

Democratic Services

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Date: 16.01.2013.

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**To: All Members of the Economic and Community Development Policy
Development and Scrutiny Panel**

Councillor Robin Moss
Councillor Ben Stevens
Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones
Councillor Brian Simmons
Councillor Michael Evans
Councillor Lisa Brett
Councillor Manda Rigby

Chief Executive and other appropriate officers
Press and Public

Dear Member

**Economic and Community Development Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel:
Thursday, 24th January, 2013**

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **Economic and Community Development Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel**, to be held on **Thursday, 24th January, 2013 at 1.00 pm** in the **Kaposvar Room - Guildhall, Bath**.

The agenda is set out overleaf.

Yours sincerely

Jack Latkovic
for Chief Executive

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 Jack Latkovic who is available by telephoning Bath 01225 394452 or by calling at the Riverside Offices Keynsham (during normal office hours).
- 2. 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. Advance notice is required not less than two full working days before the meeting (this means that for meetings held on Wednesdays notice must be received in Democratic Services by 4.30pm the previous Friday)

The public may also ask a question to which a written answer will be given. Questions must be submitted in writing to Democratic Services at least two full working days in advance of the meeting (this means that for meetings held on Wednesdays, notice must be received in Democratic Services by 4.30pm the previous Friday). If an answer cannot be prepared in time for the meeting it will be sent out within five days afterwards. Further details of the scheme can be obtained by contacting Jack Latkovic as above.

- 3. Details of Decisions taken at this meeting** can be found in the minutes which will be published as soon as possible after the meeting, and also circulated with the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime details can be obtained by contacting Jack Latkovic as above.

Appendices to reports are available for inspection as follows:-

Public Access points - Riverside - Keynsham, Guildhall - Bath, Hollies - Midsomer Norton, and Bath Central, Keynsham and Midsomer Norton public libraries.

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

- 4. Attendance Register:** Members should sign the Register which will be circulated at the meeting.
- 5. THE APPENDED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ARE IDENTIFIED BY AGENDA ITEM NUMBER.**
- 6. 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.

**Economic and Community Development Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel -
Thursday, 24th January, 2013**

at 1.00 pm in the Kaposvar Room - Guildhall, Bath

A G E N D A

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
2. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair will draw attention to the emergency evacuation procedure as set out under Note 6.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS
4. 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 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 before the meeting to expedite dealing with the item during the meeting.

5. TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN
6. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

At the time of publication no notifications had been received.

7. MINUTES OF THE MINUTES ON 22ND NOV 2012 (Pages 7 - 16)

To confirm the minutes of the above meeting as a correct record.

8. CONNECTING FAMILIES IN BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET (20 MINUTES)
(Pages 17 - 22)

The Panel are asked to consider the presentation from the Connecting Families Manager.

A copy of the presentation is attached to the agenda.

Please contact Jack Latkovic (Democratic Services Officer) if you require presentation in any other format.

9. LEISURE STRATEGY (20 MINUTES) (Pages 23 - 28)

The Council require a Leisure Strategy to determine its investment and service delivery options for the next 25 years. This report is designed to clarify the realistic options available and provides recommendations to build the future Leisure platform. The Strategy has two main elements Facilities: Provision of facilities and Wellbeing Programmes.

This report addresses the Facilities requirements and the approach to Wellbeing Programmes.

10. BATH TOURISM PLUS LTD - COUNCIL FUNDING (20 MINUTES) (Pages 29 - 30)

This report is as a result of a request by the Committee to report on the Bath Tourism Plus Ltd funding by the Council.

The Panel is asked to note the contents of this Report.

11. BATH WORLD HERITAGE SITE - 25 YEARS ON (20 MINUTES) (Pages 31 - 34)

Bath World Heritage Site was inscribed on 6 December 1987. 25 years on, this report gives a brief overview of the impacts of the status.

The Panel are asked to note the contents of this report.

12. LIBRARY SERVICE: CHARGING SCHEDULE FOR PEOPLES NETWORK COMPUTERS (10 MINUTES) (Pages 35 - 44)

The Panel are asked to note and comment on the report that will be presented to the Cabinet/Cabinet Member for approval.

13. RIVER CORRIDOR GROUP REPORT (20 MINUTES) (Pages 45 - 66)

The Economic and Community Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel is asked to review and discuss the final River Corridor Group report and recommendations and provide any additional outcomes of discussion as final feedback to Cabinet.

14. WORKPLAN (Pages 67 - 74)

This report presents the latest workplan for the Panel.

The Committee Administrator for this meeting is Jack Latkovic who can be contacted on 01225 394452.

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BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Thursday, 22nd November, 2012

Present:- Councillors Robin Moss (Chair), Ben Stevens (Vice-Chair), Patrick Anketell-Jones, Brian Simmons, Michael Evans and Manda Rigby

42 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

43 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Democratic Services Officer drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor Brett had sent her apology to the Panel.

45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

46 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was none.

47 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

There was none.

48 MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 27TH SEP 2012

The Panel confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

49 COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN: AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE 'IMPACT' (30 MINUTES)

The Chairman invited Andre Langford (Avon and Somerset Police) to give an update on 'IMPACT'.

Andre Langford said that in December 2010, Avon and Somerset Police launched IMPACT, which is a multi-agency Integrated Offender Management unit, which includes Police, Probation, Prisons and Drug services. Its key focus is to stop re-offending - working together to target those offenders of most concern in a more structured and coordinated way. The IMPACT approach was nationally recognised in the Government's green paper; 'breaking the cycle: effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders'.

Bristol, being one of our major cities, was chosen as a pilot site. IMPACT in Bristol was established 3 years ago. The problem that Bristol faced was really quite significant considering that there is a group of 700 prolific offenders in Bristol whilst in B&NES there is around 10% of that number. Andre Langford said that the unit is relatively well staffed in terms of ratio to subjects/individuals involved in the scheme.

The scheme is quite challenging as it deals with most problematic people, which are prolific offenders. Very often the success is moderate but the true rehabilitation does require time. The scheme did however contribute towards reduction in crime in the area. The scheme is able to provide much better support to individuals who are subject of the scheme through partnership with other agencies and organisations, such as Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services.

Currently the IMPACT office is based in Bath and there are two Police Officers, offender managers, intelligence officers and administration support dedicated to the team, with Andre Langford. The team is working closely with two Probations Officers and Probation Team Leader. The scheme has mostly male clients.

Individuals that are involved in the scheme have to meet certain criteria in order to be included in the scheme. It would be wrong if the scheme has increased number of clients – the purpose for the scheme would never be achieved.

The IMPACT is very careful about the risk assessment towards the concerns of the community. The IMPACT use traffic light measure based on risk assessment. Red present most risk and therefore needs more immediate attention. Amber area is the one that deserves the real attention. It is not as big in risk as red but could easily be high risk if it is not managed properly. Green is the lowest risk area. The scheme is not only to watch over the offenders but also to provide the adequate support.

The IMPACT team has regular meetings, two per month. One is to manage offenders (discussion on individuals in the group) and one is to review where they are in terms of numbers and individuals (are they ready to transfer, did they improve, how they cope, etc).

Performance information for the district is impressive. B&NES continue to enjoy healthy crime reduction. Over five year period reductions in theft from motor vehicle equal almost 27%, theft of motor vehicle 34%. Some of those successes are down to IMPACT though it is difficult to measure how much IMPACT contributed to reduction of crime.

Andre Langford read out short case study of individual who committed a number of crimes and who was drug and alcohol user from the age of 15. In prison he realised that he has to change. He decided to join the programme and successfully completed some courses and with the help of probation officer found the job. He was also better with his family. He was grateful to IMPACT. However, he was involved in robbery and sent back to the prison. In the prison he got engaged in some other courses in a hope that he will be straight and narrow. Andre Langford said that the reason why he turned back to crime was that he was bored; peer pressure and easy reach to alcohol and drugs led him into crime. Andre Langford said that the recent news are that individual in question is doing well and determine to succeed in his quest to become straight and narrow.

Andre Langford concluded that this is all about the IMPACT, in broad sense, and that he welcomes questions from the panel.

The Chairman thanked Andre Langford for this update. The Chairman said that it seems like that criminal behaviour in individuals is related to problematic families so he asked if the IMPACT had the opportunity to work with families as well as individuals.

Andre Langford said that they do work with the families but that there is much more that the team could do. Andre Langford said that he is not directly involved in the work with families, as he is more involved in the work with individuals, but that he would be interested to work with families in near future.

The Chairman asked to what extent the IMPACT is acting as deterrent as well as support agency for individuals.

Andre Langford said that the IMPACT is always looking how to quantify the measure of success although it is not quite straight forward how to do that. There are few meetings and seminars across the country discussing this issue and Andre Langford will network with other authorities in order to take on board their experience on this field.

Councillor Simons asked if the number of offenders changed, in relation to number of offences, since the IMPACT is in operation. Councillor Simmons asked if the IMPACT covers Anti-Social Behaviour.

Andre Langford said that certainly there was a reduction in crime. In terms of the Anti-Social Behaviour – it is recognised as terrible problem for the community. There is allocated Anti-Social Behaviour Team though at the present time it is not under IMPACT criteria. If there are issue with young individuals that are not within IMPACT criteria then they will be referred to Youth Offending Team or similar.

Councillor Evans said that the best rehabilitation is passage of time since time is the best rehabilitator. Councillor Evans thanked Andre Longford for being honest with the Panel on successful and on not so successful stories. Councillor Evans said that he was particularly interested in the case scenario and how the individual went back

to crime because he was bored (no work) and because he mentally didn't cope well so he wondered what IMPACT actually do to get people into work.

Andre Langford responded that through their contacts in employment services they can help individuals to get, like in this case, forklift truck licence. Also work together with other partners, such as Princess trust, to provide opportunities to those individuals.

Councillor Rigby said that she would like to see how much it would cost to keep someone in prison in comparison to have the same individual outside of prison, through the IMPACT programme.

Andre Langford said it is far more expensive to keep an individual in the prison than for them to live in the community under the IMPACT watch.

The Chairman thanked Andre Langford for the update.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the update.

50 MEDIUM TERM SERVICE & RESOURCE PLANNING - 2013/14-2015/16 (90 MINUTES)

The Chairman made the following points before he opened the discussion on this item:

There are two budgets before the Panel - Regeneration, Skills and Major Projects and Tourism, Leisure & Culture (including Heritage) so the Chairman suggested that those budgets are taken separately. The Panel agreed with Chairman's suggestion.

The Chairman also informed the Panel that budget reports in front of them are quite broad and overlap remits of many PDS Panels so he asked the Panel that discussion stick to the remits of this Panel.

The Chairman said that, few days ago, there was a statement by the Prime Minister that Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) would no longer be a requirement from Local Authorities and asked if there is any more information on that considering that EIAs are there to protect us as authority from legal challenge, under Equalities Act.

Samantha Jones (Equalities Manager) commented that there were few articles across the country about the potential implications of the statement made by the Prime Minister. It is under British Law, and not European Law, that Equalities Act 2010 sits and we would have to re-write all the policies if that is the case. Samantha Jones said that at the moment she can't see that to work and in terms of B&NES we should continue with the EIAs. Samantha Jones reminded the Panel that Council and Elected Members have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations – when making decisions and setting policies. To do this, it is necessary for the organisation to understand the potential effects of its activities on different people. Where these are not immediately apparent, it may be necessary to carry out some form of assessment or analysis, in order to understand them.

The Chairman thanked Samantha Jones for this comment and asked for the briefing in relation to the latest on the statement from the Prime Minister including the briefing on Members' responsibilities when making and recommending financial decisions according to the Equalities Act 2010. The Chairman suggested that those two briefings be circulated to all Members of the Council. The Panel agreed with Chairman's suggestions.

The Chairman said that the Panel received confirmation that the BDUK will go ahead as they received State Aid. The Panel involvement on broadband provision was through the Call In that was hosted by this Panel. The Chairman therefore question if the cuts to the Scrutiny process, as outlined in the budget proposals, would be appropriate for good governance. The Chairman said that this issue has been a topic of the last Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting couple days ago where the Chief Executive put through the proposal to cut on Scrutiny. The Chairman said that his personal view is that while we may want to look how we do things and how we do things better, the Scrutiny is an important part of the Democratic process and broadband Call In is a good example how Scrutiny works.

Councillor Rigby added that Scrutiny is part of the Democratic Services and they fall within Resources PDS Panel remit, on which Councillor Rigby is a Vice Chair. The Panel is formally asking every Panel to give their views on proposed cuts in Scrutiny and those comments will be on Resources PDS agenda for January meeting.

The Chairman said that he would want to see details in budget proposals across the piece that gives the opportunity to scrutinise rather than some individual projects.

Andrew Pate (Strategic Director for Resources) said that he wanted to start by introducing the Medium Term Plans in general in terms before each of plan.

The whole idea of the report is to enable the Panel to input in the budget process. The Panel is asked to highlight specific issues which will then be taken into account and all the comments from all Scrutiny Panels will be summarised for Resources Panel meeting in January 2013. In addition the comments made by the Panel, or individual Panel Members, could be taken on board by the relevant Cabinet Member and Cabinet. The report does give the substantial detail in this stage, including the £30m saving, and it therefore enable to comments to be made early about the shape of the budget, hence why there is no plan to come back in January with more details. There are couple of things that will come back in January and one is proposed cuts in Democratic Services end, which includes some cuts in Scrutiny, which was already discussed at the last Resources Panel meeting and which will be on Resources Panel January agenda. In a meantime some work will be done for the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs on some of the options. Conclusions had not been drawn at this stage.

Andrew Pate said that we are working under basis that the Equalities Legislation applies and that the EIAs are the best way to demonstrate that we comply with Equalities. With that in mind, the relevant Divisional Directors in Planning had to implement the changes in the Medium Term Plan are carrying out assessments. The Resources Panel will be looking all the Equalities issues at its January meeting.

The Council spends about £250m each year from its day to day revenue budgets (excluding schools which are funded separately). The level of budget challenge is £30m, which is a 3 year figure. The approach being taken is a 3 year approach, programme of changes to meet that challenge. That challenge is broke down to 3 almost equal parts. There is about of third which relates to increase in income, and that includes quite different measures which appear making Resources block, which would include an impact on Tourism. The other measures are linked to getting more from commercial states and commercial activities, which isn't only about putting rents up but through more creative means. The second third of the challenge is being met by efficiencies, back office savings (through the Change programme). The final third relates to service reductions, service cuts, which are included in appendices. All three together make the £30m and the visibility to spot individual numbers is there where there is a saving linked to service cuts, and that's why someone could not see all the numbers as some of them are with back office savings. Nevertheless the Plans do address all these issues.

Andrew Pate said that it is challenging period and particular uncertainty this year because Government settlement will not be announced until 19th December. This is very unhelpful as it will give us very little time to react. It is a new system and our grants will be given to us under that system. Andrew Pate said that he heard assumption that it may change and depending how it ends up it may cost us an extra £1m. It is much more than usual uncertainty around. We used national expert to help us model and come up with the best possible assumptions.

There is a substantial investment taking place in priorities and Regeneration is a key aspect of that. In that plan there will be reference to several projects and ongoing investments to those projects. The appendix 2 of the Regeneration Plan has details of the capital programme. Place Plan has also included capital plan. Regeneration Plan savings are mainly management savings whilst with the Place Plan it is much more complicated than that which is explained more in the appendix 4 of the Plan.

The Chairman said that he knows that there is £4.7m in the reserves for the Change programme and he asked if that can be used to fund changes to organisations that we have contractual relationship (i.e. Bath Tourism Plus).

Andrew Pate responded that the intention of the reserve is to enable authority to change to find deficiencies and if the reserve isn't used in that purpose then we are in trouble in terms of finding deficiencies. The Tourism levy is crossing boundaries that we can look into possibility of potentially using that reserve for partnership organisations. How much of it we can use is a challenge.

Councillor Stevens said that there is an assumption that business rates will increase in 0.5% increase and he was wondering, in terms of actual businesses, how that could be quantified.

Andrew Pate responded that, with the new resources system coming to Local Government, there is an opportunity to benefit from an increase in business rates. As a result of the growth incentive scheme, that comes from the City Deal and if that goes through the Council, we could retain a 100% of business rates growth. If we

look into the Enterprise area, where most of the growth is, it equates to around 36m increase in business rates. It is a significant number but not a game changing number. In short terms, there are risks because people can appeal against business rates which will be under responsibility of Local Government.

John Wilkinson said that we are in the middle of process right now and map the Enterprise area. We have to be absolutely certain that this will give us better outcome considering that the message from the Government is that incentives from growth are more and more important than funding from the Government.

John Wilkinson took the Panel through the Regeneration Plan and highlighted the pages 23 (that sets out the proposed savings over 3 years) and 33 (priorities for the current 3 years).

John Wilkinson said the West of England, through the City Deal, has managed to get £2m from BIS (Business Department in Government) for our Bristol and Bath investment service. That is to market the region nationally and internationally. Discussions are in place on exactly how to spend the money. We have got a proposed business plan on how to use the money. For the first time we have some really descent resources from the Government on that programme.

Councillor Stevens said that considering that the Government indicated that our funding for Local Government is more depended on our ability to grow our economy his concern is that our regeneration Team has the resources they require to ensure to receive the funding we need. Councillor Stevens asked if the officers are confident that they have resources they need.

Andrew Pate responded that the substantial investment is going in and despite the level of cuts that we have we are not short in resources, in terms of people on the ground who are involved in projects.

John Wilkinson added that close work between departments and services within the Council (i.e. Regeneration and Major Projects with Planning) gives the resources needed for development.

Andrew Pate said that at the moment we receive Revenue Support Grant which is based on combination of needs and the ability of Local Authority to raise its own resources. In future that will be basically frozen and growth in funding will come from business rates. What we won't get is an increase in Government grant for needs in future (i.e. if cost of social care goes up we won't get grant to cover that up).

Councillor Evans expressed his concern that we spend money attracting business marketing the area though number of measures which we doing to raise the revenue seem to destroy the business.

Andrew Pate said that if we are not increasing the income we will have much more cuts in services.

The Chairman said that his concern with levy is that in continental countries it tends to be a compulsory and not voluntary levy. Voluntary levy is likely to be avoided.

His concern is that small businesses might be interested in voluntary levy to help Bath whilst big companies might not.

The Chairman invited David Trigwell and Mike Butler to introduce Tourism, Leisure and Culture Plan.

David Trigwell took the Panel through the main report and reminded that if the Panel do not like the savings in one area then they should highlight the area where the alternative saving should come from.

Mike Butler (Interim Director for Tourism, Leisure and Culture) took the Panel through the detailed part of the report.

The Chairman commented that the proposal in the report is to look at a voluntary tourist levy and, and as he stated above, some businesses will be looking to avoid that levy so there should be more structured, more formal, more compulsory tax or similar to be equitable at the whole piece. The Chairman also expressed his concern about the Bath Tourism Plus and transition that they have to go through in order to look at different ways to raise the income. That is the discussion that has to take place with the Bath Tourism Plus and that is where the Change programme reserve could be used for.

The Chairman also expressed slight concern that we still need to retain a strategic view of the tourism in the authority that can consider project on how to make sure that people stay for longer time. The Chairman said that one of the ways to do that is by lowering cost of hotel beds/rooms in Bath. The Chairman said that there are a number of hotels in Bath that doesn't want to see, or agree, with these proposals.

The Chairman said that he is also concerned about pg 50 bullet point 'Scope on reducing activities supported by the Council' and that there was no detail attached to it.

The Chairman also said that he was confused what was proposed for Victoria Art Gallery. First of all it was introduction of admission charges (pg 50) then on pg 58 there is mention of 'Implement new retail and exhibition charging measures at the Victoria Art Gallery'. The Chairman asked does that mean the front desk will charge everyone who comes in or are we looking to similar charging model as Tate Modern.

Mike Butler said that discovery card owners will not be charged.

Mike Butler also said that it is voluntary contribution through levy. The idea is to come up with the plan with all the partners, such as the Bath Tourism Plus (BTP), and look out how we can create a levy that will not be bound in law but under some sort of agreement.

Mike Butler is said that there is no intention to remove the funding from the BTP. If there are any decisions to be made in the future then those will be made in the consultation/discussion with the BTP.

Mike Butler also said that there a number of organised trips to Christmas market where overnight staying is way outside of the area. Budget hotels are economic development issue.

Councillor Stevens said that the Council is not able to make tourist levy compulsory. Councillor Stevens said that he would hope for better tax for hotels – hotels with fewer rooms charged less and those with more rooms get higher tax. Councillor Stevens asked about Roman Baths ‘phase 2’ investment and if that will increase the capacity.

Mike Butler said that Roman Baths run over the capacity and that main development is concentrated on maximising the visit during the off-peak hours.

David Trigwell added that the other reason for investment in Roman Baths is to keep it up to date (in terms of what visitors expect to see) and to keep the site in competition nationally and keep the numbers of visitors.

The Chairman said that the Council felt overly optimistic last year with income figures. The Chairman said in order to maximise income there could be different charge in the day (i.e. entry fee to Roman Baths higher during the peak times). The Chairman also suggested that those who fail to turn up, groups and coaches, should pay full or partial amount for not turning up, like it is the case in some other venues across the country.

The Panel **RESOLVED** that:

- 1) The Panel felt that all Officers and every Member of the Council should be briefed that they have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations – when making decisions and setting policies. The Panel also asked Equalities Manager to circulate a briefing in relation to the latest on the statement from the Prime Minister.
- 2) The Panel requested a report on the discussions with the Bath Tourism Plus in terms of the consensual agreement on transition of funding;
- 3) The Panel requested a report on how Tourism Levy will come out in practice, including models of charging versus income

51 WORKPLAN

It was **RESOLVED** to note the workplan.

The meeting ended at 3.00 pm

Chair(person)

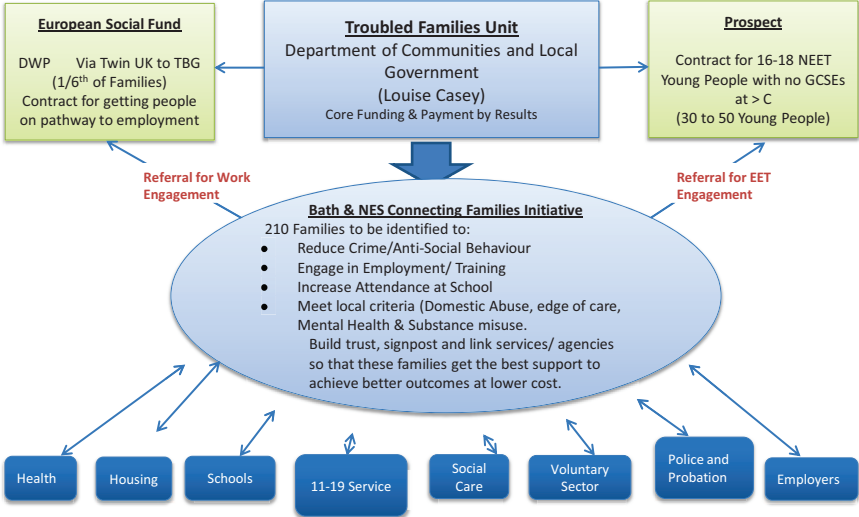
Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

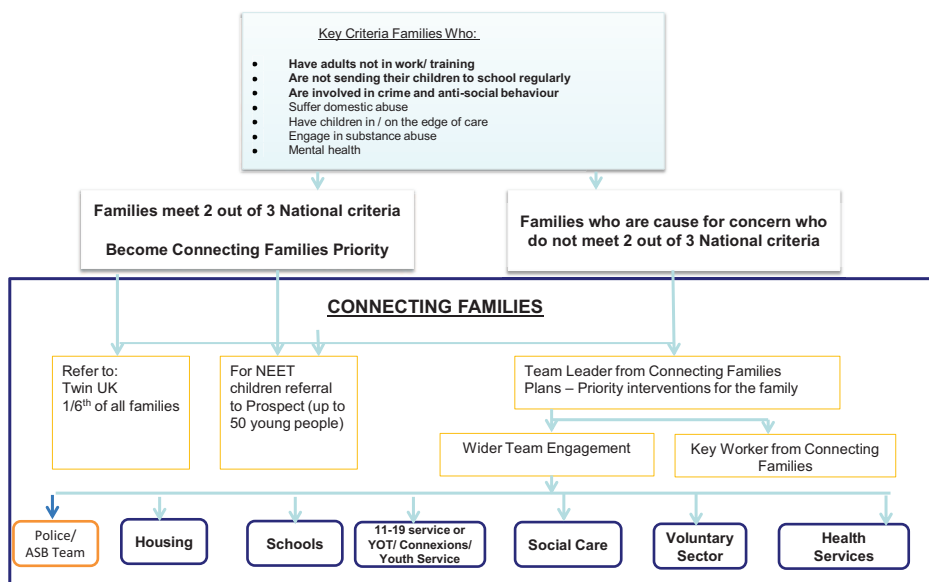
Connecting Families in Bath & North East Somerset

Paula Bromley
Connecting Families Manager

Connecting Families Overview



Connecting Families – The way we will work



Connecting Families

Programme Methodology.

- Whole System approach
- Delivering against 'What matters to the families'
- Achieving 'Deeper Understanding' and 'Strong Relationship' with Families
- Whole Family Action Plan / Family CAF plus sanctions
- Whole family approach - self help to develop self esteem / resilience and increase emotional health

Turning Families Around

Connecting Families

Gaining a different insight – thinking differently!

Assessments !



“Walking in the family’s shoes can lead to great Insights!”

Turning Families Around

Connecting Families

Identifying the families.

- Creating a list of Families



- Twin Track Approach to identifying Families by taking referrals as well

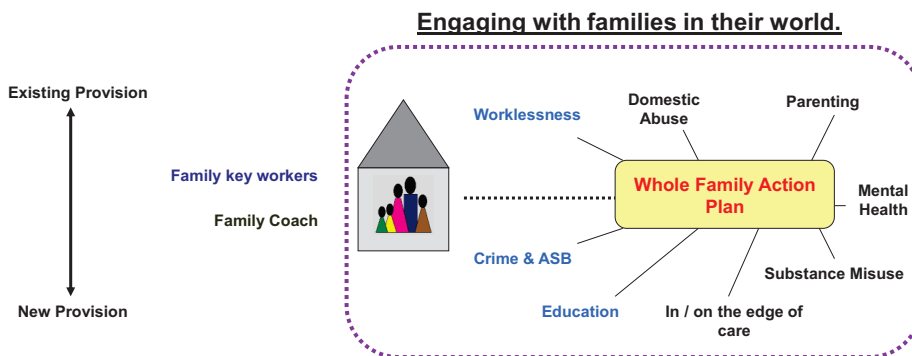
- Information Sharing



Turning Families Around

Connecting Families

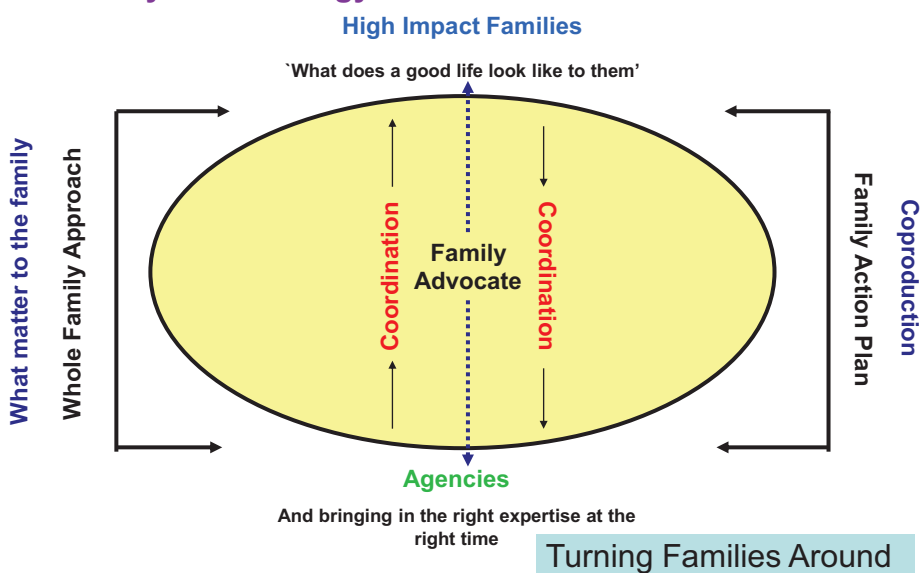
Delivery Plan - engaging with the families.



Turning Families Around

Connecting Families

Delivery Methodology.



Connecting Families

Delivery Methodology.

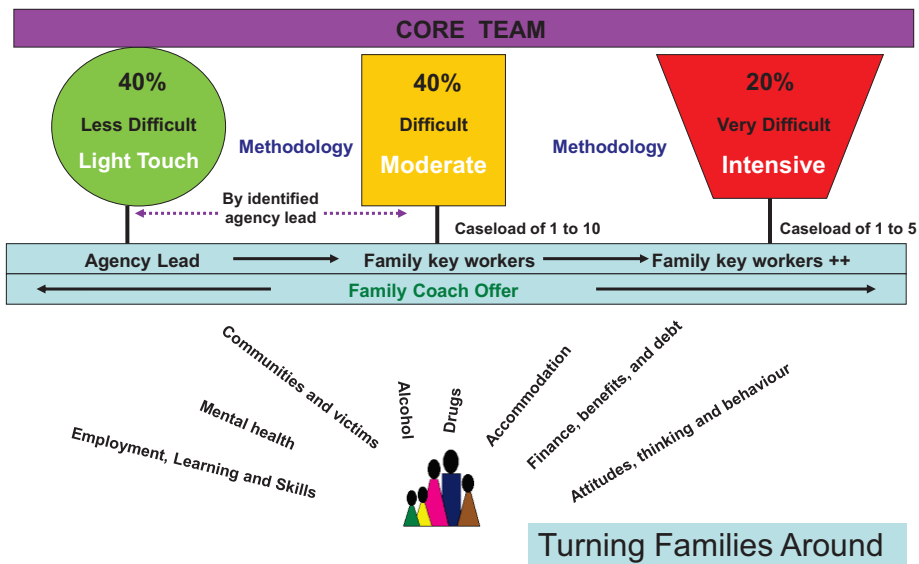
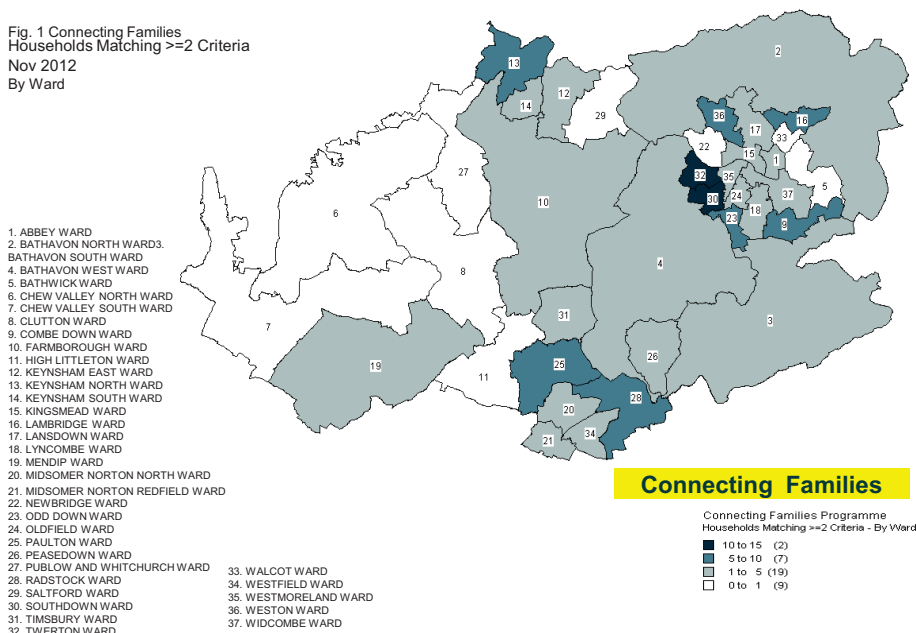
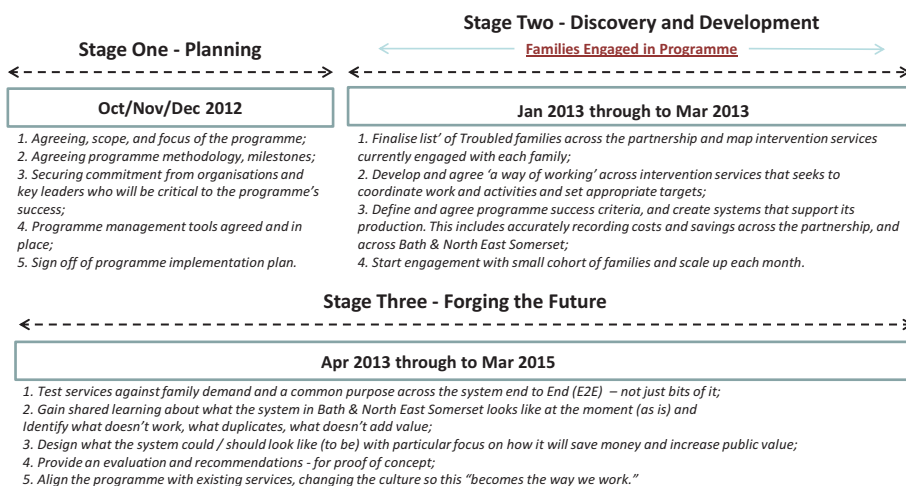


Fig. 1 Connecting Families
Households Matching >=2 Criteria
Nov 2012
By Ward



Connecting Families

High Level Programme Timeline



Turning Families Around

Connecting Families

Any Questions



Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING:	Economic and Community Development Policy Development & Scrutiny
MEETING DATE:	24 January 2013
TITLE:	Leisure Strategy
WARD:	ALL
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report:	
None	

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Council require a Leisure Strategy to determine its investment and service delivery options for the next 25 years. This report is designed to clarify the realistic options available and provides recommendations to build the future Leisure platform.
- 1.2 The Strategy has two main elements Facilities: Provision of facilities and Wellbeing Programmes.
- 1.3 This report addresses the Facilities requirements and the approach to Wellbeing Programmes.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Economic and Community Development Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel is asked to note the contents of this Report:

2.1 To note the intention to sale, let and/ or transfer all assets listed below:

- (1) South Wansdyke Leisure Centre
- (2) Culverhay Sports Centre
- (3) Bath Pavilion
- (4) Entry Hill Golf Course
- (5) Approach Golf Course

- (6) Chew Valley Sports Centre
 - (7) Odd Down Playing Fields.
 - (8) Lansdown Playing Fields
- 2.2 To approve the development and delivery of the provision of leisure facilities in Bath, including any contractual/ partnering arrangements.
- 2.3 To approve the development and delivery of the provision of leisure facilities in Keynsham, including any contractual/ partnering arrangements
- 2.4 To approve the Council's Health and Wellbeing Programmes to address physical inactivity. Currently health costs within Bath and North East Somerset, due to inactivity comes to £2.8 million per year

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Council currently spends c. £1 Million (net) per annum to support the entirety of its' Sport and Active Lifestyles service. This expenditure is divided (approximately) equally between subsidies for the provision of leisure services via facilities, mainly via the contract with Aquaterra Leisure (with associated client costs), and on the wellbeing and events programme. The proposals in this paper also include playing fields at Lansdown and Odd Down that currently form part of the budget for Environmental Services.
- 3.2 Officers are now developing leisure options with the aim of reducing net expenditure on both areas of provision to zero over the next few years. This will involve reductions in the subsidy paid to operators of the Council's leisure facilities, with a view to operating all facilities on a self-funding basis, and a further increase in grant income achieved to support the Council's wellbeing programme.
- 3.3 This work is in its early stages and any savings that may be achieved will add to the reductions in expenditure that have already been reflected in the Council's Medium Term Service & Resource Plan (MTSRP) for the next three financial years.
- 3.4 A series of tendering exercises are already underway in order to ensure that each Leisure facility is operated by a suitable incorporated company. Discussions are also underway with the Public Health and other providers of grant aid in order to seek funding for the future wellbeing programme.
- 3.5 The proposals within this paper include the sale of the Entry Hill golf course and adjoining depot and the Pavilion. Subject to Cabinet and Council agreement the funds raised from these sales could be used to contribute to capital investment in new leisure facilities in Keynsham. This would reduce the on-going impact of borrowing costs.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The LSFP is the backbone of the Council's future provision; it acknowledges and fulfils its responsibilities to the local communities and National Organisations.

- 3.2 In the future Councils will need to remain very much focused on what and how it provides services, this will result in a set of bespoke solutions to meet community needs and not the one size fits all approach.
- 3.3 The Council has a number of different facilities that offer its community different levels of functionality from the single offer of Paulton Pool to the multi-faceted Bath Sports and Leisure Centre.
- 3.4 Bath Sports and Leisure Centre currently occupy land governed by the new Recreation Ground Trust Board. The future of this site is to be determined by the Trust Board.
- 3.5 Keynsham Leisure Centre is to be demolished as part of the redevelopment of Keynsham town centre and the new Riverside development and re-provision of the Centre is required in order to meet the demand of the growing population.
- 3.6 Through competitive dialogue as part of the tender process, the Council will be looking to develop a partnership to design, build and the delivery of a new facility in Keynsham which will help deliver healthy and sustainable places for the future, identified through Sport England's Facility Needs Assessment.
- 3.7 However, in the period between the end of the existing contract and potential new build, an interim contract will need to be in place, either through extension with the current provider, Aquaterra Leisure, or through emergency interim contractual arrangement, whilst we commence future procurement.
- 3.8 The major commercial operators, irrespective of their incorporated status, have different business models to match their own preferred operating environment so in respect of the large scales centre like Keynsham and Bath we will seek appropriately developed organisations to work with the Council to provide the services. The final terms of the arrangement will be subject to extensive consultation and procurement programmes.
- 3.9 The other current leisure offers are to be evaluated on an individual basis and a suitable partner found for each element. This may range from complete freehold sale or transfer under a long lease with no annual costs to the Council.
- 3.10 The final contractual arrangements will fully account for the facilities required to deliver the Wellbeing Programmes.
- 3.11 Embedded within the Sport and Active Lifestyles Team is the management and delivery of a number of successful schemes such as exercise referral schemes, worklessness agenda and Sportivate (Sport England). We will continue to work closely with the commissioners and funders through competitive dialogue, to enhance and develop funded services to meet the challenging well-being agenda, ensuring that Sport and Physical Activity remains high on their agendas for tackling health inequalities and increasing community cohesion across the authority
- 3.12 The Sport and Active Lifestyles Team has a positive and successful record on delivering events. They will look to continue delivering events on a commercial basis running quality events for the community and visitors alike at zero cost to the Council.
- 3.13 Health costs in Bath and North East Somerset due to inactivity comes to £2.8 million per year. The health and well-being agenda sets out the need to reduce

health inequalities and improve health and well-being in Bath and North East Somerset, with 7 strategic priorities. This Leisure Strategy will work with the Health and Well-being Board to Improve outcomes for:

- people who experience mental health problems
- families experiencing complex needs
- vulnerable groups
- long term conditions (including end of life)
- our aging population
- economic inequality (linked with poor health outcomes)
- healthy and sustainable places and communities

4 RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 The report author and Lead Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

5 EQUALITIES

6.1 *An EqIA has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found.*

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 Ward Councillors; Cabinet members, Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer

6.2 Consultation will be carried out via on-line public consultation and through meetings with stakeholders.

7 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

7.1 Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Human Resources; Property; Young People; Human Rights; Corporate; Health & Safety; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations

8 ADVICE SOUGHT

8.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	<i>Michael Butler, Interim Divisional Director, Tourism, Leisure & Culture</i>
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	<i>Telephone: 01225 395383</i>
Background papers	<i>List here any background papers not included with this report because they are already in the public domain</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

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Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING:	Economic and Community Development Policy Development & Scrutiny
MEETING DATE:	24 January 2013
TITLE:	Bath Tourism Plus Ltd- Council Funding
WARD:	ALL
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report:	
Please list the appendices here, clearly indicating any which are exempt and the reasons for exemption	

1 THE ISSUE

This report is as a result of a request by the Committee to report on the Bath Tourism Plus Ltd funding by the Council.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Economic and Community Development Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel is asked to note the contents of this Report.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Council entered into the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Bath Tourism Plus (BTP) Ltd in April 2012 for a period of 3 years.
- 4.2 The SLA is for the provision of services that develop, promote, support and protect Tourism in Bath and North East Somerset.
- 4.3 The SLA has two main financial elements firstly for the provision of services and the other for the use and occupancy of office premises at Abbey Chambers.
- 4.4 The Council review performance against an agreed annual business plan. BTP Ltd is a Local Authority Controlled Company.

4.5 BTP Ltd attracts annual funding of approximately £2.2m of which £655,090 (2012/13) is from the Council, the remainder is from Membership fees and commercial activities.

4.6 The Council and BTP have a joint continuous commitment to ensure improved service performance and reductions in costs.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 NOT APPLICABLE

6 EQUALITIES

6.1 An EqIA has been not been completed.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 NOT APPLICABLE

8. ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

8.1 NOT APPLICABLE

9. ADVICE SOUGHT

9.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	Michael Butler, Interim Divisional Director, Tourism, Leisure & Culture Telephone: 01225 395385
Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING:	Economic and Community Development PDS Panel
MEETING DATE:	24 January 2013
TITLE:	Bath World Heritage Site – 25 years on
WARD:	Bath and surrounding wards
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: None	

1 THE ISSUE

Bath World Heritage Site was inscribed on 6 December 1987. 25 years on, this report gives a brief overview of the impacts of the status.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 This is an information item. The panel are asked to note the contents of this report.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications in connection with this information report.

4 THE REPORT

4.1 December 2012 marked the 25th anniversary of Bath's inscription as a World Heritage Site (WHS). Aside from celebrating the anniversary, this milestone presented an opportunity to review the impact of the status and to look ahead.

4.2 WH status is a highly significant accolade for Bath, which is one of only 18 sites in England. Inscribed alongside Bath in 1987 were The Acropolis at Athens, The Great Wall (China), and Venice and its Lagoon (Italy), which is indicative of the company that this status places us with.

4.3 Initially, the status had little impact, requiring minimal administration. However, with a growing number of sites the co-ordinating body, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), introduced more stringent requirements.

4.4 In 2000 a WHS Steering Group was established, comprising of senior representatives of local and national bodies. Bath and North East Somerset Council (the Council) employed a fixed-term project officer in 2001, with tapering financial assistance from English Heritage. This post was subsequently retained as a WH co-ordinator.

- 4.5 One of the co-ordinator's early tasks was to produce a WHS Management Plan (adopted 2003) and negotiate a site boundary (not clarified at time of inscription). Given that the principle protection of the WHS is through the UK planning system, and that system needs boundaries for effective implementation, a boundary was essential. It was agreed with UNESCO in 2005. The city wide boundary makes Bath one of the only entire cities to be designated globally, with Venice being the best comparable example.
- 4.6 The construction boom in the early years of the new century raised new questions with regard to the vision Bath saw for itself. Tower cranes, hardly seen for a generation, stood over the city. Major proposals at Southgate, Bath Western Riverside, the Holburne Museum, Thermae Bath Spa and the Dyson Academy all came forward within a very short period. Debate ensued locally, nationally and internationally. The standard UNESCO response was to send a fact finding delegation, or 'mission', to Bath in November 2008. The mission made recommendations regarding some developments, but concluded overall that the site was well managed and the state of conservation was good.
- 4.7 The Council used the opportunity of the 2008 mission to strengthen management of WH. The co-ordinator, who had left the authority, was replaced by a WH Manager, able to operate at a more senior level. The Steering Group was refreshed with appointment of an independent, highly qualified Chairman. A revised WH Management Plan was produced and adopted in 2010.
- 4.8 The mission also highlighted the implications of WH for Bath, some which can be negative. WH adds perceived complexity to the development process, which may be potentially off-putting to developers who fear they may have extra hoops to jump through. It also gives another avenue of complaint for protestors, and if wrongly interpreted can give a false impression that the city is living in the past. It places Bath in the international spotlight, which is good if all is well but resulted in negative national media coverage in the run up to the mission. It does generate some bureaucracy. This Council keeps costs lean with employment of a single officer (rather than teams in some other sites), but enables that officer to work across Council disciplines and the wider community in order to maximise efforts of all stakeholders in preserving and enhancing the site.
- 4.9 The overriding impact of WH is however positive. As stated earlier WH places Bath alongside some of the most famous places on the planet, and is a significant source of civic pride. It can be used to educate children as to the special place in which they live and thus promote future conservation and protection. It also helps conservation in that proposals here attract widespread interest and scrutiny, and WH is a material consideration in the planning process, raising the profile on issues such as 'fracking'. It increases the visibility and profile of Bath generally, with WH being a global brand and Bath being widely recognised as an outstanding and beautiful place.
- 4.10 The economic impact of WH is hard to accurately quantify but is positive. In tourism terms, the city receives 4.5million visitors per year, employing approximately 10,000 people and adding £380m to the local economy. 29% say they visited due to architecture/buildings, giving a crude calculation of heritage being worth a minimum of £110M to Bath. Tourists would undoubtedly visit without the status, but as stated WH is a global brand, which visitors from emerging markets such as China and Brazil will be familiar with. Other competitor

English cities such as York and Chester are envious of the status, which they have pursued without success.

4.11 In terms of local business, WH status reinforces the perception of the city as a highly desirable and stable place to locate. The perceived marketing edge offered by WH is demonstrated by the number of businesses which announce they are 'located in the WH city of Bath' as an opening line in their marketing. Further efforts need to be made to spread benefit across the wider community, but the small grant fund (WH Enhancement Fund) is undertaking over 40 projects, addressing repair which other agencies cannot fund, and has turned £120k of funding into over £400k of work (link to newsletter given below).

4.12 WH can be described as the cultural glue which binds together many activities in the city. It provides a non-political banner which the community and the heritage industry can rally around. It is entirely complimentary with the vision for Bath, in that it promotes quality modern intervention in the historic environment, and it stamps a hallmark of quality on those features which have made the city famous world-wide. The high quality environment provides a backdrop on which to stage numerous festivals and events.

4.13 Looking forward the status has more to offer. In 1987 the inscription predominantly covered buildings and archaeology, but made little mention of the intangible impact which spa culture has stamped on the city. A group of 11 European spa's calling themselves 'The Great Spas of Europe' are approaching UNESCO with regard to WH recognition of this distinct spa culture. Bath is currently part of this 'Great Spas' group, offering greater visibility, profile and tourism benefits to complement the well-being industry that the city, as the UK's only hot springs, excels in.

4.14 Several studies have been completed on the impact of WHS status, most notably by James Rebanks Consulting (2009). Their conclusions confirm Bath's experience in the last 25 years, in that if the status is treated purely as an award to put on the mantelpiece it will return little benefit, but if it is put to work as an aid to marketing, as a banner of civic pride, and to complement our key economic strengths, it can be an extremely valuable asset.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations is not considered necessary in this instance.

6 EQUALITIES

6.1 This is an information report, which is not considered to contain implications warranting completion of an Equality Impact Assessment.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 No consultation has been undertaken for this information report.

8 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

8.1 (No decision is sought).

9 ADVICE SOUGHT

9.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	Tony Crouch, World Heritage Manager. 01225 477584
Background papers	<p>World Heritage Site Management Plan (2010 -2016): www.bathnes.gov.uk/worldheritage</p> <p>World Heritage Status: Is there an opportunity for Economic Gain? Rebanks Consulting (2009): http://www.lakeswhs.co.uk/documents.html</p> <p>World Heritage Enhancement Fund newsletter 2012: http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/tourism-and-heritage/world-heritage/world-heritage-news</p>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING:	Economic and Community Development Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel
MEETING DATE:	24 th January 2013
TITLE:	Library Service: Charging schedule for Peoples Network computers
WARD:	ALL
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report:	
Report for the Cabinet meeting in March 2013 - Library Service: Charging schedule for Peoples Network computers	

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 People's Network (PN) charging was introduced in 2007 with the aim of enabling the provision of the PN service to be partially self-financing. Income targets have not been achieved in the last few years and the target has therefore been reduced each year, requiring equivalent savings to be achieved in other parts of the Library Service. Since charges were introduced there has been a reduction in computer usage which is a concern as libraries have a key role enabling and assisting people to get on-line, particularly in respect of Central Government's 'digital by default' agenda.
- 1.2 Within the 3 year Library Strategy, agreed by Cabinet in April 2012, there is an intention to increase library hours in the smaller libraries by using volunteers. The current charging structure creates an issue as volunteers will not be trained to use the Library Management System to log users on and take money.
- 1.3 This report therefore lists options available for 2013/14 to facilitate greater up take of this service.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Panel are asked to note and comment on the report that will be presented to the Cabinet/Cabinet Member for approval.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

See attached.

4 THE REPORT

See attached.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

See attached.

6 EQUALITIES

See attached.

7 CONSULTATION

See attached.

8 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

See attached.

9 ADVICE SOUGHT

See attached.

Contact person	June Brassington, Library Services Manager, 01225 396424
Background papers	The Society Of Chief Librarians 'Digital Promise for Public Libraries 2012' Martha Lane Fox: 'Direct Gov 2010 & beyond: revolution not evolution'
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:		
MEETING DATE:	13 March 2013	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2510
TITLE:	Library Service: Charging schedule for Peoples Network computers	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1: Options for a new PN charging schedule Appendix 2: Statistics		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 People's Network (PN) charging was introduced in 2007 with the aim of enabling the provision of the PN service to be partially self-financing. Income targets have not been achieved in the last few years and the target has therefore been reduced each year, requiring equivalent savings to be achieved in other parts of the Library Service. Since charges were introduced there has been a reduction in computer usage which is a concern as libraries have a key role enabling and assisting people to get on-line, particularly in respect of Central Government's 'digital by default' agenda.
- 1.2 Within the 3 year Library Strategy, agreed by Cabinet in April 2012, there is an intention to increase library hours in the smaller libraries by using volunteers. The current charging structure creates an issue as volunteers will not be trained to use the Library Management System to log users on and take money.
- 1.3 This report therefore lists options available for 2013/14 to facilitate greater up take of this service.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet agrees that

- 2.1 The preferred option: no. 2 is implemented – to commence April 2013

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The operating costs of the People's Network service are budgeted to cost £86K in the current year, excluding income. The budget provides for c. 23% of this cost to be met from charges, totalling £19.5K. This income target is unlikely to be achieved in the current year, and on current forecasts the shortfall could total c. £5K
- 3.2 A financial model developed to assess the impact of providing all users with ½ hour free access demonstrates that c. 5% of the sessions booked would go over ½ hour and therefore generate a charge. This would reduce annual income to c. £1.5K per annum and require further savings to be required by the Library Service to meet the shortfall against current budgeted levels of £19K per annum.
- 3.3 The budget proposals for 2013/14 and subsequent financial years currently require the Library Service to achieve savings of c. £500K per annum by 2014/15. Any decision to reduce income will add to the saving required in 2013/14 and future years and will increase the risk associated with achieving this level of reduction in the net operating cost of the service.

4 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- *Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone*
The Library service supports many people to access ICT for the first time, developing confidence and skills. Students of all ages are supported through formal and informal learning. Libraries help to reduce isolation and provide stimulation through reading and activities for all ages
- *Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live*
Libraries are open to all and free, they provide a focal and safe point within a community where people can access affordable and relevant resources for learning, reading and enjoyment.
- *Building a stronger economy*
By providing access to opportunities for participation in local activities and volunteering, supporting job seekers and SME

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 Currently there is a scale of charges for members of the public to use the library computers: People with concessionary status have full computer access for up to one hour per day free of charge, and then £1.80 per hour, the charge for library members is £3 per hour and £3.60 for non library members. The income target included in the 2012-13 budget is £19.5K
- 5.2 Reducing this target would bring many benefits including improved access to the service, improved usage levels, reduced complexity for staff, users and providers of service support, thereby improving efficiency, plus enabling smaller libraries to be open additional hours with volunteer support :
- a) No need for provision of free websites if everyone is entitled to free access and can therefore access council information etc. free of charge through standard portal. The free websites area has become increasingly difficult to manage and maintain as websites become more and more interactive with large number of links to other sites, options for user feedback etc.
 - b) The PC desktop can be simplified – easier to log on, no need to direct people to free websites as well as booked session

- c) Process for booking sessions either by staff or self service will be simplified – saving time for all
- d) During volunteer led sessions, library users will be able to use the computers.
- d) There will be no conflict between offering free WiFi and charging for use of PC's
- e) Use will increase, library visitor numbers will increase
- f) The Society of Chief Librarians 'Digital Promise for Public Libraries 2012' "Expects every Public Library Service should provide: Free access to the Internet for every customer (for a minimum period of time)"
- g) This will be good publicity for the library service and improve the community offer, it fulfils the council's corporate priorities and the Library Strategy 2012-15 objectives
- h) It is an opportune time, as the Council pilots Universal Credits and Central Government promotes the 'digital by default' agenda. The Library Service is ideally placed to help people apply for benefits and other services online.

5.3 Options

Charging does not have to be removed altogether. To facilitate access, especially at busy sites such as Bath Central Library, charging could be applied after a certain length of free time. Appendix 1 lists possible options.

The preferred option is 2 – providing ½ hour free of charge per day, additional time to incur charges

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The report author and Lead Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

An EqIA has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found.

8 RATIONALE

- 8.1 Library statistics show that usage of the PN computers are low within Bath and North East Somerset Libraries (see Appendix 2) i.e. in June 2011, at Bath Library, the computers were used for 30.28% of their available time, these percentages were even lower at Keynsham where usage was 15.30% and Saltford 3.15%. New opportunities such as the availability of accessing Internet via WiFi have been introduced into a number of libraries during the year and can be perceived as a conflict between people using their own laptops and people paying to use the library computers. Free access will encourage people to take advantage of all the at the library service has to offer

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 Options are listed in Appendix 1

10 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 *Cabinet members; Trades Unions; Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Youth Council; Stakeholders/Partners; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer*
- 10.2 Consultation has been carried out with service users via PLUS (Public Library User's Survey) collection of comments and complaints regarding the service, and staff.

11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

- 11.1 *Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Young People; Human Rights; Corporate; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations*

12 ADVICE SOUGHT

- 12.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	<i>June Brassington, Library Services Manager, 01225 396424</i>
Sponsoring Cabinet Member	<i>Councillor David Dixon</i>
Background papers	<i>The Society Of Chief Librarians 'Digital Promise for Public Libraries 2012'</i> <i>Martha Lane Fox: 'Direct Gov 2010 & beyond: revolution not evolution'</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

Appendix 1

Charging Options for use of the library service's People's Network terminals

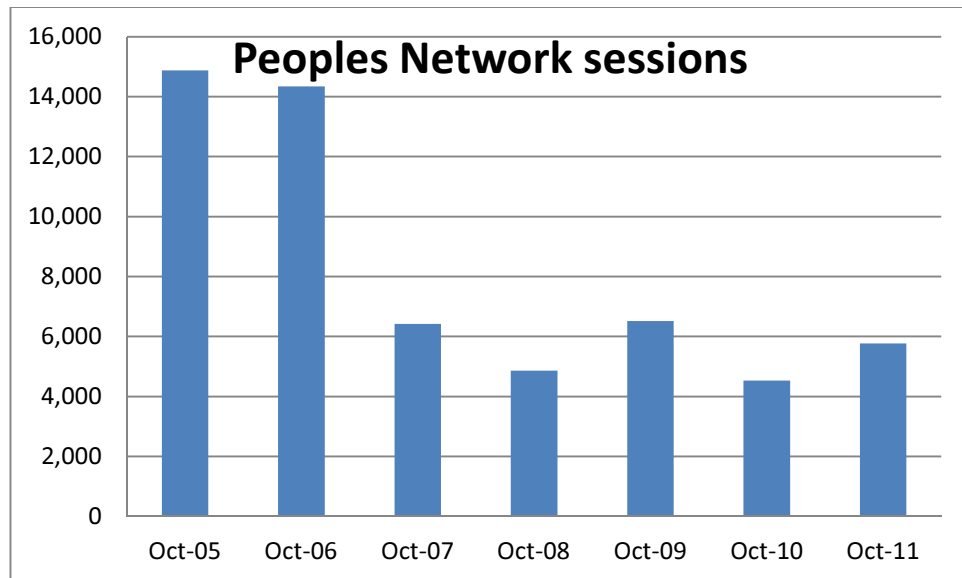
	Variables	Positive Benefit	Negative
Option 1 No charge	1. No charge for anyone.	Easy to understand Ease of access No booking required Don't need the charging module – yearly saving of £560.36	Without booking, there is no certainty for people coming into the library that a computer will be available (This is more pertinent in the larger libraries where there is greater demand) Crowd control needed as Individuals could use the system all day Zero income
	2 No charge for anyone but session length restricted to 1-2 hours per day. No option to pay for more time	Increases the option that people coming into the library will find an available computer. No booking required Don't need the charging module – yearly saving of £560.36	Very restricted use times– no flexibility for varying customer needs Zero income

	Variables	Positive Benefit	Negative
Option 2 Free for an initial time	Free to all for the first 30 mins . (i.e. members and non-members) Concessionary users to get additional 1 hour free. Charging will apply for additional time booked on the same working day	Long enough for most needs so could get rid of free websites Easy to work out timings of sessions Will encourage uptake of computer use. Average current session are 20 mins so ½ hour usually sufficient for most requirements.	Will require the charging module to be kept In volunteer managed libraries, users will be restricted to ½ hour use unless they had pre-booked. Reduced income
	Concessionary charges would still apply following the free period.	Positive experience for people on low income etc.	Reduced income but not zero income
	Plus for Bath Library, enable some pcs to be non bookable, quick access for a maximum of 15 mins, free for all	Minimal staff intervention required Meets needs of a lot of clients who just want to check e-mail	
Option 3 As is - Charge	60 mins free for concessionary users, following hour £1.50. Library members pay £3 per hour (can pay for part hours) non-members pay £3.60 per hour,	Generally positive experience for people on low incomes, but restricted to 1 free hour per day Income stream	Having to pay a charge puts many people off using B&NES library computers and we are aware of users who travel to Bristol, South Glos and North Somerset to gain free access.

Appendix 2

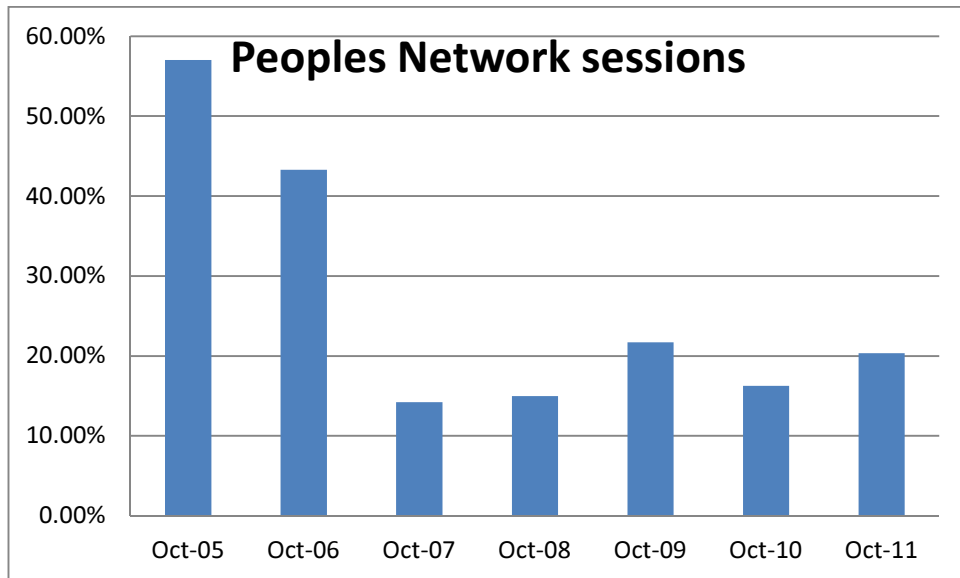
People's Network Statistics

1. Number of sessions across the authority. This chart shows how the number of booked sessions over a month fell between Oct 06 and Oct 07, when charging was introduced. Since then, the number of sessions has remained fairly level.



The overall number of sessions (which could be any length of time) booked between 1/9/11 – 31/8/12 is 59,611, it is not possible to state how many of these were paid for and how many were free, however, the income taken for this period was £16,176.06 so the average cost per session was 27p.

2. Percentage of available time booked: i.e. if the computers were fully booked for all the hours that the libraries are open to the public then the figure would be 100%. An ideal figure is about 60 - 70% usage, more than that indicates that people are waiting to use the computers.



This indicates a clear opportunity to increase the use of these computers by facilitating easier access for 1 hour.

Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING:	Economic & Community Policy Development and Scrutiny
MEETING DATE:	24 th January 2013
TITLE:	River Corridor Group Report
WARD:	ALL
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bath & North East Somerset Council River Corridor Report – Scrutiny Inquiry Day (<i>Report to Cabinet</i>) 	

1 THE ISSUE

The River Corridor Group (RCG) produced a report, the *Bath River Avon Economy (2011)*, which includes a number of recommendations. Following the informal Cabinet meeting on the 6th January 2012, the item was referred to the Economic and Community Development PDS Panel. The Panel were asked to undertake its review in its Policy Development role and to advise Cabinet on future decisions (if any) with regard to the Panel's recommendations.

The Panel were asked to consider:-

1. what role the Council could take along with other agencies and organisations to address the issues raised in the RCG report and ensure that these are aligned with the Corporate Agenda and the roles of the different council departments affected by the report.
2. the proposals from the RCG as to its future
3. to provide outcomes from discussions as feedback to Cabinet who will then consider how to move any specific recommendations forward and the (financial) implications of doing so.

At the May 2012 ECD Panel meeting it was agreed that the best approach would be to defer the panel's response back to Cabinet on the best ways to move forward until a special meeting (**Scrutiny Inquiry Day**) - *See Appendix 1 of report*, was arranged which invited all of the interested and key stakeholders to the meeting to develop a shared approach which will take the River Corridor Report from a conceptual idea to a reality:

Objectives of the Scrutiny Inquiry Day (Terms of Reference) – *See Appendix 2 of report*

1. *highlight who needs to be involved and engaged with the process to help focus established interest and to understand the broader corporate implications / priorities in delivering the recommendations*

2. *to inform the Cabinet of the best options/ models available to achieve the RCG Reports recommendation's through building a body of evidence which demonstrates the current and future demands from the community/businesses/other local authorities/quangos etc. to move this forward.*

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Economic and Community Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel is asked to:-

- 2.1 Review and discuss the final RCG report and recommendations and provide any additional outcomes of discussion as final feedback to Cabinet.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Panel is being asked to advise Cabinet whether any specific recommendations fit within the objectives of the Council and should be taken forward. A recommendation from the Panel to act upon recommendation's made, does not cause a financial commitment for the Council to include objectives within a Service Delivery Plan. Any decision to include recommendations will be taken by Cabinet and will follow the appropriate democratic process.

4 THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Inquiry Day involved various methods of invitation, including a local press release, people with an interest in shaping the future role of the River Avon were encouraged by Bath & North East Somerset Council to give their views on how economic regeneration might be achieved along the River Avon by attending a Scrutiny Inquiry Day on October 31st 2012.

Contributors were also asked to discuss the recommendations contained within the River Corridor Report

The day focused on:-

1. *identifying the best sustainable and regenerative ways of taking forward the options and ideas suggested by the River Corridor Group's report*
2. *developing a joint and consistent approach that is shared and understood between key stakeholders.*
3. *Informing the vision for a future Council River Strategy which places a higher social, environmental and cultural value to the river.*
4. *ensuring that key stakeholders together with the Council are at the centre of the reshaping of the river corridor.*

The Scrutiny inquiry Day helped to raise some important questions about the way forward and the decisions, which if made now, may have repercussions for years to come. This report captures the key findings from discussions on the day and helps shape the PDS Panel's recommendations for Cabinet to consider as a way forward.

Please read the attached report for the detailed findings and recommendations developed from the above discussions.

5 EQUALITIES

5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment was carried out as part of this report. (see page 5 of report)

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 *Ward Councillor; Cabinet Member; Parish Council; Town Council; Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups;; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Charter Trustees of Bath; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer*

6.2 See page six of report for a description of how consultation was carried out on the day.

7 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

7.1 *Sustainability; Human Resources; Property; Young People; Corporate; Health & Safety; Other Legal Considerations*

8 ADVICE SOUGHT

8.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	Donna Vercoe ext: 6053
Background papers	Bath Avon River Economy Report
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 Council
River Corridor Report - Scrutiny Inquiry Day**

**Economic Community Development Policy
Development and Scrutiny Panel**



Panel Steering Group members:
Councillor Robin Moss (Chair)
Councillor Ben Stevens (Vice Chair)
Councillor (Patrick Anketell-Jones)

Project Officer: Donna Vercoe (Lead Policy Development & Scrutiny Officer)

Structure of Report

1. Background	3
2. Review Process	4
3. Findings (<i>Conclusions and Recommendations</i>)	6
4. Conclusion	12

Appendix

- 1. Basic information about the scrutiny system in Bath & North East Somerset**
- 2. Terms of reference for the Scrutiny Inquiry Day**

2. Background

2.1 How we have got to where we are now

The River Corridor Group (RCG) was set up in 2010 as a voluntary advisory Group to the Council with a purpose to:-

“advise the Council over a period of years on changing the present situation in Bath Avon River Corridor within the Councils area from making no or even a negative contribution to the economy, to one with a wider ranging, positive sustainable and regenerative contribution”
(RCG –Terms of Ref 2010)

Over a 12 month period the River Corridor Group, (voluntary advisory group) produced the Bath Avon River Economy Report (2011)¹ that evaluates the river economy, identifies potential improvements and outlines recommendations. Within the report the RCG have tried to describe how in their view the river Avon has become in the condition it is in today and how significant it could become over the next three decades if the challenges and opportunities it represents are seized and recognised. The report also highlights what hurdles need to be overcome to make the vision of the river a reality.

The report highlights that a solution to these issues will not be found by the Council and the River Corridor Group alone. The improvement of the river environments is a complex issue and will be a long term process. The various agencies, organisations and stakeholders associated with the river create a complex scenario moving forward. Therefore a pragmatic approach is needed to integrate organisations and individuals together to create an agenda to revitalise the river.

The RCG report set out its recommendations that could initiate change to the river environment, broken down into quick wins, perception change and policy formulation. It requested a commitment by the Council and other statutory organisations to realise the challenges and opportunities that the river presents and to explore in more detail what the river corridor can do to change the economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects of the District.

2.2 What happened next?

The RCG reports recommendations were taken to the Strategic Divisional Group in late 2011 and informal Cabinet in January 2012. Cabinet requested that the preferred pathway was to refer the recommendations to a Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel (PDS) for the purposes of a Policy development review and feedback to Cabinet.

This was referred to the **Economic & Community Development PDS Panel in May 2012**. The Panel agreed to undertake its review in its policy development role to advise the cabinet on future decisions (if any) on how to move this forward.

The Panel were asked to consider:-

1. What role the Council could take along with other agencies and organisations to address the issues raised in the RCG report and ensure that these are aligned with the Corporate Agenda and the roles of the different council departments affected by the report.
2. the proposals from the RCG as to its future
3. to provide outcomes from discussions as feedback to cabinet.

¹ River Corridor Report: <http://www.rivercorridorgroupbath.co.uk/latest-news/10-bath-avon-river-economy-first-report-summer-2011>

3. Review Process

3.1 The Steering Group

The steering group made up of three councillors from the ECD Panel, were formally appointed at the May 2012 ECD Panel meeting. Robin Moss (Chair), Ben Stevens (Vice Chair) and Patrick Anketell-Jones.

The steering group received officer support and guidance throughout the review process from various departments within the Council. This helped ensure that the steering group acknowledged the key stakeholders currently engaged in the River Avon and have provided factual Information when needed.

Edward Nash (Chair of the River Corridor Group) and who presented the River Corridor Report report to Cabinet back in 2010, has also provided regular support to the steering group, particularly regarding the findings and Recommendations contained within the River Corridor Group Report.

3.2 Terms of Reference

At the May 2012 ECD Panel meeting it was agreed that the best approach would be to defer the panel's response back to cabinet on the best ways to move forward until a special meeting **(Scrutiny Inquiry Day)**- *See Appendix 1*, was arranged which invited all of the interested and key stakeholders to the meeting to develop a shared approach which will take the River Corridor Report from a conceptual idea to a reality:

Objectives of the Scrutiny Inquiry Day (Terms of Reference) – *See Appendix 2*

1. *highlight who needs to be involved and engaged with the process to help focus established interest and to understand the broader corporate implications / priorities in delivering the recommendations*
2. *to inform the Cabinet of the best options/ models available to achieve the RCG Reports recommendation's through building a body of evidence which demonstrates the current and future demands from the community/businesses/other local authorities/quangos etc. to move this forward.*

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) was completed as part of the scrutiny process. Adverse impacts were identified and have been justified/mitigated in the following ways.

1. *Ensuing that the scrutiny Inquiry Day was circulated to a wide audience and as many stakeholders were identified and invited to attend or input into the Panel's recommendations to Cabinet.*
2. *Through consultations with external partners and advisors we were able to identify the differing needs and requirements of some of the key stakeholders relating to the river in preparation for the SID in October.*
3. *Clear instructions and the request for specific requirements from participants and consultees were sent out in all paperwork and publicity material and feedback on this was requested as part of a roundup of the day's events.*

3.3 The Scrutiny Inquiry Day

Through various methods of invitation, including a local press release, people with an interest in shaping the future role of the River Avon were encouraged by Bath & North East Somerset Council to give their views on how economic regeneration might be achieved along the River Avon by attending a Scrutiny Inquiry Day on October 31st 2012.

Contributors were also asked to discuss the recommendations contained within the River Corridor Report

The day focused on:-

- 1. identifying the best sustainable and regenerative ways of taking forward the options and ideas suggested by the River Corridor Group's report*
- 2. developing a joint and consistent approach that is shared and understood between key stakeholders.*
- 3. Informing the vision for a future Council River Strategy which places a higher social, environmental and cultural value to the river.*
- 4. ensuring that key stakeholders together with the Council are at the centre of the reshaping of the river corridor.*

The day consisted of various workshop discussions where people were able to share their views on what the best options and models are for developing the River Avon and provided the opportunity to share what work has already been achieved both within the local community and around the country. There was also a mix of interesting guest speakers.

On the day we received a large number of contributors such as ward Councilors, Service Officers, Local residents, Private business, English Heritage, Kennet & Avon Canal and from some of the creative organisations' and institutions in Bath, Members of the River Corridor Group and from those with an interest in the River.

The Scrutiny Inquiry Day helped to raise some important questions about the way forward and the decisions, which if made now, may have repercussions for years to come. This report captures the key findings from discussions on the day and helps shape the PDS Panel's recommendations for Cabinet to consider as a way forward.

4 Findings and Recommendations

4.1 The Panel found strong evidence from all of the involved stakeholders, that the vision proposed by the River Corridor Group report, for a thriving economically active and culturally contributing river, was a vision that everyone could support and see a common purpose for the future. However, in order to deliver the promise of a vision, a clearly articulated strategy for the direction of travel, key milestones and community leadership must be in place.

It was acknowledged that whilst a number of organisations have discreet responsibilities for aspects of the river management and operations, the Council in its community leadership role, should be considered to have pivotal role in leading the development of such a strategy.

Recommendation 1

The Panel recommend that Cabinet should lead and implement a strategy which uses the river corridor groups report as an initial evidence base, and at the heart should be the Council with a wider key stakeholder buy-in.

This recommendation is supported by the following findings:-

4.2 What would the River Strategy look like?

The River Strategy would facilitate:-

- the community to lead development or manage some sites along the river and work with private owners to help them maximize the value of potential developments.
- a co-ordinated and consistent approach to development on and around the river and across the whole district.
- a shared vision which would enable the delivery of funding between the Council and key developers
- develop new opportunities for innovative and sustainable development

Testing the concept of the River Strategy against the Councils corporate ambitions, will find both aspects of an evaluation needing to be addressed but also areas of opportunity for which the River Strategy can be a delivery portal for developing our corporate ambitions of:-

1. Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone
2. Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live
3. Building a stronger economy

4.3 Themes of the River Strategy

4.3.1 What work has already been completed or underway?

Before the development of a future vision of the river, further research and coordination is needed to identify all of the good work that is already underway or completed. This would help to

build a better knowledge base with the aim of identifying how existing work already links to the river and to avoid duplication of effort.

Any future strategy would need to draw upon the existing and planned work under way such as:-

1. The Bath Transport Strategy

2. Initial plans developed to restore the historical transport link used between Keynsham train station and the use of freight along the river.

3. The recent Green Park redevelopment plans in Bath for a new Sainsbury's store and other facilities, is one large scale example of the consideration by planners, to include careful consultation with the local community on its redevelopment plans.

4. Avon Frome Valley Partnership have been undertaking a number of projects alongside local authorities, Sustrans, Schools and the community, such as the walkways Strategy alongside the River. This work has helped to facilitate and fund other river projects in the local area, such as the River Avon trail along with Sustrans and Cycle city, River Clean Ups and River Discovery & Education Days 2011, which is a good example of where partners have joined their ideas together.

5. The Catchment based approach to managing the river (DEFRA). This has happened at a local level, bringing together stakeholders, including statutory organisations, businesses, the voluntary sector and interest groups & residents, who then need to work together collaboratively to develop a shared vision for the future of their waterways. The government started this process in 2011 by supporting a number of pilot projects to trial run a catchment based approach to management, of which Bristol Avon was one. The pilot has commissioned the 'River Story' project and innovative media project which aims to capture how local communities are involved connected and feel about their watercourses.

6. Bath Western Riverside Development

4.3.2 How can we Improve the public perception and knowledge of who does what along the River

It's important to recognise what work has already been developed or planned, but equally any River Strategy will also need to consider the coordination between the various bodies and organisations along the river which help to shape the public perception of the River.

The future River Strategy would aim to improve the public perception of the river by developing a network management of the river which includes a code of practice, and a clear indication of the legal rights, roles and responsibilities and opportunity that currently exists between different organisations, charities and bodies of the river. This could then be publicised to the local community.

4.3.3 Using cultural events to articulate the river and raise awareness

Encouraging people to use the river is a huge task however it was agreed at the Scrutiny Inquiry Day that having a strong creative input is a fundamental part of the river as cultural events can help to articulate the river and raise awareness of how the community can benefit from using their local waterways.

There are many smaller and bigger projects of opportunity that any River Strategy would need to explore further, such as;

- developing further project schemes that include the involvement of schools and increasing the knowledge of the younger audience. For example, there is a desire to utilise the social media to raise awareness about the river and try to engage with a younger and wider audience.
- Communities are encouraged to go into the forgotten areas of the river and explain the value of the river. This would involve identifying potential sites of undervalued and derelict land which could be used for event space or workshops and/or other social and cultural activities

Other projects identified (Educational/ Social/ Cultural) include:-

- Floating venues: which could be used for Educational, Social and Cultural events to showcase the river?
- Explore ideas with the local Community of how we can 'Green up the River' i.e. – floating habitat, enhance the bio-diversity of the River?
- Development of a permanent visitor centre or office along the riverside
- Development of a strap-line or logo for the River Strategy
- Travelling roadshows: could be used to increase the community's knowledge of the river and raise support.

4.3.4 Consider the needs of the local people

Any future River Strategy would have to consider the needs of the local people and the river. Further investigation to identify and consider where improvements could be made to make the river more accessible and user friendly would need to be tackled.

The key priority for the River Strategy would be to evaluate the community safety implications of the River Avon in order for people to use the river and feel safe.

Areas identified as requiring further investigation and consideration include:-

- Improved surveillance
- improved lighting
- Improving the footpaths and walkways (segregated) along the river
- improved Environmental quality

Additional issues may also be identified after a full Community Safety Assessment has been developed

- An investigation into the community safety methods and plans used by other cities in developing a safe and user friendly River could provide best practice ideas for any future River Strategy.

4.3.5 How can we capture the assets of the river and create spaces for new development and economic regeneration?

At the scrutiny Inquiry day we started start to think about how we can make sure that we capture the assets of the river and create spaces for new development and economic regeneration alongside our river whilst developing this into a long-term view.

Identifying potential development sites alongside the river would enable a more tangible focus to economic regeneration. This approach can be evidenced through the success of the Community Coin Street Builders², which demonstrated the success of a site based approach rather than trying to tackle the whole of the River in the first instance.

This would require the River Strategy to consider and address the following:-

- **Private realm: Encourage public & private partnership and ownership.** The Council would need to look at their Riverside properties and/or ownership of land and lead by example to show how we are generating the maximum opportunity of our properties whilst safeguarding our heritage
- Further work is needed to identify potential sites along the river, which could be developed into **attractive workspaces for businesses** to come, such as encouraging start-up businesses, or developing a forum for traders/ commercial interest or private sector sponsorship business plan alongside the river.
- Ensure that any plan that comes forward **is integrated into the local plan** for the area.
- Allow a **seamless process for developers to proceed with planning projects**. Such as producing a supplementary planning document, which is specific to the river Avon and adjoining land, which sets out clear guidelines to the planning process, '*more of what you can achieve rather than cant*', which many stakeholders believed holds future innovation back.
- There is opportunity for **greater connectivity/ integration between the river and transport networks if there is greater flood resilience, a fast flow river with good access points (North/ South of river)**, although it was recognised that there are also constraints to the level in which the river could be used as a transport facility.
- Addressing catchment based issues such as **flood management/ resilience and contamination issues** which could free up possible future riverside sites for future development.
- **The Core Strategy (2000-2011)** recognises the importance of the "**Green infrastructure Strategy**" and developing the linkages to this within the strategy. However there are issues to overcome if the River Corridor recommendations are to be bought forward, such

² <http://www.coinstreet.org/>

as issues surrounding the Green belt as the core strategy does not allow any changes to this and avoids any potential development near to flood risk areas.

- **Neighbourhood Plan**- Demonstrates a good way of bringing together Riverside developments which should be considered as part of the River Strategy
- Any future '*River Strategy*' (and associated projects), should have a **fully integrated engagement process** which consults with the local community on future regeneration plans. This would ensure that concerns raised by local residents such as those that we have received from the Norfolk Crescent Green Residents Association (NCGRA) are heard and addressed at every stage of any planning process.

4.4.1 How should we deliver the River Strategy?

4.4.2 Bath & North East Somerset Council is an organisation with responsibility for shaping development and regeneration opportunities within its geographic area, so some sort of body covering the above proposals is needed, principally as a way of becoming the key community interface between the Council the River and stakeholders.

There are many tried and tested ways to deliver a strategy so the Council needs to be clear about which mechanism they would like to use to achieve this.

There are already a number of river charities that exist, therefore any model will need to be tested and be different to other bodies to avoid reinventing existing work, although it is acknowledged that there will be some obvious overlap, hence the mix of skills needed to develop the initial River Corridor Group Report.

Recommendation 2

The panel expects the Council to support the appropriate delivery mechanism in managing the river. The Cabinet should consider as part of developing a model, to develop a 'trust', or 'similar model', which will provide the vehicle to drive these ideas forward.

Supported by the following evidence and questions from the Scrutiny Inquiry Day:-

4.4.3 Further questions will need to be explored before deciding on the best delivery mechanism for managing the river, these include:-

1. Could we **develop a 5 year operational model**? The Council assigns a chief officer with a co-ordination role who over a 6 month period would review the risks, costs, undertake consultation and further investigations and provide a report (*draft strategy & business plan*) to be considered by Cabinet. Where would this officer come from? (*Environment Agency, Rivers & Canals Trust, River Corridor Group*?)
2. **What role should the Council play in its governance? (Will it be more responsive and strategic than the council operating on its own?)** The governance of the proposed

Trust will be critical to its success, in particular to ensuring that it adds value and increases the sustainability of this crucial natural resource. However developing effective, and representative, shared governance of the local river corridor will not be a simple or straightforward process. For example; some would like to see the Council act as an 'enabler' of this process rather than just a 'regulator'. The majority agreed at the Scrutiny Inquiry Day that it would need a single Cabinet Member with lead responsibility to take this forward but with cross party buy-in.

3. Would the **membership of the River 'Trust'/ Model** contain a mixture of skills to reflect the river and/or make links with existing River charities/ organisations? A good example would be to develop a clear working relationship with the current and local River and Canals Trust or fund the River Corridor Group to deliver the future Vision.
4. **How would this be funded?** Careful consultation and consideration would need to be given as to how this would be funded to identify suitable sustainable financial sources i.e.; *would the plan be self-funding? Not for profit? Would we need service level agreements with defined roles & responsibilities? Identification of where we can gain returns on investment, or private sector funding for events?*

Previous models have been set up when public funding was made available through the Regional Development Agencies. Now we need to create a sense of social, cultural, economic and environmental value from the bottom up, which has both the confidence in good outcomes and in investment to secure Grant Aid and more diverse funding or to simply grow the value naturally.

Furthermore, it is not one proposed development but a series of many spread over many years. The restoration of the Kennet & Avon Canal took 50 years and cost in excess of 50Mil. Most of the funding will be within private sector development, some of which have already occurred but several more of which are in the planning stages and there will be others in the future. Any trust model would also need to ensure that these developments address the river and make their contribution to the blueprint and vision of the Council.

5. Conclusion

If the Council decided to not develop a River Strategy or a mechanism to deliver this strategy then there would still be many corporate ambitions that have a bearing on the river which the Council would need to see progressed, principally through the provision of normal planning policy, place making plans, land allocations, urban design and Public Realm Strategies and supplementary planning guidance leading to a requirement for planning obligations on works etc. In this scenario some other aspects of broader Council policy would probably be applied involving green infrastructure, community and social policy but, there would not be the coordinating drive, less of the setting of targets and many of these things would eventually slip down the agenda.

The report produced by the River Corridor Group alongside the evidence collected at the Scrutiny Inquiry Day has provided sufficient evidence to support the Councils ambitions of; *promoting independence and positive lives for everyone, Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live, and building a stronger Community*, and has demonstrated the huge opportunity along our main river for economic regeneration and economic infrastructure, which if adopted by the Council, could have potentially long standing implications for the future of Bath & North East Somerset.

Appendices

Appendix 1:- Basic information about the Scrutiny system in Bath & North East Somerset

Where does Policy Development & Scrutiny fit within the Councils Decision-making structure?

The main decision making powers in Bath & North East Somerset Council lie with **seven Councillors** who sit on the **Cabinet**. Overview and Scrutiny is the name in legislation given to the system of checks and balances implemented by the rest of the Councillors as they monitor the activity of the Cabinet and also assist them in developing policy. In Bath & North East Somerset Council, it is known as **Policy Development and Scrutiny**.

Different Councils Structure this in different ways, here in B&NES there is a clear division between the **roles and responsibilities** of these two functions:-

- The **Cabinet** is intended to create clear leadership and clear accountability for service delivery.
- By contrast, **Policy Development and Scrutiny** is intended to review the work of the Cabinet and to enhance the performance of services. It is also designed to provide a forum through which policy review and policy development can be extensively examined before consideration and decision by the Cabinet and/or Full Council.
- There are **6 Policy Development & Scrutiny Panels (PDS)** who oversee a specific broad area of work, generally matching the executive portfolios. These include the following Panels:
 - **Early Years, Children and Youth**
 - **Economic and Community Development**
 - **Housing and Major Projects**
 - **Planning, Transport and Environment**
 - **Resources**
 - **Wellbeing**
- They meet approx. 6-7 times per year.
- In addition to **regular meetings, Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel's** in Bath & North East Somerset carry out **reviews**. These involve undertaking a mixture of "Overview", "Scrutiny" and "Policy Development" on a selected subject, which may be a review of a policy or an investigation of an issue of local concern.

How do Policy Development & Scrutiny Panels operate?

- All Policy Development & Scrutiny Panels are initiated and led by councillors and have a Chair & Vice Chair. Membership consists (non-executive) councillors of all parties, and may also include co-optees from voluntary organisations, and other outside agencies.
- Policy Development & Scrutiny Panels achieve their impact and effect change through making recommendations to the Cabinet, Executive Members, Full Council or partnerships.
- Policy Development & Scrutiny formal meetings are open to the public, and have a slot on the agenda for public statements. Their agendas and minutes are available to the public. Scrutiny Inquiry Days are often informal and may not be open to the public, although their final reports and recommendations will be a public document.
- It is standard practice for Policy Development & Scrutiny Panels to invite people with relevant experience or knowledge to give information, expert opinion or advice. Such experts may be Council officers, outside agencies, academics, voluntary organisations, community or campaign groups, local residents, service users etc. This brings a wider expertise to bear on the examination and discussion of issues, and enables a more thorough exploration.

What is a Scrutiny Inquiry Day?

This is a mechanism for a short single topic scrutiny, for use where a formal Panel meeting may not be effective or appropriate, or to review progress in an area which has already been the subject of scrutiny work.

The aim is to develop a greater understanding of an issue that involves many organisations (in addition to the Council) and then develop ways forward/recommendations in an inclusive manner, in a workshop-style setting.

In an inquiry like this, it is on-the-day assessment of findings, and development of conclusions and recommendations (in conjunction with other interested parties) that differs from a traditional “contributor session” in more complex PDS reviews.

How will the Scrutiny Enquiry Day achieve an impact?

Recommendations from the day will be submitted to Cabinet Member Cherry Beath (Sustainable Development), Paul Crossley (Leader of the Council), David Bellotti (Community Resources), and also Tim Ball (Homes & Planning) David Dixon (Neighbourhoods). It is possible that some of the joint recommendations will not require a Cabinet response, and these will be submitted to the appropriate Council or partnership bodies.

Since scrutiny methodology often involves bringing together practitioners and strategic-level staff from different sectors and Council departments to act as expert witnesses, scrutiny activities may have a lasting beneficial effect beyond their immediate aims, in terms of facilitating communication and co-operation.

Appendix 2:- Terms of reference for the Scrutiny Inquiry day

THE RIVER CORRIDOR REPORT -SCRUTINY INQUIRY DAY

Date: 31st October ,Room: The Guildhall, Banqueting room

Background

In late 2010 the Council, acting through the Cabinet member for Economic Development at the time, Councillor Terry Gazzard and the Strategic Director, Development & Major Projects John Betty invited several people with relevant skills and experience interested in the future role of the River Avon to advise the Council on how its potential as a force for regeneration might be achieved. The River Corridor Report was completed in June 2011 by the River Corridor Group (*comprising of people with related professional disciplines, such as ecology, sustainability, regeneration, transportation, or decades of experience in managing or using waterways, together with Council Member representation from the two main political parties.*) The report covers a whole range of issues relating to the river but is primarily focused on how a range of agencies can work together to improve the river and increase employment along the river corridor in B&NES

The report and findings were taken to the Economic & Community Development Panel meeting in May 2012 (*as the nominated lead PDS Panel for the report*) and asked to undertake its review in its Policy Development role to advise Cabinet on future decisions (if any) with regard to the River Corridor Group Reports recommendations. At the meeting it was agreed that the best approach would be to defer the response to Cabinet on the best ways to move the recommendation's forward until a special meeting (*Scrutiny Inquiry Day*) was arranged which could thematically condense the report so the Panel could give adequate scrutiny to each theme and invite all of the interested and key stakeholders to the meeting.

An informal meeting was then held at the beginning of July with key service officers and the Chair & Vice Chair of the ECD Panel and the Chair of the River Corridor Group to help shape the form of the Scrutiny Inquiry Day.

Purpose

The purpose of the scrutiny inquiry day will be to review the recommendations contained within the River Corridor Report which focus on the potential of the River Avon to unlock the economic activity and wealth compatible with elements of cultural, social and environmental value.

Outcome

The outcomes of the day will be to:-

1. identify the best sustainable and regenerative ways of taking forward the suggested options and ideas contained within the report
2. develop a joint and consistent approach that is shared and understood between key stakeholders.
3. inform the vision for a future Council River Strategy which places a higher social, environmental and cultural value to the river.
4. ensure the Council and key stakeholders are at the centre of the reshaping of the river corridor.

Key Objectives

To develop a shared approach which will take the river corridor report from a conceptual idea to a reality which would:-

3. highlight who needs to be involved and engaged with the process to help focus established interest and to understand the broader corporate implications / priorities in delivering the recommendations
4. to inform the Cabinet of the best options/ models available to achieve the RCG Reports recommendation's through building a body of evidence which demonstrates the current and future demands from the community/businesses/other local authorities/quangos etc. to move this forward.

Scope

The River Corridor Group will condense its recommendations down into 5 thematical groups which will be evaluated and discussed at the meeting. This will help focus the meeting and manage the large stakeholder engagement on the day.

The focus of the day will be to identify:-

1. What work has the River Corridor Group already done and what were the issues raised?
2. Identify the river stakeholders/ organisations (including the Council) and their roles
 - i. now and for the future. (Including key developments/ projects)
 - ii. What obligations/ interest do they each have to offer?
 - iii. Note: The Panels prior knowledge of recent issues of River safety will be considered
 - iv. Examine whether the report aligns with the Councils Corporate agenda and Service delivery plans?
3. The future/Strategy and how it can be delivered (in light of the Council and partners role)
 - i. Consideration will be given to each of the options/ models identified and are available such as establishing a River Corridor Trust or Community Enterprise body to take ownership of moving the recommendations forward.
 - ii. Examination of the funding options available for each

Approach

The ECD Panel will take the lead in co-ordinating the Scrutiny Inquiry Day, however it has been recognised that the subject area under investigation overlaps within other Panel remits, particularly the Housing & Major Projects Policy Development Panel and Planning Transport & Environment Panel. The ECD Panel will therefore keep these Panels regularly informed of developments and will also be invited to attend the Scrutiny Inquiry Day.

The Panel will request for written submissions at least 5 days before the event to try to avoid duplication and to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to engage in the event.

Exclusions:

The primary purpose of the day, as stated, is to look at the economic regeneration of the river and therefore while the day will give consideration to many of the wider elements of the River Avon it will not be an opportunity to discuss detailed issues such as:-

- detailed environmental and climate change issues such as; water quality / catchment area issues, and flooding of Bath
- The SID will not be an opportunity to raise individual planning issues or rules and responsibilities of the river but about the Economic opportunities & benefits that it creates
- Those individuals who live on Boats and the rules and regulations surrounding this

Outline of the Day (draft)

- What work has already been done on this? Presentation by the River Corridor Group Report on key findings and issues (set the scene)
- Best Practice examples: Presentations/ Speakers and good practice/industry experts, with Q&A opportunity (confirm these)
- What work has already been developed since the production of the River Corridor Group Report was produced.
- What's the role of Key stakeholder's: Facilitated workshops to:-
 - A. Examine the roles/ interest/ obligations of the different stakeholders and organisations in relation to each of the recommendations (Can be broken down into 5 individual round table sessions)
(Including: Brief on written submissions/ roaming mic)
- *Networking lunch*
- Round up of First Session Findings
- What future options are available and achievable?; Facilitated workshops to:-
- Identify the recommendations the council would like to take forward:-
 - A. Examining the different models and options available to achieve the above and
 - B. Formulate a joint approach to be delivered to Cabinet
- Round up and next steps

Attendees

(Please note a full communications plan will be developed therefore the below only provides a draft list of some of the key stakeholders that will be invited to engage at the Scrutiny Inquiry Day)

Members of the ECD /HMP/ PTE Panels

Cabinet Members, Cherry Beath (Sustainable Development), Paul Crossley (Leader of the Council), David Bellotti (Community Resources)

Service Directors Officers from relevant departments within Council (Developmental & Regeneration, Planning & Transport, Tourism Leisure & Culture, Environmental Services, Property Services) will also include an open invite to the Chief Executive and all Strategic and Divisional Directors to help to identify what each department are currently working on to link with the Councils Corporate objectives.

Relevant stakeholders include;-

The River Corridor Group

West of England LEP

Statutory & Regulatory Bodies (Environment agency, Natural England, British Waterways, Inland Waterways, Wessex Water etc)

Regional & local Business Community (Buro Happold, Residents/ Residents Associations, Arts & Culture, local University's

Special Interest Groups (Bath Preservation Trust, World Heritage Site Consultation Committee, Bath renewables Group, Transition Bath, Bath & Britsol Initiative.

Best practice examples: Thames/ Kennet, Avon Canal Trust, Avon Valley Park/ Limpley Stoke Marina, Minerva and/or other examples to be identified.

Waste: Severn Waste Recycling Company Mead – Broadmead lane

Major landowners/ Developers (Town & Parish Councils, Neighbouring Local Authorities, Sainsbury's Green park (New Development Plans) Bath Western Riverside Developers, Bath Quays South

Draft Timescales

The planning and preparation for the Scrutiny Inquiry Day will take a minimum of 3 months looking at an event date to be agreed around the end of October or beginning of Nov. This would allow for a report of findings/ outcomes to be delivered to the ECD November Panel meeting and to Cabinet in December-January.

Enquiries

For further information, contact:

Chair of ECD Panel-	Councillor Robin Moss	
Vice Chair of ECD Panel	Councillor Ben Stevens	
Policy Development & Scrutiny	Donna Vercoe	Donna_Vercoe@bathnes.gov.uk
Policy Development & Scrutiny	Lauren Rushen	Lauren_Rushen@bathnes.gov.uk

Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING:	ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PANEL
MEETING DATE:	24th January 2013
TITLE:	WORKPLAN FOR 2013/14
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report:	
Appendix 1 – Panel Workplan	

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report presents the latest workplan for the Panel (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 The Panel is required to set out its thoughts/plans for their future workload, in order to feed into cross-Panel discussions between Chairs and Vice-chairs - to ensure there is no duplication, and to share resources appropriately where required.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Panel is recommended to
 - (a) consider the range of items that could be part of their Workplan for 2013/14

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 All workplan items, including issues identified for in-depth reviews and investigations, will be managed within the budget and resources available to the Panel (including the designated Policy Development and Scrutiny Team and Panel budgets, as well as resources provided by Cabinet Members/Directorates).

4 THE REPORT

4.1 The purpose of the workplan is to ensure that the Panel's work is properly focused on its agreed key areas, within the Panel's remit. It enables planning over the short-to-medium term (ie: 12 – 24 months) so there is appropriate and timely involvement of the Panel in:

- a) Holding the executive (Cabinet) to account
- b) Policy review
- c) Policy development
- d) External scrutiny.

4.2 The workplan helps the Panel

- a) prioritise the wide range of possible work activities they could engage in
- b) retain flexibility to respond to changing circumstances, and issues arising,
- c) ensure that Councillors and officers can plan for and access appropriate resources needed to carry out the work
- d) engage the public and interested organisations, helping them to find out about the Panel's activities, and encouraging their suggestions and involvement.

4.3 The Panel should take into account all suggestions for work plan items in its discussions, and assess these for inclusion into the workplan. Councillors may find it helpful to consider the following criteria to identify items for inclusion in the workplan, or for ruling out items, during their deliberations:-

- (1) public interest/involvement
- (2) time (deadlines and available Panel meeting time)
- (3) resources (Councillor, officer and financial)
- (4) regular items/"must do" requirements (eg: statutory, budget scrutiny, etc)?
- (5) connection to corporate priorities, or vision or values
- (6) has the work already been done/is underway elsewhere?
- (7) does it need to be considered at a formal Panel meeting, or by a different approach?

The key question for the Panel to ask itself is - can we "add value", or make a difference through our involvement?

- 4.4 There are a wide range of people and sources of potential work plan items that Panel members can use. The Panel can also use several different ways of working to deal with the items on the workplan. Some issues may be sufficiently substantial to require a more in-depth form of investigation.
- 4.5 Suggestions for more in-depth types of investigations, such as a project/review or a scrutiny inquiry day, may benefit from being presented to the Panel in more detail.
- 4.6 When considering the workplan on a meeting-by-meeting level, Councillors should also bear in mind the management of the meetings - the issues to be addressed will partially determine the timetabling and format of the meetings, and whether, for example, any contributors or additional information is required.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

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

6 EQUALITIES

- 6.1 Equalities will be considered during the selection of items for the workplan, and in particular, when discussing individual agenda items at future meetings.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Workplan is reviewed and updated regularly in public at each Panel meeting. Any Councillor, or other local organisation or resident, can suggest items for the Panel to consider via the Chair (both during Panel meeting debates, or outside of Panel meetings).

8 ADVICE SOUGHT

- 8.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	Jack Latkovic, Senior Democratic Services Officer. Tel 01225 394452
Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

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Last updated 15.01.13.

Economic and Community Development Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel Workplan

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Director	Report Author	Format of Item	Requested By	Notes
24th Jan 13	Community Safety – Connecting Families in BANES (20 minutes)		Sally Churchyard and Paula Bromley			
	Leisure Strategy (20 minutes)		Lynda Deane/ Mike Butler			
	Bath Tourism Plus Ltd – Council funding (20 minutes)		Mike Butler			
	World Heritage Site – 25 years on (20 minutes)		Tony Crouch			
	Library Service: Charging schedule for Peoples Network Computers		June Brassington			
	River Corridor Group report (20 minutes)		D Vercoe/L Rushen			
14th Mar 13	Community Safety - Police Commissioner update		Andy Thomas			
23rd May 13	Community Safety					

Last updated 15.01.13.

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Director	Report Author	Format of Item	Requested By	Notes
18th Jul 13	Community Safety					
26th Sep 13	Community Safety					
28th Nov 13	Community Safety					
23rd Jan 14	Community Safety					
13th Mar 14	Community Safety					

Last updated 15.01.13.

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Director	Report Author	Format of Item	Requested By	Notes
Future items						
	Parish Charter		Andy Thomas			Following conversation with D Trethewey on 28.11.
	Planning and Financial Future		Jeremy Smalley		Panel in Sep 2012	
	Tourism Levy				Panel on Nov 2012	
	Post-Midnight Economy and its contribution to overall economy		Andrew Cooper (?)		Panel in May 2012	

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