

Appendix 1

Partnership & Corporate Services

April 2021

Corporate Strategy - End of Year Review 2020/21

This document provides an end of year review of the Council's progress against the Corporate Strategy and its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular capturing the successes and achievements in what has been an unprecedented and very challenging year.

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Executive Summary

2020/21 has been a year like no other, with the response to the COVID-19 pandemic spanning the entirety of the council year. This review sets out the progress we have made in delivering the commitments set out in our Corporate Strategy this year, whilst providing a comprehensive and compassionate response to the pandemic. It contains many examples of Council staff rising to the challenge and adapting their skills to serve the residents and businesses of Bath and North East Somerset.

Above all, the review demonstrates how the Council has mobilised over the past 12 months to deliver its purpose of improving people's lives in this most challenging of circumstances.

In common with all local authorities the Council has spent the last year delivering an effective response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This has meant responding quickly to new circumstances to protect life, contain and mitigate the impact of the emergency, and to build the conditions for an effective and sustainable recovery, particularly for our local economy. Staff from services that have had to temporarily cease or reduce operations have been reallocated to areas with the highest need for resources, with many staff also volunteering for Covid-19 response duties in advance of this.

Despite this challenging operating environment, essential Council services and the Covid response have sat alongside, wherever possible, new schemes and projects which the Council's Corporate Strategy agreed in February 2020. The following highlights how these key changes over the last year have helped contribute to the delivery of the Corporate Strategy in the context of the huge challenges presented by the pandemic.

- ★ **Clean Air Zone** - Bath's Clean Air Zone launched on Monday 15 March 2021 as the first charging clean air zone in England outside of London. It will not charge private cars. It was due to be switched on in November but was delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Council has contacted more than 9,000 local businesses to help them establish whether charges will apply to their vehicles, and how to access the support on offer. **Preparing for the Future**
- ★ **Cleveland Bridge Repairs** - Work to repair Bath's historic Cleveland Bridge is set to start in the spring / summer of 2021 following the approval of listed building consent by Councillors. The bridge is a crucial link in the strategic road network between the A46 and A36, and carries approximately 17,000 vehicles. **Delivering for Local Residents**
- ★ **Free School Meal Vouchers** - The Council committed to funding Free School Meals vouchers for the Christmas 2020, February half term and Easter 2021 school holidays to make sure no child goes hungry during these holidays following the government's decision to stop funding free school meals during the holidays. **Focusing on Prevention**

- ★ **More than £2m funding secured to cut carbon emissions in buildings** - The drive to reduce carbon emissions from buildings in Bath and North East Somerset to help tackle the climate emergency has received a boost with more than £2m of Government funding won for key projects. [Tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergency](#)
- ★ **Liveable Neighbourhoods** - £2.2m in Council budget to implement the ambitious Liveable Neighbourhoods policy, which will improve air quality and health, encourage more walking and cycling and reduce vehicles in residential areas. In the first week of launching the dedicated Liveable Neighbourhoods website, the Council received more than 2,000 suggestions from residents. [Giving People a Bigger Say](#)
- ★ **Community Wellbeing Hub** - Over the past 12 months, the hub has received over 12,000 calls from residents requiring support, delivered over 600 emergency food parcels and supported hundreds of people with help from volunteers going shopping, picking up and dropping off medication, or simply listening and talking to someone who's lonely. [COVID-19 Response](#)
- ★ **Channel Shift to Online Services** - As part of its response to keeping Council business running during the Covid-19 outbreak, the Council's first virtual meeting was its Planning Committee on 6th May while the Cabinet held its first public meeting virtually on 29th May. The council has also established an extensive programme of [webinars](#), a bespoke online teaching platform allows pupils to enjoy music lessons virtually with their usual tutor in real time and a popular [Virtual Library](#). an online Book of Remembrance has been set up during the coronavirus pandemic. [COVID-19 Response](#).
- ★ **Business Support Grants** - The Council has been responsible for the administration of the [Business Support Grants](#) to local business. In the first period between May and September 2020, we processed and administered **3,470** grant applications totalling **£42.8m**, and in the second period from November 2020 to end of the financial year, we processed a further **2519** grant applications totalling **£27.6m**. [COVID-19 Response](#)

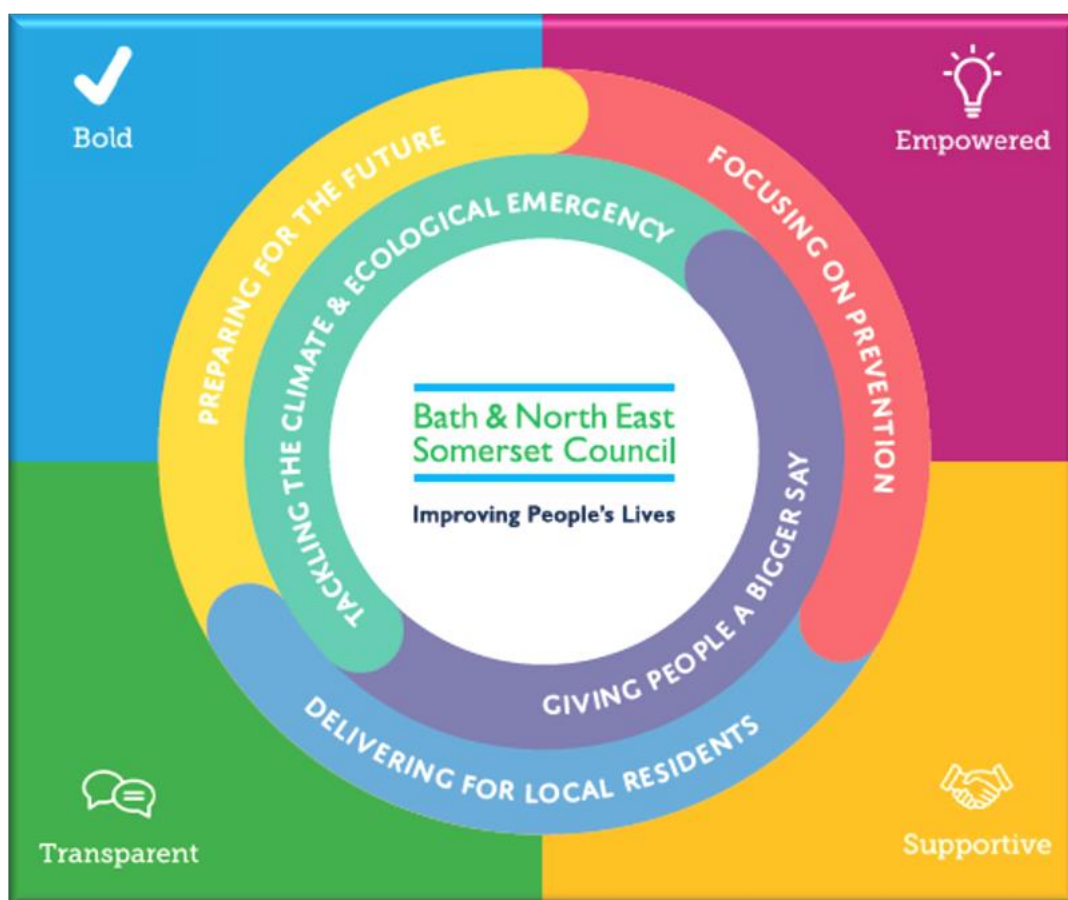
1. Introduction and Context

This section provides a brief overview of the Corporate Strategy so we can see the priority areas for delivery together with a summary of the approach taken to address the pandemic.

Corporate Strategy 2020-2024

The Council strives to ensure everyone who delivers services for the benefit of Bath and North East Somerset's residents - whether that's in social care, refuse collection or highways - works together to **improve people's lives**.

The [Corporate Strategy 2020-2024](#) is all about achieving this. It forms the overarching strategic guide for future changes and sets out, in partnership with other local public sector agencies, what we plan to do, how we plan to do it, and how we will measure our performance. To translate our purpose into commitments, we have identified **two core policies** - **tackling the climate and ecological emergency** and **giving people a bigger say**, and **three principles** - **preparing for the future**, **delivering for local residents** and **focusing on prevention**. These will shape everything we do.



The Strategy was originally adopted by Full Council in February 2020 and subsequently updated in July to incorporate the Council's response to the impacts of COVID-19 through its core policies and commitments. An additional commitment was added, to support the delivery of the Local Outbreak

Management Plan. This sets out the Council's public health response to the pandemic, including support for schools and Universities, the introduction of new testing facilities and support for care homes including the introduction of a new [Proud to Care](#) campaign to boost recruitment in the care sector. The Council and its volunteer partners including 3SG have also provided large-scale support to the local roll-out of the vaccine.

Covid-19 Response

Within weeks of adopting the Corporate Strategy in February 2020, the Council's activities were refocused on the crisis response to COVID-19. The authority's work on its response has been set out in detail in reports presented to Cabinet, the Corporate Policy, Development and Scrutiny Panel and Full Council last May and June. In summary, the Council reacted swiftly to ensure key services were maintained and to protect the most vulnerable through initiatives such as the cross-partner [Community Wellbeing Hub](#) (see page 11). Staff were redeployed, a number of projects put on hold, some services reduced temporarily and some facilities, including libraries and the Roman Baths Museum, were closed as a result of the national restrictions brought in to address the pandemic. In addition, the Council changed the way it delivered services through increased working from home and innovations including more online delivery.

The Council has also had to deal with the enormous financial impacts of COVID-19, particularly the loss of income from heritage attractions and car parking as a result of the lockdown, and the wider economic impacts of COVID-19 on tourism and the visitor and retail economy. Again, a detailed report setting out the Council's response to the financial impacts was presented to Cabinet in July 2020. The report highlighted the need to take immediate action to ensure a balanced budget in this year, deferring schemes where possible and seeking savings from staff vacancies and further efficiencies.

Inevitably the level of response required for COVID-19, the particularly challenging impact of the "second wave" on our area and the need to focus on reopening our High Streets safely and recovering from the crisis have led to some challenges in delivering aspects of the Corporate Strategy. However, the overall approach set out in the strategy, particularly the Council's key role in improving people's lives and the need for long-term thinking to tackle climate change, have become even more vital.

The Council has established three external workstreams, which focus the Corporate Strategy through the lens of our local COVID-19 experience:

- ✓ **Reopening** - ensuring that our High Streets, shops, hospitality and services are brought back as quickly and as safely as possible
- ✓ **Renewal** - ensuring that we take any opportunities created by the "new normal" to address the long-term issues facing the area including tackling the climate emergency and diversifying the economy
- ✓ **Resilience** - ensuring that we build on the success of the Compassionate Communities Hub and work even more closely with partners, our third sector organisations and local volunteers to grow local capacity.

2. Delivering our Commitments

The Corporate Strategy contains 24 commitments under the three corporate principles. A selection of key outcomes against each principle is set out below, while Appendix 1 provides a more detailed summary of progress against each particular commitment based on the information we have published to our Newsroom over the year.

Preparing for the Future

First charging zone Clean Air Zone (CAZ)

outside of London launched on 15th March to drive down harmful pollution and protect public health. Polluting vehicles will be charged £9 or £100 a day to drive in the centre of Bath. Private cars and motorbikes will not be charged. The scheme is designed to tackle Bath's air pollution problem which is chiefly caused by vehicle emissions. Several areas in the city regularly exceed the legal limits for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) pollution, even during lockdown.

New employment and skills pod offers free career support

- Residents who want to get back to work or change career can now get tailored advice on training and upskilling from a new employment and skills pod. The service is part of the Community Wellbeing Hub and aims to support people who have been made redundant due to Covid-19, or those who are short or long term unemployed, with the structure, direction and practical tools they need to progress towards securing new employment.

Midsomer Norton and Keynsham set for £3.1m boost to improve historic high streets

- The Council was successful in winning two funding bids from the Historic England fund for Midsomer Norton (£2m) and Keynsham (£1.1m). The funding will enable a range of public realm works and improvements to shop fronts in both towns, a new market square next to the Town Hall in Midsomer Norton and supporting the development of a cultural programme to help create a more vibrant high street environment in

Council's regeneration of Keynsham's former Civic Centre commended in national awards

- The Council received a commendation for *Innovation in Property and Asset Management* in the MJ Awards for its regeneration of Keynsham's former civic centre. The challenging redevelopment by Aequus Construction Ltd, the Council's property company, led to the creation of 95 modern, affordable and sustainable homes, over 80% of which are now sold.

Bath Unlimited goes live - A new website celebrating and promoting Bath's dynamic, successful, world-class companies and their talented employees was launched last October. Part of the 'Bath Unlimited' campaign, www.bathunlimited.org is designed to support 'Invest in Bath' in attracting new inward investment by increasing awareness of the area's flourishing businesses and promoting the wealth of talent and expertise in the local workforce.

New Bath River Line project to create a park for walking and cycling

- The new riverside park will follow a 10km stretch of the River Avon from Batheaston to Newbridge and aims to connect communities and create a high-quality route for walking and cycling, encouraging more people to explore the city in a sustainable way. Wildlife found along the river will be protected by having their habitats improved, and the park will also provide areas where people can stop and enjoy the landscape, with spaces for children

Delivering for Local Residents

Residents' views sought on liveable neighbourhoods

- £2.2m in Council budget to implement Liveable Neighbourhoods policy was agreed following consultation in December. Residents asked via online consultation for their views on the Council's ambitious proposals, which will improve air quality and health, encourage more walking and cycling, and reduce vehicles in residential areas.

Support available for warmer homes thanks to £580k funding boost

- The Council has successfully bid for £500k for its Green Homes Grant scheme to help people make energy efficiency upgrades to their homes, such as double glazing, insulation or low carbon-heating, which will support residents in need alongside the £80,000 available from the council's Affordable Warmth Grants.

Bathwick towpath reopened - The towpath has been made safer and more pleasant for walkers, cyclists and boaters following the completion of major works by the Canal & River Trust and support from local volunteers from the Bath Towpath Taskforce. The project was one of 35 design ideas to improve Bath's waterways under the Council's Waterscape project and included reinstating a long stretch of badly eroded bank, addressing bank collapse and creating new habitats for wildlife.

Archway Project awarded £359,000 in Culture Recovery Funding

- The project will convert former Victorian spa buildings close to the Roman Baths into a new World Heritage Centre, where residents and visitors will be able to discover more about the World Heritage Site of Bath. A new Roman Baths Centre is also part of the project and will create a much-needed space for school groups. The project will also open up Roman remains at the Baths which have never been available to the public before.

Bath Quays bridge superstructure lift completed

- The first new crossing point over the River Avon for a century is now successfully in place at Bath Quays. The four bridge spans arrived in the UK in May after being made in Belgium and were then assembled into two spans on site, ready for the lift to take place ahead of the bridge's completion in 2021.

Work to repair Cleveland Bridge to get under way this spring

- The major engineering project is part of a multi-million pound investment in infrastructure projects this year to support the city's recovery and meet its future needs. The Grade II* listed bridge is a crucial link in the strategic road network between the A46 and the A36, carrying 17,000 vehicles every day.

Blitz on main roads in Bath and North East Somerset

- Litter in hedgerows and verges on the busiest high-speed roads across Bath and North East Somerset is being tackled in a seven-week clean-up operation. Traffic management will be in place as the teams clean up more than 150 miles of verges at a cost of £18,000 to the Council.

'Don't be a tosser' message spreads across Bath & North East Somerset

- A significant increase in rubbish left in parks and open spaces since lockdown eased has led to the Council launching a new anti-littering campaign. Temporary signs will soon be going up in parks and open spaces in locations across the area where littering has become a real problem.

Focusing on Prevention

Action to ensure families hit hardest by Covid-19 don't go hungry

- Community groups, churches, charities and family centres are being supported by the Council to help families on low incomes access high quality affordable food. The projects are supplied with fresh, chilled and store cupboard food from a variety of sources and for a nominal weekly fee, residents can become FOOD Club or Pantry member and carry out a small shop for a fraction of the price they'd pay in a supermarket.

Care homes to take delivery of new iPads

- Twenty-seven care homes will receive new iPads over the coming weeks. As well as enabling residents to keep in touch with relatives and loved ones via video calls, the technology will provide a vital resource for care home staff. They will enable them to work with GPs to provide a Covid-secure virtual ward round, sharing patient charts and images to assist with diagnosis and treatment plans.

New £100k funding for community sports facilities in Bath

- £100k of Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy funding will enable three areas of Bath to enjoy new sporting and play facilities. The projects are a multi-use games area in Whiteway, improved play equipment and the creation of a football pitch at Sandpits Park and new energy efficient lighting at Combe Down Rugby Club.

Work on new Keynsham Recycling Hub takes a step forward

- Formal planning application has been submitted by the Council at for a state-of-the-art waste and recycling hub in Keynsham. The Council will soon be making unused areas of the Pixash Lane site secure and ensure ecology protection measures have been carried out before and during demolition of

Free school meals vouchers for Christmas, February Half-Term and Easter

- The Council and its partners held emergency talks to make sure no child will go hungry during school holidays following the government's decision to stop funding free school meals during the holidays. It committed to funding Free School Meals vouchers for the Christmas, half term and Easter school holidays for the 4,000+ children in Bath and North East Somerset who receive benefit-related free school meals.

£50k to support residents in fuel poverty this winter

- The Council has allocated £50,000 from the Covid Winter Grant Scheme funding to support residents who have been affected by the Covid pandemic, are vulnerable or are in fuel poverty. Residents can apply to Citizens Advice BANES for the electronic fuel vouchers, which can be exchanged in shops and with suppliers to be charged to key meters or electricity and gas accounts.

New Reading Friends project to combat loneliness through literature

- Reading Friends is an opportunity to meet new people virtually or by phone to talk about books, magazines or any reading material and aims to support wellbeing and mental health during the Covid pandemic. The campaign aims to combat loneliness and promote wellbeing through the power of reading during the Covid pandemic

Another record-breaking year for Christmas kerbside recycling

- Record amounts of recycling and waste were collected in Bath and North East Somerset over the Christmas period. Residents contributed an extra 363 tonnes in total recycling and 84 tonnes in food waste alone compared to the same period in the previous year. The increase equates to an

existing and redundant buildings.

additional 121 truckloads of recycling.

3. Our Core Policies

Our core policies are embedded in everything we do and as we have responded to the pandemic and prepared for our recovery, we have ensured our work on the climate and ecological emergency and giving people more say has been embedded in our response.

Tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergency

Council declares Ecological Emergency -

The declaration of an Ecological Emergency recognises the essential role nature plays in society and the economy and provides a statement of intent to protect our wildlife and habitats, enabling residents to benefit from a green, nature rich environment. It builds on the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency last March and recognises the two threats that are having a devastating impact on the planet and our wellbeing.

Solar panels 'top out' next milestone for low energy housing development in Bath -

The Council's housing company is developing nine energy-efficient family homes in Bath. The houses are being constructed sustainably, will be very low-carbon and have a range of energy-efficient measures including air-source heat pumps and solar panels.

New 'retrofit' installers directory to help make energy efficient -

Research carried out by the Council shows 38% of direct carbon emissions across the district come from homes. Reducing these carbon emissions will save people money on heating bills and contribute to the Council's goal of achieving carbon-neutrality across the district by 2030. To help achieve this, the Council's [Energy At Home Information Service](#) has created an Installers Network for tradespeople who fit energy efficiency home improvements to existing buildings, together with a directory that allows people to easily find

Chew Stoke School scores gold for sustainable travel -

Chew Stoke Church School has become the second school in Bath and North East Somerset to achieve a gold national award for promoting walking, cycling and sustainable travel. Since engaging the whole school community on road safety and the importance of walking, cycling and scooting, it has seen a significant reduction in cars idling or parking outside the school, and families that need to drive choosing to 'park and stride'

Supporting parishes to take action on climate change -

The Council hosted a free online event to help town and parish councils develop an action plan to reduce carbon emissions and tackle the climate and ecological emergencies in their local area. All parishes were invited to take part in the workshop being delivered by the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

More than £2m funding secured to cut carbon emissions in buildings -

The drive to reduce carbon emissions from buildings in Bath and North East Somerset to help tackle the climate emergency has received a boost with more than £2m of Government funding won for key projects.

Planning policies set to be reviewed -

Planning policies which guide decision-making across Bath and North East Somerset are being reviewed to ensure new developments or changes to existing buildings incorporate climate (and ecological) considerations at the

approved installers.

design stage.

Giving People a Bigger Say

Honest conversation on the history of slavery and tackling racism - The Leader of the Council started a conversation about the city's heritage and its links to the transatlantic slave trade, and her intention to bring people together with the skills, knowledge and commitment to chart a way forward so we can confront this historic evil and build a more equal future.

Join our webinars and have your say - The council has launched a new website page that allows people to view upcoming webinars, alongside the archive of the webinars that have already taken place this year with links to the videos - <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/webinars> - examples include:

- ★ **Green Homes take the spotlight in energy efficiency webinar**
- ★ **Want to green your business?**
- ★ **Have your say at the first Bath Area Forum**
- ★ **Join in online to make your voice heard on local planning**
- ★ **Have your say on council's budget proposals**
- ★ **Find out how planning policy is shaped for Bath and North East Somerset**
- ★ **Black Lives Matter in B&NES: hear from young people at our webinar**
- ★ **Webinar hears update on B&NES Covid-19 response to Somer Valley cases and plans for Universities' new academic year**

Parish council set to take over running of Paulton Library - Although Paulton library is currently closed due to the coronavirus, it will become a community run library after the lease is transferred to Paulton Parish Council as part of the Council's Modern Libraries programme.

Residents invited to join in a number of online public consultations:

- ★ **Public consultation to shape the future of Midsomer Norton town centre**
- ★ **Have your say on security proposals for Bath City Centre**
- ★ **Residents' views sought on liveable neighbourhoods**
- ★ **Council to consult on plans for 'state of the art' recycling centre in Keynsham**
- ★ **Residents invited to shape plans for 'state-of-the-art' multiple recycling centres for Bath**
- ★ **Help to create one shared vision for Bath and North East Somerset**
- ★ **Join the discussion on active travel schemes for Bath**
- ★ **Share your experience of how urban gulls have affected you**
- ★ **Get involved in shaping planning policy for Bath and North East Somerset**
- ★ **Two Rivers Primary School in Keynsham**
- ★ **Residents views sought on renewed street drinking restrictions**

4. **Response to COVID-19**

Throughout the lockdown, the Council has strived to support and protect the residents and businesses of Bath and North East Somerset in every way possible in accordance with its core purpose - to **improve people's lives**.

Irrevocable change has taken place in both our internal and external operating environments. With the advent of vaccines and mass testing, the balance is now shifting from dealing with the health crisis of COVID-19 to dealing with its enormous social and economic impact and its long-term effect on people's wellbeing. This section highlights the steps we have taken to support people throughout the pandemic and our actions to design a post covid roadmap for Bath and North East Somerset.

Outbreak Management

The Council set up and operates 3 rapid Covid-19 test site for asymptomatic key workers in Bath and North East Somerset. Approximately one in three people who have coronavirus will experience no symptoms. Rapid lateral flow testing is important in reducing the risk that they pose to others.

The sites are in the Apex Hotel in Bath, Keynsham Masonic Hall and the Centurion Hotel in Midsomer Norton with the Bath site being first to open on the 1st March and the other two following shortly afterwards

The Council also played a key part in setting up and assisting colleagues in the NHS for the establishment of the vaccination centres at the Pavilion in the Centre of Bath, many members of Council staff also volunteer on a regular basis to help out at the centre.

Community Wellbeing Hub (formerly Compassionate Community Hub)

Bath and North East Somerset is a [Compassionate Community](#) where people are inspired and supported to look after themselves and each other. This initiative took on a new importance in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Council in partnership with Virgin Care, the NHS and **3SG**¹ worked around the clock to set up the ground-breaking [Community Wellbeing Hub](#), combining resources to ensure the system can provide sustainable and appropriate responses to meet community needs.

¹ 3SG is a thriving, independent membership network supporting the charity, social enterprise, faith and voluntary sector operating in Bath and North East Somerset.



Operating via a dedicated public phone number, the Hub offers advice and support to those who are self-isolating, shielding or simply in need of help. It has access to over 2,400 volunteers recruited by 3SG, with the 3SG website acting as a virtual hub for the local response to COVID-19. A triage team match calls received to the most appropriate service. Through working together in the Hub, we have been able to get urgent food parcels to people, co-ordinate someone to pick up medication, support mental health and wellbeing, provide advice on staying active or provide people with practical support such as signing up to universal credit.

Colleagues in the Hub have also proactively called people who are shielding at home to ensure they have access to food and that they are well. The response to this from people receiving calls has been heart-warming. Often, they just want someone to talk to, and some have not spoken to anyone for some time.

The Hub is an excellent example of a strong working partnership bringing together the Council, Virgin Care and the 3SG plus other third sector partners across different organisational boundaries and making a real difference on the ground. To demonstrate the crucial role played by the Hub, the following is a summary of the outcomes achieved since it opened on 23rd March 2020 until the end of March this year:

12,387 calls from residents requiring support	Completed 3,767 tasks to help individuals that contacted the Hub for food, medication and befriending	3,079 food, 539 emergency medication and 149 other pick-ups, i.e., utilities top up
666 food parcels delivered supporting 829 individuals	42,000 frozen meals delivered to most vulnerable	£83,806 worth of shopping completed by volunteers for B&NES residents

2,500 surgical masks delivered to **14** organisations

40 pharmacies received a total of **240** face visors and **120** full face visors produced by University of Bath

120 goggles delivered (40 from University of Bath and 80 from the Council)

A decision has been made that even though the lockdown restrictions will start to ease over the next couple of months, the services provided by the Hub have proved such a lifeline to some people that it will continue to operate. Residents who are clinically extremely vulnerable are being reassured they will still be able to receive support from the Community Wellbeing Hub once shielding ends. It is writing to those currently on the shielding list in Bath and North East Somerset, advising them that the support it provides will continue throughout the pandemic and beyond.

Business Support Grants

The Council has been responsible for the administration and processing of Business Grants to support local businesses on behalf of the Government. This process was split into two lockdown periods and the table below outlines the type, number and value of the grants which the Council has administered and paid.

May to September 2020

Grant Scheme	No Processed for Payment	Total Paid (£m)
Small Business Grants	2,140	£21.400
Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Grants	984	£19.380
Discretionary Grants (small and micro businesses not eligible for main grants)	346	£2.113
Total	3,470	£42.893

November 2020 to March 2021

Grant Type	Value Paid £	Volume Paid
Covid-19 - Additional Restrictions Grant	£5,704,986	2,820
Local Restrictions Support Grant - Closed Lockdown	£2,892,028	1,722
Local Restrictions Support Grant - Closed Tier 2	£554,482	1,205
Local Restrictions Support Grant - Open	£1,027,438	2,614
LRSG (Closed) Addendum: 5 January onwards	£8,868,609	4,165
Closed Business Lockdown Payment	£8,640,000	1,706
Total	£27,687,543	14,232

The total number of businesses/ individuals who have received a payment is **2519**. This is based on the number of different bank accounts that payments were made into.

Local Economy

In June 2020, the Council created a new [Economic Renewal Partnership](#) to support a renewed Bath and North East Somerset economy post-lockdown. The group, which includes representation from tech, culture, manufacturing, services, tourism and education sectors, is focusing on rebuilding confidence in the area as a safe, sustainable and green place to visit. Among other projects, it aims to establish “skills hubs” and re-skill people into new areas of opportunity such as the green and digital economies.

At the same time, the Council's Economic Renewal and Recovery Board sponsored the creation of **One Shared Vision**, which builds on the commitments in the Corporate Strategy, but also looks further ahead and more broadly to the kind of place we want to be by 2030 and what we need to be doing now to achieve this.

'BATH with NES: Ambitious Together for a Fair, Green, Creative and Connected City Region'



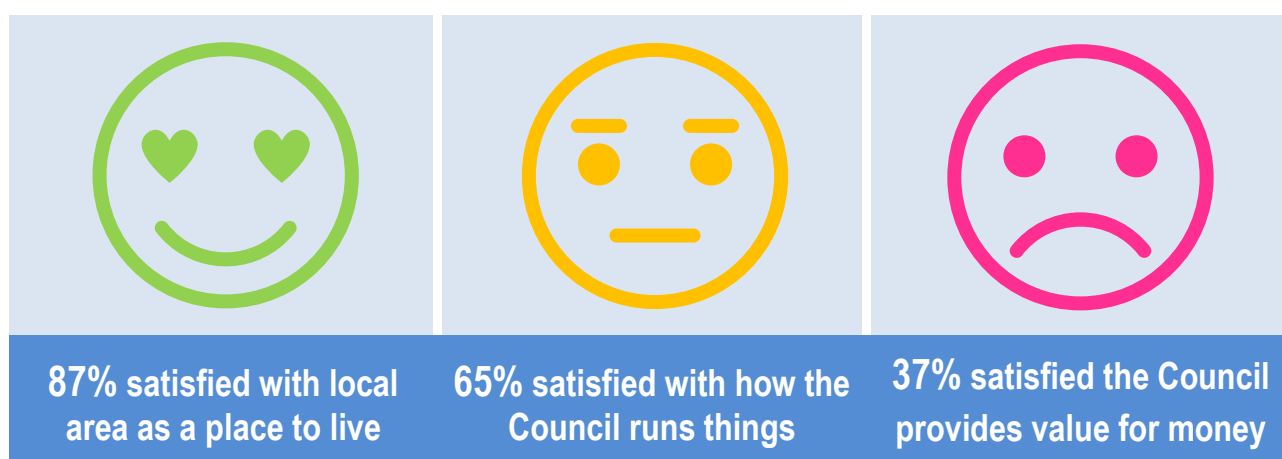
Created by locally based [City Global Futures](#), their brief was to come up with a vision that the whole community can get behind and work in harmony tackling the weaknesses in the local economy that the pandemic has exposed and building back better, while ensuring a net zero local economy by 2030.

Part of any plan to restart the local economy requires us to understand what normal might look like once the government restrictions ease off and people start to resume their daily lives. A Voicebox survey carried out last November focused on this key area:

- a) how satisfied residents are with their local area as a place to live and the services provided by the Council;
and
- b) the impact of COVID-19 in their local area.

The survey received a 33% response rate.

Satisfaction Levels - all measures have shown an upward trend over the last three years:



The percentage of those satisfied with their local area as a place to live ranged from 83% to 90% over the period 2013 to 2020; it is currently at its highest level since 2016, suggesting the pandemic has had no impact on people's perception of their local area. The percentage of respondents satisfied with how the Council runs things has increased for the second year in a row from 58% in 2019 to 65% in 2020, while the percentage of those agreeing the Council provides value for money has also increased from 30% in 2018 to 37% in 2020. The latter has not however achieved the levels attained between 2013 and 2017 (39% to 43%).

Impact of COVID-19

The question receiving the highest score is around communities supporting one another. The LGA undertook some research in this area and their findings suggest people want to return to the lives they had before the lockdown but also noted there was widespread awareness of the increased needs of other people as a result of the pandemic, and for a minority, this has changed behaviour and led to

donating at local organisations, e.g., food banks and homeless shelter, something they felt they would continue to do once the pandemic was over.

62% The air is cleaner	72% I use my car less	74% People in my community have supported each other
59% I have been able to help people who needed it	57% I use my local shops more	55% I have known where to get help and support
42% I know my local community / neighbours much better	48% I spend more time with my family	53% I get more exercise

At the other end of the spectrum, the lowest scoring question was in response to, “*I know my local community / neighbours much better*”, with only 42% agreeing. Again, the LGA noted increased community spirit and familiarity with neighbours was experienced by many in the initial lockdown, however for most of the research group, this change was shallow and will not translate into behaviour change or drive a fundamental change in attitude.

There was also a question about the Community Wellbeing Hub. Only 4% of respondents had contacted the Hub for help during the pandemic. Just over half of these were satisfied with the service they received, with a similar number likely to recommend it to friends and family.

Organisational Focus

The impact of the coronavirus on how the Council operates has been significant and solidified our thoughts about the type of organisation we want to be. We have a new outcomes-based management structure and operating framework, supported by a focused set of values and behaviours that encourage everyone to be their best. And with the huge change in working practices for the majority of staff, health and wellbeing has really come to the fore, which has led to a significant focus on the Council’s health and wellbeing practices.

Management Structure and Operating Framework

A new, simplified and equitable **senior management structure** has been put in place with roles that are more clearly aligned to the Council’s key functions. This will help with the challenge of developing a more modern and efficient organisation, while helping services deliver outcomes that can be clearly linked to the Corporate Strategy, enabling the Council to deliver its core purpose to improve people’s lives. Director roles will also map as closely as possible to political portfolios to ensure strong relationships with members and delivery of their manifesto commitments.

A new **operating framework** has also been agreed. The Council will operate with a functional structure with professional services managed as single central teams through a corporate core. This will be supported by strong, confident service functions, organised around **three themes** - Frontline / Service Operation, Place Shaping and Organisation Planning and Support.

Working Practices

The Council has reviewed the **way we work** as part of the Improving How We Work Programme. Prior to the pandemic, progress had been made on plans to adapt Keynsham Civic Centre to improve utilisation, create greater flexibility and enable more effective collaboration. In common with many organisations, the pandemic has significantly accelerated the progress of these plans.



Closure of Lewis House and St Martins
Reviewing most viable operating model for the Civic Centre
Remodelling of Civic Centre, Guildhall and The Hollies



Microsoft 365
Microsoft Teams
325 laptops distributed
Migrated Outlook to Cloud
Soft phones



Majority of staff formally 'based' at the Civic Centre from 1st April
Blended Working
Covid risk assessment
Health & Wellbeing programme
Internal engagement process

We have learned a great deal about how staff have adapted to working flexibly over the last year, with the majority working successfully from home either all or most of the time. This success has enabled us to agree a **blended working approach** for the future, giving staff **individual choice around where and when we work on a day-to-day basis, wherever sensibly possible.**

- ★ All staff will be given a laptop to ensure they have the necessary **equipment** and **technology** to continue doing their jobs effectively and efficiently
- ★ They will have the option to work from home 2 or 3 days a week.
- ★ Everyone will need to agree to and follow the principles set out in the **Blended Working Charter.**
- ★ The Council will **recognise** and **celebrate** everyone's successes in a timely way and commit to the **development** of all staff to enable each of them to be their best.

In tangent with the new working practices, we have completed a review of Council offices. With the closure of Lewis House and St Martins, the majority of staff are now formally 'based' at the Civic Centre in Keynsham. The Recovery Board is looking at the most viable operating model for the Civic Centre, which is undergoing some remodelling. The Hollies and Guildhall are undergoing a similar exercise although on a much smaller scale.

Health and Wellbeing

There are currently 1,670 staff accessing the Council remotely, with the majority of these working from home for the first time. This has given rise to concerns about employee social isolation and their mental and physical wellbeing. The Council has established a comprehensive **health and wellbeing programme** with staff wellbeing surveys undertaken in May, June and November 2020 to find out how they are coping and understand their needs.

Individual COVID Risk Assessment

1628 Individual COVID Risk Assessments completed online, 101 Individual COVID Risk Assessments completed offline (by Waste Services, Recycling Operations)

Total of: 1729 Individual COVID Risk Assessments completed

Wellness Action Plans (WAPs) *(resulting from an Individual COVID Risk Assessment)*

32 Staff, who did not request to work from an office location, indicated that working from home (due to COVID) was having a negative impact on their mental health.

All 32 staff were presented with information regarding additional help / measures that were available to aid them, including information on the use of Wellness Action Plans (WAPs)

Appendix 1 - Additional Successes and Outcomes from 2020/21

The following tables provide a summary of the press releases that collectively demonstrate how the Council is contributing towards its priorities, commitments and core policies set out in the [Corporate Strategy 2020-2024](#).

PRIORITY - Preparing for the Future

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
Local renewable energy Enable a step change in local renewable energy schemes including solar and wind power	Gas generator plans on hold - In Midsomer Norton, a successful petition by local residents concerned about the impact on air quality and climate change led to a flexible gas generation project being placed on hold. A greener solution is being investigated that will support the Council's climate emergency and clean air objectives to achieve net zero emissions by 2030.	23/11/2020
	Council's regeneration of Keynsham's former Civic Centre commended in national awards - The Council received a commendation for <i>Innovation in Property and Asset Management</i> in the MJ Awards for its regeneration of Keynsham's former civic centre. The challenging redevelopment by Aequus Construction Ltd , the Council's property company, led to the creation of 95 modern, affordable and sustainable homes (studios, and one and two-bedroom apartments), 80% of which are now sold.	10/09/2020
High-skill economy Promote a High-Skill economy	New employment and skills pod offers free career support - Bath and North East Somerset residents who want to get back to work or change career can now get tailored advice on training and upskilling from a new employment and skills pod. The service is part of the Community Wellbeing Hub and aims to support people who have been made redundant due to Covid-19, or those who are short or long term unemployed, to seek and attain work. The programme helps give jobseekers the structure, direction and practical tools they need to progress towards securing new employment.	19/03/2021
	Bath Unlimited launches '21 for 2021' campaign - Bath Unlimited has launched a new campaign highlighting the achievements of more of the area's dynamic, successful, world class companies and their talented employees.	06/01/2021

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	Bath Unlimited goes live - A new website celebrating and promoting Bath's dynamic, successful, world-class companies and their talented employees was launched last October. Part of the 'Bath Unlimited' campaign, www.bathunlimited.org is designed to support 'Invest in Bath' in attracting new inward investment by increasing awareness of the area's flourishing businesses and promoting the wealth of talent and expertise in the local workforce.	01/10/2020
	Celebrating the unlimited potential and ambition of businesses in Bath & North East Somerset - The breadth and range of expertise across different sectors is vast and as we work to recover from the impact of COVID-19, we are increasing awareness and raising the profile of these exceptional firms, their products and the expertise and skills they can offer in the global marketplace, with developments such as Bath Quays and the Somer Valley Enterprise Zone leading the way and creating new workspaces.	22/09/2020
	Business and education leaders work for renewal of Bath and North East Somerset's economy - The Council has created a new Economic Renewal Partnership to support a renewed Bath and North East Somerset economy post-lockdown. The group, which includes representation from tech, culture, manufacturing, services, tourism and education sectors, is focusing on rebuilding confidence in the area as a safe, sustainable and green place to visit.	10/06/2020
New technologies Maximise opportunities from new technologies to improve and deliver efficient, modern services	Virtual music lessons keeping the beat going in Bath and North East Somerset - Hundreds of children missing out on school-based music lessons during coronavirus are carrying on playing and singing thanks to online tuition set up by the Council in partnership with Musictutors.co.uk . The Council's music service team has arranged a safe, bespoke online teaching platform that allows pupils to enjoy lessons virtually with their usual tutor in real time on a range of instruments. More than 500 children have already signed up to the service with the number of applications increasing daily.	05/05/2020
	Virtual council meetings to start in Bath and North East Somerset - As part of its response to keeping Council business running during the Covid-19 outbreak, the Council's first virtual meeting was its Planning Committee on 6 th May while the Cabinet held its first public meeting virtually on 29 th May.	01/05/2020

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	The council has also established an extensive programme of webinars .	
Green local economy Support the transition to a green, local economy	Bath named as one of the best places to live and do business in - Bath has been named as one of the top places in the country to live and do business in, according to a new study. The annual Vitality Index carried out by property company Lambert Smith Hampton highlights Bath as the third best performing location in the county when assessed against a range of factors including the local economy, health outcomes and the environment. It follows two separate reports published last year which named Bath as the most progressive city in the UK and the second-best location in the country to work from home.	09/03/2021
	Drop in and switch on to energy saving tips and tricks - The Energy at Home Advice Service, run on the council's behalf by the Centre for Sustainable Energy, is holding sessions to give residents a better understanding of how to save energy through heating and insulation improvements as well as information on smart meters and lowering their fuel bills by switching energy suppliers. The events in Keynsham, Midsomer Norton and Bath will give people the lowdown on how to improve energy efficiency to how to keep their homes warmer and more comfortable.	17/11/2020
	Cargo bike grant boosts low emission deliveries in Bath - Following a successful £40,000 bid by the Council to the Energy Savings Trust earlier this year, 10 new electrically assisted cargo bikes have arrived on the streets of Bath to help businesses make sustainable, pollution-free deliveries. The Grapes Freehouse, Bath Business Improvement District, 6 City View and the Council's Parks Team have all incorporated their e-cargo bikes into daily operations, while Three Bags Full and WeGo have expanded their existing fleets. We also have four e-cargo bikes to loan out free to businesses, organisations and charities looking to test them before investing in their own.	21/08/2020
	Thank you to Bath businesses for 'shutting the door' - A big thank you has gone out to more than 130 shops and businesses across Bath for backing a simple energy-saving scheme. The 'Shut the Door' campaign encourages high street businesses to reduce their carbon footprint and cut their energy bills. Its aim is to get shops, restaurants and cafés to keep their doors closed during the	15/04/2020

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	working day to save energy and is supported by the Council and Bath BID.	
<p data-bbox="163 687 537 810">Walking micro mobility (cycling) car-sharing buses and rail</p> <p data-bbox="163 871 560 1042">Enable a major shift to walking, micro mobility (cycling), car-sharing, buses, and rail</p>	<p data-bbox="600 316 1888 807">New Bath River Line project to create a linear park for walking and cycling - A Bath River Line project has been launched to develop a landscape masterplan for a new riverside park that will follow a 10km stretch of the River Avon from Batheaston to Newbridge. The park aims to reveal lesser-known parts of the river, connect communities and create a high-quality route for walking and cycling, encouraging more people to explore the city in a sustainable way. Wildlife found along the river will be celebrated and protected by having their habitats improved, and the park will also provide areas where people can stop and enjoy the landscape, play spaces for children and spaces to celebrate the art and heritage of Bath. Residents are asked to visit the new Bath River Line website which features an interactive map, where they can share what they do and don't like about the proposed route. There will be a consultation on the final design early summer and residents will be invited to have their say before a funding bid is made to the WECA in the autumn.</p>	<p data-bbox="1921 547 2067 579">18/03/2021</p>
	<p data-bbox="600 823 1888 1134">Chew Stoke School scores gold for sustainable travel - Chew Stoke Church School has become the second school in Bath and North East Somerset to achieve a gold national award for promoting walking, cycling and sustainable travel. Modeshift STARS is a national accreditation scheme that recognises schools that champion healthy and active ways to travel to and from school, as well as embedding those habits for pupils in later life. Since the school engaged the whole school community on road safety and the importance of walking, cycling and scooting, it has seen a significant reduction in cars parking outside the school and families that need to drive choosing to 'park and stride'.</p>	<p data-bbox="1921 967 2067 999">02/03/2021</p>
	<p data-bbox="600 1150 1888 1412">Consultation for active travel schemes launched - Consultation has opened on proposed schemes that could see improved walking and cycling on the A4 Upper Bristol Road and from the city centre to Bath University along North Road using Active Travel funding. An additional improvement scheme from Combe Down to Bath University is also being consulted on (funded separately by the Council's Transport Improvement programme). Active Travel funding was launched in May 2020 by the Department for Transport in response to Covid-19 as the country came out of the first lockdown. A</p>	<p data-bbox="1921 1270 2067 1302">22/02/2021</p>

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	<p>second tranche of funding was made available for permanent schemes focused on providing an alternative for journeys that people may previously have made using public transport and also to help enable more people to walk and cycle for short, local trips. Through the WECA, the Council submitted a successful bid to the Department for Transport for Active Travel funding and is now consulting on the following schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The A4 Upper Bristol Road scheme proposes to install new cycle lanes that are separate from motor traffic, between Midland Road and Charlotte Street. Road crossings will be prioritised for those on foot, a section of on-street parking bays will need to be removed and some of these will be re-provided nearby. • The Bath city centre to University of Bath scheme proposes a new continuous cycle route using new cycle lanes separated from motor traffic along Beckford Rd, an experimental closure of North Road as well as off-road cycle lanes. Some on-street parking will need to be re-provided nearby. 	
	<p>Chew Valley walking and cycling trail plans move a step forward - Plans to create a new 2.7km walking and cycling trail around Chew Valley Lake are set to take a step forward if councillors approve a funding proposal. A single member decision report says the WECA has agreed £1,005,800 from its Investment Fund to deliver this project, which is one of several schemes under a regional Green Infrastructure programme, to support the West of England Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy. Bristol Water which owns the reservoir has allocated funds and the Council has secured a £506,685.00 Rural Development Programme for England grant. The project would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of new 840m off-road shared use path between Woodford Lodge and Walley Lane • Realignment of the road over the dam which will widen the existing footway to provide a segregated cycle / pedestrian path and reduce the road width and speed improving road safety. • Construction of a shared use path between the dam to the north and Hollowbrook Road including replacing an existing narrow footbridge (total length 1.5km). • Proposed route surface is an all-weather route that would allow year-round use. 	29/01/2021

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating a trail that links to existing cycle and walking routes and is a safer route between communities with the reduction of traffic speeds on the dam. 	
	West of England e-scooter trial expands - Following the successful launch of the WECA's e-scooter trial in October the operating area for e-scooters has been expanded in Bristol and Bath.	06/01/2021
	Consultation plan for active travel schemes launched - In May 2020, we were awarded £500k by the Department for Transport who set up an Active Travel Fund in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to encourage more active travel as the country came out of the first lockdown. The first tranche of funding was for temporary highway schemes to aid social distancing and help enable more journeys to be taken by walking and cycling by reallocating road space. The council installed a number of measures including pavement widening at 15 locations in Bath, turning a number of roads in Bath city centre and Keynsham High Street into pedestrian and cycle zones, and automating pedestrian crossings at the busiest traffic signal junctions so that people didn't need to push the button to activate the crossing.	11/12/2020
	New project championing Bath's green spaces as a walking and cycling destination - A project to encourage people to explore Bath's green spaces along with visiting its historic landmarks was launched in November. ' Our Landscape City ' connects Bath with its surrounding landscape and champions the city as a walking and cycling destination as well as a heritage destination, encouraging visitors beyond the city centre to support the local economy. A large map showing the walking and cycling routes from the centre of Bath to green spaces has been installed in a shop in Cheap Street. The map shows the duration of each walk based on an average walking speed of two miles an hour, along with the facilities available at each location. QR codes direct people to the Bathscape website and a new area on the Council website highlighting the walking opportunities, information and support available across the district.	20/11/2020
	Bath & North East Somerset residents set to benefit from new walking and cycling schemes	14/11/2020

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	More cargo bikes boost sustainable deliveries across Bath	11/11/2020
	Facelift for Kingsmead Square with installation of new parklets - Two specially designed parklets and new cycle racks have been installed in Bath's Kingsmead Square as part of works to improve the evening economy and create a cleaner, greener public space, rebalanced in favour of pedestrians and cyclists. The parklets, which incorporate seating and attractive planting, have been positioned by the Council in former car parking bays. It follows extensive consultation with local traders and the extension of temporary vehicle access restrictions in the Square, introduced in response to Covid-19	28/10/2020
	New timings for Keynsham High Street closure - Following discussions with residents and businesses, reduced hours for the temporary closure of Keynsham High Street to provide more space for social distancing came into effect in October. This allows greater opportunities for vulnerable people to access the shops and services they need and gives businesses more time to access their premises.	22/10/2020
	Milsom Street bus gate cameras to be switched on - Automatic number plate recognition cameras for the bus gate at the junction of Milsom Street and George Street in Bath are now in force. The vehicle restriction allows only buses to travel along the one-way Milsom Street up to the junction with Quiet Street between 10am and 6pm to provide more space for people to keep their distance and enjoy the health and environmental benefits of a traffic-free zone.	22/10/2020
	Proposals for 20mph limits in Bath - In response to the Government Gear Change Plan to encourage walking, bike travel, improve air quality and reduce the risk of accidents, proposals have been put forward for permanent 20mph speed limits outside Bath city centre. This will be the first time we have introduced these limits on busier roads which predominantly carry through traffic.	14/10/2020
	Bathwick towpath reopened following improvement works - The popular Bathwick Towpath has been made safer and more pleasant for walkers, cyclists and boaters following the completion of major works by the Canal & River Trust and support from local volunteers from the Bath Towpath Taskforce. The project was one of 35 design ideas to improve Bath's waterways under the Council's WaterSpace project and included reinstating a long stretch of badly eroded bank, addressing bank	13/10/2020

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	collapse and creating new habitats for wildlife between Cleveland House and Bathwick Hill. Mooring conditions have also been improved, the path resurfaced, and conservation and improvement work carried out on the ramp to the historic Grade II listed Bathwick Bridge.	
	Cyclist friendly traffic signals installed in Queen Square - New traffic signals which give cyclists a head start over other traffic have been turned on in Bath's Queen Square. The signals, which have been installed as part of the preparations for the introduction of the Clean Air Zone due to come into effect next year, are the first of their kind in Bath and North East Somerset. They feature low level signals for cyclists and, on the approaches to some junctions, allow cyclists to safely move off ahead of other vehicles by giving a cycling only green signal before other road traffic is released.	02/10/2020
	Hallatrow and High Littleton communities to be connected by new footway - The construction of a new footway to connect Hallatrow with High Littleton is being built by the Council to make it safe for residents to walk between the two villages and access local facilities without having to use a car. As well as creating the new footway, the scheme will also divert some existing overhead cables underground.	01/10/2020
	Kingsmead Square and York Street to be pedestrianised between 10am and 10pm - Following positive feedback and discussions with traders, the Council has agreed to further support social distancing and the evening economy by extending the vehicle access restrictions introduced in response to Covid-19 in Kingsmead Square and York Street. From Monday 5 October access restrictions will apply from 10am until 10pm with vehicle access controlled by gates and bollards. Outside these hours, vehicles will be allowed as usual.	25/09/2020
	£1.1m investment for Keynsham to improve historic high street - The Council was successful in winning two funding bids from this Historic England fund (for Midsomer Norton and Keynsham), with 68 projects receiving funding nationally, and only eight other successful projects being earmarked for funding in the South West. The Keynsham High Street Heritage Action Zone is formed of the Upper High Street, the main High Street and Temple Street. The funding will enable public realm works,	19/09/2020

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	improvements to shop fronts and supporting the development of a cultural programme to help create a more vibrant high street environment.	
	Bathscape Walking Festival gets underway - Bathscape's walking festival is underway, showcasing Bath as a fantastic walking destination and landscape city. The format of the festival is different to previous years with activities done in household groups and via self-guided walks. New walking trails can be downloaded, including a family walk around Englishcombe and the Cleveland Pools Trust new walk. People can enjoy videos of previous walks, including the popular Bath Story Walk and Haile Selassie's time in Bath, then retrace the routes themselves. There is also the chance to join a live zoom walk or go on a mindfulness tour of Sydney Gardens.	15/09/2020
	Milsom Street vehicle restriction creates a safe space for pedestrians – A temporary bus gate at the junction of Milsom Street and George Street in Bath allows only buses to travel along the one-way Milsom Street up to the junction with Quiet Street between 10am and 6pm, providing more space for people to keep their distance and enjoy the health and environmental benefits of a traffic-free zone. The Council has put in place temporary traffic restrictions in other parts of Bath and in Keynsham to protect public health, make walking and cycling safer and encourage active travel.	09/09/2020
	Ten new schemes proposed for better walking and cycling in B&NES -	19/08/2020
	Midsomer Norton set for £2m boost to improve historic high street - A £2 million cash injection to maintain the unique character of Midsomer Norton high street has taken another step forward. The investment would form part of a renewal funding package to be spent on developing a new market square next to the Town Hall, a new pedestrian passageway between the High St and the car park, renewed shopfront signage and other initiatives including planting schemes and pop-up shops.	19/08/2020
	New seats and improved river access at Norfolk Crescent Green - Residents of Kingsmead will be able to enjoy improved access to the River Avon and make use of new seats while enjoying their surroundings thanks to funding from the Council and local ward councillors. The improvement works at Norfolk Crescent Green are a joint project between Bristol and Bath Parks Foundation and the	12/08/2020

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	Council's Parks Service who have worked with residents to find ways to improve this much-loved green space. The money will pay for three new seats on the Green, the creation of new steps on the riverbank and will create opportunities for local people to get involved with installing them.	
Carbon neutral development and energy efficiency retrofitting Encourage a large and rapid improvement in the energy efficiency of our area's buildings through carbon neutral development and energy efficiency retrofitting of the majority of existing building stock	Green affordable warmth grant extended - More low-income householders across Bath and North East Somerset are now eligible for financial help to make energy efficiency improvements to their homes. The Council has won additional funding from the government to expand its Green Home Grants Scheme and for the first time is extending the scheme to houses with a D energy rating as well as those with an E, F or G rating. Residents of qualifying properties can apply for the Green Affordable Warmth Grant to upgrade their home with double glazing, insulation or low carbon-heating.	23/03/2021
	More than £2m funding secured to cut carbon emissions in buildings - The drive to reduce carbon emissions from buildings in Bath and North East Somerset to help tackle the climate emergency has received a boost with more than £2m of Government funding won for key projects.	19/03/2021
	New 'retrofit' installers directory to help make energy efficient - Research carried out by the Council shows 38% of direct carbon emissions across the district come from homes. Reducing these carbon emissions will save people money on heating bills and contribute to the Council's goal of achieving carbon-neutrality across the district by 2030. To help achieve this, the Council's Energy At Home Information Service has created an Installers Network for tradespeople who fit energy efficiency home improvements to existing buildings, together with a directory that allows people to easily find approved installers.	16/11/2020
Natural environment carbon stores and biodiversity Increase natural stores and biodiversity - for example through planting more trees –	Five parks in Bath win international Green Flag awards - Five of the Council's parks have been recognised in this year's Green Flag awards for meeting the highest quality standards used as an international benchmark for being well-managed. A survey carried out by the Council in May found that 61.5% of responders valued parks more since Covid-19, with Royal Victoria Park seeing a huge upturn in visitor numbers this year.	21/10/2020
	Work begins to revive Bath's Sydney Gardens following funding boost - A year-long project to	06/10/2020

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
and improve our biodiversity, habitat and land management	rejuvenate the UK's only surviving Georgian Pleasure Garden has commenced. Sydney Gardens will benefit from a new large play area for all ages, improved tennis courts and a new Community Pavilion in a major project joint-funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and The National Lottery Community Fund. Conservation work will be carried out on the key listed buildings, the Temple of Minerva and Loggia and the Edwardian iron toilet facilities will be restored. The Council's Parks Team is leading the refurbishment project, named Sydney Gardens: a 21st Century Pleasure Garden.	
	Pop-up contactless garden centre opens in Bath - Plants originally grown for the launch of the Urban Garden social enterprise to help disadvantaged adults will go on sale at a pop-up garden centre in Royal Victoria Park. Now planned for opening in 2021, the Urban Garden will be run by the Bath based community interest company Grow Yourself as a social enterprise providing horticultural therapies and qualifications to help change the lives of people who have difficulty finding employment or have low-level mental health issues.	22/05/2020
	Residents asked to count wildlife from their own homes for international City Nature Challenge As the third annual global City Nature Challenge gets underway, residents are invited to spot wildlife from home and help the region keep the title of 'top observers in Europe'. The free event by the Natural History Consortium asks people to spot wildlife from their windows, gardens and balconies and is ideal for something people can do at home during the pandemic. The Bristol and Bath city region currently holds the title for most observations in Europe and residents are asked to join the challenge between April 24 and 27 to help keep the top spot for the third straight year.	16/04/2020

PRIORITY - Delivering for Local Residents

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
<p>Carbon-neutral social and affordable housing</p> <p>Deliver more carbon neutral, social and affordable housing and ensure that our Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO) policies put communities first</p>	<p>New homes plan for former council offices - Plans to develop former Council offices and turn them into six energy-efficient apartments aimed at first-time buyers are a step closer, after a challenge to a cabinet member's decision was rejected. The property, 117 Newbridge Hill in Bath, is a large Victorian building previously used as offices by the Children's Services Team. It is now surplus to council requirements and has been empty since 2019. The Council is therefore applying additional conditions, formally known as voluntary conditions, to ensure that the development meets its wider strategic aims. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of apartments aimed young professionals and first-time buyers • Improved sustainability and energy efficiency; and • Prohibiting student accommodation, holiday lets or Houses in Multiple Occupation. 	09/02/2021
	<p>Council takes action on long term empty homes - Owners of empty properties that have been vacant for 10 years or more are being encouraged to bring them back into use with an additional 300% premium being introduced to Council Tax charges from 1st April this year. The council is highlighting the advice and financial support it offers to owners of empty homes, through loans, grants and VAT reduction. There is also advice and practical support available helping owners to avoid enforcement action. There are currently 24 homes in B&NES that have been empty for 10+ years. The council wants to drive this number down by encouraging owners to bring them back into use, helping to meet housing demand across Bath and North East Somerset.</p>	26/01/2021
	<p>Council prosecution over licensing of House in Multiple Occupation results in £10,000 fine – Acting on information received that a property in Bathwick Street was likely to be operating as an illegal House in Multiple Occupation (HMO), the Council's Housing Services team carried out an inspection. Officers confirmed that the property should have been licensed under mandatory and additional licensing schemes. The court sentenced the owner to a fine of £10,000 and she was</p>	15/12/2020

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	ordered to pay the prosecution costs of £3,850 and the victim surcharge of £190.	
Energy efficient homes Ensure the council is an exemplar for low carbon, including the delivery of carbon neutral and energy efficient homes through our housing company	Solar panels ‘top out’ next milestone for low energy housing development in Bath - A development of nine energy-efficient family homes in Bath which will help provide affordable housing have reached the ‘topping out’ stage ahead of going on the market this Spring. The houses are being constructed sustainably, will be very low-carbon and have a range of energy-efficient measures including air-source heat pumps and solar panels.	01/02/2021
	Support available for warmer homes thanks to £580k funding boost - The Council has successfully bid for £500k for its Green Homes Grant scheme to help people make energy efficiency upgrades to their homes, such as double glazing, insulation or low carbon-heating, which will support residents in need alongside the £80,000 available from the council’s Affordable Warmth Grants.	23/11/2020
	Green Homes take the spotlight in energy efficiency webinar - The Council’s Green Homes webinar on will hear from three residents who have made carbon-cutting improvements to their homes.	11/11/2020
Significant improvement of the transport infrastructure Facilitate significant improvement to the transport infrastructure and encourage behaviour change to forms of transport other than the private vehicle	Milsom Street closed for resurfacing ahead of high streets reopening - Bath’s historic Milsom Street is to receive a refresh ahead of lockdown restrictions being eased with the reopening of non-essential shops and the reintroduction of outdoor dining scheduled for next month. The entire length of Milsom Street, together with a section of New Bond Street, will be resurfaced at the end of March and heritage repairs will be carried out to replace missing kerbstones.	16/03/2021
	Council to consider changes to on street parking - Councillors are to consider introducing a series of changes to on street parking across Bath and North East Somerset. The proposals, which include basing residents’ parking permit charges on vehicle emissions, increasing the cost of on street parking and implementing on street charges on Sundays, are designed to improve air quality ensuring a safer environment for pedestrians by reducing the risks to them posed by air pollution, while also meeting the Council’s wider transport policy aims including reducing congestion and vehicle intrusion into neighbourhoods.	12/02/2021
	Work to repair Cleveland Bridge to get under way this spring - The major engineering project	09/02/2021

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	<p>which is set to start mid-April is part of millions of pounds of investment in infrastructure projects happening this year to support the city's recovery and meet its future needs. The Grade II* listed bridge is a crucial link in the strategic road network between the A46 and the A36, carrying 17,000 vehicles every day. Surveys carried out by the Council have revealed that despite routine maintenance it now needs extensive major structural repairs. The project, funded through the Government's Highways Challenge Fund, is expected to take seven months to complete with the bridge closed to vehicles for 12 weeks from early May until early August. However, it is not until engineers are able to inspect the bridge, following its closure, that a timeline can be confirmed.</p>	
	<p>Two-month countdown to Bath's Clean Air Zone - Businesses and individuals across the south west are being asked to check whether they will need to pay to drive their vehicles in Bath's Clean Air Zone ahead of its launch on 15 March. They can check using GOV.UK's vehicle checker at www.gov.uk/check-clean-air-zone-charge.</p>	18/01/2021
	<p>Test run for Bath's Clean Air Zone - From 1st December, the Council is installing 140 signs in and around the Clean Air Zone (CAZ) boundary in central Bath, warning drivers that CAZ charges will start from 15 March 2021 for certain vehicles. The temporary covers will then be taken off overnight on 14 March to reveal permanent signs informing drivers that they are entering a Class C Charging CAZ. At the same time, up to 70 automatic number plate recognition cameras will be turned on so that the council can test its enforcement systems for non-compliant vehicles driving in the zone.</p>	01/12/2020
	<p>Public consultation to shape the future of Midsomer Norton town centre - Proposals to regenerate Midsomer Norton High Street and create an attractive multi-use public space have been unveiled with residents are encouraged to give their views. The online public consultation on the designs are part of the High Street's Heritage Action Zone programme to enhance the historic character of the town. The proposals for the open space and market square outside the Town Hall aim to provide a welcoming, safe and attractive place that enhances the western end of the High Street and supports local retailers, as well as creating a space for markets and cultural events.</p>	27/11/2020

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	Have your say on security proposals for Bath City Centre - Together with Avon & Somerset Police, the Council has been working to ensure the city centre is safe, secure and welcoming for the people who live, work and visit here. City centre users are being asked for their views on proposals to permanently strengthen and improve on-street security within Bath's busiest streets and spaces by 2021. The proposals set out a series of measures that will begin to replace existing concrete barriers with a series of static and moving bollards that aim to fit within the character of the city.	16/11/2020
	Road resurfacing programme completed on time and on budget - Despite the challenges posed by Covid-19, the Council's Highways team has completed its road resurfacing programme on time and on budget. Thousands of potholes have been filled and working in partnership with its contractor Volker Highways, the Council has replaced more than 32 kilometres of worn out carriageway with thirty-five road resurfacing schemes.	10/11/2020
	Bath Quays bridge superstructure lift completed - The first new crossing point over the River Avon in Bath for a century is now successfully in place at Bath Quays. The bridge spans arrived in the UK in May in four pieces after having been fabricated in Belgium and were then assembled into two spans on site, ready for the lift to take place ahead of the bridge's completion in 2021. The whole operation was completed to programme and the construction team will now begin the process of dismantling the crane and carrying out the finishing works to the bridge.	09/11/2020
	Cleveland Bridge repairs - Work to repair Bath's historic Cleveland Bridge is set to start in the spring/summer of 2021 following the approval of listed building consent by councillors. The bridge is a crucial link in the strategic road network between the A46 and the A36 and it carries approximately 17,000 vehicles.	22/10/2020
	Bath Quays Bridge superstructure to be installed - The superstructure of Bath Quays Bridge, a 60m long steel bridge which will link Bath Quays North and South and provide a new route for pedestrians and cyclists, will be lifted into place at the beginning of November. The Bath Quays development is the Council's flagship regeneration project and the bridge is an integral part of scheme,	20/10/2020

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	providing greater connectivity in the city.	
	Spring launch for Bath's Clean Air Zone - Bath's Clean Air Zone is set to launch on Monday 15 March 2021 as the first charging clean air zone in England outside of London. It will not charge private cars. It was due to be switched on in November but was delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic. The council is currently contacting more than 9,000 local businesses to help them establish whether charges will apply to their vehicles, and how to access the support on offer.	08/10/2020
	Council introduces new short stay parking for coaches - The Council will now be introducing three new on-street, short-stay coach parking bays in Pulteney Road and an additional three bays in Royal Avenue. Works to line and install signage for the new coach bays will be completed within a week.	01/10/2020
	Help to locate disabled parking bays - There are dozens of disabled access parking bays located across the city, but due to the introduction of social distancing measures, a number have been temporarily suspended. To ensure disabled motorists are supported to continue to park safely in accessible spaces, the Council has produced a map showing the location of all disabled access parking bays.	17/08/2020
	Bridge superstructure travels from Belgium to Bath to make first new crossing point over River Avon in Bath for 100 years - A 60m long steel bridge 'superstructure' destined to span the River Avon at the Bath Quays site is beginning its journey from Belgium to Bath this weekend. The prefabricated Bath Quays Bridge is being brought to the city in four parts on 12 and 19 May. On arrival at Bath Quays, each part of the bridge will be placed on temporary supports before the four parts are welded together over a period of several weeks. They will remain there until the foundations have been completed and the bridge can be lifted into position.	07/05/2020
	New roadworks permit scheme to cut traffic hold-ups - A scheme to give the Council more control over essential utility company roadworks and cause less inconvenience for drivers comes into effect today on 1 st May 2020. Utility companies are now required to book space on the road network instead of notifying the Council of their intended works. The street works permit scheme will allow the Council	01/05/2020

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	to agree conditions with companies on how long it will take to complete the works and also enable better co-ordination of when and how the roadworks take place.	
<p>Low traffic neighbourhoods</p> <p>Introduce 'low traffic neighbourhoods' working with schools and local communities</p>	<p>Council's cabinet asked to adopt key next steps towards Liveable Neighbourhood - Three ambitious strategies to improve air quality and health in Bath and North East Somerset, encourage more walking and cycling and reduce vehicles in residential areas could take a step forward next week.</p>	02/12/2021
	<p>Residents' views sought on liveable neighbourhoods - Residents are being asked via an online consultation for their views on the Council's ambitious proposals for liveable neighbourhoods, which will improve air quality and health, encourage more walking and cycling and reduce vehicles in residential areas. It has developed three strategies that would form the basis for liveable neighbourhoods, which it now wants people's views on - Low traffic neighbourhood strategy; Residents' parking schemes strategy; and On-street electric vehicle charging strategy.</p>	09/09/2020
	<p>Join the discussion on Liveable Neighbourhoods - Ambitious proposals to tackle the Climate Emergency and improve people's health by reducing vehicle use, promoting active travel and creating liveable communities across the district are to be discussed at a webinar on Monday. The Council has developed three complimentary strategies for low traffic neighbourhoods, residents' parking schemes and electric vehicle charging, which build on national and international best practice and are designed to help cut congestion, improve air quality, and reduce vehicle intrusion in residential neighbourhoods while encouraging more active travel.</p>	22/07/2020
	<p>Council unveils roadmaps to cut vehicle use improve health and tackle the Climate Emergency - see above. The proposed strategies will go before the Council's Climate Emergency & Sustainability Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel on 20th July.</p>	13/07/2020
	<p>Huge response to Liveable Neighbourhoods - Residents are being asked for their help in shaping plans by identifying locations where more space can be created for walking and cycling, accessibility improved, or the impact of traffic reduced. Since launching the dedicated Liveable Neighbourhoods</p>	03/06/2020

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	website a week ago, the Council has received more than 2,000 suggestions.	
<p>Effective approach to fly-tipping and litter enforcement</p> <p>Have an effective approach to fly-tipping and litter enforcement as well as to city centre cleansing and trade waste</p>	<p>Litter picking blitz on main roads in Bath and North East Somerset - Litter in hedgerows and verges on the busiest high-speed roads across Bath and North East Somerset is being tackled in a seven-week clean-up operation. Traffic management will be in place as the teams clean up more than 150 miles of verges at a cost of £18,000 to the Council.</p>	16/02/2021
	<p>Don't turn your unwanted facemasks into litter plea - A plea has gone out urging people not to dump their used facemasks or gloves as litter in parks, open spaces and streets in Bath and North East Somerset. As part of the council's anti-littering campaign 'Don't be a tosser' a reminder is going out about properly disposing of unwanted face coverings, gloves or personal protective equipment.</p>	13/08/2020
	<p>'Don't be a tosser' message spreads across Bath & North East Somerset - The Council's new anti-littering campaign 'Don't be a tosser' has reached more communities in the district with further signs having been put up at key hotspots. The Council is reiterating that the notices are not intended to cause offence to anyone but that the message must be hard-hitting to tackle the issue.</p>	09/07/2020
	<p>Don't be a tosser take your litter home - A significant increase in rubbish left in parks and open spaces since lockdown eased has led to the Council launching an anti-littering campaign with the powerful message 'Don't be a tosser'. Temporary signs will soon be going up in parks and open spaces in Keynsham, Saltford and Bath in locations where littering has become a real problem.</p>	25/06/2020
	<p>Council urges people to stop littering - A call has gone out to residents to deal with their own litter responsibly after a huge increase in the amount of rubbish left in open spaces as lockdown restrictions ease. The Council's waste team reports a number of issues with bins overflowing and litter being left in parks, leading to staff and volunteers having to devote extra time to clean up after the public.</p>	12/06/2020
<p>Citizens' Juries to improve decision making</p> <p>Use new initiatives such as</p>	<p>Want to green your business? Sign up to take part in our special webinar - Businesses across Bath and North East Somerset wanting to cut their carbon emissions and reduce their environmental impact, are being urged to sign up to take part in a special webinar on 18th March at midday to find out about the support available. During the webinar, businesses will learn about measures they can take</p>	08/03/2021

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
Citizen's Juries to involve residents in decision making	<p>to go green and the help, including financial support, available to them and their will be a live Q&A.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Business Grants (carbon assessments and grants to help with costs of improving energy efficiency) • Large roof Solar schemes (BWCE's Community Solar project seeking roof space) • SME construction trade-specific opportunities (Future Proof) • Sustainable transport support (ranging from low carbon deliveries, Clean Air Zone support, helping your employees and improving staff facilities) • Related schemes on surplus food and business support 	
	<p>Join the discussion on active travel schemes for Bath - Proposed schemes to improve walking and cycling routes in Bath using £500k of government funding to encourage more active travel on routes with high bus patronage are the subject of an online event on 4th March. The council is consulting on two proposals which could see cycling and pedestrian improvements to A4 Upper Bristol Road and from the city centre to Bath University along North Road using Active Travel funding. An additional improvement scheme from Combe Down to Bath University is also being consulted on (funded separately from the Council's Transport Improvement programme).</p>	26/02/2021
	<p>Join in online to make your voice heard on local planning policy - Options for updating the Local Plan to address urgent issues in Bath and North East Somerset are the focus of a series of three webinars at which residents are invited to have their say. The details of each event, which can also be viewed afterwards on the Council's YouTube channel, are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 26th January at 12pm: Policy focus: HMOs • Tuesday 2nd February at 12pm: Policy focus: Housing Supply • Thursday 4th February at 12.30pm: Policy focus: Climate Emergency, zero carbon buildings & renewable energy. 	22/01/2021
	<p>Next steps in ambitious Bath & North East Somerset transport plans - A major transport consultation and invitations for expressions of interest on liveable neighbourhoods were launched</p>	15/01/2021

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	<p>today as part of the Council's next steps to tackle congestion, improve health and support more walking and cycling in Bath and North East Somerset. People are being encouraged to have their say on the city's transport system over the next decade, by taking part in the six-week consultation on the Bath Transport Delivery Action Plan. At the same time, all ward councillors are being invited to put forward expressions of interest for liveable neighbourhoods, residents' parking zones and electric vehicle parking within their respective wards.</p>	
	<p>Find out how planning policy is shaped for Bath and North East Somerset - How planning policy for Bath and North East Somerset is decided and the timescale for when residents will be able to have their say is the focus of a webinar on Monday (December 21).</p>	16/12/2020
	<p>Join our budget webinars and have your say - Proposals for the Council to address its predicted shortfall for the next financial year will be under discussion in a series of webinars starting next week with residents are invited to have their say. Three identical sessions will explore the Council's plans to deliver savings to live within its means whilst continuing to provide frontline services, increase council tax and invest in services differently. People will be able to email questions in advance or by using the Q&A feature during the live discussion. The council has also launched a new website page that allows people to view upcoming webinars, alongside the archive of the fourteen webinars that have already taken place this year with links to the videos - https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/webinars</p>	11/12/2020
<p>Tailor our approach to community engagement in Bath</p> <p>Tailor our approach to community engagement in Bath to reflect the needs of the City's residents</p>	<p>Archway Project awarded more than £350,000 in Culture Recovery Funding - The Archway Project to create a new World Heritage Centre and learning centre in Bath has been awarded a slice of the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Funding. Delayed due to the Covid pandemic, the project has received a Capital Kickstart Fund award of £359,600 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which helps heritage projects to restart planned work that currently face delays or increased costs. The Archway Project will convert former Victorian spa buildings close to the Roman Baths into a new World Heritage Centre, acting as a hub where residents and visitors will be able to discover more about the World Heritage Site of Bath. A new Roman Baths Clore Learning Centre is also part of the</p>	19/02/2021

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	project and will create a much-needed space for school groups. Two purpose-built classrooms and a new Investigation Zone will allow children to learn more about the stories and extraordinary archaeology of Roman Baths, while surrounded by inspiring Roman remains. The project will also open up Roman remains at the Baths which have never been available to the public before.	
	Asset transfer plan sets out proposals to secure future of Bathampton Meadows - The future of Bathampton Meadows as a green space and wildlife habitat could be secured in a deal with the National Trust under proposals to be the Council. A report states transferring ownership of the 24-hectare site to the National Trust would ensure more of the land is opened-up to the public while being protected in perpetuity for future generations. Improvements in land management would also bring environmental benefits. The deal would form part of the Bath River Line project and aligns with the Council's policy on Community Asset Transfers, the aim of which is to help secure community benefits in line with the Council priorities and objectives.	12/02/2021
	Appointing new operators for Entry Hill and Approach leisure sites in Bath reaches final stages - Moves to extend and enhance community leisure provision at the Entry Hill and Approach golf courses in Bath by appointing new operators are reaching their final stages. This follows an open procurement exercise started by the Council in August 2020 to find a new operator or operators to run the sites for community and sporting provision and attract more residents to enjoy outdoor exercise.	03/02/2021
	Bath at Christmas shop project fills Bath with Christmas cheer - Festive decorations including a series of striking shop window animations encouraging residents to stay safe and shop locally have gone up in Bath city centre.	11/12/2020
	Have your say at the first Bath Area Forum - All residents are invited to take part in the first Bath Area Forum which will be held as a webinar on 25 th August and have a say about issues in the city that affect them. The first meeting will include a discussion on 'Response, Recovery and Resilient Communities'.	18/08/2020
	New Community Wardens for Bath - Regular engagement with Bath's student community and	06/08/2020

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	building on positive relationships with long term residents will be some of the tasks for two new Community Wardens funded by the Council. The £105,000 funding for the new posts runs from September 2020 for three years and is one of five projects to share more than £500,000 from the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund (see below).	
	Community projects to benefit from £500k funding - New community wardens, improved pedestrian safety and better support for young people are among the projects in Bath to share a £500,000 funding boost from the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Projects sharing the funding boost are £125,000 towards the installation of a new pedestrian crossing, £123,215 towards the cost of road improvements, £80,000 towards the build costs for a new rotunda, £105,000 to fund two community wardens in Bath, and £89,638 to fund a youth service.	29/07/2020
	Bereavement charity says a big thank you for £10,000 donation - The Council has donated £10k raised from the recycling of metals reclaimed from Bath's Haycombe Crematorium to local counselling charity The Harbour, which provides counselling support for adults facing death, dying, or bereavement.	07/07/2020
Community Engagement Charter Build on our Parish Charter with a new Community Engagement Charter which outlines our commitments and framework for engaging with local residents across the whole of the B&NES area	See 'Core Policy - Giving People a Bigger Say' on page 55	-

PRIORITY - Focusing on Prevention

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
Local Outbreak Management Plan	See the 'Covid-19 Press Release' table at on page 48	-
Statutory health and care services Deliver statutory health and care services for children and adults as effectively as possible	New director of public health for Bath and North East Somerset - A new Director of Public Health has been appointed by the Council ahead of the retirement of the present director, Dr Bruce Laurence.	25/03/2021
	£50k to support residents in fuel poverty this winter - The Council has allocated £50,000 from the Covid Winter Grant Scheme funding to support residents who have been affected by the Covid pandemic, are vulnerable or are in fuel poverty. Residents can apply to Citizens Advice BANES for the electronic fuel vouchers, which can be exchanged in shops and with suppliers to be charged to key meters or electricity and gas accounts. The value of the vouchers are £28 for a single person and £49 for a family or couple.	29/01/2021
	Shared lives carers can apply for supplier relief - A group of carers who provide support to adults with learning disabilities and whose work has been affected by Covid-19 can apply for financial support following a Bath & North East Somerset Council decision.	05/01/2021
	A big thank you from our care homes - Care home residents across Bath and North East Somerset are saying a big thank you to the children, church groups, businesses and individuals who helped to brighten their Christmas this year.	29/12/2020
	Now is a great time to quit - Smokers across Bath and North East Somerset are being urged to make 2021 the year they quit.	21/12/2020
	Making Christmas special for sheltered housing residents - Extra care tenants and staff at Greenacres Court in Midsomer Norton will tuck into a fantastic Christmas dinner this year thanks to the generosity of the local branch of the TSB.	09/12/2020
	Council joins regional campaign to recruit more foster carers - All local authorities across the	09/12/2020

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	South West need more foster carers to come forward to care for children who for a variety of reasons cannot live with their birth families and need short or long-term placements. There are currently 186 children in care in Bath and North East Somerset.	
	Shining a light on care leavers and the support services they rely on - To mark Care Leavers' Week, the Council is highlighting the achievements of young people leaving care and the support provided by its 'Moving On' team in helping them make the transition to independent living.	21/10/2020
	Could you make a difference by offering a young person in care a foster home - There are more than 180 children currently being looked after by the Council and the number of children needing foster homes continues to grow. Foster carers come from all backgrounds and bring a wide range of life and work experiences. Children in care are likely to have experienced traumatic periods in their early lives and foster carers are trained and supported to develop the skills needed to meet their needs.	11/09/2020
	Young Ambassadors to help shape Children's Care Services - Young Ambassadors are being recruited to help shape Children's Care Services across Bath and North East Somerset. The Ambassadors will ensure that the voices of children and young people are heard and that their views are at the heart of decision making.	16/07/2020
	Protecting vulnerable adults in Bath and North East Somerset - The five safeguarding boards across the Avon & Somerset area are coming together during the week-long Stop Adult Abuse campaign which this year has the theme of 'Looking after your community'. During lockdown, there has been an increase in abuse of vulnerable people in their homes through cuckooing.	15/06/2020
	Making caring visible in Bath and North East Somerset - To mark Carers Week, B&NES Carers' Centre is joining a national campaign 'Making Caring Visible' to emphasise that many of the 20,000 carers in the district have found their roles increasingly difficult during the coronavirus pandemic.	11/06/2020
	Council highlights Youth Offending Service support in national Volunteers' Week - Excellent work by a panel of volunteers to support young offenders giving back to the community is being highlighted by the Council during a national week of celebration for volunteering. The panel represents	04/06/2020

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	the community and aims to help young people who have committed an offence, pled guilty in front of a magistrate and been given a referral order to not offend again.	
	Council calls for more foster carers in Foster Care Fortnight - The Council is asking residents if they could take their first step towards fostering at the start of a national fortnight celebrating the work of foster carers. It is the UK's biggest foster care awareness campaign delivered by leading charity The Fostering Network to showcase the commitment, passion and dedication of foster carers.	11/05/2020
Preventative approaches Prioritise preventative approaches so that people can stay healthy, we can tackle issues at the earliest stage and ensure a better quality of life for our local residents	Community Wellbeing Hub to continue to provide support once shielding ends - Residents who are clinically extremely vulnerable are being reassured they will still be able to receive support from Bath and North East Somerset's Community Wellbeing Hub once shielding ends. It is writing to those currently on the shielding list in Bath and North East Somerset, advising them that the support it provides will continue throughout the pandemic and beyond.	30/03/2021
	Safety for women - council leader statement - Women councillors across Council have expressed their heartfelt sympathies to the family of Sarah Everard and pledged to work together for greater safety for women.	17/03/2021
	Vehicle charging scheme to cut air pollution launches in Bath - Today the UK's first charging clean air zone (CAZ) outside of London launches to drive down harmful pollution and protect public health. From midnight, polluting vehicles will be charged £9 or £100 a day to drive in the centre of Bath. Private cars and motorbikes will not be charged. The scheme is designed to tackle Bath's air pollution problem which is chiefly caused by vehicle emissions. Several areas in the city regularly exceed the legal limits for nitrogen dioxide (NO2) pollution, even during lockdown.	15/03/2021
	Find out how quitting smoking can improve your mental health - Smokers who want to find out more about quitting and the effect of smoking on stress and mental health are invited to a free online event on national No Smoking Day (10 th March).	08/03/2021
	Share your experience of how urban gulls have affected you - The Council is gathering evidence about the effect urban gulls can have on people as part of an application to Natural England for a	05/03/2021

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	<p>licence to control gull populations in urban areas. Herring gulls and lesser black backed gulls that are regularly seen in urban areas in Bath and North East Somerset are protected by law. It is illegal to injure the birds, eggs and their nests without consent from Natural England, who only issue licences to allow interference with nests and eggs in very specific situations. Applications for the licences must demonstrate that action is needed for reasons of public health or public safety. In order to gather evidence that there is a real need for controlling gull populations in B&NES, residents are invited to submit their views at https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/form/report-gulls</p>	
	<p>Next steps for City Centre Security plans - Residents and businesses are being updated about the next steps on plans to permanently strengthen and improve on-street security within Bath's busiest streets. The Council and Avon & Somerset Police have re-emphasised the need for robust measures to reduce the risk of terrorism in the city. More than 500 consultation responses were received on the Council's proposed security measures to keep the city's crowded streets and spaces safe and secure from the threat of terrorism.</p>	25/02/2021
	<p>Scam alert - residents need to be vigilant as criminals offer COVID-19 vaccine - Across the UK, members of the public have received fraudulent text messages claiming to be from the NHS offering them the opportunity to sign up for the Covid-19 vaccine. The texts ask the recipient to click on a link which takes them to an online form where they are prompted to input personal and financial details. In some cases the online form looks very similar to the real NHS website.</p>	13/01/2021
	<p>Exercise don't socialise in our parks warning - Residents are being reminded they can exercise but not socialise in parks and open spaces under government rules on lockdown. And skateboarders are being told not to use Royal Victoria Park's skate park which is closed to prevent the spread of coronavirus, nor should they use Alice Park.</p>	12/01/2021
	<p>Wellbeing Hub supports healthy eating - Families are being supported to make healthier eating choices thanks to the Community Wellbeing Hub, a collaboration between the Council, Virgin Care and 3SG to provide a range of support to residents during the coronavirus pandemic. One of the most</p>	16/12/2020

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	popular food support services they offer are cookery courses, which teach participants how to cook a range of low-cost, healthy, nutritionally balanced meals while providing information on food hygiene, labelling, budgeting and meal planning.	
	How to double your chances of staying alcohol free in Dry January - Research shows many people are drinking more heavily since the COVID-19 pandemic began, with almost one in three people saying they have drunk more in 2020 than in 2019. Residents are being encouraged to take on Dry January and double their chances of staying alcohol free for the month by downloading Alcohol Change UK's free support app, Try Dry.	16/12/2020
	Have your say on security proposals for Bath City Centre - Together with Avon & Somerset Police, the Council has been working to ensure the city centre is safe, secure and welcoming for the people who live, work and visit here. City centre users are being asked for their views on proposals to permanently strengthen and improve on-street security within Bath's busiest streets and spaces by 2021. The proposals set out a series of measures that will begin to replace existing concrete barriers with a series of static and moving bollards that aim to fit within the character of the city.	16/11/2020
	Supporting residents facing food poverty during lockdown - Alongside the Community Wellbeing Hub, FOOD clubs, pantries and food banks are proving a lifeline for hundreds of people who have lost their jobs or seen their income reduced as a result of the pandemic. The food banks in Bath, Keynsham and the Somer Valley provide food to clients in crisis who are referred for emergency support from organisations such as Citizens Advice and the Council.	10/11/2020
	Community support hub ready to help vulnerable during lockdown - As the country enters a second national lockdown the Community Wellbeing Hub, previously known as the Compassionate Community Hub, stands ready to support vulnerable people. Over the past seven months the hub has received 8,700 calls, delivered 394 emergency food parcels and supported hundreds of people with help from a volunteer for shopping and medication pick-ups.	05/11/2020
	Action to ensure families hit hardest by Covid-19 don't go hungry - Community groups,	20/10/2020

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	churches, charities, Family Centres are being supported by the Council to help families on low incomes access high quality affordable food. The projects are supplied with fresh, chilled and store cupboard food from a variety of sources including Fareshare Southwest and CropDrop. For a nominal weekly fee, residents can become FOOD Club or Pantry member and carry out a small shop for a fraction of the price they'd pay in a supermarket.	
	Grants available to support community-based action against violence - The Bath and North East Somerset Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership is offering Violence Reduction Grants of up to £10,000 from its Community Fund to projects which help build safer communities.	14/10/2020
	Council reviews leisure provision to support people's health - A report recommending a more sustainable business model for the Council's leisure facilities in the wake of Covid-19 and continues to support residents' health and wellbeing will go before Cabinet. It makes a number of recommendations to reduce the financial impact of the pandemic across the leisure industry at the same time as tackling obesity and improving people's physical and mental health.	30/09/2020
	Don't fall victim to unscrupulous traders - Residents are being warned to beware of unscrupulous traders trying to scam them out of money, with the Trading Standards team seeing an upsurge in the number of complaints from people who have been telephoned and offered loft insulation.	28/08/2020
	Child Safety Week focuses on preventing accidents in the home - With families spending more time at home during lockdown this year's Child Safety Week is focussing on how to prevent accidents in the home. Parents and carers are being encouraged to be vigilant and reflect on their family's behaviour, routine and home environment in order to keep their children safe. The key message is #SafetyMakesSense.	29/05/2020
	Community initiative supports care network in Bath and North East Somerset - An initiative set up in Bath in response to the PPE shortage for frontline NHS staff has had its first order from the Council. Foldall will supply an initial batch of 5,000 shields for distribution to key workers in the health and social care network, with a further 19,000 face shields ordered to support frontline workers in a	08/04/2020

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	range of sectors across the district.	
<p>Reduce health inequalities</p> <p>Promote good health and reduce health inequalities</p>	<p>Free school meals vouchers for Easter - From tomorrow, eligible families who received vouchers from the Council's free school meals scheme during the February holidays will automatically receive an email. Once they confirm they would like a £40 voucher per child, a further email will be sent containing the supermarket voucher codes. New applications from families who haven't claimed before can be made online. In February, the Council issued 3,958 vouchers to families in B&NES.</p>	25/03/2021
	<p>Free school meals voucher scheme to cover February holidays - The Council is once again providing supermarket vouchers to families whose children are eligible for free school meals over the upcoming school holidays. Families who applied to receive vouchers from the Council's Christmas scheme will automatically receive a £20 voucher for the February half term. From today, the council will send all previous voucher recipients an email asking them to confirm they would like a £20 voucher per child. Once confirmed, a further email will be sent containing the supermarket voucher codes. New applications from families who haven't claimed the vouchers before can be made online.</p>	04/02/2021
	<p>How food poverty is being tackled in Bath and North East Somerset - A report by the Council's Public Health team on behalf of the B&NES Food Poverty Steering Group notes that the Covid pandemic has made inequalities worse for people who already had insufficient income or have experienced trauma including job losses, bereavement or poor health. The report highlights that food insecurity, where people do not have the means to reliably meet their food needs, is a growing national issue which increasingly affects residents in Bath and North East Somerset. It will go before a Special Council meeting on 21st January 21 which can be viewed on the council's YouTube channel.</p>	15/01/2021
	<p>Christmas free school meals vouchers issued to 3,750 children in Bath and North East Somerset - A scheme to provide £40 supermarket vouchers over Christmas to families whose children are eligible for free school meals has seen 3,750 vouchers reaching families in need. The scheme is funded from the Government's Covid Winter Grant Scheme. There are currently more than 4,000 children in Bath and North East Somerset who receive benefit-related free school meals.</p>	08/01/2021

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	Wellbeing Hub supports healthy eating - Families across Bath and North East Somerset are being supported to make healthier eating choices thanks to the Community Wellbeing Hub.	16/12/2021
	Free school meal vouchers for B&NES children this Christmas - The Council is providing free school meal vouchers to more than 4,000 eligible children this Christmas. The supermarket vouchers worth £40 for the two weeks of the holidays are available to the families of pupils entitled to benefit-related free school meals, parents of pupils under school age who are in nursery or pre-school settings, and where parents receive free childcare for two-year-olds.	08/12/2020
	B&NES children to get free school meal vouchers in school holidays - see press release above. The Council has committed to funding Free School Meals vouchers for Christmas 2020, for February half term and for the Easter 2021 school holidays.	04/11/2020
	Council steps in over Free School Meals - see press release above. The Council and its partners today held emergency talks to make sure no child will go hungry during school holidays following the government's decision to stop funding free school meals during the holidays.	26/10/2020
	New campaign launched to stop motorists idling outside school gates - A new campaign is being launched to encourage parents and carers to switch off their engines and stop idling by the school gates. Research shows high numbers of idling vehicle engines build-up levels of carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide NO2 and particulates. These substances are linked to several health issues including lung and heart diseases, contribute to air pollution and unnecessary noise, increase the carbon footprint and waste fuel and money.	25/10/2019
	New family food clubs need your help - The Council's Bright Start Children's Centre team was set to launch weekly family food clubs in Bath, Radstock and Keynsham before the Covid-19 outbreak but have since been delivering food parcels to vulnerable families during the pandemic. Looking ahead to when lockdown eases, the council is preparing to launch the clubs to provide a range of affordable foods to families with children under 11 years of age, living within 15 minutes of the club and who may have a professional working with them. There will be £15 worth of food on offer for £3.50.	25/05/2020

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	How you can help foodbanks in Bath and North East Somerset - People are being asked to donate to food banks when doing their essential shopping and an appeal has also gone out for a warehouse unit for food storage in Keynsham. Items needed by all food banks include pasta sauce, long life milk, tinned products, chocolate, long life juice, instant mash and sponge pudding.	07/04/2020
<p>Reduce waste, increase recycling and support local litter picking schemes</p> <p>Help our residents to reduce waste, increase recycling and support local litter picking schemes</p>	Work on new Keynsham Recycling Hub takes a step forward - The next steps towards the proposed state-of-the-art waste and recycling hub in Keynsham will be starting this month following the formal planning application having been submitted by the Council at the end of January. The Council will soon be making unused areas of the Pixash Lane site secure and ensure ecology protection measures have been carried out before and during demolition of existing and redundant buildings.	03/02/2021
	Another record-breaking year for Christmas kerbside recycling - Record amounts of recycling and waste were collected in Bath and North East Somerset over the Christmas period. Residents contributed an extra 363 tonnes in total recycling and 84 tonnes in food waste alone compared to the same period in the previous year. The increase equates to an additional 121 truckloads of recycling.	28/01/2021
	How to recycle your real Christmas tree - Residents are being reminded of the options available to recycle their real Christmas trees once the twelve days of Christmas have passed.	23/12/2020
	Changes to wrapping paper recycling this Christmas - Residents are being reminded that wrapping paper cannot be collected for recycling this year because of issues with its ability to be recycled at paper mills.	18/12/2020
	Time running out to have your say on Keynsham Recycling Centre - see press release below. Residents are being reminded that they have until midnight on Monday 21 December to have their say on the Council's plans to develop a state-of-the-art waste and recycling facility in Keynsham.	11/12/2020
	Council to consult on plans for 'state of the art' recycling centre in Keynsham - Proposals to improve waste and recycling facilities to help residents recycle more and tackle the climate emergency are being consulted on. The proposals would see the Council consolidate its current operational facilities onto a redeveloped site at Pixash Lane. The state-of the-art facility is planned to meet current	30/11/2020

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	<p>pressures and future demand from an increasing population, providing a new home for the refuse, recycling and garden waste collection vehicles and crews who deal with the rubbish and recycling. A new purpose-built public household waste and recycling centre is part of the proposals. This will be quicker and easier for residents to use, with expanded recycling provision to make it easier for people to recycle even more. It will also help reduce general waste and operational costs.</p>	
	<p>Residents invited to shape plans for 'state-of-the-art' multiple recycling centres for Bath - The Council is asking for ideas on the new waste and recycling centres it is planning for the city. Land at Odd Down has already been consulted on as a potential site for a new household waste and recycling centre, and a new reuse facility. The council is identifying the potential for additional sites to reduce the need for traffic movements across the city, address the climate emergency and improve air quality.</p>	23/11/2020
	<p>Keynsham pilots project to boost food waste recycling - The council is running a six-week local food waste project in November and December with 229 households in Keynsham to find out what the barriers to recycling might be and how it can help make the process easier for people.</p>	06/11/2020
	<p>Statement on Bath Recycling Centre – see press releases above. Bath & North East Somerset Council has a longstanding commitment to redevelop the current waste site at Midland Road for much-needed housing, including affordable homes. Sites in Bath are being investigated for replacement Household Waste Recycling Centres.</p>	16/10/2020
	<p>Food waste collections expanded - More residents will be able to recycle their food waste with the expansion of the Council's collection service to more flats across the district. Over the next fortnight food waste caddies will be delivered to 745 flats, including addresses in Keynsham, Paulton, Midsomer Norton and Bath.</p>	15/09/2020
	<p>Residents praised for recycling effort during lockdown ahead of Recycle Week - Residents from are being praised for their fantastic efforts to recycle during lockdown ahead of Recycle Week 2020. April, May and June saw huge increases in the amount of recycling collected by the Council's waste teams.</p>	09/09/2020

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	Get involved in the Great British September Clean - Residents and community groups are being encouraged to get involved in the Great British September Clean. The campaign, organised by Keep Britain Tidy, brings people together to clear up litter in towns, villages and the countryside.	02/09/2020
	Top tips for converting to composting - The Council is thanking residents for heeding advice about not having bonfires – and reminding them of other options to manage garden waste which will help them during this next phase of the public response to the coronavirus outbreak. Residents are being encouraged to follow Recycle Now's step-by-step guide on how to set up a compost bin and how to make compost at https://www.recyclenow.com/reduce-waste/composting .	18/05/2020
Mental health services that build resilience promote mental health and wellbeing and deliver the best outcomes Ensure we have mental health services that build resilience, promote mental health and wellbeing and deliver the best outcomes for our residents	New Reading Friends project to combat loneliness through literature - Reading Friends is an opportunity to meet new people virtually or by phone to talk about books, magazines or any reading material and aims to support wellbeing and mental health during the Covid pandemic. The library service is looking for both befrienders and participants to socialise remotely, meet like-minded others and have fun talking about reading. The Reading Friends scheme is part of the Read, Talk, Share campaign launched this month by national charity the Reading Agency. The campaign aims to combat loneliness and promote wellbeing through the power of reading during the Covid pandemic.	25/02/2021
	Keeping children safe and supporting mental wellbeing during lockdown - Children, young people and their families across Bath and North East Somerset who are struggling with the ongoing pressures of lockdown are being reassured support is available. With many families cut off from their usual support systems such as family, friends and teachers, Bath & North East Somerset Council is urging those who are struggling to reach out and ask for help. The council is also reminding residents that it is everyone's responsibility to keep children safe, spot the signs of abuse and report concern	05/02/2021
	Keeping spirits up during lockdown - Staff at care homes and sheltered housing schemes have been working hard and getting creative to keep their residents spirits up during lockdown. From karaoke singalongs to poetry recitals, residents have been treated to a varied range of performances and encouraged to get involved.	20/11/2020

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	Support for extremely vulnerable residents during second lockdown - The Council has contacted over 7,500 residents who have been identified as clinically extremely vulnerable to outline the help available from the B&NES Community Wellbeing Hub and encourage them to register on the Government's new online registration service to request access to a priority supermarket delivery slot.	19/11/2020
	Care homes to take delivery of new iPads - Twenty-seven care homes will receive new iPads over the coming weeks. As well as enabling residents to keep in touch with relatives and loved ones via video calls such as FaceTime or Zoom, the mobile touchscreen technology will also provide a vital resource for care home staff. The iPads will enable them to work with GPs to provide a Covid-secure virtual ward round, sharing patient charts and images to assist with diagnosis and treatment plans.	18/11/2020
	Support for residents struggling with their mental health - Research shows one in four people experience mental health issues each year, and at any one time, one in six working adults are experiencing depression, anxiety, or problems relating to stress. With the added pressures of lockdown and coronavirus restrictions the Community Wellbeing Hub has seen an increase in the number of calls from residents who are struggling with the pressures of money worries, caring for others, and increased feelings of loneliness and isolation due to social distancing and prolonged working from home.	18/11/2020
	Alcohol Awareness Week: Speaking up about alcohol and mental health - A poll by Alcohol Change UK earlier this year showed that more than a quarter (28%) of people who have ever drunk alcohol thought they'd been drinking more during lockdown, and one in five of those surveyed said they had drunk alcohol as a way to handle stress or anxiety during lockdown. Of those who drank more heavily during lockdown, 40% had drunk as a response to stress or anxiety. During Alcohol Awareness Week, the Council is helping to raise awareness of the link between excess drinking and our mental health and is encouraging people to seek support from local treatment services if they are struggling.	10/11/2020
Build on local strengths	Shine a light on the stars in your community - Community heroes in Bath and North East Somerset	25/03/2021

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
Support communities who want to address issues of concern by listening to residents and build on local strengths and resources	who have made an exceptional contribution to helping others during the Covid-19 pandemic are set to be recognised in a raft of special new awards. The Shining Light Awards aim to highlight people who have gone above and beyond to volunteer or to support members of their community over the past year. Nominations are now open for the ten awards for volunteers, carers, charities, businesses, nurses, teachers, public sector workers, and anyone who has exceeded what is expected of them in order to help their local community or an individual over the past 12 months.	
	Council selects local SME construction companies to work on its estate - The Council has concluded an extensive procurement exercise to select a panel of contractors to undertake maintenance, refurbishment and development work across its estate for the next four years. Seven local companies have been chosen to tender for general building work projects. They are the latest pool of contractors to pre-qualify to bid for work under the Council's new procurement framework, which aims to speed up the delivery of projects and save on administration costs.	23/03/2021
	£500k funding to bring empty high street properties back into use - An exciting project to breathe new life into vacant shops and buildings in high streets across Bath and North East Somerset has been awarded £500,000 from the WECA Recovery Fund. The Vacant Units Action Project will see empty properties in Bath used for creative projects and pop-up businesses, with satellite projects in Keynsham and Midsomer Norton to follow across a two-year programme. The project will be delivered by the Council as part of its High Streets Renewal programme with match funding and in-kind support provided by the Council and Bath BID.	19/03/2021
	Pilot fund agreed to help B&NES charity and community groups - residents in will soon be able to pay into a pilot 'good causes' fund to help local charity, community and voluntary groups to reduce inequalities in the area. The B&NES fund will be administered by the council but will not be used to supplement council services. Every penny donated will be used to fund local projects.	08/03/2021
	Secondary school admissions in Bath and North East Somerset - More than eight out of ten families in have been offered a place at their first choice of secondary school for admissions this	01/03/2021

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	September. The Council received 1,845 applications for secondary school places for admission in the 2021/2022 academic year, 58 more than the previous year, with 84% of children allocated a place in their highest preferred school.	
	New family cycle and activity park for Bath - Opportunities for more people to enjoy one of Bath's important green spaces by bike or on foot is the aim of a new multi-use activity park to be created at the former Entry Hill golf course site. Following an open procurement exercise, the Council has appointed Bristol-based company Pedal Progression to provide a new family cycle and activity park that can be enjoyed by bikers, families, walkers and nature-lovers alike. The park will provide free access to park areas and trails for walking and cycling, a learn-to-ride area with pump track and a new natural play park. New wildlife habitats and wider biodiversity will be encouraged with a nature garden, pond and community growing area. There will also be a new and expanded café with seating and viewing areas across the park. The bike park design seeks to give all people of all abilities the opportunity to enjoy an exciting bike ride - including balance bikes and disability trikes to tandems and mountain bikes. It will link to existing and new cycle routes and promote walking and riding to access the site, encouraging people to leave their cars at home.	26/02/2021
	Work starts on £2.6m extension of Cameley Primary School - The work is being carried out to ensure there are enough school places to meet the needs of the growing local community. Three new classrooms are being constructed, the hall and kitchen extended, and the existing school entrance, staff room and other facilities remodelled and refurbished. The Council is funding the project through Basic Need Capital Grant Funding from the government together with a £300,000 contribution received from local developers in Community Infrastructure Levy. The work is due to be completed by the start of the 2021/22 academic year and will enable the school to increase the number of children it can accommodate, with 30 places available in Reception from September.	26/02/2021
	Bath stars in new series of hit ITV drama McDonald & Dodds - Bath is to play a starring role in the new series of the contemporary detective drama McDonald & Dodds this spring. Working in-line with	18/02/2021

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	<p>Covid-19 restrictions, production company Mammoth Screen spent four months from September 2020 filming at various locations in the city including Royal Victoria Park, the Guildhall and the Indigo Hotel on South Parade. Filming was co-ordinated by Bath & North East Somerset Council's Film Office, which promotes the district as a film and TV location and helps productions access public areas with the minimum of disruption to residents and businesses.</p>	
	<p>Budget package addresses the climate and ecological emergency and supports local economy - Despite the turbulent financial impacts caused by the pandemic over the past year, the Council is proposing new investment to tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergency, improve local transport and help the local economy recover. The proposed spending plans, which also include a general Council Tax increase of 1.99% and a 3% increase in the Adult Social Care Precept, which is ring-fenced to support Adult Social Care, will go before Cabinet on 11th February and presented to Full Council on 23rd February.</p>	03/02/2021
	<p>How to celebrate LGBT+ History Month in Bath and North East Somerset - An opportunity for people in Bath and North East Somerset to learn more about the histories of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT+) people in the UK is offered in a range of events this month. LGBT+ History Month is celebrated each year in February to highlight the contributions that LGBT+ people make locally and globally. The Council is hosting a virtual LGBT+ history tour of Bath on 5 led by Robert Howes from Gay West and launching a competition for young people to design a logo or 'badge' for the B&NES area, which will be used to publicise future LGBT+ news and events.</p>	01/02/2021
	<p>Census 2021 will provide a snapshot of modern society - Households across Bath and North East Somerset will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021. This is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941, and is run by the Office for National Statistics. This year is the first census run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or</p>	25/01/2021

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	tablets.	
	Communities benefit from millions of pounds in funding from Community Infrastructure Levy - Communities across Bath and North East Somerset have benefitted from millions of pounds in funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 agreements over the past year.	31/12/2021
	Fashion Museum Bath announces Dress of the Year 2020 - The Fashion Museum Bath is pleased to announce that the following ensembles have been chosen for the prestigious annual accolade, Dress of the Year.	18/12/2021
	Bath plays starring role in period drama Bridgerton - Bath is set to play a starring role in the new period drama, Bridgerton which premieres on Netflix on Christmas Day.	15/12/2020
	Help to create one shared vision for Bath and North East Somerset - Residents are invited to join in the process of developing #OneSharedVision for how Bath and North East Somerset could recover from the pandemic and address the wide-ranging impacts experienced across our community. The vision would also ensure that recovery and rebuilding helps to achieve a stronger, more resilient, fairer, greener, and by 2030, net zero place. Residents are encouraged to participate online at https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/help-us-create-one-shared-vision .	09/12/2020
	New £100k funding for community sports facilities in Bath - Three areas of Bath are set to enjoy new sporting and play facilities thanks to £100k of Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy funding. The projects are a multi-use games area in Whiteway, improved play equipment and the creation of a football pitch at Sandpits Park and new energy efficient lighting at Combe Down Rugby Club.	07/12/2020
	Future of Visit Bath to be decided by cabinet - Proposals to promote tourism across the area through a new regional tourism company are to be presented to Cabinet. The report recommends the Council joins with other West of England authorities to create a new organisation called Visit West, which would put the area in a stronger position to access new additional funding for the tourism sector, provide a much stronger industry and marketing presence for the region and a voice in government,	02/12/2020

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	while also helping to support the transition to more sustainable low carbon tourism.	
	Cabinet set to consider new approach to use of assets - Securing income for services, more homes and tackling the climate and ecological emergency have been set out as key criteria for a review of the Council's £500m property estate. Cabinet is being advised of the need to "rebalance" its property holdings in the light of changes in the wake of the pandemic. It is also being advised that rent arrears have increased and that Covid-19 has accelerated change in areas such as online shopping and home working.	02/12/2020
	Join the national celebration of Black History in Bath and North East Somerset – The Council is highlighting a range of activities and information that residents can access as part of Black History Month throughout October. The history, accomplishments and experiences of black people will be celebrated throughout October in Bath and North East Somerset as part of a national event.	30/09/2020
	Double gold award for council's Bereavement Services - An online book of remembrance set up during the coronavirus pandemic and a sustainable electric vehicle are among the projects that have led to two gold awards for the Council's Bereavement Services.	28/09/2020
	Council welcomes grant funding for Cleveland Pools - Work on the multi-million-pound restoration of England's oldest outdoor swimming pools has been delayed due to the pandemic, but the Cleveland Pools Trust has been granted £56,300 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund's Emergency Fund to cover additional costs incurred.	24/09/2020
	Share your memories to celebrate Bath Central Library's 30th anniversary - Bath Central Library will celebrate 30 years of opening on 28 th September and a call is going out to residents to share their memories of the library through the decades as part of a virtual celebration. The libraries team will be posting on social media with photos through the ages, memories of staff past and present and activities for all ages to enjoy including 30 years of books, a quiz and downloadable bookmarks.	22/09/2020
	Council leader calls for 'joint effort' to help Lesbos refugees - The Council Leader has called on central government to work with local councils on how to house asylum seekers left stranded after the	16/09/2020

Commitments	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	devastating fire last week at the Moria camp on the Greek island of Lesbos. She said the government should reopen its Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme - suspended during Covid-19 - so that vulnerable refugees could be supported in local communities.	
	Parade Gardens scoop coveted award - Bath's Parade Gardens has scooped a coveted Trip Advisor Travellers' Choice Award. The awards recognise the best visitor attractions across the world and are based on traveller reviews and ratings.	02/09/2020
	Look out for Community Award winner announcements - Every year the Bath and North East Somerset Community Awards celebrate volunteers, charities, carers, community leaders, staff and businesses. This year's event was cancelled due to the coronavirus, so the award announcements are being made virtually instead.	26/08/2020
	Lyncombe Hill Fields to be managed by local community - A well-loved green space with commanding views of Bath is to be managed under licence by the Friends of Lyncombe Hill Fields, a newly formed not-for-profit Community Interest Company working with the council. The company aims to enhance the land's biodiversity while managing it for quiet public enjoyment, outdoor exercise and educational activities.	26/08/2020
	The Roman Baths wins two VisitEngland Awards - The Roman Baths has triumphed at the VisitEngland Awards, winning a Silver for Large Visitor Attraction of the Year and Silver in the International Tourism category. It was the only finalist to win two awards at the virtual event ceremony.	18/08/2020
	Record-breaking year for the Roman Baths in 2019 - The Roman Baths welcomed a record-breaking 1,325,085 visitors in 2019, maintaining its spot in the top 25 most-visited attractions in the UK. The historic site was the third most-visited attraction in England outside London, and the seventh most-visited charging attraction in the UK.	15/07/2020

Local Outbreak Management Plan - Council Response to COVID-19:

Workstreams	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
Business Support	Restart grants to help hundreds of local businesses reopen safely	30/03/2021
	Businesses to receive £4m in grant support	12/03/2021
	Businesses receive more than £12m in support grants	17/02/2021
	More than £8m paid to help businesses hit by lockdown	29/01/2021
	Support grants now available for businesses impacted by third lockdown	22/01/2021
	Business support grants open for applications	11/11/2020
	Local businesses supported as Government's Covid-19 business grants scheme ends	10/09/2020
	Outdoor tables and chairs helping businesses get back on their feet	26/08/2020
	Bath Christmas Market 2020	23/07/2020
	Survival guide for food businesses to stay healthy post-lockdown	17/07/2020
	Second round of discretionary grants to open for applications	26/06/2020
	Time running out to apply for a discretionary grant	08/06/2020
	Applications open for Discretionary Fund support	02/06/2020
	Perfect timing of support grant to social enterprise	27/05/2020
	Call for more businesses to register for Covid-19 support grants	29/04/2020
	£5.4m support grants paid so far to Bath and North East Somerset businesses	15/04/2020
	Supplier relief scheme to keep services running for residents	09/04/2020
	Business grant payments underway in Bath and North East Somerset	08/04/2020
Outbreak	Support grant applications open for welfare claimants financially affected by self-isolation	12/10/2020

Workstreams	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
Management	Council welcomes new walk-through COVID-19 testing site in Bath	02/10/2020
	Ralph Allen School statement	22/09/2020
	East Harptree Church of England Primary School statement	22/09/2020
	Pupils reminded to stick to the rule of six	15/09/2020
	Two mobile testing units in Bath & North East Somerset	11/09/2020
	Mobile testing unit at Paulton extended until September 10	02/09/2020
	Webinar hears update on Bath and North East Somerset Covid-19 response to Somer Valley cases and plans for Universities' new academic year	27/08/2020
	Covid-19 mobile testing unit at Paulton extended for second time in response to rise in local cases	25/08/2020
	Update on coronavirus cases in the Somer Valley area	24/08/2020
	Statement from Dr Bruce Laurence Director of Public Health on coronavirus cases	21/08/2020
	Council supports schools to reopen safely	26/08/2020
	Extended timescale for temporary coronavirus mobile testing unit in Paulton	18/08/2020
	Temporary coronavirus mobile testing unit in Paulton	31/07/2020
	Taking action to meet ongoing challenges of COVID-19	16/07/2020
	Third week for mobile testing unit in Bath	02/07/2020
	Second week for COVID-19 temporary mobile testing unit in Bath	26/06/2020
	Temporary coronavirus mobile testing unit in Bath	18/06/2020
	Council draws up plans to control local COVID-19 outbreaks	18/06/2020
Council Services	Roman Baths set to reopen its doors to the public on 17 May	19/03/2021
	School transport update	28/10/2020

Workstreams	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	B&NES joins South West councils' urgent call for leisure centre funding	02/09/2020
	Update on school transport for the start of new academic year	19/08/2020
	Students praised for their resilience during pandemic as A Level results are published	13/08/2020
	Reopening schools in Bath and North East Somerset	11/08/2020
	Bath recycling centre returns to daily opening	22/07/2020
	Bath recycling centre to reopen for weekend appointments	15/07/2020
	Old Welton Recycling Centre to reopen	07/07/2020
	Make the most of our green spaces as lockdown eases	07/07/2020
	Safety measures in place for this weekend's lockdown easing	03/07/2020
	Council swings into action to reopen play parks with new safety measures	03/07/2020
	Bath and North East Somerset libraries reopen for 'grab and go' service	03/07/2020
	Council update on latest Government easing of lockdown	24/06/2020
	Council sets out plan for safe reopening of Roman Baths	23/06/2020
	Celebrate the birth of your baby once more in Bath and North East Somerset	03/06/2020
	Local writers reveal 'Lockdown' literary masterpieces	16/06/2020
	Beware contact tracing scammers	08/06/2020
	Manvers Street car park to reopen	28/05/2020
	New Sunday ceremonies in Bath once registrations restarted by Government	26/05/2020
	Rethink of Bath and North East Somerset's roads to aid Covid-19 recovery	22/05/2020
	Report on council's response to COVID-19 to go before members	20/05/2020

Workstreams	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
	Keynsham recycling centre to reopen strictly for essential use only	19/05/2020
	Council tax hardship relief scheme launched during Covid-19	30/04/2020
	Free parking for NHS and care workers as parking charges reintroduced	29/04/2020
	Bath and North East Somerset residents updated on Covid-19 impacts	29/04/2020
	Be on your guard against coronavirus scams	28/04/2020
	Emergency preparations at Haycombe Cemetery and Crematorium	23/04/2020
	Garden waste collections resume in Bath and North East Somerset	23/04/2020
	Four parks reopened in Bath	23/04/2020
	Bulky waste collections restart in Bath and North East Somerset	17/04/2020
	Bath Record Office invites residents to help document life during a pandemic and make history	09/04/2020
	Haycombe Cemetery and Crematorium update	07/04/2020
	Avon and Somerset Local Resilience Forum receives emergency supplies of much needed PPE earmarked for Adult Social Care	07/04/2020
	Free e-bike loans for employers of key workers during Coronavirus	03/04/2020
	Support for domestic abuse victims continues in Bath and North East Somerset	03/04/2020
	Huge response to Covid-19 business support grants in Bath and North East Somerset	02/04/2020
Rough Sleepers	Council rises to challenge of accommodating rough sleepers during lockdown	27/08/2020
Community Support	100 days supporting the most vulnerable through our Compassionate Community Hub	29/06/2020
	Key worker and community response to Covid-19 set to receive formal recognition	15/06/2020
	Community responds to call for foster carers during Covid-19	15/06/2020
	Compassionate Community hub hits the spot	08/04/2020

Workstreams	Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
Budget Impacts	Council carries out health check of finances	30/09/2020
	Council sets out its priorities and new financial plans	04/09/2019
	Cautious welcome given to council income compensation scheme	09/07/2020
	Council sets out plans to tackle Covid-19 financial challenges	22/06/2020
Social Distancing and Reopening High Streets	New temporary gates to be installed in Bath to help social distancing	03/08/2020
	Have your say on temporary traffic measures	16/07/2020
	Social distancing measures planned for Keynsham	02/07/2020
	Help people to social distance by keeping hedges trimmed	01/07/2020
	Further social distancing measures in Bath	25/06/2020
	Re-opening our high streets safely webinar	12/06/2020
	Update on temporary pavement widening and road closures for social distancing	02/06/2020
Enforcement	Fraud victims paid back nearly £43,000 following trading standards investigation	01/06/2020

CORE POLICY - Tacking the Climate and Ecological Emergency

Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
Supporting parishes to take action on climate change - The Council is hosting the free, day-long, online event to help town and parish councils develop an action plan to reduce carbon emissions and tackle the climate and ecological emergencies in their local area. All parishes are invited to take part in the workshop which is being delivered by the Centre for Sustainable Energy and will include an introduction to the Climate Emergency and the scale of action needed to address it.	05/11/2020
Council condemns Bristol's Airport's decision to appeal refusal for permission to expand - The Council has condemned Bristol	22/09/2020

Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
Airport's decision to appeal refusal of its planning application to increase capacity from 10 to 12 million passengers per year. The Council was consulted as a neighbouring planning authority and objected on highways issues, and also made it clear that having declared a Climate Emergency, expansion of the airport would be incompatible with its goal to achieve carbon neutrality within the next decade.	
Council declares Ecological Emergency - The declaration of an Ecological Emergency recognises the essential role nature plays in society and the economy and provides a statement of intent to protect our wildlife and habitats, enabling residents to benefit from a green, nature rich environment. It builds on the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency last March and recognises that the two threats, caused by the over-exploitation of the earth's resources and poor land management, are having a devastating impact on the planet and our wellbeing.	28/07/2020
Council shortlisted for prestigious award - The annual MJ Local Government Achievement Awards recognise best practice amongst local authorities across the country. The Council has been shortlisted for a prestigious award, for providing 'Leadership in responding to the Climate Emergency'.	23/07/2020
Planning policies set to be reviewed - Planning policies which guide decision making across Bath and North East Somerset are set to be reviewed. An online consultation was launched on 6 th April 6, which will run until 1 st June.	03/04/2020

CORE POLICY - Giving People a Bigger Say

Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
Still time to take part in B&NES transport consultation - More than 400 people have already taken part in a six-week consultation seeking their views on the city's transport system over the next decade.	12/02/2021
Update on tackling the climate and ecological emergency for Bath and North East Somerset - A report on progress made by Bath & North East Somerset Council to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies and how the council's Renewal Programme, set up in response to Covid-19, will support the next steps will go before Council next week.	13/01/2021
Bath city centre security consultation extended - People are being given more time to have their say on proposals to permanently strengthen and improve on-street security within Bath's busiest streets.	11/01/2021

Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
Get involved in shaping planning policy for Bath and North East Somerset - Critical planning issues facing Bath and North East Somerset are set to be tackled in a partial update of the Local Plan and residents are invited to have their say in an online consultation.	07/01/2021
Have your say on council's budget proposals - Residents across Bath and North East Somerset are being asked whether they would support a rise in Council Tax to help prevent further cuts to services and to meet the needs of vulnerable residents.	07/01/2021
Public consultation on Two Rivers Primary School in Keynsham - Residents in Keynsham are being made aware of a public consultation being held by Wellsway Multi-Academy Trust, the Department for Education and ISG about the new Two Rivers Primary School at Hygge Park.	06/01/2021
Residents views sought on renewed street drinking restrictions - Residents are being asked for their views on plans to renew street drinking restrictions introduced to reduce anti-social behaviour in Bath and Midsomer Norton.	22/12/2020
Find out how planning policy is shaped for Bath and North East Somerset - The Council is inviting residents to join in a webinar to find out about national planning policy and when people can get involved in updating local policy at this online event. An options consultation in January will spark discussion on the potential approaches for addressing some of the critical issues facing Bath and North East Somerset.	16/12/2020
Consultation plan for active travel schemes launched - Two schemes to improve walking and cycling routes using £500k government funding to encourage more active travel will be consulted on by the Council.	11/12/2020
Time running out to have your say on Keynsham Recycling Centre - Residents are being reminded that they have until midnight on 21 st December to have their say on the Council's plans to develop a state-of-the-art waste and recycling facility in Keynsham.	11/12/2020
Help to create one shared vision for Bath and North East Somerset - Residents are being invited to join in the process of developing #OneSharedVision for how Bath and North East Somerset could recover from the Covid pandemic and address the wide-ranging impacts experienced across our community.	09/12/2020
Council's finances under the spotlight as budget setting process begins - A report outlining the Council's finances, the financial impact of Covid-19 and the effect it will have on its spending plans is to go before the Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel. The report is the first stage in the council's budget setting process for the coming financial year.	12/11/2020
Applications open for council's new Race Panel - The Council is setting up the panel to promote equality in the region, in response to the Black Lives Matter movement and the disproportionately higher incidence of Covid-19 related deaths amongst Black and Minority	16/10/2020

Relevant Press Releases from 1 st April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Date of Release
Ethnic (BAME) communities.	
Black Lives Matter in B&NES: hear from young people at our webinar - A chance to hear young people's views on the Black Lives Matter movement and what they would like to see happen locally to increase awareness of racism is on offer at a webinar next week. It will find out from young people how they are feeling about recent events including George Floyd, the Black Lives Matter movement and racism in our local area. It will also explore what young people would like to see changing in schools, colleges and other settings to raise awareness of racism and how to tackle it to create a more inclusive society.	13/10/2020
Webinar hears update on B&NES Covid-19 response to Somer Valley cases and plans for Universities' new academic year - Updates on the recent increase in coronavirus cases in the Somer Valley and plans for a Covid-19 secure return of students to Bath for the new academic year were the focus of a public webinar held by the Local Outbreak Engagement Board. The group, made up of the Council, University of Bath, Bath Spa University, the RUH, CCG, Curo, Police, Third Sector and other partners, has been established to ensure co-ordinated action to manage local outbreaks and prepare the Local Outbreak Management Plan for the area.	27/08/2020
Black Lives Matter: Statement from partner agencies in Bath and North East Somerset - see press release above. In a statement released today, the partner agencies also reaffirmed their commitment to tackling racism and promoting equality, and to redoubling their efforts on this following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.	18/06/2020
Parish council set to take over running of Paulton Library - Although Paulton library is currently closed due to the coronavirus, it will become a community run library next week after the lease is transferred to Paulton Parish Council as part of the Council's Modern Libraries programme.	12/06/2020
An honest conversation on the history of slavery and tackling racism - The Leader of the Council started a conversation about the city's heritage and its links to the transatlantic slave trade, and her intention to bring people together with the skills, knowledge and commitment to chart a way forward so we can confront this historic evil and build a more equal future.	12/06/2020
Black Lives Matter: Statement from Leader of Bath & North East Somerset Council - The Leader of the Council made a statement to join the local community standing in solidarity with the communities affected by the killing of George Floyd.	03/06/2020