16.	Yes -If stakeholders do not have voting rights the Committee is likely to be seen as 2 camps, instead of being a body united in championing the interests of the City
17.	No.
18.	No.

19.	All committee members should have voting rights.
20.	Yes.
21.	<p>Very difficult to specify, as all "stakeholders" would of necessity represent only a narrow group of people and could not claim to represent a full sector of the population of the City (no democratic mandate). The number of such groups is so large that inevitably not all could be included and friction might ensue.</p> <p>Established groups, such as those covering Commerce and Tourism would be obvious choices, as would students and disabled persons. Additionally, representatives of local groups should be included when matters relating to a particular area are considered.</p>
22.	All of them - it should be a main part of their purpose.
23.	Only if they are genuinely local residents - not if they are co-opted as representing businesses or other organisations.
24.	No
25.	It should certainly have lobbying rights and a right of access to discuss with policy makers. Unless it has a right of veto or a casting vote, voting rights would merely be window dressing, to be outvoted if they take what is considered to be an inconvenient stance, so I see little value in voting rights.
26.	Yes if - representatives of genuine local residents/voters only.

2.4 How many of the 32 Bath elected members of Bath & North East Somerset should serve on the "Voice for Bath" committee?"

1.	No more than 16
2.	Preferably none
3.	None, they sit on charter Trustees and Bath&NES already
4.	They all already sit on it at the Charter Trustees meetings.
5.	A small amount, they already are in a position to affect change. They should be outnumbered by stakeholders to ensure that those people are getting what they want and the real voice of Bath is dominant rather than a council dictated one.
6.	If it exists then all of them.
7.	14
8.	Half. 1 from each ward, but maintaining political proportionality. With quorum being 2/3 of that number.
9.	One from each ward
10.	All of them and no one else.
11.	None
12.	<p>ALL OF THEM: Otherwise, constituents of any Bath ward that is not represented from time to time could feel disenfranchised, thus defeating the whole purpose of the initiative. The real work of the Bath Committee should be conducted through its subcommittees, each of which should have easily manageable numbers of members. The Bath Committee itself should convene only to receive reports and to consider initiatives from its subcommittees." Ideally all Bath Councillors should serve. But it may be practical to have a committee with fewer than 32 members, in which case only one elected member per B&NES ward should serve.</p>
13.	All - so that every part of the City is represented.
14.	<p>One per ward All of them. We cannot afford 'haves' and 'have-nots', a situation which would be highly divisive.</p>
15.	All of them. We cannot afford 'haves' and 'have-nots', a situation which would

	be highly divisive.
16.	<p>All of them</p> <p>For the Committee to be effective it will need to agree to establish sub committees with limited memberships to work on the responsibilities listed</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Champion the interests of and the economic development of Bath. 2. Elect their own Committee Chair/Leader 3. Define the long term Vision for Bath 4. Set out an Economic Development Plan for Bath 5. Set out a Transport Strategy and Plan for Bath 6. Set out a Public Realm Strategy and Plan for Bath 7. Bid for resources to support the implementation of the above Plans
17.	32.
18.	None, They only be co-opted and the committee made up of newly elected non-political members
19.	The committee should be made up of one representative from new Bath parishes plus all Councillors of BAENS that are elected in Bath.
20.	All those representing the City of Bath and its immediate surroundings.
21.	In consultative matters, stakeholders should have a vote. In decisions, particularly involving finance, only elected members should vote. The legal position is set out in the Appendix.
22.	16, which is one for each Bath Ward. Co-opted members of the Committee, appropriate to the matters under discussion...say 8 regulars plus 4 when particular local matters are considered. Sub-Committees to be kept to a minimum to reduce time taken to arrive at recommendations and decisions.
23.	None - as already indicated above it is inappropriate for any elected member of B&NES to serve on a Voice for Bath committee as they would have a conflict of interests.
24.	None.
25.	Less than half of the total Voice of Bath membership. Councillors should not be able to control by weight of numbers the output from the committee.
26.	None.

3.1 Should consideration be given to multiple parishes for Bath or a single parish (for Bath as a whole?)

Multiple	19
Single	21
No Response	16

3.2 If there were to be multiple parishes, how should Bath be parished?

1.	Not keen on the parish option but would prefer to see Bath's interests looked after as a whole rather than split up.
2.	<p>Consultation in Bath is a travesty. When did we have a consultation on the development of the markets or the vaults below?</p> <p>Your consultations for traffic and transport were so poorly advertised, I heard through a BBC Bristol interviewer. Your consultation form did not even give the closing date for the receipt of the completed forms.</p> <p>You really need an officer and a councillor with executive power relating to responsibility for consultation.</p>
3.	Don't really care but parishing is only way to make it work.
4.	Already exists in the form of the Charter Trustees who raise a precept.
5.	<p>We need greater representation of views and more detailed. local consultation and involvement.</p> <p>At present there is little or no representation of local residents in many areas but particularly in the city central areas. i.e Only one or two councillors actually live in the city.</p>
6.	<p>Whilst I wouldn't go as far as to recommend the use of the old church parishes there are clear disparities between different areas of the city. The perception at present is that money is spent in LibDem controlled wards and not in Conservative controlled wards - or that more is currently spent on infrastructure south of the river than in the north. (examples being the cycle track at Odd Down, further subsidy on the sports centre, Rossiter Road scheme, park work in Oldfield Park etc - compared to virtually nothing north of the river (closed toilets in Weston and Larkhall). Maybe 2 parishes - one for north of the river and one for the south with council discretionary spending monitored across the two parishes to ensure reasonable fairness might be worthwhile.</p>
7.	No extra money should be spent and we definitely do not want a Mayor - Bristol style.
8.	<p>NO MAYOR. If council can't afford to keep the much-needed toilets in Weston, Larkhall etc. open, definitely do not want money spent on having a mayor. By the way, the new toilets where in place are truly awful. Deeply claustrophobic & you could not let a child under 10 use one alone, which takes away the child's dignity & independence once they have started going to the toilet on their own. Whoever idea this is should be voted out of office. I blame Don Foster who started closing toilets many years ago. Whenever I called Foster's office to complain, his secretary said, "He is looking into it"!</p>
9.	Difficult maybe several covering a few wards in each.

10.	No. This is expensive and unnecessary.
11.	There should be a council for Bath and an Executive Mayor, in the hope that the undue influence of employed Council officials (e.g. in relation to the Widcombe Scheme), and the bureaucratic confusion which is endemic in Bath (e.g. in relation to the closures and resurfacing of Widcombe Hill) can be reduced or eliminated completely. Perhaps an Executive Mayor can put a stop to unreal salaries being paid to Council officials of low competence.
12.	Bath should be parished as a whole (with one Parish Council for the City of Bath). Multiple parishes would be unnecessarily bureaucratic and parochial, and might negatively impact on people's willingness to engage in elections and membership.
13.	Local parishes give local people a vote and there is a strong case for replicating the existing outer city PC structure within Bath. A single PC for Bath is too distant and there will be problems in establishing acceptable stakeholders. There is no point in having councillors as members, they have their own forum.
14.	<p>BATH SHOULD NOT BE PARISHED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is very expensive to implement (Bath Committee would have almost no set up costs) • A CGR would be distracting and controversial (Bath Committee can be created by the council with a simple vote) • Powers would be statutorily prescribed and quite limited (Bath Committee can be delegated functions and responsibilities flexibly by the cabinet and council) • A Bath precept would be resisted by the electorate (Bath Committee can simply take over reallocated existing budgets without a Bath precept) <p>IF PARISHED, BATH SHOULD BE PARISHED AS A WHOLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple parishes would fragment Bath and discourage vital civic cohesiveness • There are no natural boundaries for defining multiple parishes within Bath, making them as arbitrary and artificial as ward boundaries • Multiple parishes would simply replicate groups of the existing Bath wards as political units
15.	I am against parishing the city. Residents do not want or need an additional layer of representatives.
16.	But parishing would not be satisfactory. It would be costly and time consuming and would only provide the extremely limited powers available to parish councils. Quite inadequate to do the job required.
17.	The present system does not represent the true Bath. Only residents that lives in BA1 1 and BA1 2 postcode benefits the most like street cleaning and

	gully cleaning etc. It is about time that all residents benefits not just the inner centre only and the only way to do this is to have multiple parishes to tackle their problems. At the present moment I feel that majority of the residents are subsidizing the services that ba1 1 and ba1 2 gets so therefore in having multiple parishes might mean having different rates apply and paid for.
18.	Separate localities should have their own non-political parish representatives with a Cllr supporting in an advisory and non-decision making capacity only having no political influence over the parish representatives. Parish e.g's Odd Down: Combe Down: Englishcombe: Oldfield Park: Twerton: Southdown: Kingsway: Bathwick: Bathampton: Fairfield Park: Cambden: Larkhall: plus other localities which have their own identity. The people of Bath need to have their say freely and openly and any other scheme would be manipulated by politicians and business leaders.
19.	The best option would be a single parish, i.e. a City Council like Salisbury, albeit it would have only the powers of a parish which is why an effective 'Voice for Bath' would be better provided it was given real responsibilities.
20.	But I definitely favour the Voice of Bath Committee option, as this incurs much less cost and hassle to implement.
21.	Central,North-west, north, north-east, South-west, south, south-east, east.
22.	Preferably by existing council wards, in order to maintain continuity with B&NES decisions and policies and ward councillors.
23.	4 to 6.
24.	Parishes could follow the lines of preexisting areas, e.g. Odd Down.
25.	I don't like the idea of a Community Governance Review if this is going to cost a lot.Why should the rest of the council area have to fund something specifically relevant to Bath? However if the parish option is chosen then perhaps as the eventual result the rate payers of Bath will pay as much for their particular services (by extra precept) as the rest of us do already in rural NE Somerset for ours. Yours truly etc! Ratepayer, Midsomer Norton
26.	One rep from each parish plus all elected Councillors from Bath city to form a "voice for Bath committee of BANES council with delegated powers
27.	Size of parishes: At the time of the Localism Bill, FoBRA had extensive discussions with residents' associations, B&NES officers and councillors and parish councils about neighbourhood forums. It was clear that B&NES councillors had a preference for neighbourhood forums based on B&NES Council wards (perhaps out of familiarity), but that in many cases these

	<p>wards had no meaning for their residents in terms of community boundaries. Indeed, though residents' associations – which grow organically out of community interests – tend to cover very small areas, often just one street, if one looks at the boundaries of residents' associations not a few run happily across ward boundaries, such as the Greenway Lane Area one. In my view most people in Bath feel a link both to the whole city and to a very small area within it, but not to an intermediate area which would be suitable as a parish.</p> <p>The whole city would be the largest area in England to serve as a parish, but not out of scale with towns which work well as parishes: many between 30,000 and 40,000 in population; Folkestone (>40,000); Hereford, Leamington Spa or Banbury (50,000); Keighley or Bracknell or Aylesbury (60,000); Weston-super-Mare (80,000). An issue would be the fact that the majority of the residents in B&NES would live within the parish of Bath, which would make some political judgements rather more tricky for B&NES councillors; but given clarity of responsibilities and goodwill I doubt that B&NES would find Bath any more difficult as a parish than North Somerset finds Weston. Hence I believe that if Bath were parished it ought to be as the whole city. I do not see the small delay involved in a Community Governance Review as a barrier.</p>
28.	<p>YES multiple. Residents should be included in these parish meetings and they should have the right to vote. If someone takes the time to be involved with matters in their area then they should have a 'voice'. Bath should be divided in to 5 parishes = one for the City centre and the other 4 being North South East and West of the City. This consultation needs to be far more detailed and informative and go out to every household/property.</p> <p>Each member of the Parish Council should be elected by the residents so that there would be more local representation and local issues would be decided upon.</p> <p>It will only be fair to inform residents that there will be a cost to this Option OR Option B. I realise we have no idea what the cost would be at this stage but obviously it will depend on the Option chosen.</p> <p>I feel this questionnaire has been slanted for Option 2 because there were no specific questions asked of Option 3. To make this a fair consultation, options should be given equal measure.</p> <p>I feel the way forward for Bath should not be decided on JUST by councillors - all residents should have their say and for this to happen everybody should have the full facts first.</p> <p>We cannot rush this decision through.</p>
29.	<p>Bath should be parished in line with council election wards. Other options would also be acceptable. A single parish would also be much better than the Voice for Bath option.</p>

30.	By electoral wards or something even closer to the communities.
31.	I am wholly opposed to the parishing of Bath. It is too big and too important as a WHS site to be considered a parish, and it is too important as a whole to be fragmented into several parishes. Also, I am wholly opposed to anything that could remove the current Charter Trustee arrangements. The fact that the Mayor has a ceremonial role and the Chairman of the Council has a representational role is an important distinction and it needs to be retained.
32.	But single would be better than "Voice for Bath" idea. Parishing along election ward lines would seem logical.
33.	Bath already has established areas, Oldfield Park, Larkhall etc and these could easily become parishes. Presumably there are already electoral wards which relate to areas of Bath. I am concerned that the decision appears to have already been made as the options in this consultation feedback nearly all relate to The voice for Bath option. There are no general comments boxes for any of the options, which suggests you don't want proper feedback.

Additional Responses

1. City Centre Action Group's response to Governance Questions

<http://www.ccagbath.org/>

Our overall reaction is one of disappointment about how little determination or imagination the working group appears to have shown in addressing their brief. Their output is merely a restatement of the existing ideas promulgated at previous meetings.

None of the proposals goes very far to address the democratic deficit in Bath. We note that none of the options as presented is fully costed only indicative figures being provided.

The creation of parish councils that will have little power and then only in local areas of Bath, will do little to address the systemic problems of the city and will, we understand, cost council tax payers a lot of money to create and maintain as well as adding extra levels of bureaucracy.

The committee idea has the virtue of probably being cheaper but would have little actual power. It seems unlikely that any serious residents' groups would join it as it would give them very little influence in the decision-making process but would ensure they shared more than their fair share of the blame for any bad decisions.

This leaves us with the status quo which while unsatisfactory appears to be better than the other options on offer.

If the BANES is really serious about addressing this issue we would urge that they look at researching more options, a process with which we would be happy to engage.

2. Via Facebook

Controlled immigration, abolished 20mph limits, improved traffic flow, and low taxes = happy citizen.

3. FoBRA

Options to Strengthen Community Representation & Civic Governance in Bath - FoBRA Response

FoBRA has 28 full members, spread across the city, and has been considering the subject of adequate representation for at least two years. On this specific consultation, FoBRA opinion is divided between the three options, with a slight preference for Option B, but with well-argued reasons for the other ones (12 members responded, of which 6 wanted Option B, while Options A and C attracted 3 each). Justifications and reasoning from the various contributors are set out below, including, where practical, the questions posed in the consultation:

Option B (Committee):

2.1 What should be its role and functions?

Mission & role:

- Champion the interests of the City of Bath by taking leadership of and accountability for addressing issues that are vital to the City.
- Lead Bath towards potential to be the 'leading micro city'
- Possibly a virtual 'Bath City Council', or else a sounding-board for the many interests of the City, to inform the Council and Cabinet Members (with whom final decisions must rest) in their forming strategy and setting budgets.
- Mayor of Bath functions

Leadership sub-committees:

- Urban matters crucial to Bath as a city

- Potential portfolios:
- Vision for Bath (framework policy document updated periodically)
- Economic Development (Development and delivery of Bath Economic Strategy, a major component of B&NES Economic Strategy)
- Placemaking (Spatial planning, delivery of Bath Enterprise Area Masterplan, CIL within Bath, housing policy, commercial property portfolio management)
- Transport (Development and delivery of Bath Transport Strategy and Plan)
- Public Realm (Delivery of Public Realm and Movement Strategy, WHS Management Plan, Heritage Asset management, and Air Quality Action Plan as this is entirely within Bath)

Operating principles:

- Annual Plan with explicit Objectives and end of year Report, along Winchester model
- Sub-committee Chairs should become champions for, experts in, their briefs
- Strive to preclude party political behaviour
- As members, all to have a duty to act in the interests of the Bath Committee rather than their local wards or sponsor organisations
- Every member to be given at least one sub-committee job to do.
- Expertise/resources from outside the council to be actively used where applicable
- Arrange public consultation exercises and meetings; and formulate recommendations in advance of budget-setting to Council.

Funding:

- Allocation of current budgets to Subcommittees as applicable, including Bath CIL.
- Bath Committee to apply and compete for budget allocations in future budgets
- Private sector funding participation to be actively developed where applicable

Drawbacks:

- This would miss the opportunity to transform the city of Bath's political & legal position *vis-à-vis* B&NES Council
- Official status and coherence of a single parish council is needed to use recently created powers under the Localism Act: eg for influencing service delivery decisions, prioritising developments, and attracting inward investment.

- Need for strong parish leader (Mayor?) to promote West's cultural capital, world-renowned educational centre, economic powerhouse of B&NES and 2nd most prosperous city in West's LEP
- Too much like Connecting Communities committees. The democratic deficit exists largely because Bath does not have the parish structure that the rest of B&NES and most of the country has.

2.2 Which stakeholders should be co-opted onto the committee option?

- Co-optee selection based on relevant expertise and independence from special interests rather than on stakeholder representation
- Voters are already represented democratically by their ward councillors
Potentially useful areas of expertise for co-optees: Leadership, Economic Development, Urban design and planning, Urban Transport, Finance and capital raising, Property development, Project management, Heritage management, Architecture, Higher education, Commerce, Students, Disabled persons, Tourism, and possibly Residents' Groups.

2.3 Should the stakeholders have voting rights for the committee option?

This is tricky, though not all democratic legitimacy would be lost if they did have some kind of voting rights (see Appendix to discussion paper), as elected ward councillors should comprise the vast majority of members. Moreover, co-optee members would have more 'soft' authority and effectiveness within the Committee if they had votes rather than simply as 'advisors'. Notwithstanding, the chance to influence the Committee would be excellent, and make a real difference, as shown in the current constitution of the Transport Commission.

2.4 How many of the 32 Bath elected members of Bath & North East Somerset should serve on the "Voice for Bath" committee?

- All elected members (ie either one (=16) or both (=32) from each of the Bath Wards):
- Otherwise, constituents of any Bath ward that is not represented from time to time could feel disenfranchised, thus defeating the whole purpose of the initiative.
- The real work of the Bath Committee should be conducted through its sub-committees, the number of which should be kept to a minimum to promote efficiency. Each sub-committee should have an easily manageable number of members (eg not more than 10). The Bath Committee itself should convene only to receive reports and to consider initiatives from its subcommittees.

Option C (Parishing):

3.1 Should consideration be given to multiple parishes for Bath or a single parish (for Bath as a whole)

There is much to be said for parishing Bath – ideally as a single City Council¹, and especially if the City Committee (see above) turns out to be toothless. At least it would be an elected body with a voice and real, if limited, powers. Undoubtedly, Option C poses challenges to local residents, businesses and B&NES Council elected members and officers, but it also offers an opportunity to introduce an arrangement for Bath that could have lasting and beneficial effects on local democracy and prosperity, while recognising that a Community Governance Review is a lengthy process that may take several years to complete, and involve financial costs to B&NES Council tax-payers. Nonetheless, a significant minority of FoBRA members believes it is the right choice to strengthen local representation and governance for future generations of Bath citizens. Current local elected representation in the B&NES Council area consists of 65 elected councillors for 37 wards, 45 directly elected parish and town councils, and an elected Member of Parliament (for Bath). Parishing of Bath would build on this. The 32 City of Bath Charter Trustees and civic Mayor were introduced as a temporary measure during Bath's transition from borough council to B&NES unitary authority. Option C would resolve the current „democratic deficit“ and Bath's lack of parity with other parishes and towns in the B&NES area. The anachronistic and mostly ceremonial Charter Trustees of the City of Bath would be abolished and, through a Community Governance Review, a directly elected single City of Bath parish council would be set up, absorbing the Mayoral function. Multiple parishes would be unnecessarily bureaucratic and parochial, costly and might negatively impact on people's willingness to engage in elections and membership, as well as eliminating the ceremonial Mayoral function. Drawbacks are the expense, compared to the Committee approach, the limitation in powers and the need to persuade Bath's citizens to accept a Bath Parish precept.

3.2 If there were to be multiple parishes, how should Bath be parished? While no FoBRA member recommended multiple parishes, feeling that they would simply replicate groups of the existing Bath wards as political units, but with no greater logic, it was thought that one for the centre including the Pulteney Estate, one for the remainder of the city to the south of the river (as it were, „Greater Widcombe“), and one for the remainder of the city to the north of the river (as it were, "Greater Lansdown") could work, if forced, and generate that cohesiveness which would be so necessary. Many, however, would oppose loss of the ceremonial Mayoral function. Multiple parishes would also be more expensive than single.

1 The whole city would be the largest area in England to serve as a parish, but not out of scale with towns which work well as parishes: many between 30,000 and

40,000 in population; Folkestone (>40,000); Hereford, Leamington Spa or Banbury (50,000); Keighley or Bracknell or Aylesbury (60,000); Weston-super-Mare (80,000).

Option A (No change):

The 3 members who opted for no change noted that Bath had no statutory existence as matters stood, and there was no body to consider and represent the interests of the city. This really was unsatisfactory given the city's unique heritage status and its traffic problems.

However, their overall reaction was one of disappointment about how little determination or imagination the working group appeared to have shown in addressing their brief. Their output was merely a restatement of existing ideas promulgated at previous meetings. None of the proposals went far in addressing the democratic deficit in Bath. They noted that none of the options as presented was fully costed: only indicative costings being given.

Creation of parish councils that would have little power, and then only in local areas of Bath, would do little to address the systemic problems of the city and would, they understood, cost council tax payers a lot of money to create and maintain, as well as adding extra levels of bureaucracy.

The Committee idea had the virtue of probably being cheaper but would have little actual power. They felt it was unlikely that any serious residents' groups would join it as it would give them very little power in the decision-making process but would ensure they shared more than their fair share of the blame.

This left the status quo which, while unsatisfactory, appeared to be better than the other options on offer. If B&NES were really serious about addressing this issue, the 3 members urged that they (a) took more time to analyse the costs and benefits of various proposals, and (b) looked at researching options with more imagination and determination than those shown to date.

Robin Kerr, Chairman

22nd Aug 14

4. Brian Lawrence - Midsomer Norton Town Councillor and resident

Dear Mark Hayward,

I am emailing as I don't feel the online options form provides any proper feedback and the form is more than a little skewed for the "Voice for Bath" option.

As a Midsomer Norton Town Councillor and resident, I think that B&NES is far too Bath centric and does not consider the outlying districts sufficiently. As we pay

additional Council Tax on top of that Bath residents pay it appears that Bath residents get “free” what we have to pay extra for. In practice we pay for our own green spaces etc. whereas we also have to pay for the upkeep of Bath’s as well. Bath also gets our commercial rates.

If Bath was parished, it would mean that Bath residents could contribute more equally to their own areas and perhaps feel more engaged with their own areas problems and solutions. It may even help other areas of B&NES as there would be more of the main pot to be spread around.

As Bath has many more councillors than the North East Somerset area they have a bigger voice and are unlikely to vote for something that will cost their electors more money but the present system is unfair on the wider B&NES community.

5. Nicolette Boater – Resident

I write as an informed resident of an unparished Bath ward and contributor to what I see as my natural local community. Although I'm justifiably proud of my city and the contribution it can make to the wider B&NES district, I share the concern about the impact its lack of bespoke governance might be having on maintaining and improving its distinctive standing as a leading small city. I'm thus pleased that a cross party Working Group of Members is now beginning to assess whether the popular and political will exists to overcome the seemingly formidable obstacles in the way of improving its governance and/or at least the representation of its communities.

I thus attach my preliminary thoughts as to the merits of the three broad options for addressing these perceived problems. I have based my evaluation of the two options for change on my preferred variant for each one, namely :

- For the Bath committee option, a committee comprising about 8 of the 32 Bath elected members of Bath & North East Somerset (elected at the outset of a new B&NES administration by the 32 Bath members) and about 8 non Councillor members drawn from organisations representing the diversity of businesses in Bath, Associations of residents in the Bath area as well as individuals with social or business standing in the Bath community. (I have not yet had the time to inform a view as to whether the co-opted members could or should have voting rights.) I envisage that either the 32 or 8 Bath councillors would then elect a Mayor who would also chair the Bath Committee Forum for a 4 year term. I would envisage that the roles and functions of the Bath Committee Forum would be to input into, influence and perhaps be responsible for implementing such as the Bath Economic Development plan, Bath transport Strategy and public Realm issues.

- For the Bath District Council option, a single Parish Council for the City of Bath so as to ensure that Bath has a profile and influence greater than the sum of its parts, as the community to which Bathonions naturally feel they belong and to enable a powerful and influential Mayor to be elected, preferably on a different electoral cycle and for a longer term than that of B&NES Council.

At this stage I am not expressing a preference for either approach as I do not yet have sufficient information on their feasibility, costings and likely benefits. This is particularly true of the Bath District Council approach. However I do think the Council is right to prioritise the use of some scarce resource on addressing this particular problem.

Potential Impact on	No change	Bath Committee or forum	Bath District Council
Democratic Deficit in the city of Bath:	<p>Continuing erosion of the distinctiveness of the communities comprising the B&NES area and the vitality of local democracy. For me, this matters as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The needs and interest of Bath, as a compact urban area with a rich cultural offering, natural and built environment differs from the collection of much smaller and rural communities making up the other half of the B&NES area; • It constrains the potential of Bath 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negligible improvement in democratic representativeness and accountability; • Little change in formal power or legitimacy, as the Committee will be reliant on powers and budgets delegated to it by B&NES Council. <i>Given the political fragility of B&NES Council and the concentration of LibDems in the Bath area and Conservatives in the more rural areas such delegations are unlikely to be significant or reliable;</i> • Somewhat more visible leadership role as the mayor will have a chairing as well as 	<p>Difficult to predict on basis of information in the Interim Report but would hope that this option would lead to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater democratic representativeness for the people of Bath; • Clearer accountability for decisions relating to Bath; • Some but unlikely to be a large transfer of power from B&NES to Bath District Council; • Profile, leadership focus for Bath as a result of a directly elected Mayor; • May raise participation in civic life amongst those alienated from party domination of larger government

	to maintain and improve its standing nationally and internationally, from which all B&NES residents benefit.	ceremonial role, and although still a party politician, s/he may have been elected for her or his Bath credentials rather than purely as a party nominee.	institutions.
Ease with which Bath residents and stakeholders can influence decisions on issues that matter to them:	Bath residents and stakeholders can already have their views heard on issues that matter to them via B&NES Council, Cabinet, PDS meetings or via their Ward councillor. However in practice more substantive Bath specific issues are rarely prioritised on these agendas and can get short shrift from the non-Bath councillors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a committee dedicated to Bath issues would probably make it easier for well organised Bath stakeholders to have their views heard and prioritised on issues that matter to them, relative to using more general B&NES Council, Cabinet or PDS meetings; • The improved profile and awareness of Bath issues will facilitate council-community partnership formation; • Remains a committee and so still difficult for time-poor individuals without an organisation to have their voice heard. 	Difficult to predict on basis of information in the Interim Report but would hope that this option would make it easier for Bath residents and stakeholders to influence decisions on issues that matter to them.
Delivery of local services:	Potential efficiency gains arising from delivering or procuring services for B&NES area as a whole	If it leads to strong and effective B&NES Council-Bath community and stakeholder partnerships and cooperation arrangements, it could result in more effective,	Equally if not more likely than the Committee options to improve local service delivery by focusing better on local priorities or by attracting new resources such CIL

		better-targeted and more convenient delivery of Bath services.	funds.
Costs of change relative to community benefits	n/a	The set up costs of these could be minimised by making it an integral part of setting up a new B&NES administration. The running costs required over and above the funding available from the Charter percept, could for example be deemed a better use of public money than running the relatively large number of PDS Panels.	As the set up costs are high relative to those of the Committee option and the long-term benefits are uncertain and difficult to quantify, this is the high risk but potentially highest return option in terms of addressing the democratic deficit and community representation problems.

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING:	Council	
MEETING DATE:	11 September 2014	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2659
TITLE:	Youth Justice Plan 2014-15	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Youth Justice Plan 2014-2015		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan. The Plan sets out work to be undertaken to prevent youth offending and re-offending across Bath and North East Somerset.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Youth Justice Plan fulfils the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and can be submitted to the national Youth Justice Board.

2.2 The Youth Justice Plan is adopted as part of the Council's Policy and Budget Framework and can be accommodated within the Council budget

2.3 The relevant Development and Scrutiny Panel oversees progress and performance

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

3.1 The Council is the lead partner in the multi-agency arrangements to prevent youth offending, working closely with the Police, Probation and Health services, in accordance with the Crime and disorder Act 1998. All partners have a statutory responsibility to participate in the resourcing of the youth Offending Service. The council makes a significant contribution in terms of staff, cash and additional support, including provision of office accommodation and a range of financial and personnel services. In 2014-2015, the Council is contributing £365,136, mostly in the form of staff.

3.2 The Operational Manager, under the supervision of the Service Manager, has delegated responsibility from the Youth Offending Service Management Board for delivery of services set out within the Youth Justice Plan, within the agreed budget.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

Preparation of an annual Youth Justice Plan is required under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The national Youth Justice Board has requested that it is submitted by 30 September 2014.

5 THE REPORT

The principal, statutory aim of the youth justice system is to prevent youth offending. The Local Authority is the lead partner in the multi-agency arrangements for work undertaken with young people who have committed offences. The Youth Justice Plan reviews the positive progress and performance last year in work with young people at risk of offending and re-offending, and with parents/carers and victims and sets out how services are to be resourced and delivered in 2014-2015.

Actions in the work plan included will contribute to making Bath and North East Somerset a safer place and to helping young people work towards more positive individual outcomes.

6 RATIONALE

The Council has a statutory obligation to publish a Youth Justice Plan.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None

8 CONSULTATION

This Plan draws on self-assessment and consultation within the multi-agency Youth Offending Service and its Management Board, including the Lead Member for Children, Young People, Health and Wellbeing. A copy has been sent to the Trade Unions.

This Plan has been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director, Legal and Democratic Services) and the Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director, Finance) and was approved by the Youth Offending Service Management Board on 24 June and Cabinet on 16 July 2014.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

Contact person	Sally Churchyard, 11-19 Prevention Service Manager 07980 998711 or sally_churchyard@bathnes.gov.uk
Background papers	
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

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Bath and North East Somerset

Youth Justice Plan 2014 – 2015

Working in partnership to prevent youth offending

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**



NHS
*Bath and North East Somerset
Clinical Commissioning Group*

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1. Introduction

Multi-agency Youth Offending Teams were established in April 2000 under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, to work with young people aged 10-17 years who have committed offences. They include staff from a wide range of backgrounds including Police, Health, Social Care, Education and Probation. Youth Offending Teams work in an integrated way alongside other specialists and have key statutory functions, including supervision of young people on Court Orders, giving victims a voice, enabling young people who have offended to re-pay the harm they have caused and strengthening parenting skills. In Bath and North East Somerset, the statutory work is supplemented by a prevention service, Compass, which works on a voluntary basis with children aged 8-17 years who are at high risk of offending and with their families. Additionally, it co-ordinates the Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities parenting programme for parents and carers across the Authority. The Youth Offending Service is also responsible for safeguarding young people and supporting them to make more positive lifestyle choices, with a particular focus on education, training and employment. A summary of these functions and an organisational chart can be found in the appendices.

The Youth Offending Service has a statutory responsibility to prevent youth offending and, in addition to reviewing outcomes with individuals, it measures success in this using three key national outcomes; reduction in rate of first time entrants, reduction in rate of re-offending and a reduction in the rate of custody. Local performance against these indicators in 2013 - 2014 has continued to be excellent and reported crime and the number of young people within the youth justice system continues to fall, helping to make Bath and North East Somerset a safer area.

In addition to its principal work of preventing youth offending, as part of the wider children's workforce, the Youth Offending Service is committed to the three priority areas identified in the Children and Young People's Plan 2014 -17:

- Children and young people are safe
- Children and young people are healthy
- Children and young people have equal life chances

This annual Youth Justice Plan is written in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It summarises the excellent work undertaken by the Youth Offending Service and its partners in 2013-2014 and, based on self-assessment undertaken within the Service and with the oversight of the Management Board, sets out a work plan for 2014-2015. The work plan includes continuing developments and responses to changes in legislation and national changes in how youth justice services are to be delivered. It outlines actions the service will take locally to continually improve its high quality service to young people and their families and to victims of crime, thereby also contributing to public safety in this area. The plan also draws upon learning from the Protecting Children Thematic Inspection undertaken in B&NES by HMI Probation in October 2013.

2. Review of 2013-2014

Throughout 2013 and 2014, the Youth Offending Service has put great emphasis on supporting young people, parents and victims to participate in, and improve the services we offer. We have done this by involving young people in the recruitment and selection of new staff, asking young people and victims to provide feedback and to help to induct new Management Board Members to help them learn about the work of the service. The Compass project has achieved a Gold Charter Mark for listening to young people. The Youth Offending Service has also been involved with two of the Council's 10 in 100 projects, one helping young children to read and the other creating an online magazine for seldom heard young people.

In October 2013, B&NES Youth Offending Service participated in a HMI Probation Thematic Inspection on Protecting Children. Only a small sample of cases were reviewed, but it confirmed that the service was identifying safeguarding issues and making appropriate referrals to Social Care, although there was not always sufficient integration of planning for children with child protection plans who were also known to the Youth Offending Service. Following the Inspection, a Protecting Children Improvement Plan was created and signed off as completed by the Management Board in April 2014. The main achievements of the plan have been improved links with Children's Social Care and greater information gathering in relation to all children subject to Youth Offending Service supervision from other agencies such as Education, Social Care and the Police.

During this year, the service has also undertaken a significant piece of work in upgrading its database to ChildView.

2.1 Review of Work Plan 2013-2014

Actions	End of Year Position
Priority Area 1: Strategic Development	
1. Develop a strategy for the active participation of the Service in the Connecting Families Service's work with troubled families.	Completed An agreement is in place that the YOS will take the lead with some families, as set out in a written protocol. The YOS is contributing to the work with a number of families and B&NES has been able to claim payment by results in respect of reductions in offending.
2. Promote the Service as a restorative service across the Council's People and Communities Department and with all partners represented on the Management Board.	Continuing into next year The whole service has had initial training and more is planned, including in restorative conferencing, utilising the YJB grant. The Hull YOS Manager has agreed to speak to local partners about becoming a restorative service. This action now contributes to the wider priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Actions	End of Year Position
3. Ensure the Service utilises a framework for measuring and reporting outcomes in line with developments across the 11-19 service.	<p>Continuing into next year An Outcomes Based Accountability approach will be used linked to the national indicators. A framework is being developed in readiness for a new Service Level Agreement from September 2014+, with the Youth Justice Plan feeding directly into the new Specification</p>
4. Complete the youth justice component of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and use this, together with other thematic work and analysis, to understand where the youth justice partnership can achieve greatest impact.	<p>Continuing into next year Preliminary information has been collated but it has yet to be fully analysed</p>
5. Review the delivery model for youth justice work within the changing context for young people and the Service's statutory partners.	<p>Continuing into next year The Management Board used its development day to identify a number of models which are now being evaluated</p>
6. Position the Youth Offending Service, including its preventative work, within the wider arrangements for early help and integrated support for young people.	<p>Continuing into next year The YOS is a member of the 11-19 Prevention Service management group, working towards a joint Service Level Agreement. It will be involved in the development of B&NES' Early Help Strategy.</p>
<p>Priority Area 2: Operational Development</p>	
1. Ensure that the service has an action plan for the roll-out of the new assessment tool, Asset Plus, and a local change lead in place.	<p>Completed The change lead is the Operational Manager. Initial training requirements have been agreed and fed back to YJB. B&NES will be part of the second cohort, but implementation the dates for this have now changed to 2015</p>
2. Ensure that protocols with the Avon and Somerset Probation Trust demonstrate effective arrangements for the transfer of young people from youth-based to adult-based services, in community and custodial settings, and reflect the YJB Transitions Framework	<p>Discontinued The protocol has been discussed with Probation, revised and agreed by five Youth Offending Services. However, the Probation Trust did not sign it off before the new National Probation Service came into being.</p>
3. Appoint staff and consolidate the new management structure.	<p>Completed All appointments have been made and the new structure is in place</p>

Actions	End of Year Position
4. Establish a new users' group to participate in developing feedback systems on all areas of service delivery.	<p>Continuing to next year Various methods have been used in 2013/14 to gain feedback from young people, victims and parents. For example, a group of young people met with Panel Members to give feedback on their experiences at Panel Meetings and all victims are offered the opportunity to provide feedback on the services they receive. This work will continue to develop into the next year.</p>
5. Enable the service to continue to develop as a restorative service, including through the peer supervision and support groups and an audit of their efficacy.	<p>Progressing The peer supervision initiative is continuing, with no direct management input. It will be reviewed at the next YOS Continuing Professional Development morning</p>
6. Develop the new Speech and Language Therapy resource and staff capacity within the Youth Offending Service.	<p>Completed 0.2 fte continuing resource has been agreed until 2016 and a Therapist is now in post. Further training was provided at a Continuing Professional Development morning in April.</p>
7. Develop a good practice guide for the Service, drawing on evidence-based practice for preventing offending and safeguarding young people	<p>Progressing Work is underway to create a document with hyperlinks to all national and local guidance. The new ChildView database also has links to all national guidance.</p>
8. Implement the upgraded data-base, ChildView, ensuring compliance with all Council guidelines.	<p>Completed ChildView was installed on 7th April 2014 and a programme of staff training has been completed.</p>
Priority Area 3: Safeguarding Young People	
1. Ensure that the service is working in accordance with the Working Together 2013 guidance for safeguarding young people, including the identification of a safeguarding lead.	<p>Completed Working Together and a subsequent summary have been shared within the YOS. They were addressed in the first YOS Continuing Professional Development morning on 4 September. The safeguarding lead is the Operational Manager. The Protecting Children Plan post the HMI Probation Thematic Inspection has also been implemented.</p>

Actions	End of Year Position
2. Work with partners to introduce a framework for supporting young people at high risk, including risk of sexual exploitation.	<p>Completed</p> <p>The Risk Management Review Panel has been established and has discussed young people known to the YOS. The 11-19 Prevention Manager is one of the co-chairs. Staff have been briefed on the changes and have been involved in joint referrals to this panel with Children's Social Care.</p>
3. Increase the number of fathers receiving parenting interventions, drawing on the learning from the Local Safeguarding Children Board's "Celebrating Fatherhood" campaign.	<p>Completed</p> <p>Work has been completed with the YOS parenting worker to target interventions towards fathers. With all referrals to parenting worker, where the father's whereabouts are known, they have been contacted by her. As of March 2014, 50% of parenting interventions delivered by the YOS parenting worker include direct work to fathers.</p>
4. With neighbouring Youth Offending Service and Police colleagues, plan arrangements for keeping young people safe, including the provision of an integrated Appropriate Adult Service, within the new merging custody facilities.	<p>Completed</p> <p>Collaboration with Bristol and South Gloucestershire has been agreed and arrangements are on course for implementation from September 2014 when the new Custody Suite opens.</p>
5. Complete work to achieve the Bronze Level Charter Mark for hearing young people's voice in the statutory work of the Youth Offending Service.	<p>Discontinued</p> <p>Evidence has been collated, but it was not be possible to achieve the award within the available timescale. The YOS is continuing to actively involve young people in staff recruitment and feedback about the service.</p>
6. Complete work to achieve the Gold Level Charter Mark for hearing young people's voice in the preventative work of the Youth Offending Service.	<p>Completed</p> <p>Compass was the last team to achieve this award under the last participation commission. Compass children are now involved in staff development, contributing directly to staff PDRs and new staff induction programmes. We now have quarterly participation meetings to listen to children's views for service planning. We have also produced a leaflet designed by children for other children telling them about Compass. We actively encourage our children to attend wider Council meetings, such as the Young People's Equalities meeting so their voice is heard.</p>

Actions	End of Year Position
Priority Area 4: Reducing the rate of First Time Entrants (National impact indicator)	
1. Ensure young people have information about the new Out of Courts disposals system, including by designing and sharing a web-based leaflet.	Completed Staff contributed to the development of an Avon and Somerset wide leaflet for young people
2. Work with Police involved with Impact to identify vulnerable young people and refer them into suitable crime prevention projects.	Progressing The first cohort of 10 young people identified – we are now working with Police to identify PCSOs to promote referral to crime prevention projects
3. Work with the Integrated Working Team to heighten the understanding and recognition of all staff in child-centred roles of the crime-related risk and protective factors.	Progressing The Integrated Working Team staff have provided training for the Youth Offending Service. The Operational Manager meets with Social Care Team Managers and the YOS participates in the Children’s Service staff induction programme. An on-going action is to explore YOS staff attending a CFAIT team meeting.
4. Work with the Avon and Somerset Probation Trust to identify children of adults under Probation supervision who could be referred to Compass.	To be carried over Plans were in place to meet with Senior Probation Officer linked to YOS however, given transforming the rehabilitation agenda, we have been advised to approach the new service in July to achieve this objective.
5. Review the use of team-around-the-child meetings for children and young people at risk of offending to demonstrate integrated and joint outcome measures with partners, particularly health and education.	Completed The Senior Practitioner has reviewed use of integrated meetings and processes within Compass, which has led to their use on a consistent basis, and monitors their use with the team. Team Around Child processes are also used widely in the YOS’s statutory work.
6. Work with the seconded nurse to establish and evaluate a system for provision of targeted interventions for all 11-12 year olds who are of an unhealthy weight and make sure they are signposted to Change4Life.	Completed The Youth Offending Service nurse screens young people for health needs. This has led to referrals to and engagement with the Change4Life programme, including 11-12 year olds.
7. With the Preventions Commissioner, support commissioning of a new prevention project.	Completed The commissioning process is complete and Mentoring Plus has been selected.

Actions	End of Year Position
Priority Area 5: Reducing the rate of Re-offending (National Impact Indicator)	
1. Ensure that intervention plans are specific, sequenced and appropriately reviewed to enable all offending related needs to be met and offending to reduce.	Completed Initial audit and feedback to staff has established good practice and areas for development. Now a regular process.
2. Fully refresh the first appointment guidelines by establishing a working group to design “packs” which are consistently delivered, explained to and understood by all young people attending the Youth Offending Service.	Completed First appointment packs have been re-designed and are being used with all young people on new Court orders.
3. Deliver YJB training on facilitating restorative justice meetings to Community Panel Members and YOS practitioners, in line with the Restorative Justice Council’s National Occupational Standards and Best Practice Guidance for Restorative Practice.	Completed Training was led by Lena Higginson and Sally Burton. This has led to an increased awareness of Restorative Justice within the team and some direct Restorative Justice work undertaken with victims.
4. With partners, primarily Schools/Colleges and the Youth Service, provide information sessions for young people on the impact and consequences for victims and young people of knife crime.	Completed YOS practitioners, including a YOS Police Officer, worked with staff at Southside Youth Hub to provide workshops for young people and parents
5. Ensure that all children and young people entering the preventions service or subject to Out of Court disposals who are living in a home where domestic violence takes place have an appropriate, targeted intervention which is reflected in their assessment and their intervention plan.	Completed Partnership and Interventions Manager met with Freedom Project and Off The Record in December 2013 - information regarding respective projects circulated to whole Youth Offending Service including Compass. On-going plans to invite speakers from these projects to YOS team meeting in 2014. Case by case discussions held in supervision and risk and vulnerability meetings at YOS, and appropriate interventions/referrals in place.
6. With young people and community panel members, establish a quarterly process for reviewing and evaluating interventions used to reduce offending behaviour and develop a young person-centred process for preparing feedback for Referral Order reviews and final panels.	Progressing Young people and volunteer panel members have met to record feedback about how Panel Meetings are working. Subsequent meetings are being arranged to continue this process.

Actions	End of Year Position
<p>7. Ensure that whenever young people end their statutory contact, their final team-around-the-child meeting considers the need for appropriate exit plans or refers them to the Interface Panel, including young people at high risk of harm.</p>	<p>Completed All cases that come to an end have an exit strategy.</p>
<p>8. Develop the framework for the Youth Offending Service working in a preventative capacity with young people who have already been subject to a youth justice substantive outcome.</p>	<p>Progressing In all cases where statutory intervention is ending, a review is undertaken about whether there is an on-going role on a voluntary basis for the Youth Offending Service. In particular for Out of Court Disposal cases, case managers are ensuring that there is Team Around Child process in place before the intervention is ended.</p>
<p>Priority Area 6: Reducing the rate of Custody (National Transparency Indicator)</p>	
<p>1. Develop the use of the Custody Review Panel to identify which young people at risk of custody will benefit from additional support paid by the remands allocation to support interventions to prevent remands to custody. (Based on a Thematic Inspection recommendation).</p>	<p>Completed The principle has been established and work is underway. The Panel reviews use of the budget at its quarterly meetings.</p>
<p>2. Deliver a workshop with the Youth Offending Service, Children's Social Care and the Independent Reviewing Service to ensure knowledge is disseminated on the single remand framework.</p>	<p>Progressing A workshop was planned and booked for May 2014, but has been postponed until September 2014</p>
<p>3. Establish working relationships with key staff in the newly designated custodial facilities for young people from Bath and North East Somerset and provide information to affected young people and families, Social Care staff and Independent Reviewing Officers to facilitate contact and participate in plans for resettlement.</p>	<p>Progressing We successfully challenged the designation of HMP&YOI Feltham for local young people sentenced to custody and it has been changed to HMYOI Parc. Neither of the young people sentenced to custody or those securely remanded this year have gone to Youth Offender Institutions. Very positive relationships have been maintained with Vinney Green Secure Children's Home and the service is now developing its working relationship with HMYOI Parc</p>

2.2 Performance against the three National Outcome Indicators

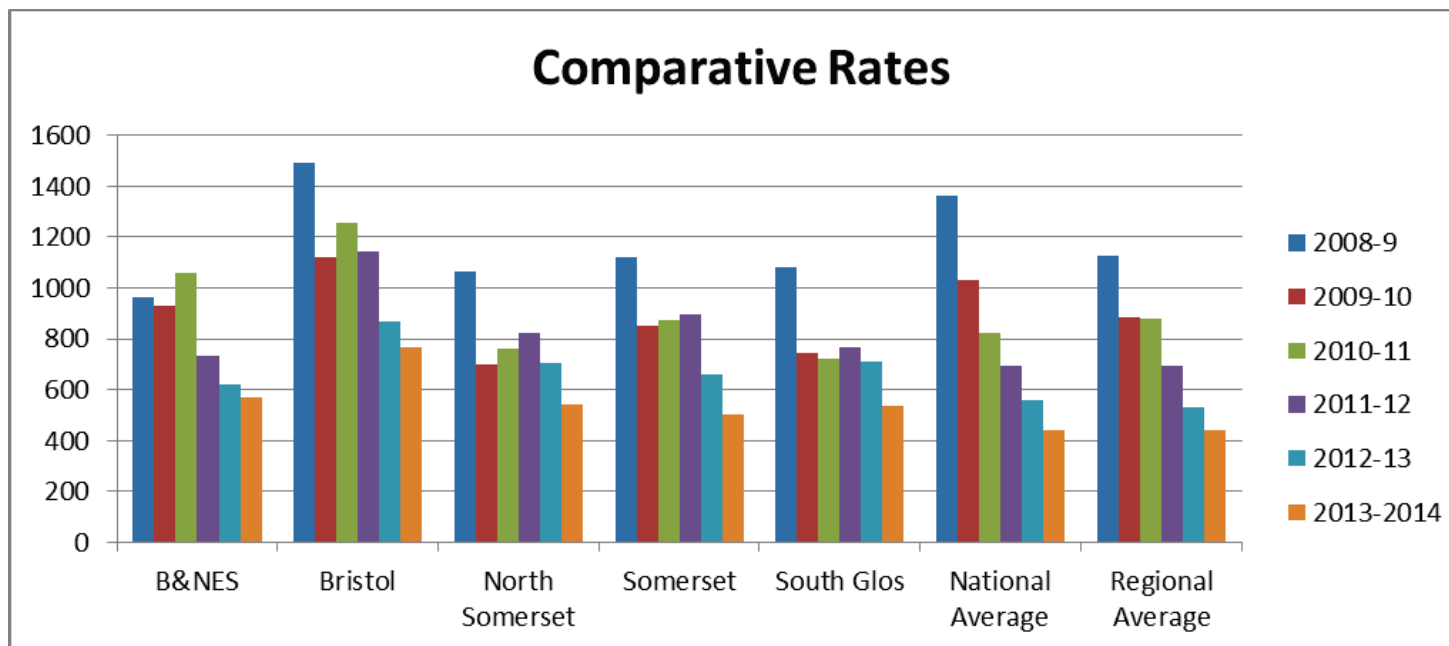
1. Reduce the rate of first time entrants to the youth justice system

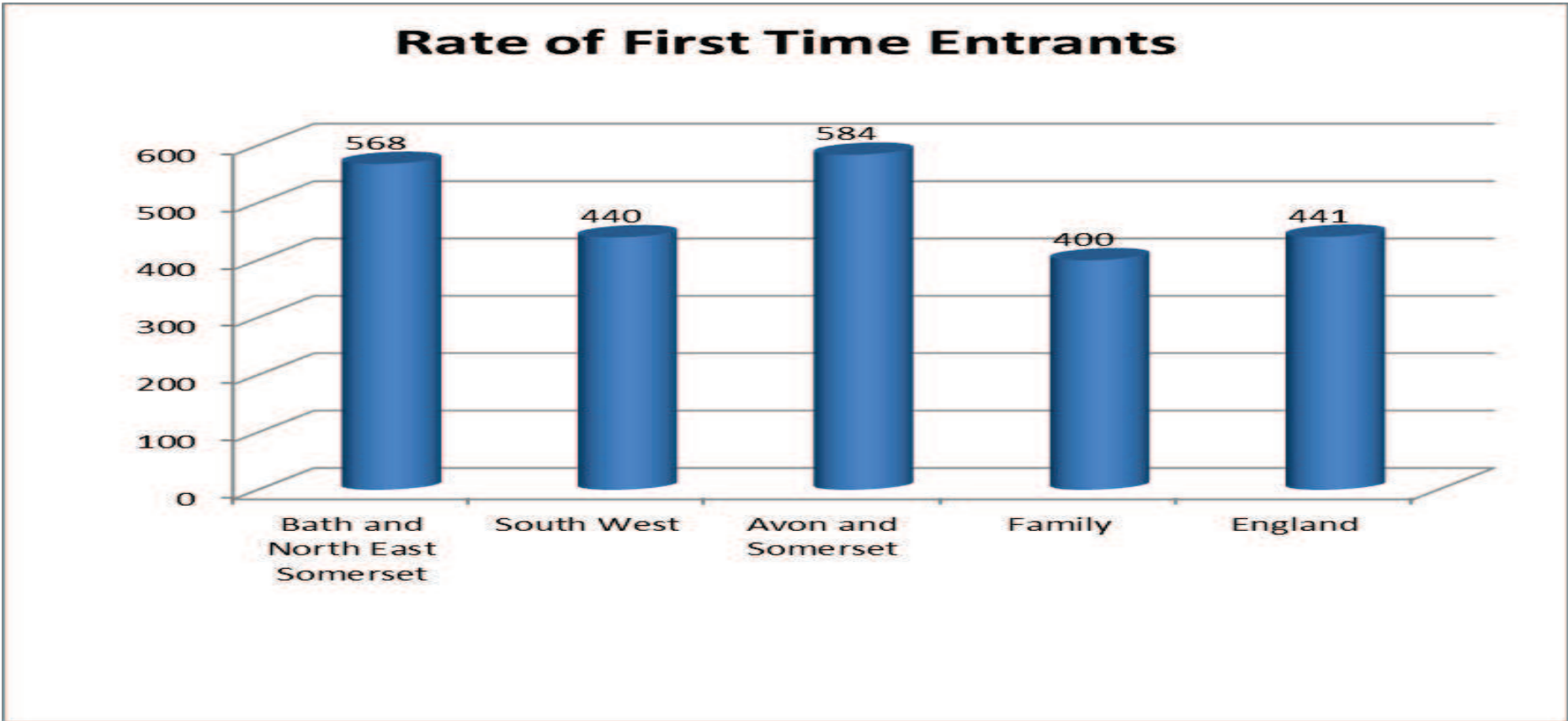
This performance measure helps understanding of how effective the local area has been in supporting young people not to offend and enter the youth justice system for the first time. It is shown as a rate of young people per 100,000 in the general population of 10-17 year olds who received their first substantive outcome (a Police Reprimand or Final Warning following admission of an offence, or a conviction in Court), to enable comparisons to be made. Police Reprimands and Final Warnings were abolished under the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act and so in future, this measure will address those receiving Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions.

Data is taken from the Police National Computer and is published in rolling full years for the twelve month periods ending March, July, September and December each year. Local performance is continuing to improve, but at a slower rate than comparators and the relative rate of first time entrants remains stubbornly higher than all comparators apart from Avon and Somerset. Nevertheless, the number of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time has reduced by more than half in the last five years. The local target is for a further 10% reduction.

	<i>Bath and North East Somerset</i>	<i>South West</i>	<i>'Family' comparator group</i>	<i>England</i>
<u>First time entrant rate per 100,000 of local population aged 10-17</u> (Source: Youth Justice Board)				
<i>January 2013 - December 2013 (latest period)</i>	568	440	400	411
<i>April 2012 – March 2013</i>	618	561	430	528
<i>Percentage change from selected baseline</i>	-8.1%	-21.6%	-7.0%	-16.5%

Date range for the last five years	Number of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time
April 2008 – March 2009	179
April 2009 – March 2010	150
April 2010 – March 2011	167
April 2011 – March 2012	114
April 2012 – March 2013	88
April 2013 – March 2014	80

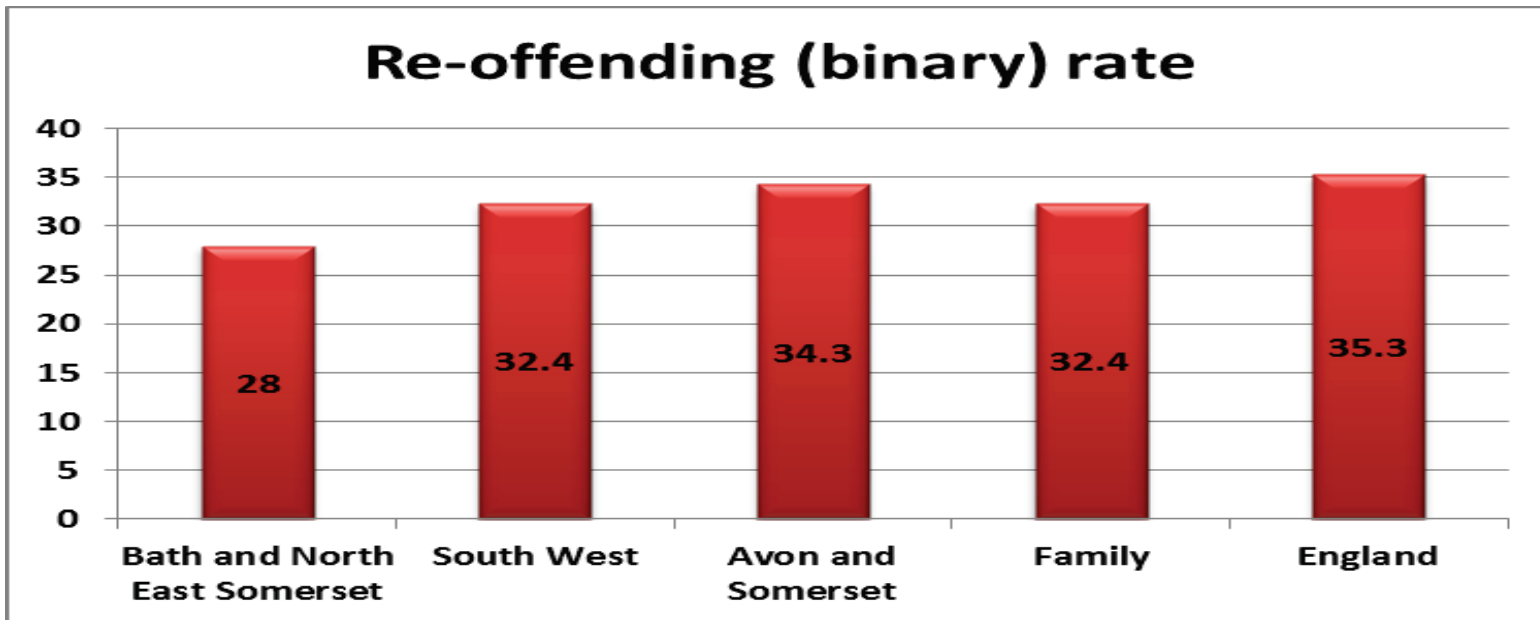
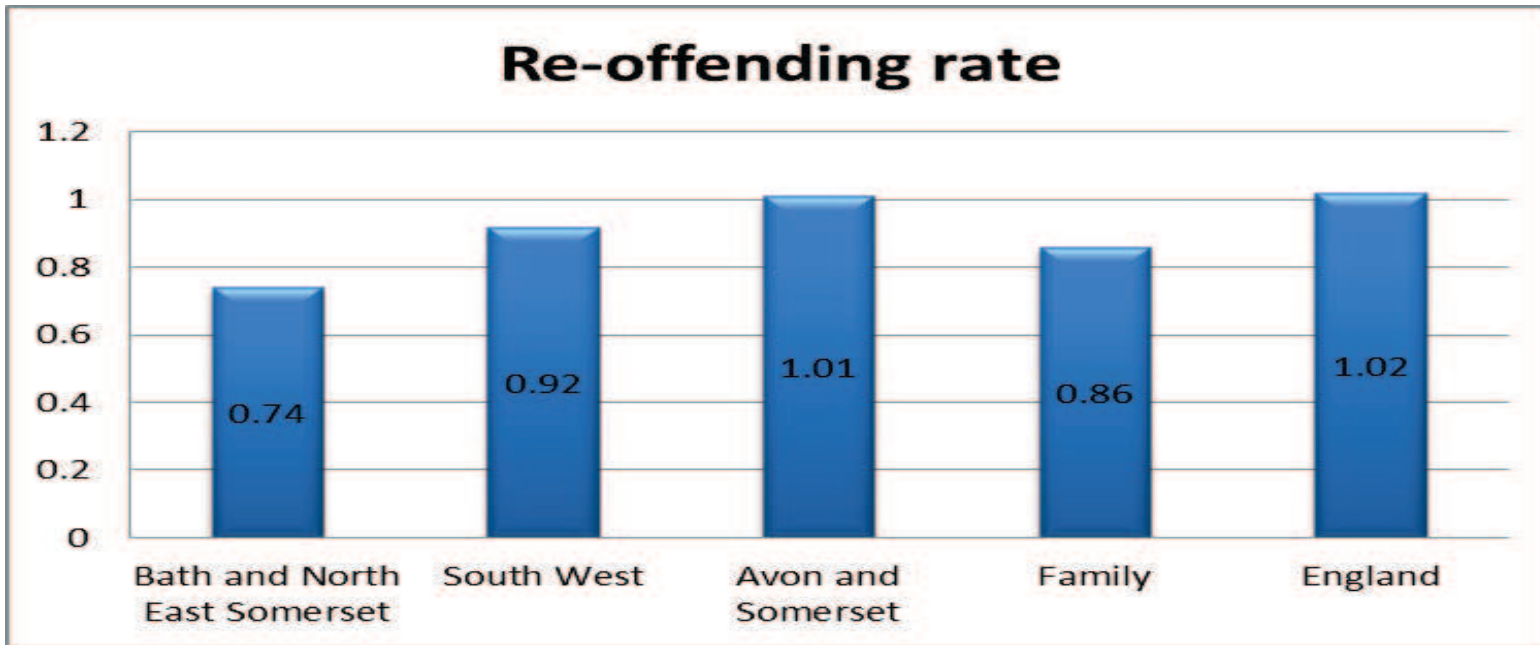




2. Reduce the rate of re-offending

This performance measure helps understanding of the effectiveness of the youth justice system in supporting young people who have previously offended to avoid re-offending. It is a quarterly rolling measure of the rate of re-offending after twelve months of a cohort of young people who received a Caution or Conditional Caution or a sentence in Court or were released from custody. The data is taken from the Police National Computer and published as a frequency rate (the average number of re-offences per 100 young people) and as binary information (a count of the number of young people who re-offended, expressed as a percentage of the cohort). The local rate continues to reduce and is much lower (better) than all comparators. The local target for re-offending for 2014-2015 is a reduction to 27%.

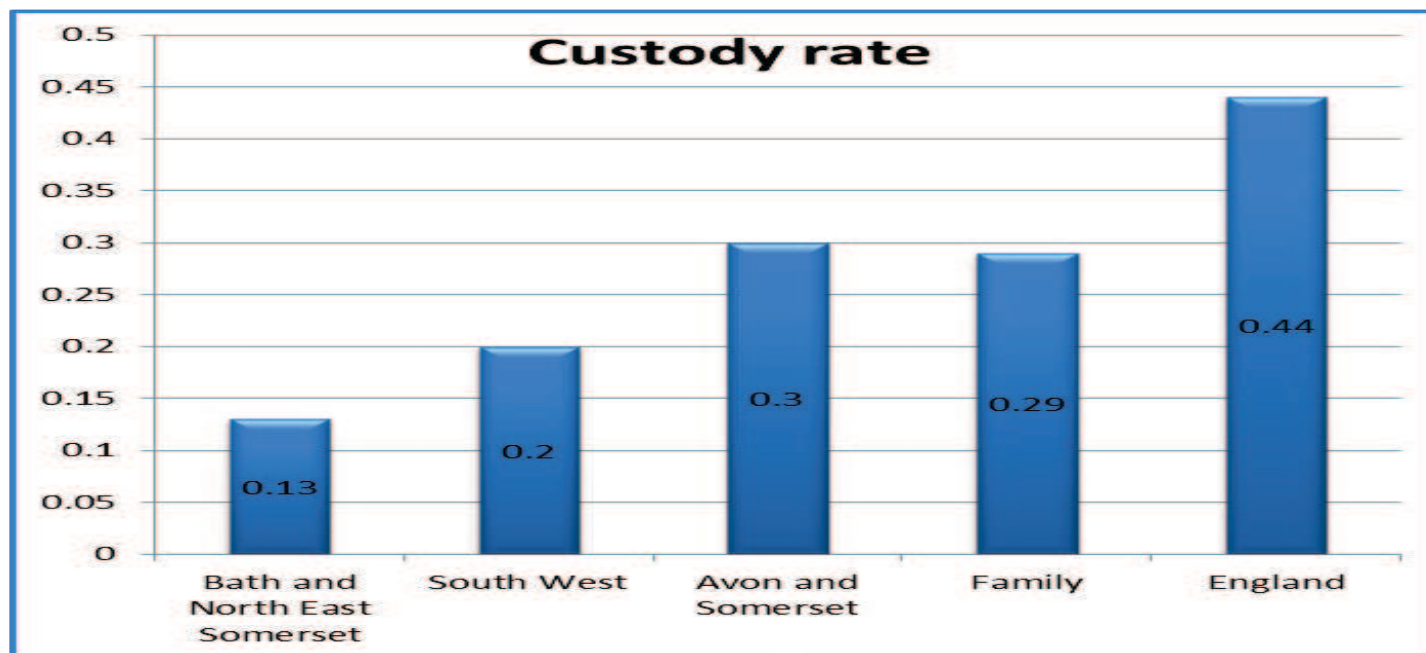
	<i>Bath and North East Somerset</i>	<i>South West</i>	<i>'Family' comparator group</i>	<i>England</i>
<u>Re-offending rates after 12 months</u> (Source: Youth Justice Board)				
<i>Average frequency of re-offending per 100 young people in the cohort of young people dealt with in the youth justice system between July 2011 – June 2012</i>	0.74	0.92	0.86	1.02
<i>Average frequency of re-offending per 100 young people in the cohort of young people dealt with in the youth justice system between April 2011 – March 2012</i>	0.74	0.93	0.86	1.02
<i>Change from selected baseline</i>	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00
<i>Binary rate: percentage of young people dealt with in the youth justice system between July 2011 and June 2012 who re-offended</i>	28%	32.4%	32.4%	35.3%
<i>Binary rate: percentage of young people dealt with in the youth justice system between April 2011 and March 2012 who re-offended</i>	28.6%	33%	32.7%	35.4%
<i>Percentage point change from selected baseline</i>	-0.06%	-0.6%	-0.4%	-0.1%



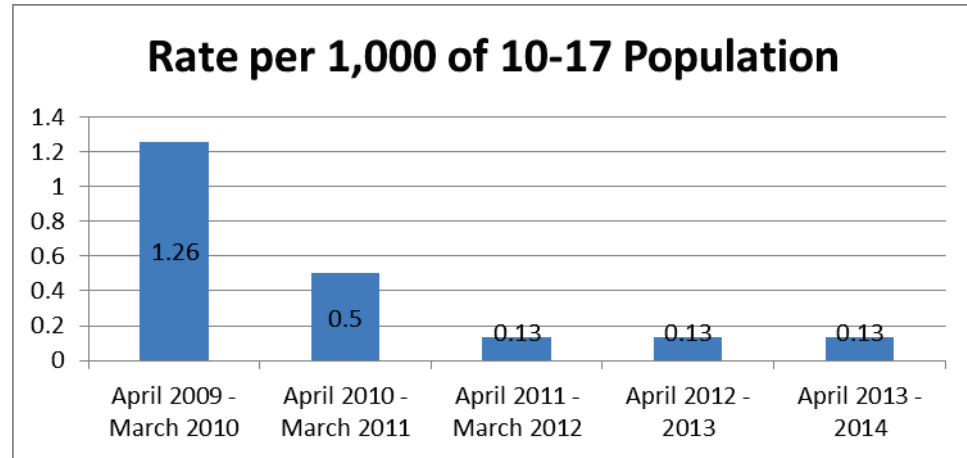
Reduce the rate of custodial sentences

The third performance measure relates to the use made of custody as a sentencing option. Any Court's decision to sentence a child or young person to custody for a serious offence is not taken lightly and is avoided wherever they can be safely supported to remain within the community. The table below shows the marked Indicator is of the rate of custodial sentences per 1,000 young people aged 10-17 in the general population. The tables below shows that the local rate of custodial sentencing remains lower than all comparators and shows greater improvement in the last three years than local comparators. The local target for Custody for 2014/2015 is a reduction to 0.10.

	<i>Bath and North East Somerset</i>	<i>South West</i>	<i>YOT comparison group selected*</i>	<i>England</i>
<u>Use of Custody rate per 1,000 young people in the population aged 10-17</u> (Source: Youth Justice Board)				
<i>April 2012– March 2013</i>	0.13	0.27	0.86	0.55
<i>April 2011– March 2012</i>	0.13	0.36	1.06	0.82
Change	-0.00	-0.19	-0.20	-0.27



Date range for the last five years	Number of occasions on which a young person was sentenced to custody
April 2009 – March 2010	20
April 2010 – March 2011	8
April 2011 – March 2012	2
April 2012 – March 2013	2
April 2013 – March 2013	2



3. The Context for Youth Justice

Wider changes in government policy impact upon the Youth Offending Service and the young people it works with and are incorporated into planning, policies and procedures. The following are the most significant changes impacting on the Service in the year ahead.

3.1 Avon and Somerset Constabulary Police and Crime Plan 2013 – 2017

The Police and Crime Plan for Bath and North East Somerset sets out the priorities of the service based on views of people living in the area. The four key priorities are:

- Reduce the impact that anti-social behaviour has in our communities
- Prevent and Reduce Burglary and fear of burglary in your area
- Tackle domestic and sexual violence, particularly towards women and children
- Ensure victims are at the heart of the criminal justice system

Other priorities include early intervention and prevention, better co-ordinating and integrating local services, building strong relationships and improving road safety and providing a visible and accessible service.

3.2 Avon and Somerset Constabulary Operating Model 2014

To meet budget cuts and make service improvements, Avon and Somerset Constabulary have reshaped their service with the introduction of the new Operating Model. The principles of the model are being 'Better for the Public', 'Simpler for Staff' and 'Value to the Organisation'. The document states that 'High-risk young offenders will be managed by IMPACT officers embedded in the Youth Offending Team and young people involved in street crime will be managed by IRiS.' Therefore, into 2014 -2015, the Youth Offending Service will need to negotiate the reviewed role of the seconded Police Officers, to ensure a continued high quality service for young people and victims.

3.3 Transforming Rehabilitation

Throughout 2014/15, the Government plans to change the way in which offenders are managed in the community in order to reduce reoffending rates. These changes are under the umbrella heading of 'Transforming Rehabilitation' and include the creation of a new public sector National Probation Service (NPS), working to protect the public and building upon the expertise and professionalism which are already in place. The Transforming Rehabilitation agenda will also open up the market to a diverse range of new Community Rehabilitation Companies to supervise low and medium risk offenders aged 18 and above. New payment incentives for market providers to focus on reforming offenders will be introduced, so they will only receive full payment for reductions in reoffending. The Youth Offending Service will therefore need to establish links with the new National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Companies in terms of transitions for 18 year olds and consider whether it is appropriate to bid as part of a wider consortium for a sub-contract to undertake some of this work. This is one of the possible future models for delivery.

3.4 Establishment of a Targeted Youth Support Service in Bath and North East Somerset

In 2014, The Connexions Service, previously provided by Learning Partnership West, has been brought into local authority management alongside the Youth Offending Service. The Connexions Service and the Youth Service are being integrated to create a single targeted youth support service. As a consequence, the Youth Offending Service will no longer have a dedicated Connexions Personal Adviser and will, instead, receive regular consultancy to support its work with young people.

3.5 The Children and Families Act 2014 including the Special Educational Need and Disability Reforms

The Children and Families Act includes clauses on special education needs (SEN) which aim to reform the SEN system. The clauses include the duty on local authorities to draw up Education, Health and Care plans and to set out a 'local offer' of services available to parents and young people. Young people will be able to receive SEN support until they are 25 years old.

3.6 Youth Justice Changes

Throughout 2014, there are anticipated changes to service delivery for Youth Offending Services in a number of key areas. Firstly, they will be required to supervise a young person on a licence or notice of supervision if they turn 18 while in custody. Secondly, the delivery of the Unpaid Work Requirement will be transferred to Youth Offending Teams from June 2014. This means that the Youth Offending Service will need to strengthen the placements where young people can complete unpaid work and ensure staff and partners are briefed of the changes. Thirdly, the responsibility of Junior Attendance Centres is moving from the Ministry of Justice to the Youth Justice Board in 2014 and then on to Local Authorities into 2015. The impact of this in B&NES may be slight due to the limited use of Attendance Centre Requirements, but this does present an opportunity to review provision and make it more accessible.

3.7 Appropriate Adult Service

Between July and September 2014, new custody suites will open in Patchway, South Gloucestershire and in Keynsham. All adults and young people needing to be processed through a custody suite in Bristol, South Gloucestershire and B&NES will be dealt with at the new police stations. To ensure a robust Appropriate Adult Service is maintained, Bristol, South Gloucestershire and B&NES Youth Offending Services are collaborating to provide a single Appropriate Adult Service. The scheme will be jointly funded but solely managed by Bristol Youth Offending Service. B&NES' Youth Offending Service will remain part of a steering group to oversee this service.

3.8 Introduction of Asset Plus

The introduction of a new Youth Justice Board approved assessment tool will now take place in the latter half of 2015. Asset Plus has been designed to provide a holistic end to end assessment and intervention plan, allowing one record to follow a young person throughout their time in the youth justice system. With a renewed focus on the professional judgement of practitioners, Asset Plus will enable better focussed intervention plans to provide improved outcomes for young people currently in the system and those at risk of entering.

3.9 The Secure Estate

The Court catchment for young people going to a Youth Offender Institution from Bath Youth Court has been changed from YOI Feltham to YOI Parc in Bridgend, Wales. This is a positive development and, if a young person is sentenced to go to custody and placed in a Young Offender Institution, it will enable families to visit more easily.

3.10 Troubled Families Initiative

The government states that 'Troubled Families' are those that have problems and cause problems to the community around them, putting high costs on the public sector. This is a programme which initially aimed to work with local authorities and their partners to help 120,000 troubled families in England turn their lives around by 2015, to ensure the children in these families have the chance of a better life, and at the same time bring down the cost to the taxpayer. The programme targets non-attendance at school, offending and anti-social behaviour and adult worklessness. The national programme has been extended for a further 3 years. In B&NES, the work is led by the Connecting Families Service. Other already established teams who work with children and families, such as the Youth Offending Service are part of a matrix team which works with some of the identified families. For the Youth Offending Service and Compass, this means that with young people involved with the service who are identified as being part of a 'troubled family', we will widen our scope to work with the whole family, rather than one young person within it.

3.11 National Standards Monitoring

National Standards were first introduced to youth justice services in 2000, with the most recent edition of National Standards for Youth Offending Services being published in 2013. In 2014, the National Standards audit is to be re-introduced by the YJB. The audit will take place in two parts, firstly by a data extract from the ChildView database and secondly by a qualitative self-audit of cases. The first year's data extraction will include monitoring Contact Frequency, Breach Compliance and Referral Order timeliness. The qualitative self-audit will not be prescribed by the YJB but will need to be submitted by 19th September 2014. It will also need to cover first tier, community orders and custody orders, totalling 20% of live cases and consider equality in each of the yearly audits.

3.12 Education

A key role of the Youth Offending Service in working with young people to prevent their offending and reoffending is to advocate and broker access to education, training and employment both strategically and on behalf of individual young people. The importance of this intervention cannot be overestimated as participation in school and college and attainment of work-related skills are major protective factors in offending and reoffending. The Service employs an Education Worker to monitor attendance and engagement with education and to work directly with young people and parents/ carers where there are issues affecting engagement, progress or quality of provision.

4. Plan for 2014-2015

4.1 Governance, Leadership and Partnership Arrangements

Bath and North East Somerset Council, as the relevant Local Authority, is the lead partner for youth justice. It has the primary responsibility to the Secretary of State for ensuring that the Youth Offending Service fulfils requirements and delivers services required under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and any subsequent criminal justice legislation and that it meets the requirements of all relevant legislation applicable to young people. The statutory partners (Social Care, Police, Probation, Education and Health) have a duty to ensure that, through the provision of resources and other support, statutory requirements are met.

Governance of the Youth Offending Service rests with the Community Safety Partnership's Responsible Authorities Group, and immediate oversight and accountability is provided by the Youth Offending Service Management Board, with representation from the key statutory partners. The Board, currently chaired by the Head of Service at Oxford Health NHS Trust has a Partnership Agreement in place, setting out its responsibilities for the strategic direction, resourcing and operational delivery of youth justice services. Membership of the Youth Offending Service Management Board has recently been reviewed and new members invited, including representatives from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, the Children and Young People's Commissioning Team, the Youth Justice Board and the local Councillor with responsibility for children and young people's services who also represents the Youth Offending Service's interests at the Children's Trust Board and at the Health and Wellbeing Board.

This Youth Justice Plan will be monitored by the Youth Offending Service Management Board, which meets quarterly and there will continue to be a level of support and oversight from the Youth Justice Board. The Youth Offending Service is managed within the People and Communities Department and is part of the Preventative Services Division. Strategic responsibility for the Youth Offending Service is allocated to the 11-19 Prevention Service Manager who is also responsible for the new targeted youth support service and the Hospital Education and Reintegration Service. The Operational Manager has oversight of all services delivered and is supported by the Partnership and Intervention Manager and a part-time Senior Practitioner. The wider staff structure can be found summarised in an organisational chart in the appendices.

The Youth Offending Service is very well established within the Authority and makes a substantial contribution to the work of a range of other partnerships and work streams. It regards these as opportunities to learn and share good practice and to influence other strategies to ensure they take account of the interests of young people at risk of offending and re-offending, their parents/carers and victims. Relationships with other key partner agencies within the Authority and across Avon and Somerset are set out in written protocols which are regularly reviewed and updated.

All plans delivered within the Local Authority sit beneath the Public Services Board. Key plans relating to the work of the Youth Offending Service are listed below:

Members of the Youth Offending Service Management Board

The work of the Board is supported by Claire Barnett (administration), Sarah Howell (accounts) and Carla Cooper (Operational Manager)

Member	Role and Agency Represented
Michelle Maguire – Chair	Head of Service, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
Mike Bowden – Deputy Chair	Deputy Director, Children and Young People’s Strategy and Commissioning, Bath and North East Somerset Council
Philip Jones	Detective Chief Inspector – Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Richard Baldwin	Divisional Director, Children and Young People’s Specialist and Targeted Services, Bath and North East Somerset Council
Elizabeth Spencer	National Probation Service, Avon and Somerset
Dine Romero	Cabinet Lead for Early Years, Children and Youth, Bath and North East Somerset Council
Deborah Forward	Senior Commissioning Manager, Bath and North East Somerset Council
Amy Hurst	Youth Champion and Health and Wellbeing Officer, Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner’s Office
Pauline Kinton	South West Local Performance Adviser, Youth Justice Board for England and Wales
Sally Churchyard	11-19 Prevention Service Manager, Bath and North East Somerset Council

The following local strategies and plans are directly relevant to work with young people at risk of offending and re-offending, setting the wider policy context.

(a) Children and Young People's Plan 2014 - 2017

This plan, as with previous Children and Young People's plans, sets out the vision and priorities that B&NES has for children and young people. The plan has retained the vision from the previous plan that "We want all children and young people to enjoy childhood and be well prepared for adult life" as this statement still underpins the commitment to the Children and Young People of Bath and North East Somerset. Following consultation with partner agencies, children, young people and parents/carers, the Plan includes three key outcomes that will be prioritised between 2014- 2017:

- Children and young people are safe
- Children and young people are healthy
- Children and young people have equal life chances

The Plan states that Bath and North East Somerset will continue to offer support to young people who offend or who at risk of offending.

(b) Reducing Re-Offending Strategy

The Community Safety Strategy incorporates the Reducing Offending Strategy which outlines the wider plan to reduce offending and cut crime in Bath and North East Somerset. The Youth Offending Service leads on the Children and Young People's pathway within this Strategy. It is also a partner with the multi-agency integrated offender management team known locally as Impact which manages a locally defined cohort of offenders involved in prolific, acquisitive crime and causing the most concern.

(c) Community Safety Strategy

The local Community Safety Partnership's priorities have been re-affirmed, as follows:

- Enhance the quality of life in our communities and increase public confidence by reducing anti-social behaviour
- Create a safe, strong and vibrant city economy
- Increase protection of the most vulnerable victims of crime
- Reduce crimes of local concern by working together with our communities
- Minimize the harm that substance misuse causes to society, communities, families and individuals
- Safeguard young people and prevent them from becoming victims or perpetrators of crime. This latter priority includes all the actions within this Youth Justice Plan

(d) Local Safeguarding Children Board Work Programme 2014-2015

The Youth Offending Service has a statutory duty under Section 11 of the Children's Act to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Youth Offending Service contributes to the Local Safeguarding Children Board and related sub-groups. The Youth Offending Service participates in the Operational Management Group set up to oversee work with children and young people about Harmful Sexual Behaviour. The Youth Offending Service is also involved in promoting the safeguarding needs of young people, including ensuring improved early identification of vulnerable 11-19 year olds and well-targeted services to reduce the need for statutory services.

(e) Youth Crime Prevention Strategy

The Youth Crime Prevention Board oversees the partnership working to reduce first time entrants to the youth justice system and reports to the Youth Offending Service Management Board. The local Youth Crime Prevention Strategy contains a comprehensive action plan for the partnership and highlights priorities for youth crime prevention work as well as outlining challenges for the future. Members of the Board will be actively involved in the development of an Early Help Strategy and its work will contribute to this

(f) Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The Health and Wellbeing Board sets out the local strategic priorities to improve the health and well-being of people of Bath and North East Somerset, as assessed through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. This year sees the first Joint Health and Wellbeing strategy and the Youth Offending Service will have the opportunity to contribute to a consultation on the priorities outlined therein. Some of the proposed priority areas in this draft consultation overlap with the work of health staff attached to the Youth Offending Service and will be reflected in planning for the year ahead.

4.2 Work Plan 2014-2015

What will be done	Lead	Timescale
Priority Area 1: Strategic Development		
1. Review the delivery model for youth justice work within the changing context for young people and the Service's statutory partners and set.	Management Board and Service Manager	June 2105
2. In the light of new national guidance and findings from HMI Probation, consolidate the role of the Management Board in overseeing the effectiveness of youth justice services.	Management Board and Service Manager	June 2015
3. Participate in the development of a local Early Help Strategy, ensuring that it addresses principles and ambitions for working with young people at risk of offending.	Service Manager	December 2104
4. In line with the Police Operating Model, agree a new role and job description for the seconded YOS Police Officers.	Operational Manager	December 2014
5. Ensure the Youth Offending Service continues to involve the community in its work by recruiting a Community Involvement Worker to work with volunteers and reparation in the community.	Partnership and Intervention Manager	December 2014
6. Seek the establishment of a forum to bring together training providers and those services working with post 16 young people who are not in employment, education or training.	Management Board and Service Manager	June 2015
Priority Area 2: Assessment, Planning, Intervention and Supervision		
1. In preparation for Asset Plus and National Standards Audits, strengthen assessment skills of practitioners by reviewing the service's audit framework, and introducing joint assessments and live observations.	Operational Manager	December 2014
2. Support young people to participate in their supervision and own their assessment, by ensuring that, in every case, the young person's views are included in their assessment and that One Page Profiles are used as a tool with young people.	Operational Manager	December 2014
3. Ensure that young people participate in the development of the service by reviewing the processes used to seek feedback from young people and parents/ carers, including introduction of the HMI Probation tool, Viewpoint.	Operational Manager	December 2014
4. Promote young people participate in the development of the service by inviting young people to be part of staff interviews, inductions and reviews of the service. This will include creating young person friendly formats of feedback, collating the feedback and using it to improve the work of the YOS.	Operational Manager	June 2015

What will be done	Lead	Timescale
5. Ensure the interventions delivered by the YOS meet the learning and communication needs of young people, by reviewing and updating all interventions materials in consultation with the Speech and Language Therapist and monitor this through completion of communication screens and learning style assessments.	Partnership and Intervention Manager	June 2015
6. Increase the level of compliance with Court Orders by introducing Compliance Panels when a young person is at risk of going into breach to reduce the number of breaches from 21 in 2013/14.	Operational Manager	June 2015
Priority Area 3: Work with Victims		
1. Improve the Victim Liaison Service at the YOS, review the way feedback is sought from victims and create a user friendly / postcard feedback form. This feedback will then be collated and reviewed on a quarterly basis to inform how we offer support to victims.	Partnership and Intervention Manager	December 2014
2. Ensure victims and young people are able to reflect upon and feedback about a restorative justice meeting, create a template to be used to offer a de-brief to all young people and victims. This feedback will be reviewed on a quarterly basis to inform practice relating to restorative meetings.	Partnership and Intervention Manager	September 2014
3. Build upon the restorative justice skills within the team with team training in Family Mediation and use these skills where there is conflict in the young person's home environment.	Operational Manager	December 2014
Priority Area 4: Work with Families		
1. Develop and implement the use of Assessment and Screening Tools for Case Managers to use with Parents and Families.	Operational Manager	December 2014
2. Select suitable families throughout 2014/15 where the Youth Offending Service, including Compass, will work with the family as a whole as part of the Connecting Families Matrix Team.	Operational and Senior Practitioner	June 2015
3. Develop the role of the Youth Offending Service Parenting Worker to ensure that work with parents/carers is integrated into a Family Plan and that joint work with families is delivered where appropriate.	Partnership and Intervention Manager	June 2015
4. Review the referral process to the Youth Offending Service Parenting Worker to ensure that referrals are appropriate, timely, focussed and integrated into the wider plan with the family.	Partnership and Intervention Manager	September 2014
5. Ensure practitioners are able to undertake the family work as part of the matrix team, create resources that can be used to support the work such as Consent Forms, Written Agreements, and templates for a Whole Family Plan.	Operational Manager	December 2014

What will be done	Lead	Timescale
6. Ensure continued delivery of the Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities parenting programme, by writing job description for SFSC sessional facilitators, consolidating the group of Local Authority employed facilitators and gaining approval for them to deliver the course, creating a rolling timetable for group work programmes and strengthening referral processes, participation and evaluation.	Partnership and Intervention Manager	December 2014
7. Ensure continued use of Team around the Child and Team Around the Family approaches and audit this in supervision.	Operational Manager	June 2015
Priority Area 5: Preventative Work		
1. Increase referrals to Compass from the Police by using the Guardian database to identify young people at risk of re-offending and supporting Police Community Support Officers to make referrals	Seconded Police Constable	September 2014
2. Target earlier support for children at risk of offending by screening all YRDs on those aged 10-14 years and sending a Keyworker appointment when considered a high concern and information about the Compass Project when a lower concern.	Senior Practitioner	September 2014
3. Compass Keyworkers will include a measurable intervention to strengthen relationships between children and parent in plans when the family and relationships section in the ONSET assessment indicates an issue (2+)	Senior Practitioner	December 2014
4. Improve parenting skills of all parents and carers of children working with Compass, by setting an expectation that parents complete the Strengthening families, Strengthening Communities programme as part of their support plan, engage in work with YOS parenting Worker or receive informal support and advice from Keyworker.	Senior Practitioner	December 2014
5. Work with Local Safeguarding Children Board partners to identify children of adult offenders who could be referred to Compass.	Senior Practitioner	September 2014
Priority Area 6: National Initiatives		
1. Use the YJB Learning Matrix as a pilot in PDRs for practitioners.	Operational Manager	December 2014
2. Introduce and manage the delivery of the Unpaid Work Requirement in court orders for 16 and 17 years olds.	Operational Manager	September 2014
3. As per the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014, extend the supervision requirement for young people who will turn 18 during the custodial phase of their Detention and Training Order so that they all serve 12 months' supervision in the community.	Operational Manager	November 2014

4.3 Budget Summary 2014 - 2015

Source	Pooled budget	Staffing costs	Non-staffing costs	Comments	Total and %
Police	26,442	82,472	0	Seconded Police also have on-site access to the Police National Computer	108,914 (11.8%)
Probation	0	43,378	0	Based on 2013-14 costings	43,378 (4.7%)
Health	14,885	31,137	0	CAMHS consultation is delivered through a separate contract and not costed	46,022 (5.0%)
Local Authority	18,317	381,732	55,809	Office base, financial and personnel services are also provided but not costed	455,858 (49.2%)
Police and Crime Commissioner	n/a	11,790	9,468	A proportion of this contributes towards the commissioning of Project 28, a young people's substance misuse service	21,258 (2.3%)
Youth Justice Board	n/a	179,156	71,053	This funding is used to develop good practice and effectiveness, Unpaid Work and restorative practice	250,209 (27.0%)
Total	59,644	729,665	136,330		925,639

4.4 Partner Agency Commitment

Partner Organisation	Name of Chief Officer	Signature	Date
Local Authority	Jo Farrar, Chief Executive, Bath and North East Somerset Council		
Local Authority	Ashley Ayre, Strategic Director, People and Communities		
People and Communities Department	Richard Baldwin, Divisional Director Children and Young People's Services		
Health Service and Education	Mike Bowden, Deputy Director, Children and Young People's Strategy and Commissioning		
Avon and Somerset Police Service	Philip Jones, Detective Chief Inspector, Avon and Somerset Constabulary		
National Probation Service	Elizabeth Spencer Assistant Chief Officer		

5. Appendices

Appendix (a): Summary of the main areas of work undertaken by the local Youth Offending Service

1. Compass Project - voluntary support to young people aged 8-17 who are assessed as being at high risk of offending, and their parents/carers.
2. Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities parenting programme – co-ordinated for parents/carers across the Authority, not just those with young people at risk of offending, and including a significant time commitment from a range of partner agencies.
3. Appropriate Adult services to safeguard a young person’s interests when they are being interviewed by the Police in the Custody Suite of a Police station – during 2014-15, when the Custody Suite has moved to Keynsham, arrangements will change to collaboration with Bristol and South Gloucestershire Youth Offending Services.
4. Support to young people who are bailed by the Courts, which can attach conditions to maintain contact with the Youth Offending Service and help with arrangements for young people Remanded to the Care of the Local Authority.
5. Assessment and work with young people as part of the new Out of Court disposals framework, including those who are subject to Youth Conditional Cautions.
6. Preparation of Reports to help with key decision-making about young people who have offended (supporting contract requirements for Referral Order Panels, proposing sentencing options to the Courts and providing assessment information to the Parole Board).
7. Supervision of young people on community Court Orders – meeting regularly to help them to face up to the consequences of offending and address the factors that make it likely that they will re-offend, including lack of engagement in education, training and employment. These include Referral Orders, Reparation Orders and Youth Rehabilitation Orders. Those most likely to re-offend may have Intensive Supervision and Surveillance requirements attached to a Youth Rehabilitation Order.
8. Restorative Justice Services designed to provide victims with the information they want and to engage them and young people in meetings or activities to repair the harm caused by offending. Young people can also make reparation through community projects.
9. Support for young people sentenced to Custody and supervision of them when they return to the community. The most common youth custodial sentence is the Detention and Training Order, lasting up to two years. Longer sentences apply for more serious offences.
10. Individual work with parents/carers, access to parenting programmes and supervision of Parenting Orders.

Appendix (b): Values and Behaviours Framework

The following represents our shared view and approach to our service users and each other.

- Respect young people for who they are and take their needs and wishes seriously
- Listen to young people and take any action necessary to keep them safe
- Recognise the damaging impact of crime on individuals and communities and uphold the importance of preventing it
- View diversity positively
- Believe in the possibility and desirability of change
- Want the best for young people and their families
- Work restoratively
- Work in an integrated and multi-agency way
- Have a drive for results and courage when things don't go to plan

Locally, everyone who works with and on behalf of children and young people, and their parents/carers will collectively and individually:

- Expect the best of our children and young people across Bath and North East Somerset
- Shows respect for all
- Uses help/services that are evidenced based
- Ensures transparency in decision making
- Has energy and purpose
- Does not “assume” without thinking
- Is positively disposed to deliver the best outcomes for each individual child
- Recognises that young people’s participation in cultural, sports, play and leisure opportunities is valuable and is to be encouraged.

To support these values, there is an agreed set of behaviours that everyone is expected to embrace:

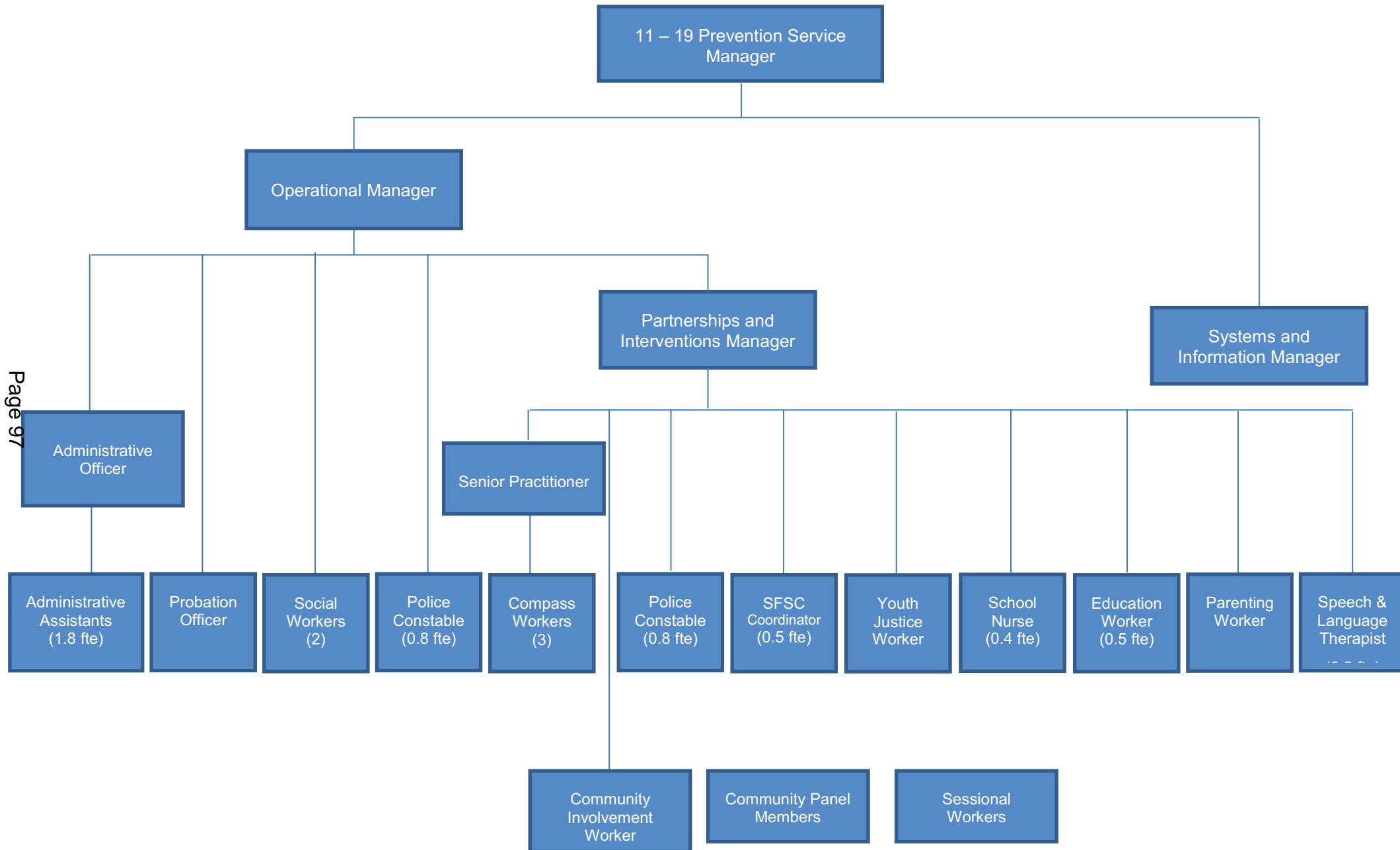
- Young people are central to any discussions of their needs
- Young people are involved in any meetings/discussions about their individual needs and plans
- All staff front –line staff /Head Teachers /managers/volunteers across the workforce will take responsibility for looking at the young people's needs and assessments holistically- look at the big picture : will join up their work with that of other colleagues and or the family and develop one plan of support/intervention
- The young person will know who is the lead person for their plan and how to contact them
- Staff will be accountable to the young person in delivering the plan
- Line managers will make it happen

Young people across Bath and North East Somerset have identified the following as important behaviours and therefore we will provide workers who are:

- Honest
- Responsible
- Arrive on time
- Non-judgemental
- Show a caring attitude towards the young people
- Start at the point the young person wants them to
- Empower young people to take control of their lives
- Involve young people in all decisions/ panels/ meetings
- Do what they say they will do
- Communicate clearly and keeps young people up to date
- Committed to the principles of equity and diversity
- Safeguard the welfare of young people

Parents/carers want the same from the workforce, together with an active consideration with the young person of the right level of support from the parent/carer in planning for the young person. Taken together, these values and behaviours support the development of a person centred approach to supporting young people's critical involvement in decisions about the design, delivery and effectiveness of services, and they are all adopted by the Youth Offending Service.

Youth Offending Service Organisational Chart



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The work of the Youth Offending Service would not be possible without its volunteers, who make up nearly a third of the staffing complement. We thank them again for their time, commitment and hard work as Appropriate Adults and Community Panel Members.

Staff in the Youth Offending Team by gender and ethnicity based on census 2001 categories																
	Strategic Manager		Team Manager		Practitioner		Administrator		Sessional		Student		Volunteer		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
White British	0	1	0	2	4	8	0	4	1	5	0	0	3	8	8	28
White Irish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black Caribbean	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
White and Black African	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
British Black Caribbean	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White and Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pakistani	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Anglo Indian	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	0	1	0	2	6	8	0	4	1	5	0	0	4	8	11	28

Appendix (e): Glossary of Terms

Appropriate Adults	Volunteers (and in more serious or complex matters, paid staff) who safeguard a young person's interests under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 when they are being questioned by the Police and a parent/carer is unable to attend.
ASSET	A structured assessment tool used to consider how a range of factors, such as engagement with education or mental health issues, may have contributed - and continue to contribute - to a young person's risk of offending.
B&NES	Bath and North East Somerset.
CFAIT	Children, Families, Assessment and Intervention Team.
Common Assessment Framework	A shared assessment tool for use across all children's services and local areas in England. It is used to support early identification of need and assist the co-ordination of services to address that need.
Children and Young People's Plan	The Children and Young People's Plan is the single plan that outlines what all agencies, schools, Local Authority and voluntary groups are going to do to help improve outcomes for Children and Young People across Bath & North East Somerset.
Children's Trust Board	Children's Trust Boards are the co-operation arrangements and partnerships between local organisations with a role in improving outcomes for children and young people. It is a partnership that has overall responsibility for planning and delivery of services for children and young people. The Trust in Bath and North East Somerset is responsible for publishing this Children and Young People's Plan and for making sure that services deliver the commitments outlined in that Plan.
ChildView	This is a standard database used by the Youth Offending Service for case management, monitoring and reporting.
Community Panel Members	Volunteer representatives of the local community, selected and trained to chair panels which meet with young people and their victims to agree how young people can make amends and address their offending behaviour.
Compass	The Compass Project, managed within the Youth Offending Service, provides intensive support to children and young people aged 8-17, who have been assessed as being at high risk of offending.

Connecting Families	A local initiative in response to the national Troubled Families agenda, to engage with and help improve outcomes for a small number of families with children who are involved in crime and/or anti-social behaviour, have children not engaged in education and have a history of adult worklessness. Typically, a large number of agencies may be working with these families and this initiative seeks to integrate the planning and support available in order that families can make better use of it.
Connexions	A universal service to provide a wide range of support for 13-19 year olds, particularly regarding education, training and employment. It gives priority to those considered most vulnerable.
Criminal Justice Board	A partnership of all the statutory criminal justice services, locally serving the Avon and Somerset area.
HMI Probation	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation is an independent Inspectorate, funded by the Ministry of Justice, and reporting directly to the Secretary of State on the effectiveness of work with adults; children and young people who have offended aimed at reducing reoffending and protecting the public.
IMPACT / Integrated Offender Management	Known locally as IMPACT, this is a partnership between Police, Probation and other agencies, to tackle prolific, acquisitive crime and due to be extended to tackle violent and sexual offending.
Intensive Supervision and Surveillance	Intensive Supervision and Surveillance is a rigorous community sentence for eligible young people who have been convicted of an offence or a pattern of offences so serious that they would otherwise receive a custodial sentence. The Programme is also available as a condition of a Bail Supervision and Support programme or as a condition of the community element of a Detention and Training Order.
IRiS (Integrated Response, Integrated Service)	IRiS is a team of professionals based with Avon and Somerset Police. The team works with those people on a Community Order or License from prison as well as those who are not supervised or on probation. The team works to encourage and support offenders to make positive steps to positive change and to protect the public or those at risk from harm by sharing information.
Junior Attendance Centre	A Junior Attendance Centre is a community sentencing option. Ministry of Justice guidance states that Attendance Centres are primarily a punishment through the restriction of liberty in a controlled environment, the activities and instruction offered within the centres must be, at a minimum, safe and decent. The regime is also designed to strengthen desistance factors among those attending by offering structured physical activities and skills training such as life skills and offending behaviour work. The most local Junior Attendance Centre to B&NES is currently in central Bristol.

LASPO	The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012.
Local Safeguarding Children's Board	The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) brings together local agencies working with children and families. LSCB is responsible for policy, procedures and services to support children and families in need to prevent significant harm.
Ministry of Justice	The Ministry of Justice is a ministerial department of the UK Government headed by the Secretary of State who is responsible for improvements to the justice system so that it better serves the public.
Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements	The Youth Offending Service has a legally duty to co-operate with arrangements, led by Police, Probation and Prisons, to safeguard the public from the threat posed by sexual and violent offenders, whilst also attending to the needs of the victim.
ONSET	A structured assessment tool to measure a young person's risk of offending, used with young people who have never been arrested and had a statutory response to their behaviour (Reprimand, Final Warning or conviction).
Out of Court Disposals	From April 2013, under the LASPO, a new framework for out of court disposals has been introduced. This includes the Youth Caution and the Youth Conditional Caution.
Participation	A term used to describe the process of actively involving children and young people in the planning, delivery and evaluation of services that benefit them individually and also, that benefit the wider community. The use of this term is extended to actively involving staff in planning and evaluation of the services they deliver.
Parenting Orders	Parents whose children offend or persistently truant from school can be made the subject of Court Orders, requiring them to attend parenting support, and sometimes, to exercise specific control over their child's behaviour.
Pre-Sentence Report	A formal, written report, prepared to assist the Court at sentencing stage, by providing an offence analysis, in the light of risk of continued offending and risk to the public, and outlining suitable sentencing options.
Protective Factors	Aspects of young people's lives that mitigate against offending, such as consistent parenting, engagement in education or involvement in constructive leisure.
Public Services Board	This is the strategic board overseeing all local authority service delivery which has replaced the Local Strategic Partnership.

Referral Order	Available since April 2002, these are mandatory sentences for all young people appearing in Court for a first offence and pleading guilty. They refer a young person to a Community Panel, led by trained members of the public and attended by their parents and the victim(s) of their offence(s). The Panel agrees a contract for how the young person is to make amends for their behaviour.
Reparation	Making amends to someone harmed. This can be doing something of direct benefit to the victim of an offence or could be undertaking work that benefits the wider community, ideally suggested by the victim.
Resettlement Consortium	A south west partnership between Youth Offending Services, the secure estate, voluntary sector partners and Probation to provide an enhanced offer of support to young people being released from custody, to assist their resettlement.
Restorative Justice	Restorative Justice describes a range of approaches to resolving a situation where harm, often an offence, has been caused. It focuses on victim satisfaction, offering a range of services by which the victim can gain an understanding of the offence, have a chance to be fully heard, and agree to and even participate in any suitable reparation. Where the victim does not wish to be involved in any way, then the Youth Offending Service will work with a young person to raise awareness of the likely impact of their offending on others and will plan for them to take on some indirect reparation.
Responsible Authorities Group	This Group oversees the delivery of the creating and maintaining safer communities. It is comprised of senior managers from the statutory agencies, an elected Council Member and other partners who together pool their combined knowledge to identify the key issues within the community and understand clearly how best to tackle them. This Partnership accepts that fighting crime is not just the job of the Police, but the responsibility of all organisations whether public, private or voluntary, and works towards the creation of safer and stronger communities.
Scaled Approach	A system whereby the level of intervention for a young person during the course of their Court order is determined by their assessed likelihood of re-offending.
Sustainable Community Strategy	The Sustainable Community Strategy sets out what type of place Bath and North East Somerset should become. It deals with a range of challenges and changes that impact on our daily lives. The strategy sets out how the challenges are going to be addressed. It is aspirational and high level, but these aspirations will be worked towards to make them a reality. The strategy is the outcome of listening to what is important for the community and responding with a vision for the area.
Team around the Child	A multi-agency planning meeting with the child and parent/carer present. The young person can help decide the agenda and should be enabled to fully participate in the meetings and the planning.

Unpaid Work	Unpaid Work is a requirement that is available to the court as part of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. The requirement involves young people carrying out work that will benefit the community in order to repay the harm caused by their offending.
Victim Liaison Officer	Member of the Youth Offending Service who makes contact with the victims of crimes we are notified about. They discuss the impact of the crime with the victim and enable them to consider a restorative approach.
Youth Rehabilitation Order	The Youth Rehabilitation Order is a generic community sentence for young offenders and can combine a number of requirements into one generic sentence. It is the standard community sentence used for the majority of children and young people who offend. It simplifies sentencing for young people, while improving the flexibility of interventions.
Youth Offending Service (YOS)	These multi-agency teams were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, with a principal aim of preventing youth offending. They include representatives from Police, Probation, Health and the Local Authority, and their work is overseen by local Management Boards made up of key stakeholders. Locally, the term Youth Offending Service is used, because the remit includes preventative work as well as statutory supervision of young people.
Youth Justice Board	The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales is now linked to the Ministry of Justice and is responsible for overseeing the youth justice system, including performance monitoring, providing advice and disseminating good practice.

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Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING:	Council	
MEETING DATE:	11 th September 2014	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
TITLE:	Annual Report – Corporate Audit Committee	
WARD:	ALL	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix 1 – Annual Report		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The Corporate Audit Committee has specific delegated powers given to it from Full Council and as such is required to report back annually to Council under its Terms of Reference.

1.2 This is the Annual Report of the Committee which details its work over the last year.

2 RECOMMENDATION

Council is asked to agree that:

2.1 The Annual Report of the Corporate Audit Committee is noted

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no direct financial implications relevant to this report

4 CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4.1 Completion of the Corporate Audit Committee's work assists the organisation in efficiently and effectively contributing to the Council's priorities.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 Appendix 1 details the ninth annual report of the Corporate Audit Committee since it was established by the Council on 12 May 2005. It reviews the work done by the Committee over the past 12 months, its future work plan, membership and support of the Committee.
- 5.2 The Committee's work has continued to develop as detailed at Appendix 1 and as part of its responsibilities it has reviewed its terms of reference and the key areas of responsibility are still considered appropriate and meet current best practice.
- 5.3 This was the first full year for the Council's new external auditor – Grant Thornton – who had been successful in winning a new five year contract as a result of the government's changes to the public audit regime. The draft local Audit Bill was scrutinised before parliament during the year and finally enacted and as it provides for options on a differing approach to the future appointment and monitoring of external auditors its implications will remain an area of high priority for the Audit Committee.
- 5.4 The Audit Committee will therefore continue to monitor the implications of the changes to the public audit regime and the performance of the new external auditor.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A proportionate risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.
- 6.2 The Corporate Audit Committee has specific responsibility for ensuring the Council's Risk Management and Financial Governance framework is robust and effective.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 A proportionate equalities impact assessment has been carried out using corporate guidelines and no significant issues have been identified.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The report was distributed to the Chief Executive, Council's Monitoring Officer, S151 Officer and Chair of the Audit Committee for consultation.

9 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

- 9.1 No specific issues to consider.

10 ADVICE SOUGHT

10.1 The Council's Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer (Council Solicitor) and Section 151 Officer have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	<i>Jeff Wring (01225 477323)</i>
Background papers	<i>None</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

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Appendix 1

CORPORATE AUDIT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL 2013/14

1. INTRODUCTION

This is the ninth annual report of the Committee since it was established by the Council on 12 May 2005. It covers the work done during the year September 2013 to June 2014.

2. REVIEW OF WORK DONE IN 2013/14

a. Financial Governance – Annual Accounts

- i. The Committee approved on behalf of the Council an unqualified set of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013 within the statutory deadline. This included the accounts for the Pension Fund.
- ii. The Committee then considered the formal governance reports for the Council and Pension Fund submitted by the external auditors (Grant Thornton) on their audit of the accounts.
- iii. The Council report highlighted some presentational and technical changes to the accounts and recommendations to improve the quality of the reconciliation process between the Property and Asset registers for accounting purposes. However there were no proposed changes to the General Fund Balances and Reserves. The auditors also noted that the accounts were presented promptly and that they were supported by good quality working papers.
- iv. The report on the Pension Fund Accounts highlighted that the financial statements were produced to a good standard, supported by good quality working papers and there were no material adjustments to the accounts.
- v. Both Governance reports were therefore noted and the audit of the accounts formally completed.

b. Financial Governance – Treasury Management

- i. The Committee considered the Treasury Management Outturn for 2012/13 which concluded that all prudential indicators were in line with projections and that the average rate of investment return was 0.83% above the benchmark rate.
- ii. In addition the committee received an update report six months into the 2013/14 year which showed an average rate of investment return 0.49% above the benchmark rate and all actions on target in line with the strategy. The restructuring of the Council's Public Works Loan Board debt portfolio had been implemented during the year saving up to a £1M on debt costs.

Appendix 1

- iii. Finally the Committee reviewed the Treasury Management and Annual Investment Strategy for 2014/15. This set out the treasury limits in force, treasury management indicators, current position, borrowing requirement, prospects for interest rates and the borrowing and investment strategies.
- iv. The committee agreed that current performance is good despite this being a very difficult and challenging arena due to the uncertainties within the global financial economy and therefore scrutiny will continue to be important to ensure Council resources are invested wisely

c. External Audit -

- i This was the first full year for the Council's new external auditor – Grant Thornton – who had been successful in winning a new five year contract as a result of the governments changes to the public audit regime.
- ii. The draft local Audit Bill was scrutinised before parliament during the year and finally enacted and as it provides for options on a differing approach to the future appointment and monitoring of external auditors its implications will remain an area of high priority for the Audit Committee.
- iii. Alongside the audit of the accounts for 2012/13 the external auditor also conducted work in relation to concluding a satisfactory VFM opinion for the Council following assessments of our financial resilience, economy, efficiency and effectiveness and a broadly satisfactory review of our four main grant returns.
- iv. The external auditor also presented their new audit fees for the Council and Pension Fund as well as their audit plans for 2013/14. No significant variances were proposed from the previous audit approach and update reports on their work continued to be presented to the Committee alongside references to key national reports and reviews which could impact on the governance framework.

d. Corporate Governance –

- i. The Accounts and Audit Regulations require the Council to carry out an annual review of its governance arrangements, and to produce an annual statement detailing the results of that review. In addition there was a review of progress against actions identified in the 2012/13 statement.
- ii. In relation to the 2013/14 review, two reports were received to both introduce the Committee to their role and also debate a long list of potentially significant issues in relation to the 2013/14 statement.
- iii. All of these views were fed back to senior management and it was pleasing to note that no significant issues were identified for 2013/14 which is a positive sign of an effective internal control environment. The formal statement was then signed by the Leader of Council and Chief Executive prior to the statutory deadline.

Appendix 1

- iv. During the year the Committee also received a report on the Councils risk management arrangements and future risk management strategy. A review of the Councils Corporate Risk Register also took place and included detailed discussion on risks around the Financial Challenge, New Housing Targets, Flooding and Fracking.

e. Internal Audit –

- i. The Committee considered the Service's work plan and monitored its progress during the year. The Committee was satisfied with the balance of the plan between planned projects, unplanned commissions and follow-up of previous reports.
- ii. Whilst benchmarking results were broadly solid with costs below average and quality assurance indicators high, the Committee did express concern that only 86% of the plan had been completed – up from 80% in the year before – however the positive actions to address resource gaps and improved performance on almost all areas including the implementation of audit recommendations was positively received.
- iii. The committee noted the annual opinion on the internal control framework and that with increased pressure on budgets, choices on the degree of internal control had to be made and there was therefore an imperceptible rise in the level of the risk being accepted.
- iv. The Committee had previously received a report which recommended internal audit should prepare for a potential shared service and in light of current performance and the challenges ahead in terms of skills, resilience and resources this was again discussed and recommended. This resulted in two significant further developments in that the previous Divisional Director for Risk & Assurance was now to move into a shared role with North Somerset Council as Head of Audit & Assurance for both Councils. This role was also to include Information Governance and was a precursor to wider sharing opportunities with North Somerset. Additionally the audit service then contracted with the South West Audit Partnership to work in tandem in a number of areas. Both of these moves enabled further savings to be delivered without any loss of productivity and the Committee welcomed these significant and very positive steps to improving the audit service.
- v. Finally a biennial review of the Councils counter fraud arrangements took place reviewing all of the Councils arrangements as well as its risk to fraud based on national benchmarking exercises such as the National Fraud Initiative. The Committee was very pleased to see that risks were being successfully mitigated but were also keen to emphasise a message to all of Council that we take the risk of Fraud seriously and continue to support the drive to a zero tolerance approach to fraud, waste and misuse of resources during the current era of austerity.

Appendix 1

f. Review of Terms of Reference

- i. As part of good practice the Committee reviewed itself against CIPFA's best practice model for Audit Committees. Areas previously highlighted included independent support and training and development.
- ii. In relation to independent support the committee has already tackled this through the adoption of a co-opted independent member and the level of independence to the committee will be kept under review.
- iii. Updates and briefings were presented to committee where appropriate as part of presenting papers and have been received on the following areas –
 - Annual Accounts
 - External Audit
 - Treasury Management
 - Risk Management
 - Fraud & Corruption
 - Internal Audit
- iv. This approach continues to be welcomed and has resulted in constructive and valuable debate of individual topic areas.

3. WORK PLAN FOR 2014/15

- i. Whilst the Committee's work in 2014/15 will be broadly similar to the year recently ended it will keep under close review a number of key issues –
 - a) The future development of the Internal Audit service as it moves to implementing a formal partnership and the impact of these new arrangements;
 - b) The on-going development of the new public audit regime;
 - c) Financial resilience of the organisation through its Accounting and Treasury Management arrangements.

4. MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT

- i. The Committee's membership changed during the year. For three of the four meetings carried out, Councillor Barry Macrae was a member of the committee but following Council in May 2014 Councillor Macrae was replaced by Councillor Brian Webber
- ii. Four meetings were held during 2013/14 of which three required at least one substitute. Councillor Andrew Furse temporarily replaced Councillor Will Sandry as chair of the committee for three meetings due to ill health.
- iii. The Committee's lead officer is the Head of Audit & Assurance. Other officers attend, notably the Divisional Director (Finance) who leads on financial issues through his S151 role, Corporate Finance Manager and Group Manager for Audit & Risk.

Appendix 1

- v. The external auditors are currently represented by an Engagement Lead and Audit Manager from Grant Thornton.

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Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING	Council
MEETING DATE:	11th September 2014
TITLE:	Referral from Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel - “Halve It” HIV campaign
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: No attachments	

1 THE ISSUE

Following a presentation to the Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on 25th July 2014 regarding the prevalence of, and related issues to, HIV infection in Bath and North East Somerset, the Panel resolved to ask Council to sign up to the *Halve It* campaign to reduce the proportion of people undiagnosed, or diagnosed late with HIV, through policy reform and good practice.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 Council is asked to sign up to the *Halve It* campaign to reduce the proportion of people undiagnosed, or diagnosed late with HIV, through policy reform and good practice

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

3.1 There are no additional resource implications identified by the actions detailed.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

4.1 Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is an infection, which, without treatment, can result in progressive increase in illness and premature death. The main routes of transmission of HIV are via sex without a condom, using contaminated

injecting equipment and from transmission from mother to baby during pregnancy, birth or breastfeeding. Around 25% of people living with HIV are not yet aware they are infected. Symptoms following infection do not always occur and can be general, meaning there is potential for infected people to transmit the virus unknowingly to others.

- 4.2 The public health department is responsible for detailing progress against the reducing late HIV diagnoses indicator as defined in the *Public Health Outcomes Framework*.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 At the end of 2011, there were almost 100,000 people estimated to be living with HIV in the UK. As a result of advancement in drug therapies people diagnosed with HIV are increasingly “living with” the infection, rather than dying as a result of it. Just under half (49.7%) of those newly diagnosed with HIV in England were diagnosed late – defined as having a CD4 count below 350 cells/mm³ within 90 days of diagnosis. People diagnosed late have a eleven-fold increased risk of death within one year of HIV diagnosis compared to those diagnosed promptly (3.8% vs. 0.35%).

- 5.2 *Halve It* is a group working with government and the NHS to reduce the proportion of people undiagnosed, and diagnosed late, with HIV through policy reform and good practice. Its membership includes the All Party Parliamentary Group on HIV and AIDS, the British Association of Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH), The Royal College of Physicians (RCP), National AIDS Trust (NAT), Terrence Higgins Trust (THT), and Gilead.

- 5.3 *Halve It* has the following two goals:

- To halve the proportion of people diagnosed late with HIV (defined as having a CD4 count < 350mm³ within three months of diagnosis) by 2015
- To halve the proportion of people living with undiagnosed HIV by 2015

- 5.4 In addition, *Halve It* is asking for the following actions to be taken:

- For National Institute for Health and Care Excellent (NICE) public health guidance on HIV testing to be implemented
- To ensure that local health organisations understand the importance and benefits of early HIV detection by supporting the *Public Health Outcomes Framework* indicator on HIV
- To offer incentives to test for HIV in a range of healthcare settings To ensure those diagnosed with HIV have access to anti-retroviral therapy (ART) to prevent onwards transmission of HIV
- To ensure quality assured self-testing kits for HIV, when available, are integrated into local HIV testing strategies

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 In 2012 there were approximately 70 people living in Bath and North East Somerset (BaNES) diagnosed with HIV and receiving treatment and/or care. This makes our diagnosed HIV prevalence per 1,000 population aged 15-59 a rate of 0.6. This rate is one of the lowest in the country, with just 10 local authorities having a lower rate.
- 6.2 Between 2010 and 2012 approximately 50% of persons diagnosed with HIV in BaNES were diagnosed late. This is similar to the South West average of 49.3% and the England average of 49.7%.
- 6.3 Although BaNES is a low prevalence area for HIV we are already undertaking a range of actions to help local implementation of the *Halve It* programme, specifically:
- The local Sexual Health Board has recently been re-established and will support the undertaking of a rapid sexual health needs assessment ensuring its key focus is on making progress against the *Public Health Outcomes Framework* targets. This will include measures to reduce the numbers of people diagnosed late with HIV.
 - The local Sexual Health Board is in the process of developing a local strategy to increase the uptake of HIV testing particularly amongst the most vulnerable groups such as men who have sex with men (MSM), This will include analysing data from current service providers, working with local voluntary sector providers and taking the views of those within the cohort to help meet need
 - Our service specifications have been revised to ensure that HIV testing is now offered as a core intervention from mainstream sexual health services commissioned by the council. Currently 88% of BaNES residents who access a sexual health service are offered a HIV test with 76% subsequently accepting that test, compared to a South West regional average of 80% and 62% respectively (PHE 2013); we are seeking to increase this rate during 2014/15
 - We are examining ways in which we can roll out point of care (PoC) HIV testing in collaboration with voluntary sector providers to enable self-testing. This measure will complement existing HIV testing already in place
 - We are working with colleagues from BaNES Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) during 2014/15 to examine opportunities to increase the level of HIV testing delivered through primary care settings, in addition to PoC testing as detailed above
- 6.4 The Panel resolved to ask Council to sign up to the *Halve It* campaign to reduce the proportion of people undiagnosed, or diagnosed late with HIV, through policy reform and good practice.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 None

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 This motion has been proposed following an update on HIV infection in Bath and North East Somerset presented to Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel in July 2014. We provided an update to the panel on HIV infection and prevalence in Bath and North East Somerset, explaining the aims of the *Halve It* campaign, detailing actions already underway that were in line with the campaign aims. The Chair of the Panel and Cabinet Member have been consulted in preparing this report.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

Contact person	<p>Paul Sheehan, Public Health Development and Commissioning Manager Public Health Team People and Communities Department paul_sheehan@bathnes.gov.uk; 01225 394065</p> <p>Dr. Bruce Lawrence Director of Public Health Public Health Team People and Communities Department Bruce_lawrence@bathnes.gov.uk</p>
Background papers	<p>DH (2013), <i>Public Health Outcomes Framework</i>, Department of Health, London; available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/healthy-lives-healthy-people-improving-outcomes-and-supporting-transparency</p> <p>Halve It Coalition (2013), <i>Early Testing Saves Lives</i>, Halve It Coalition, London available at: www.bhiva.org/documents/Publications/Halve_it_Position_Paper.pdf</p>

	<p>NAT (2012), <i>HIV: A Strategy for Success</i>, National AIDS Trust, London; available at: www.nat.org.uk/media/Files/Publications/Oct-2012-HIV-a-strategy-for-success.pdf</p> <p>PHE (2013), <i>Sexual Health Quarterly Outcome Indicator Report</i>, Public Health England, Bristol; NB: as this report contains patient identifiable data it is not available in the public domain</p>
<p>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</p>	

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Motion to Council – 11th September 2014

Public toilet closures

To be moved by Cllr Tim Warren on behalf of the Conservative Group

This Council:

- Welcomes investment to modernise public toilet provision within Bath and North East Somerset as part of the contract with Healthmatic, but has a number of serious concerns about some of the planned changes as set out below.
- Believes that the closure of a number of public toilets within Bath and North East Somerset, as well as the planned reductions in capacity in many of the Council's remaining public toilets, has been handled in a way which has caused unnecessary and avoidable anger and opposition amongst many of the communities impacted.
- Is concerned that the Cabinet have denied the public any opportunity to have their views heard on this matter, with no consultation on the planned closures and alterations to public toilets with service users or residents.
- Is deeply concerned at the way in which the Cabinet has ignored the requests contained within a number of petitions which have called for the Council to rethink the reductions in toilet cubicles, in particular in parks and busy family areas.
- Is deeply concerned at the lack of democratic accountability which has surrounded the process of toilet closures and alterations, with no Cabinet decision relating to the closure of public toilets that can be democratically challenged and called-in by Councillors.
- Strongly disapproves of the way in which Cabinet has acted in a manner which is not in the spirit of the February Budget resolution, which included £120,000 to meet the cost of delaying the reduction in public conveniences for up to a year 'to provide further time to consider opportunities for alternative provision', as well as a further £100,000 of capital expenditure to 'develop concessionary opportunities alongside public toilets to increase use of Council assets, minimise liability and retain local toilet provision'.
- Believes that through its actions, the Cabinet has demonstrated contempt for the views of residents on this matter and has shown a complete unwillingness to listen to alternative points of view.

Council resolves:

1. To place on record its strong disapproval for the way in which the closures and changes to public toilets have been undertaken to date.
2. To request that Cabinet instruct Healthmatic to pause any further alterations to public toilets which it is responsible for, whilst an up-to-date review is undertaken of the toilet capacity needed at each location, this time including a full consultation which takes into account the views of residents and users of the public toilets, and that similar reviews and consultation exercises are undertaken at locations where a reduction in cubicle numbers has already taken place.
3. To request that Cabinet hold further discussions with Healthmatic to seek options to increase toilet capacity at locations where the consultation mentioned in (2) reveals it to be necessary.
4. That in the case of toilets recently shut by the Council, Cabinet is asked to revisit and abide by the resolutions contained within the Council motion passed in September 2013 in relation to public toilets (which was passed unanimously by Council), as well as the subsequent Budget resolution of February 2014.