

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

CABINET

These minutes are draft until confirmed as a correct record at the next meeting.

Tuesday, 20th July, 2021

Present:

Councillor Kevin Guy	Leader of the Council, Liberal Democrat Group Leader
Councillor Dine Romero	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Communities and Culture
Councillor Richard Samuel	Deputy Council Leader (statutory) and Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Resources
Councillor Sarah Warren	Deputy Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel
Councillor David Wood	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services
Councillor Tom Davies	Cabinet Member for Adults and Council House Building
Councillor Alison Born	Cabinet Member for Adults and Council House Building
Councillor Manda Rigby	Cabinet Member for Transport

29 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair (Councillor Kevin Guy) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chair invited all Cabinet Members to introduce themselves.

The Chair also informed the meeting that speakers will have their opportunity to address the Cabinet before questions from public and Councillors.

30 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Senior Democratic Services Officer drew attention to the evacuation procedure with health and safety notice.

31 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Tim Ball had sent his apologies for this meeting.

32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Interim Monitoring Officer issued a dispensation for the duration of the Cabinet meeting in respect of agenda item 14. The formal dispensation is attached to the minutes.

33 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was none.

The Chair used this opportunity to read out the following statement:

'Good evening. I would like to make a statement about the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on our community and our Council, and on the Council's approach to it.

Cllr Richard Samuel will provide further detail shortly, but at a time when Central Government's messaging is all about freedom and an end to the dark days, I have to warn you that we are far from through the worst of the effects of this crisis, and, indeed, I expect things to get significantly worse before we can expect to see any real signs of improvement.

As you know, the level of infections within the Bath & North East Somerset area is continuing to rise and is now higher than the general rate in England or within the South West Region. The impacts of this, and the associated strain from the number of local people receiving messages from the NHS App to self-isolate are adding intense pressure to the essential services provided by the Council and by our partners. All of our key services are now under unprecedented strain, and some – I must be honest – are close to breaking point.

And I want to pay tribute here to our wonderful staff, who are facing immense challenges every day, who are going about their jobs with calm professionalism and incredible dedication, and who continue to deliver awesome levels of service in our communities. Will Godfrey and his team are doing a magnificent job, and we all owe them a huge debt of gratitude. I couldn't be prouder to be Leader of this council at this time. Thank you all for what you do.

I can't promise that we will be able to maintain all our services at regular levels through the months to come. Some of our neighbouring councils are already suspending some refuse and other services in the face of the difficulties we are all encountering. But I can promise you this: the commitment of this council to deliver for its residents – whatever the challenges – remains undimmed. Our team remains determined to continue to deliver to the very best of its ability.

Yesterday, as you know, the Government dropped the final rules and controls it had imposed to keep people safe in the face of the dangers of the Covid 19 pandemic. We, as a council, have reviewed the situation carefully – driven by the Public Health advice, by the wishes of our staff and by sound common sense.

We have decided that it is both prudent and proper to keep some measures in place on Council properties, such as the Guildhall, our offices and our visitor attractions. We ask people coming to these premises to continue to wear masks or other face coverings – unless for medical reasons they are unable to do so – and to continue to wear them when moving around within the buildings.

We want people – whether colleagues or visitors - to feel both safe and confident in our places of work, and to show each other the respect and consideration which the last sixteen months have shown us is both effective and wise.

So I ask everyone, please, to continue to make these small sacrifices for the common good of us all. I will wear a mask to keep you safe, and I ask that you extend that same courtesy and care to others, so that we, as a community, can come through these dark days together, and look forward with confidence to better times and to soundly and scientifically-based freedoms in the future.

Thank you. '

Councillor Dine Romero – Cabinet member for Children and Young People, Communities and Culture, read out the following statement:

'Like it or not COVID restrictions have been lifted by Government.

This Lib Dem administration and our residents are very worried that the end of most restrictions has come in now, while case rates are rising, and the RUH is receiving more serious cases.

Remember that we are not allowed by law to hold these meetings in any other way than as a physical meeting.

Government guidance is not being driven by the science. Data has been thrown to the wind and our residents are now more at risk than ever before with the onus now resting on us to use our personal judgement to protect ourselves but with no directive to protect others.

Infection rates are now over 1000 in Bath & North East Somerset which is above both the SW and English average.

We in this council will be encouraging our staff to remain cautious and to look out for each other. We will be encouraging all to wear masks when entering and moving about council buildings and maintaining a metres distance wherever possible. We will continue with our regime of cleaning, of wiping down surfaces after use, washing hands and following one-way systems.

These expectations are for our staff and for everyone who accesses our buildings. These measures are being followed for all those attending this meeting.

We will continue to encourage everyone to get vaccinated, and to take lateral flow tests twice a week, 3-5 days apart. And to self-isolate if the test is positive, or if they are asked to do so due to close contact with a positive case.

The key messages we are giving, are for all to remain responsible, COVID has not gone away, we are still in a global pandemic.

I wanted also to take this opportunity to speak of the challenges that our schools and early years settings have faced. And would like to express my thanks, and the thanks of the DPH, and Director of education, and indeed of the whole council, to leaders and staff for their continued hard work support, and dedication to our CYP. We recognise that the past 18 months have been extremely difficult, and many have had to make sacrifices.

Staff have risen to every challenge that has come their way, including responding to the continuous and rapidly changing guidance and national policy. And indeed, to the many times when there hasn't been adequate guidance.

Schools have had to change how they operate, to running combinations of on-line and physical classrooms, to never knowing whether there will enough staff or how many children would be in any one setting from day to day.

We are acutely aware this has had, and still has, an unbearable toll on school leaders, teachers, support staff, and on our CYP themselves.

The guidance for schools came to a muddled stop at the end of last week. Our PH and schools teams have worked amazingly hard to ensure that all schools have some clarity on how to work in this last week of term, and what to expect from September onwards.

I would like to end by thanking again but no less sincerely our schools and early years staff, and all those in the council who supports our education settings and wish everyone a much needed and well-earned break over the summer holidays.'

Councillor Alison Born – Cabinet Member for Adult Services, read out the following statement:

'The health and social care system have been experiencing significant pressures for several months as demand increases and all areas suffer staff shortages.

Mental health services have been particularly badly affected with a significant increase in demand and people experiencing greater complexity in their conditions. This includes an increase in the number of young people experiencing mental health problems, particularly eating disorders.

There has been a rise in s136 detentions (Police detention in a public place) for young people and adults, with delays to admission due to a shortage of in-patient beds for these very vulnerable people.

In addition, there are significant delays in discharging people from the RUH into reablement services. People being discharged have increasingly complex needs and staffing shortages in reablement are resulting in long delays. There is also a shortage of capacity within the home care market which is compounding the issue.

Adult Social Care have seen an increase in those waiting for an assessment, with 50 people waiting more than 28 days for an urgent assessment.

Demand continues to increase and the rise in Covid rates over the last three weeks has exacerbated the staffing crisis. Our Community Resource Centres have been impacted by staff needing to self-isolate and we have struggled to secure agency staff. We are seeing a small but rising rate of Covid infections amongst staff in the independent care home sector which if it continues to rise will impact on their ability to care for their residents.

Staff continue to work hard to mitigate the risks across the system, including risk assessing those waiting and prioritising those most at risk. They are also focusing on recruitment and retention of staff and working to increase home care capacity.

Adult social care provision has been precarious for a number of years and successive governments have promised to fix it, but action has not been taken. Those long-standing problems have been exacerbated by the twin challenges of Covid which has increased demand and Brexit which has significantly reduced the availability of staff in the sector.

Speculation that the government is planning to raise additional funds for adult social care through national insurance payments provides some hope but it appears that this funding may be used to bring down hospital waiting lists in the short term (how long will that be for) and will then be targeted on capping individual liability to social care costs rather than on developing robust, resilient services that can be relied on to meet need in a timely manner. The pressures faced in BANES are being experienced across the Country and we are in contact with colleagues to support and learn from other systems but these services cannot be fixed without significant investment across the system and a recognition that urgent action is needed to address staff shortages.'

34 STATEMENTS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS

Lily Hughes in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 1 and on the Council's website*] asked the Cabinet to vote on stopping the use of glyphosate for the treatment of street weeds, and focus on manual and mechanical methods of removal. Lily Hughes also presented Council Leader with a petition called 'Stop spraying Bath & North East Somerset streets with toxic weed killer glyphosate'

<https://www.change.org/p/kevin-guy-leader-b-nes-council-stop-spraying-bath-north-east-somerset-streets-with-toxic-weed-killer-glyphosate?redirect=false>

Kari Erickson in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 2 and on the Council's website*] invited the Cabinet to reflect on some of their goals as a Liberal Democrat Administration, and how these intersect with their relationship with the private sector.

Simon Marshall in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 3 and on the Council's website*] expressed his concerns about future of parking spaces in Bath for Blue Badge holders.

Ian Perkins in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 4 and on the Council's website*] expressed his concerns about future of parking spaces in Bath for Blue Badge holders and called for a consultation with all affected residents.

Susan Charles in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 5 and on the Council's website*] expressed her concerns about future of parking spaces in Bath for Blue Badge holders and medical personnel.

Julie Gregory in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 6 and on the Council's website*] described her personal experience as a Blue Badge holder. Julie Gregory felt that the consultation on this matter had not been done correctly.

Lindsay Holdoway in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 7 and on the Council's website*] expressed his support for the City Centre Security and High Street Renewal with the hope that the existing scheme would become permanent and possibly lead to full pedestrianisation in due course.

Lynda Lloyd in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 8 and on the Council's website*] expressed her concerns about future of parking spaces for Blue Badge holders.

Harry Tedstone in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 9 and on the Council's website*] asked the Cabinet to defer the decision on 'On Street Parking Permits And Charges' in order that it be properly looked into and with an urgent economic impact assessment undertaken.

Sylvia Sinclair in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 10 and on the Council's website*] supported the Cabinet's proposal to require "Inner Zone" hotel guests to park their cars in Council owned carparks, rather than on residential streets.

Councillor Jess David in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 11 and on the Council's website*] expressed her support for the paper on investment in neighbourhood services, and in particular, the decision to move away from the use of weedkiller containing glyphosate in the treatment of street weeds.

Councillor Eleanor Jackson in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 12 and on the Council's website*] expressed his concerns about future of parking spaces in Bath for Blue Badge holders and a need for long term parking permits for professions such as medics, carers and traders.

Councillor Vic Pritchard addressed the Cabinet about the Bath City Centre Security agenda item and questioned the rationale for the report, the allocated budget for this project, and that the Cabinet had not fulfilled their duty under the Equalities Act of proper consultation with disabled people.

35 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

There were 23 questions from Councillors and no questions from members of the public.

[Copies of the questions and responses, including supplementary questions and responses if any, have been placed on the Minute book as Appendix 13 and are available on the Council's website.]

36 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23rd June 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

37 CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE MEMBER ITEMS REQUISITIONED TO CABINET

There were none.

38 MATTERS REFERRED BY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY BODIES

There were none.

39 SINGLE MEMBER CABINET DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

The Cabinet agreed to note the report.

40 BATH CITY CENTRE SECURITY

Councillor Manda Rigby introduce the report by saying that in 2016 the police contacted the Council and said that although there was no specific evidence of an imminently planned attack, as an area with a high footfall, and specifically the Abbey, the Council would need to look at what would be needed in terms of protection against a terrorist attack, including an hostile vehicle attack. Terrorist acts could come in a variety of ways, and there were measures in place to protect from non-vehicular attack, which were included in our risk assessments. Temporary hostile vehicle mitigations had also been brought in for large events, including remembrance services, the Bath Half and the Tour of Britain.

Some concrete moveable bollards were installed to support the Christmas Market on the advice of Police. These have been retained where appropriate and would be replaced with permanent measures.

A consultation went out at the start of the year, and the report was a result of amendments of proposals in it having listened to consultation input, and commissioning a report about accessibility, more specifically for disabled residents and visitors.

The report contains the details of which streets would be closed

There was also an operating schedule which would allow Blue Badge holders disabled access via a video link to the operating centre, with access for emergencies whether city wide or for a resident needing a trade person in a hurry.

The Council took on board obligations under the Public Sector Equalities Duty Act and there would be further phases of work subject to monitoring the results of these measures to amend and adapt based on evidence and data.

Councillor Manda Rigby moved the recommendations.

Councillor Richard Samuel seconded the motion by saying that he was pleased to second recommendations in this report. Bath streets referred to in this report were very crowded and densely populated, and the police have commented and have advised on security and protection of citizens, and it would be totally untenable for the Council to ignore their advice. The difficulty the Council had was in the balancing off the needs of residents, visitors, and the security. Councillor Samuel believed that the report had outlined an appropriate balance, it will undoubtedly not please everybody.

In terms of the financing of this project – there would be a few stages to the project and those stages would involve the firming up of the estimates of the cost of implementing this scheme as set out in the report. The report has highlighted that there were risks with possibilities that the cost may drift upwards. In agreement with Council Rigby and the director of finance, Councillor Samuel would run one more check on top of the ones that already exist in the Council's control processes, and those processes normally permit officers to exercise delegation in developing schemes for the good governance of the Council which require all schemes to go through a business planning process. Therefore, paragraph 2.13 of the report has been introduced as an extra check that would sit on top of the normal processes the

Council uses in order to provide a scheme that would work for residents and visitors, and also the one that was affordable to the taxpayer.

Councillor Dine Romero supported the motion by saying that this scheme has been in the pipeline during at least 2 different political administrations. The anti-terrorist police team had told the Council that areas with high footfall were key targets for terrorists. This scheme was absolutely not designed to provide protection from every form of attack, but it was part of a range of protective measures.

It was clear that the needs of people with disabilities would need to be considered at every step. Councillor Sarah Moore became the Council's advocate for Access and has used her knowledge and passion to help this particular group of people.

Councillor Moore had been able to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities had been accommodated in this scheme.

Nevertheless, the Council had to balance the needs of a wide variety of groups, and issues.

The scheme before the Cabinet would give an appropriate level of protection based on the current known level of threat. And it would allow adequate access for residents, and for Blue Badge holders.

Councillor Romero thanked the Police, Council officers and Councillors (in particular Councillor Moore) for working together to find the solutions.

Councillor David Wood welcomed the report by thanking Councillor Rigby, and officers for turning this issue around. The first duty of the Council was to protect its citizens, with a duty to listen. Councillor Wood also said that he believed that, in the last few months, the Council took an intelligent and a considered approach to demonstrate that this was a listening Council and one that takes its duty seriously.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

1. To approve the TRO (for anti-terrorism purposes) for advertisement such that it would operate between 1000 hours and 1800 hours on the following streets:

(1) Lower Borough Walls, Stall Street, including Abbeygate Street, Abbey Green, Swallow Street (South), Bath Street and Hot Bath Street

(2) York Street

2. To approve the TRO (for anti-terrorism purposes) for advertisement such that it would operate between 1000 hours and 1800 hours on the following streets:

(1) Cheap Street, Westgate Street, Saw Close and Upper Borough Walls with access to the restricted streets also being provided to Blue Badge Holders, carers transporting Blue Badge Holders, and taxi's transporting Blue Badge Holders. Access would be provided via Controlled Authorised Access by the Council's CCTV team.

3. To advertise the TRO between 1800 hours and 2200 hours on York Street, to reflect its proximity to the Roman Baths and to support the increased footfall from Terrace Walk through York Street to the new Clore Learning Centre and World Heritage Centre. The Roman Baths, Clore Learning Centre and World Heritage Centre will, at times, be open late into the evening.

4. To note that we will not advertise the TRO between 2200 hours and 1000 hours on York Street.

5. To note that we will not advertise the TRO between 1800 hours and 1000 hours for the following streets:

(1) Lower Borough Walls, Stall Street, including Abbeygate Street, Abbey Green, Swallow Street (South), Bath Street and Hot Bath Street

(2) Cheap Street, Westgate Street, Saw Close and Upper Borough Walls when the streets are not deemed as crowded, based on footfall data and the security risk is not considered to be proportionate to the terrorist threat.

ATTRO - 1000 to 1800 hours with no blue badge access	ATTRO – 1000 to 1800 hours with blue badge access	TRO - 1800 to 2200 hours	No TRO 2200 to 1000 hours	No TRO 1800 to 1000 hours
York Street Lower Borough Walls Stall Street Abbeygate Street Abbey Green Swallow Street (south) Bath Street Hot Bath Street	Cheap Street Westgate Street Saw Close Upper Borough Walls	York Street	York Street	Lower Borough Walls Stall Street Abbeygate Street Abbey Green Swallow Street (south) Bath Street Hot Bath Street Cheap Street Westgate Street Saw Close Upper Borough Walls

6. Delegate to the Director of Place Management in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport the operational management procedures for access to the restricted streets.

7. To note that subject to investigations which are currently taking place on vault survey works, to determine exact locations, based on engineering design options, a series of suitable Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) measures to be installed at the entrance/exit to the following streets within the city centre. Exact locations to be delegated to Director of Place Management in consultation with Cabinet Member for Transport, with access provided via Controlled Authorised Access by the Council's CCTV team:

- (1) York Street
- (2) Cheap Street
- (3) Upper Borough Walls
- (4) Lower Borough Walls
- (5) Hot Bath Street

8. To note that subject to investigations, enhance existing street furniture with a series of public realm HVM measures to the following streets:

- (1) Old Bond St (North)

- (2) Burton St (North) (incl occasional access)
- (3) New Bond St Place (North)
- (4) New Bond St Place (South)
- (5) Northumberland Place
- (6) The Corridor
- (7) Barton St/ Saw Close (incl occasional access)
- (8) Seven Dials (incl occasional access)
- (9) Chandos Buildings (West)
- (10) Hetling Court (West)
- (11) Beau St (East) (incl occasional access)
- (12) New Orchard St (East) (incl occasional access)
- (13) Southgate St (south)
- (14) Kingston Buildings (Orange Grove)

9. To note the recommended series of mitigation measures, to support the City Centre Security programme, as highlighted in the Accessibility Study, namely:

- (1) Additional seating to be installed on Cheap Street and Westgate Street
- (2) Dropped kerbs and footway surface improvements to allow improved accessibility from existing city centre car parks and proposed additional blue badge bays.
- (3) Provide additional blue badge and loading bays (as detailed in 3.20 below)
- (4) Clear and accessible Communications Plan

10. To note that recommended additional measures, in a phased approach, from both the Consultation Report and Accessibility Study will be considered as part of wider Bath City Centre public realm and transport improvement programmes, with an holistic approach, working with Accessibility Groups, businesses and residents. This request is subject to approval of the revenue and capital budget provisions by Cabinet and Council as part of the council's budget setting process.

11. Advertise TRO's as necessary for all the restricted streets to prevent all waiting, except for the provision of parking for Blue Badge Holders and loading/ unloading for specific time periods

12. Enable the TRO (for anti-terrorism purposes) restrictions to prevent access by Blue Badge Holders, and identified delivery vehicles, should the National or local security risk increase to severe or critical, and as advised by the Police, either for an unplanned incident or planned event, ie Bath Christmas Market/Remembrance Services, as per the Operational Management Procedures.

13. To note the resource implications set out in section 5 of the report, final scheme design and financial implications will require the approval of the Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development.

41 BATH CITY CENTRE HIGH STREET RENEWAL

Councillor Richard Samuel introduced the report by saying that our high streets have been struggling over the last 18 months, and help was needed to try and encourage footfall back into the city centre. The Cabinet were asked to agree that the funds that the Council had applied for, from the West of England Combined Authority, both for the 'love of our high streets' fund and for the recovery fund, now be drawn down so that the Council could begin the projects that were set out in the report. Councillor

Samuel thanked WECA for enabling these funds which would be used wisely. The Council would work with the business community for the benefit of successful intervention.

Councillor Samuel thanked the team who have been working on this project and also partners who brought their own interesting ideas to the table.

Councillor Richard Samuel moved the recommendations.

Councillor Dine Romero seconded the motion by saying that it was clear pre-pandemic that high streets, including Bath city centre, were in need of help. Changes to shopping habits had sped up during the last year, due to lock downs and the fear many now have on spending time in potentially unsafe indoor spaces. More people than ever were buying their goods and groceries on-line, yet many shops now stood empty.

The funding from WECA from the Love our High Streets has been welcomed as well as the £500k from the recovery fund.

The use of vacant shops and spaces was part of the regional culture and was a reminder of how important culture and arts were to the Council, to local businesses and individuals, particularly in terms of increasing jobs and opportunities locally. Councillor Romero concluded by saying that she did recognise that there was not a great deal of detail yet on the equalities impact but that she would look carefully at the proposals coming forward, to make sure that in a drive for improvements to the local economy, and for more vibrancy in the city, the Council would not inadvertently disadvantage groups of residents or visitors.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

- 1 Delegate approval to the Director of Place Management, in consultation with the s151 officer, to accept the £1,235K Love our High Streets grant from WECA to be spent over a five year period in line with the Full Business Case and concept design approved. This will allow full approval of confirmed capital of £1,102k for Bath City Centre High Street Renewal and provides £240K for revenue budget support as outlined in section 5 of this report.
- 2 Delegate approval to the Director of Place Management, in consultation with the s151 officer, to accept £255k from the WECA Recovery grant offered to deliver phase 2 capital works to bring vacant shops back into active use for cultural and commercial and arts initiatives as part of the 'vacant unit action project'. The split between this programme and Commercial Estate Refurbishment and revenue budget support to be confirmed.

42 ON STREET PARKING PERMITS AND CHARGES

Councillor Manda Rigby introduced the report by reading out the following statement:

'I am very pleased to be proposing this motion to you today. My first task is to thank the officers for their very diligent work on this, especially Andy Dunn and Chris Major. This is the first time in 8 years we have addressed on street parking permit charges. I'd like to take a bit of time saying what the drivers, see what I did there, for this change were.

Looking at residents parking permits, the cost has not increased for 8 years. In that time, cars have grown in size, the number of journeys has increased massively, people have become far more aware of the health and wellbeing impacts of a sedentary lifestyle and poor air quality...and we have declared a climate emergency. Owning and running a car is a very expensive endeavour, and we want to ensure when people are coming to the point that they need to replace their car, they are very aware of the other options which exist, so decide if they need the car or not....some absolutely will need a car, others may not. Part of the expense is the purchase of a parking permit, but in the scheme of overall costs, it is in some cases not as high as a full tank of petrol. We want people to look at not owning the most polluting vehicles as part of our overall Clean air programme, and so we are proposing an emission-based parking permit system.

The poorest in our society predominantly don't own a car, or indeed have access to one, but they suffer the results of poor air quality caused by those who do. Those on lower incomes who do have a car are more likely to have an older one, with higher emissions, and we know how much many are suffering financially, so we have introduced a monthly and quarterly way of paying for our permits to spread the cost. As is common with most payment plans, we will pass on the 62p bank charge per transaction to those using the monthly option.

I'll also look at hotel permits. We know, and have heard from speakers earlier, that our hospitality industry has really suffered this year. That's why we as a council are trying to help by extending the Christmas market, and promoting the high street and Bath as a destination for people, whilst being as safe as we can be. However, we have to address the long-standing anomalies in hotel permit allocations.

It makes no sense for visitors to drive round and round our local streets looking for somewhere to park and for residents to do the same because they are in competition for scarce on road parking spaces. We are rebalancing this, so that locals can park closer to their homes, and visitors in the central area will need to park in a council car park. This brings us very much in line with many tourist destinations where there is no expectation a visitor can park on the streets in the centre, and, as a World Heritage site, it is even more important we protect our built as well as natural environment. If you go to the vast majority of the cities in the UK with a compelling tourist offer, you don't expect to park in the centre, you do expect to pay extra if you bring your car, and we want to encourage visitors to use public transport to access Bath as well.

Some, though by no means not all, hotels have also been abusing the system. They have purchased an annual hotel permit for £160 per stated bedroom, and have been selling them on to their guests, or others, on a daily basis at a significant uplift, up to £30 per day.

We are introducing an automated system, which will lessen the admin burden on the accommodation providers and get rid of the paper permits. If an overnight visitor stays in Bath, they will be charged what a day visitor would be charged for a full day parking.

We don't anticipate this will put people off coming to wonderful Bath, and as all the accommodation providers in central Bath without their own car parks will be in the same position, it will not be a commercial disadvantage to individual establishments. As an example, we have listened and changed the original plans so that there is an inner and outer circle zones, to avoid many trips across the City from further out establishments

I appreciate these changes are very very welcomed by our local residents, and despite the compromises made, less so by our hotel and guest house community. I think history will show were we to go forward with these changes, that it is the status

quo which is wrong, and that this rebalance will not adversely impact the local economy.

I am very pleased to move this motion, and hope that you can all support it.'

Councillor Manda Rigby moved the recommendations.

Councillor Tom Davies seconded the motion by thanking members of the public who responded to the consultation on these changes and to the officers who had been involved in designing this proposal. Councillor Davies added that these changes were part of Administration's delivery of its promises to tackle the climate and ecological emergency and to address the damage caused by air pollution. It would be the Administration's role to ensure that where changes such as these were required, would be balanced especially against those for whom such change would come at a cost.

Councillor Tom Davies concluded by commending the new monthly payment option for the residents parking charge and the revisions made to the hotel permit scheme following the public consultation.

Councillor Sarah Warren welcomed the report by the proven impacts on public health of air pollution arising from vehicles were the reason behind the implementation of Bath's Clean Air Zone (CAZ) earlier this year, which charges those vehicles with the highest emissions, entering the city centre, in order to encourage an upgrade to lesser polluting models.

In the first quarter of this year, even during lockdown, there had remained at least 4 spots in Bath where air pollution lingered above legal limits. There was no safe level of nitrogen dioxide pollution, so the Council must continue with efforts to reduce both the presence of, and the mileage driven by, the highest emitting vehicles in our historic city.

Councillor Warren added that the Council has acknowledged that there were individuals living on low incomes within the residents' parking zone area, who have a real need for a vehicle, and who would struggle to upgrade a vehicle attracting a high charge. The Council would be exploring all avenues and intend to find a means of providing support for these people.

However, the young, the unborn, the elderly, and those with pre-existing lung conditions would suffer the most from poor air quality in our city, and for those reasons Councillor Warren supported this measure.

Councillor Richard Samuel also welcomed the report by saying that encouraging people to buy smaller and environmentally friendly vehicles rather than SUVs was not a new initiative as it has been standard practice in London for many years.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

1. Consider the feedback to the consultation on proposals for on street parking permits, including terms and conditions.
2. Support and agree to the progression of proposals outlined in section 3 of this report to statutory consultation and notification progression, namely Emissions based residents permits; Hotel permits; Medical permits; Visitor and Trade parking permits.
3. Support and agree to the adoption of the On-street Parking Permit Terms and Conditions (Appendix 2).
4. Support and agree to delegate future operational changes to the On-street Parking Permit Terms and Conditions, including the withdrawal of permits, to

be agreed between the Cabinet Member for Transport and the relevant Director.

5. To note the approvals previously provided by Single Member Decision (E3253) to take proposals to statutory consultation, namely on street parking charges; Sunday on street charges; Prioritise transport hierarchy; and the use of any surplus raised from the proposals.
6. To support and agree to the recommendation that only existing properties with a Hotel; Holiday Let; or Guest House permit will be able to have Hotel permits from the date the Traffic Regulation Order is sealed.

43 INVESTMENT IN NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES FROM 2022

Councillor David Wood introduced the report by saying that for ten years Council Tax bills have been going up and service levels had been going down due to severe cuts from central government.

One of the first actions from the current Administration was to reverse cuts to city centre cleaning and to leaf clearing in the autumn. Last year more cuts were reversed to keep our streets cleaner and to litter pick A and B roads in North East Somerset. This year the Council would spend an extra £100k on keeping our streets cleaner.

In April next year the Council would trial £950k of investment in frontline services from street cleaning to graffiti, from repairing roads to banning glyphosate for street weeds with immediate effect.

Councillor Wood concluded his statement by saying that the Administration would be looking to reverse even more cuts, balance the books and give residents the services they deserved.

Councillor David Wood moved the recommendations.

Councillor Alison Born seconded the motion by saying that Neighbourhood services were cut significantly during years of austerity budgets, leaving gaps in service that impacted on the day to day experience of all residents and visitors to the area. This Administration have taken measures to mitigate these cuts over the past two years with positive effects. This targeted investment would build on those improvements and would extend them.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

1. Agree that the Council will no longer use glyphosate to control street weeds and will prioritise funding to mechanical and manual weed removal for street weeds in 22/23 whilst continuing to research viable alternatives.
2. Agree the areas to be considered within the Neighbourhood Services portfolio for further investment as a 12-month pilot, making a commitment against the council's £2m Covid contingency budget that has been earmarked to manage council priorities and backlogs on operational services. This money to be released from 2022/23. At the completion of the pilot, the outcomes will be reviewed to ensure they deliver the necessary service improvement and considered as part of the council's financial planning processes for long term service investment in the 23/24 budget.
3. The Cabinet is asked to take into account issues raised by the Scrutiny Panel when they report back on their findings.

4. Delegate authority to the Director of Place Management, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, to develop the most operationally effective and value for money delivery arrangements.

44 WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE & MODERNISATION PROGRAMME

Councillor David Wood introduced the report by saying he was pleased with the report that would bring the Council closer to a brand-new state-of-the-art recycling centre in Keynsham. The Council was one of the best performing areas of the country with record breaking recycling rates this year. Councillor Wood thanked the staff and residents for this achievement and added that he was proud that the Council were investing even more to ensure even higher recycling rates in the future. Councillor Wood used this opportunity to reaffirm to residents that there would be no gap in recycling centres in the city of Bath.

Councillor Wood informed everyone that Cabinet Members have been sent a supplementary paper about plans for Bath recycling centres (attached to these minutes as E3306 Supplementary Paper) in advance of the meeting. Councillor Wood also informed the meeting that recommendation 2.2 would read as follows:

‘Cabinet notes the progress towards securing a new permanent waste and recycling site for Bath at Odd Down as set out in the supplementary paper and affirms its intention to provide a new interim facility at Bath Western Riverside in advance of the final closure of the Midland Road site.’

Councillor David Wood moved the recommendations (as amended above).

Councillor Sarah Warren seconded the motion by saying that besides the modernisation of the Council waste facilities, she was particularly pleased that the design for the new facility in Pixash Lane would incorporate a solar PV installation rainwater collection and recycling, and high standards of energy efficiency, as well as tree planting. Councillor Warren was also pleased with the commitment to ensure an alternative facility at Bath would be operational before Midland road is shut, to minimise the car mileage driven to the waste facility.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

1. Fully approve the total capital of £29.9m needed to deliver the construction phase, in order to complete and relocate according to programme in early 2023. This requires an uplift of £13.6m on the current provisional programme item of £16.3m, with the additional borrowing costs implied of £522k to be funded from the revenue budget contingency.
2. Note the progress towards securing a new permanent waste and recycling site for Bath at Odd Down as set out in the supplementary paper and affirms its intention to provide a new interim facility at Bath Western Riverside in advance of the final closure of the Midland Road site.

E3306 Supplementary Paper

45 COMMERCIAL ESTATE REVIEW UPDATE

Councillor Richard Samuel introduced the report by saying that the Council's commercial estate was one of the jewels of the Council's assets, and in good times it would deliver around £18m of gross income to the Council. That income would be used to support all sorts of Council services as a key part of Council's funding. Councillor Samuel said that the impact of COVID had hit that service badly, and for those reasons he had worked with the senior management team to propose some major change to the service. In determining to improve the situation, the Council had decided to bring in an external advisor to examine the Council's estate from a completely impartial perspective, and that was what the Montague Evans report did. The report had highlighted a whole range of pointers on what could be done better. Ultimately, the Council and its residents would see the benefits with a high functioning, good returning property estate that benefits the area and its citizens. Councillor Samuel concluded by saying that the Council was the premier landlord in most parts of the city of Bath, and if its properties were neglected or not run properly then the Council would contribute to a downturn in that area.

Councillor Richard Samuel moved the recommendations.

Councillor Manda Rigby seconded the motion by saying that she was pleased with the ongoing work in this area in order to prevent the commercial estate becoming a deteriorating asset, and avoid any financial, social, commercial and economical impact.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

1. Note the findings and the executive summary from the Commercial Estate review.
2. Approve the Commercial Estate review plan, workstreams and governance arrangements and delegate to the Property Review Board / S151 Officer, responsibility for implementing the governance arrangements and required restructuring, respectively.
3. Approve the Capital budget of £2.337m for Commercial Estate Refurbishment Programme, utilising funding as described in section 5.2.
4. Approve the creation of a capital reserve to be funded from dilapidation and insurance income relating to capital refurbishments.
5. Approve the approach to Commercial Estate repurposing to residential accommodation using the Council's housing company Aequus, with delegation for transfer arrangements given to the Chief Financial Officer (S151) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development.

46 REVENUE & CAPITAL OUTTURN 2020/21

Councillor Richard Samuel introduced the report which detailed what had happened in the last year, with an incredibly good achievement in balancing the books in the most difficult year for the Council's finances. It was not easy managing last minute funds from the government with around twenty different grant schemes that came to the Council, some for the business community and some for specific purposes. Councillor Samuel thanked everyone who contributed to that achievement.

Councillor Richard Samuel moved the recommendations.

Councillor Kevin Guy seconded the motion by thanking all Councillors and Council staff who contributed to achieving a positive balance for 2020/21 in probably the most financially difficult time in the nation's history.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet agreed to:

1. Note the revenue budget outturn on budget position for 2020/21, after allowing for carry forwards and transfers to reserves.
2. Approve the revenue carry forward proposals listed in the tables in paragraph 3.8.
3. Approve that all over budgets are written-off as an exception to the Budget Management Rules for 2020/21.
4. Approve the transfer of £5.42m to corporate earmarked reserves, the breakdown of which is detailed in paragraph 3.9;
5. Note the revenue virements for 2020/21 reported for information in Appendix 2(i)
6. Note the reserve positions and the use of flexible capital receipts shown in paragraphs 3.18-3.20;
7. Note the outturn position of the 2020/21 capital programme in paragraph 3.35, and the funding outlined in paragraph 3.37;
8. Approve the capital rephasing and write-off of net underspends as listed in Appendix 3. This reflects the outturn spend position on projects against final budgets as detailed in Appendix 4(ii).

47 REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, CASH LIMITS AND VIREMENTS – APRIL TO JUNE 2021

Councillor Richard Samuel introduced the report by saying that this was the first quarterly monitoring report of the current financial year. Councillor Samuel expressed his concerns that, following an announcement from central government to ease COVID restrictions from 19th July, there would be further waves of COVID with a possibility that further variants would occur. Therefore, the Council may encounter further lockdowns which may affect businesses in the area which would also affect the Council's financial position. Tourist attractions in Bath, such as Roman Baths and the Pump Rooms may be also be affected due to higher COVID case numbers, which were currently higher than they have been since the pandemic started. This would coincide with the total removal of government assistance, and financial assistance to local authorities, which came to an end on 30th of June. Any support for businesses and employees would also disappear.

Councillor Samuel added that this was a warning to all of us, and that the Council may need to take further action to stabilise its finances and may need to call for further government funds in order to get through this.

Nevertheless, Council Samuel hoped that these measures would not be necessary, yet he hoped that residents of Bath and North East Somerset would understand that the months ahead could be very precarious ones for the Council.

Councillor Richard Samuel moved the recommendations.

Councillor Dine Romero seconded the motion by saying that the Council could expect further lockdowns which could have a devastating impact on Council's finances, particularly if heritage services had to close again. Councillor Romero did

believe government would help even in the limited way it did previously with 75% paid on expected income.

The Council could be £6million short for funding children with higher needs.

Councillor Romero said that she had written to the Secretary of State highlighting these concerns and asked the government to urgently find additional funding for provision of the right services for children with special educational needs.

Councillor Romero also said Mental Health services as well as Public Health would be severely impacted with further lockdowns, as well as Library Services and Free School Meals during summer holidays.

Councillor Romero concluded her statement by saying that the government must fund local councils better; they must fund this Council better.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

1. To note the 2021/22 revenue budget position (as at the end of June 2021).
2. To note the revenue virements listed for information only in Appendix 3(i).
3. To note the capital year-end forecast detailed in paragraph 3.21 of this report;
4. To note the changes in the capital programme including capital schemes that have been agreed for full approval under delegation listed in Appendix 4(i).

48 TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2020/21

Councillor Richard Samuel introduced this agenda item by saying that this report, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice, gave details of performance against the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Plan for 2020/21. Councillor Samuel also said that the Council had been doing work on moving its funds to more socially and environmentally acceptable investments.

Councillor Richard Samuel moved the recommendations.

Councillor Tom Davies seconded the motion by praising the Council's intention to move its funds to more socially and environmentally acceptable investments.

Councillor Davies also said that the report described key aspects of the Council's balance sheets and thanked Councillor Samuel and Andy Rothery (Section 151 Officer) for highly effective management of the Council's treasury.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed that:

1. The Treasury Management Report to 31st March 2021, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice, is noted.
2. The Treasury Management Indicators to 31st March 2021 are noted.

49 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT TO 30TH JUNE 2021

Councillor Richard Samuel introduced the report by saying that this was the first quarterly report on revenue and capital spending for this year. The environmental investment has been referenced and it would come forward for an internal discussion with Councillors in the next few weeks.

Councillor Richard Samuel moved the recommendations.

Councillor Tom Davies seconded the motion by welcoming the report.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed that:

1. The Treasury Management Report to 30th June 2021, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice, is noted.
2. The Treasury Management Indicators to 30th June 2021 are noted.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm

Chair _____

Date Confirmed and Signed _____

Prepared by Democratic Services

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BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

Grant of a Dispensation

Name of Member	All Cabinet Members
Meeting and item of business for which the dispensation has been sought	Agenda Item 14 On Street Parking- Parking Permits and Charges at the Cabinet Meeting on 20 th July 2021.
Reason for dispensation	For the avoidance of doubt, this dispensation was granted to enable members with potential disclosable non-pecuniary interests in relation to their residing within a resident parking zone or ownership of a parking permit to take part in the debate and vote. Failure to grant a dispensation would impede the transaction of the business of the meeting.
Period of Dispensation	To cover the period of the Cabinet Meeting on the 20 July 2021.

Having received applications from several councillors requesting this dispensation, it was granted.

Signed

M.Hewitt
Interim Monitoring Officer – Bath & North East Somerset Council

Dated 20 July 2021

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A climate and ecological emergency has been declared, yet our streets continue to be sprayed with glyphosate; a dangerous substance which destroys plants, pollinators, birds, wildlife habitats and vital food sources. Because glyphosate is water soluble its use also affects aquatic and soil life. Unsurprisingly it is also highly dangerous for human health. At low concentrations it damages liver, kidney and skin cells and long term effects include cancer, infertility, pregnancy problems, birth defects and respiratory diseases. Glyphosate products are implicated in over 50,000 cancer lawsuits in the U.S. and it has been identified as a probable carcinogen by the World Health Organisation. This toxic substance is being sprayed on our streets without residents' consent and, as we have noticed in our petition, people are rightly shocked and concerned about this.

Recent evidence suggests that insects have declined by 50% or more since the 1970s. 41% of insects are currently threatened with extinction. The use of glyphosate is playing a strong role in this rapid decline. All our pavement and wall plants (or so called weeds) in BaNES are sprayed with glyphosate. These plants are a habitat and vital food source for birds, bees, insects and many other animals. Rather than thinking of these as weeds, we must open our eyes and see them as wild plants and flowers. Not only do they play a crucial role in nature, they also look so much better than brown, dead ones.

The vast majority of pavement and wall plants are not woody and don't cause damage as their roots are too thin (they are often annual or short-lived perennials). A few plants with taproots - such as dandelions - can *appear* to cause more damage because they grow larger but they often grow in places where the pavement is already broken or damaged (for example where tree roots have lifted the pavement and created large cracks).

Of course, we must ensure that everyone can access pavements safely and without obstruction. In some areas woody plants may need removing, however, consideration should be given to the fact that many plants which grow on walls and pavements cause no damage, can have considerable ecological value and might also add to the visual aspect of the area. English Heritage recommends that before the removal of any plant, careful consideration should be given to what harm is actually being done. Vegetation should not simply be removed for no other reason than that it is there in the first place. We need to put the old fashioned ideas of "neat and tidy nature" behind us and embrace the wonderful wild plants in our streets before it is too late. Nature urgently needs our help. We should leave many of our wild plants to do their job. By stopping the annual spray of glyphosate we can begin to slow and reverse the devastating impacts of biodiversity loss and start to secure a sustainable and healthy future for wildlife and ourselves. Let's turn our streets in BaNES into a beautiful, buzzing network of insect friendly habitats.

Sources -

https://www.somersetwildlife.org/sites/default/files/2019-11/FULL%20AFI%20REPORT%20WEB1_1.pdf

<https://www.pan-uk.org>

[https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/learn/conservation/gardens-and-landscapes/lan - vegetation on walls.pdf](https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/learn/conservation/gardens-and-landscapes/lan_-_vegetation_on_walls.pdf)

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Kari Erickson statement – Cabinet 20th July 2021

I come before cabinet tonight to invite you into reflection on some of your goals as liberal democrats, and how these intersect with your relationship with the private sector - which you openly and graciously acknowledge has not always been as productive and cooperative as it could be.

You want to encourage and incentivise people to pursue certain environmental aims - this is part of a larger global conversation we are all having in ways big and small about how we can enjoy a modern life of comfort and ease while still protecting the planet. I was reflecting on this myself when I read former President Obama's most recent memoir, in which he talks about the success and failures of his administration in their environmental policy efforts. He said that he felt Michelle through her garden and community-led projects had more success in make change than he did in legislating it and it caused him to reflect and think differently about leadership. I invite you to do the same.

I am troubled when I see this council speak in moralising tones about resident behaviour, as if all of us go about our lives without a care for the environment. People are busy, they are under pressure, they are trying to work to sustain themselves, to deal with their health, their families and pressing personal issues. It is my feeling that the way to inspire change is not to arrange and moralise - this is off-putting, but to elevate people and inspire change through positive messaging.

My question to you is, how can you engage positively with businesses to jointly pursue your environmental policy aims? Why does this council seem so sceptical about attracting investment? I see so much scope for development here in exciting ways, building on our heritage of wellbeing and beauty to be one of Europe if not the world's top destinations for health and wellbeing, with world-class offerings of every description from spa treatments to events and education to experiences both in town and in our beautiful landscape. There's so much potential here to not only pursue an agenda of health and wellbeing for the planet and its people, but also attract a different type of tourist here and generate more wealth for those who live and work here.

Thank you for your time.

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Presentation to Cabinet 20th July 2021 18:30

I speak to the extant City Centre Security Plan in relation to the disabled and blue badge holders.

Our son is assessed as unable to walk more than 50 metres, & in receipt of mobility allowance. Last summer, he decided to invest 3 years of his allowance in a Motability car, so we could drive him right to where he needs to go. Imagine our shock when we learnt the Council was planning to make the centre of the city of his birth, and birthright, an exclusion zone for him.

I feel, given recent announcements, I am pushing at an open door, but the proposal was published under your watch, and the council, a *Liberal Democrat council*, is responsible for all the distress caused. I trust you agree that the rights of the disabled must not be collateral damage in a glorious climate emergency “revolution”, with barricades everywhere.

The plan is unlawful, in that it fails to meet the council’s equality duty. Were the council to proceed, it should be defeated at Judicial Review.

The premise on which the plan is presented, security, is flawed. I submitted a F.O.I. request for the discussions between the council and police, but was denied. There is no specific security threat, so there can be no grounds for denying the public access to the justification for infringing their freedoms. This is abuse of power.

The threat that the plan seeks to address is a vehicle used as a weapon, such as in the appalling Westminster Bridge attack. But the Bridge is not closed to traffic, a barrier has been erected between the roadway and the pavement, keeping pedestrians safe. Whitehall is open to traffic, pedestrians protected by bollards, as are Trafalgar Square and by Buckingham Palace. Yet these are orders of magnitude higher profile targets for terrorism than Cheap Street. We in Bath can protect pedestrians with bollards while leaving our roads open.

Your manifesto states “We will limit access to City Centre so that the vehicles that need to be there can get in”. No mention of security. Nobody would reasonably have expected that you would consider that the disabled don’t need to get in. You have no political mandate for this plan. So chuck it out.

While it is clear that hardly anybody buys the justification for the security scheme proposed by the police which manages to be both objectively oppressive and inadequate when judged against recent attacks. It is also clear that the Council lack both the authority and political will to oppose it. So it is now time to focus on the issues of implementation.

Bath is very fortunate in having a wide variety of people that have chosen to live in the historic city centre. This is something that many cities have spent large sums of money trying to achieve and there are too many example of historic cities and tourist destinations that have lost their inner city residents and paid a heavy price.

Too often in Bath people who actually chose to live in the City come bottom of the list of stakeholders to be taken into consideration in creating and implementing policy. The city centre security proposals are yet another example of this. The original proposals were developed with minimal consultation with residents and the publicity sought to downplay negative impacts. As a consequence they largely failed to acknowledge issues for those with limited mobility and dumped almost all the responsibility for coping with the negative impact on residents. This dereliction of responsibility by BANES was most clearly manifest in the ludicrous proposed arrangement for deliveries and property maintenance.

While the access consultants did a good job of starting to identify problems their terms of reference constrained their conclusions to a focus on the most disadvantaged and then only a subset.

What is needed now is a proper consultation with all affected residents proactively working to identify problems that will be created and identifying ways in which the local authorities will seek to take responsibility for implement schemes to minimise those impacts and the associated costs of this flawed plan.

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Susan Charles statement – Cabinet 20 July 2021

Baths Ring of Steel.

Thank you to all the Councillors who have joined me on the walkabouts, and for delaying the decision on the Ring of Steel.

I am hoping the decision you come to tonight will incorporate the needs of all residents and visitors to our City.

If not, it will be a Shameful Day.

If as I hope those with Bluebadges will be allowed into the blocked areas, there are also elderly and disabled residents living within the Ring who have been experiencing problems of getting out.

People who choose to reside in the centre to accommodate their needs and choose not to drive, use taxis, car services etc so don't have a blue badge.

At present a ridiculous system of filling out forms...three weeks in advance of needing a taxi.

What of people with a short-term disability, not a Bluebadge holder?

Or newly disabled and may have to wait the required six months to prove their need? All these people need to go about their usual routine, OR ...are they going to be told to go elsewhere?

The last time that happened it didn't go down very well...

Alas there will be many more situations needing to access essential services in and beyond the Ring of Steel.

And is this the time to be putting more work on our medical services, GP's social workers etc to obtain a Bluebadge?

Maybe an interim pass from GP's ordered by phone or internet would be the quickest?

I hope you've already got the answers? otherwise the decision cannot happen as soon as we hoped.

And the big question 'Freedom Day'
on 19th July....I'm being told to ask:

ARE THE BARRIERS BEING LIFTED?

Susan Charles

Access Banes Chair.

Julie Gregory statement – Cabinet 20th July 2021

I'm Julie Gregory I'm speaking from my personal perspective and similar others.

My life is ruined by hidden disabilities, the worst two being blood cancer and chronic fatigue syndrome.

I cannot stand for long or walk far and when I do I feel constantly dreadful and always require a long period of recovery.

I cannot ever use public transport or car parks. It's not a choice trust me.

If I can't park outside I can't go.

Mobility Scooters - are Not really an option for me.

But they'd be more accessible ,

if located in a very central place,

with adjoining car parking

Both of these need to be free, as many of us live on very limited budgets.

Having been required to shield for most of the last 16 months I was utterly distraught when I went into town to find no access for blue badge holders. This has greatly impacted on my mental health.

Roads being covertly closed off and pedestrianised with no access for blue badge holders.

No real consultation, I suggest that 90% or more of our 83,000 plus population knew nothing about any permanent changes,

were not notified or consulted.

I do not call 500 responses fair, informed or representational.

I also understand an advocate for disabled people has only been allowed during the last two months.

Pedestrianising our city is a disproportionate response to very unlikely terrorist actions and we have to live our lives and not be held in fear or to ransom by them. I feel it's just an excuse and a disproportionate response.

Parking services have walked across from the Guildhall Blue Badge bay, to the corridor, to look for two culprits taking Blue Badge spaces, so that they could be moved on rather than fined.

What deterrent is that, shocking and shameful.

Loading vehicles regularly park in Blue Badge bays and seem to think they're entitled.

they also take most space prior to the 10am am street closure

We are not allowed to park in loading bays

I am begging you to please reconsider the following places:-

1. York Street - take out the bollards so we could turn round at the end and make the whole street Blue Badge only access, as this is one area where I can go and sit in the square enjoy music, company, scenery, ice cream et cetera.

2. Consider making either end of Kingsmead Square Blue Badge Parking areas, so we can have access. Please ask me how.

3. Saw close, please make all of the road from the bluecoat house to the end where the mineral hospital was Blue Badge Parking only.

4. enable Blue Badge Holders to park on Bridge St, outside the disabled access door to Victoria Gallery

Many of the very few blue badge parking bays are just not in the right place in the city, again please ask me.

Finally I do understand that you are all working hard, under increasingly challenging circumstances, and I thank you.

Bath and North East Somerset Cabinet – Tuesday 20th July 2021

In the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Bath

Statement of Support, Agenda Item 12 – acceptance of WECA Funding

Lindsay Holdoway, Managing Director, HPH Commercial Property,

6 Kingsmead Square, Bath BA1 2AB

Chair, Councillors, ladies and gentlemen.

My name is Lindsay Holdoway and I am speaking in my capacity as managing director of HPH Ltd, a locally based commercial property company with several properties in Bath, including 4 – 11 Kingsmead Square (South Terrace) where we also have our office.

I am speaking in support of the proposal to accept funding from the West of England Investment Fund's 'Love our High Street' programme.

As a company we have worked with Bath City Council and subsequently B&NES, first in the rebuilding and restoration of Nos. 4 – 11 Kingsmead Square in 1976 and then in 1995 when we worked with the Council in partnership on a public realm improvement scheme with funding contributions from both HPH and St Johns which created the current physical layout and design of Kingsmead Square.

Working with the Kingsmead traders' association we have provided funding for the installation of decorative lighting in the main tree, annual floral displays around the Square area and last year, seasonal lighting decorations over the Christmas period which we hope to continue.

We have always seen the strength of acting in partnership to promote quality in design and activation of use of the public realm in city centres. The current scheme of road closure between 10am – 10pm coupled with the increased use of pavement areas for hospitality businesses, the addition of the parklets, and repositioned cycle parking has been very successful. It is now a destination location for food and drink and in the Covid environment where social distancing and outside facilities are at a premium it has provided a vital amenity for the City.

The changes to the Use Classes Order, enabling easier and quicker changes of use within the new E Class have also played a part as, for example, it enables an office – previously B1, to become a restaurant – previously A3. Working with the Council's licensing team, our ground floor occupiers have been able to increase capacity and widen the offer available which has been repeated around the Square with the support of very pro-active Council officers in the project team.

The success of the current scheme can be measured in terms of increased footfall and lack of vacancy – there are currently no empty units and commercial agents advise new retail or hospitality businesses looking for space in the City now frequently specify the Kingsmead area. There has been a clear, demonstrable, economic impact but as, or more importantly, a very significant social impact, in the creation of a lively and vibrant environment, a space for people to enjoy. In turn this has largely overcome the long term issues of public disorder and unlawful activity that had proven so hard to tackle and had blighted the Square over many years and strengthened the engagement of the business and wider community.

We very much hope the existing scheme will become permanent and possibly lead to full pedestrianization in due course. We receive constant positive feedback in regard to the recent improvements in the Square and its impact on surrounding areas.

In common with every city and town centre in the UK, Bath faces great challenges in a very dynamic period of economic and social change. I consider public realm improvement has a key role to play, in tandem with imaginative estate management and town planning, to create opportunity for new uses and to enhance the diversity and range of offer to revitalize our high streets.

I very much hope you will accept the WECA funding and for our part HPH have committed part funding if the project proceeds.

Thank you.

Lindsay Holdoway

CITY CENTRE SECURITY AND DISABLED PARKING IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS.

I would like to thank the Council members for the extra resources which enabled the excellent Accessibility study to be undertaken by Atkins and has resulted in a reappraisal of the blanket closure of Cheap Street/Westgate Street/Upper Borough Walls and Saw Close proposed in the original scheme.

I thank you also for delaying the decision, which was originally scheduled for some months earlier, which has enabled modification of the proposals. I note that there are still details in relation to exactly how Blue Badge Holders will be able to access the above areas during the proposed closure hours of 10am to 6pm.

Given the extra time that has elapsed I urge that this last vital stage is not rushed, and that proper consultation is undertaken with the very people who will need to use the access. It is important to get this right before any TROs and ATTROs are published and so I would like to suggest a Working Party (probably an outdated phrase but it says what it does on the tin!) to formulate with councillors and officers a workable solution.

What Blue Badge Holders do not need is a raft of procedures to grapple with..a one-off registration scheme is fine ..I'm thinking of the way in which Blue Badge Holders can register with Parking Eye at the RUH or even how we register with London Transport for exemption from the Congestion Charge.

Your Equalities Officer has a list of contributors to the Atkins report some of whom who could surely be asked to contribute in such a way as to assist the council in this important implementation of the scheme and I urge you to take advantage of the expertise available.

Blue Badge parking in residents parking Zones

I understand that in the consultation on Liveable Neighbourhoods in the Residents Parking section of that consultation proposed removal of the local concession for Blue Badge Holders to park in Resident's parking spaces. I am therefore surprised to see in the revised Equality Impact Assessment (under the agenda item of Emissions Parking) before you tonight that the policy was changed in DECEMBER 2020 to remove the concession. I have yet to see any data which supports this change and simply bringing Banes into line with the National Scheme does not justify the removal of the local concession. Bristol

has the same concession. Supplying Blue Badge Holders with a free Residents Permit only covers them for their OWN area and not the many areas of the city where Blue badge Holders have to go to access medical/dental and optician services as well as museums and churches, many of which lie within residents parking zones. The available on street pay and display parking and availability of double and single yellow lines for Blue Badge Holders is a diminishing facility and I urge you to look again at this change to the policy and in so doing support your own residents who need a little extra help in getting around.

Lynda Lloyd

Statement to Cabinet meeting 20/7/20

Harry Tedstone Statement

I am going to quickly walk through the main issues

Impact on businesses

- Timing and cost – bad for bath business and for individual businesses a death nell – The Itv new piece filmed today will evidence this very clearly.
- Unfair Competition – why are you giving Air bnb an unfair competitive edge

Impact on emissions and pollution

- Success in reducing car use – you are increasing unnecessary local city centre journey by a predicated 30 000

Practical challenges with the proposed scheme

- Need for more finessed solution – a blanked policy just does not work
- Problems with alternative provision – The use of the park and rides.

“Parking is a key issueThis policy needs to be strengthened and extended to create more long stay capacity at the periphery, **in tandem** with further constraints on parking in the central area.

The Strategy is intended to **generate significant changes in travel behaviour and mode share. It also needs to be deliverable. Generating major benefits for the economy, community and environment is achievable in the spirit of the vision and offers the potential to make Bath an exemplar city for sustainable transport.”**

This is a quote from the report commissioned by BANES called “ Getting Around Bath- A Transport Strategy for Bath 2014.

We strongly support this approach to the issues we now face some 7 years on.

In 2019 I spoke on behalf of BIGHA at a Liberal Democratic Public Meeting in Queens Square about how we deal with the issue and suggested the slogan “Don’t Drive Be Alive” for Bath. I hoped that this would/could potentially be adopted by the Council so that everyone in Bath could get behind it from school children, to residents, to business and hospitality we all need to play our part.

We, the hospitality sector, have made it very clear that we wanted to work with the Council, were committed to the green agenda, we are not afraid of change, but that there needs to be “**deliverable - generating major benefits for the economy, community and environment**” alike.

The current proposals leave a lot of unanswered but not insurmountable questions. The talks yesterday with the Councillor for Transport and the Councillor for Economic Delivery showed that a solution, or group of solutions was out there but the current proposal was not it.

We have provided empirical detailed evidence that the proposals as they stand

- a) Will increase unnecessary short journey's into the city Centre especially from zone 1 by 10s of thousands each year – adding to the emissions. The guest will drop off their bags, be directed how to get to Charlotte Street and then either walk, get a taxi, or be brought back by the guesthouse in another vehicle. This process will be repeated in reverse on check out.

For each permit used working on an average 2 night stay used 365 days a year and assuming i) 75% occupancy represents and b) 75% of people drive to Bath - an additional 205 unnecessary car journeys to park in the centre of Bath. With the 32 central and 113 zone 1 hotel permits - 145 in total an additional 29,688 journeys adding to emissions and adding to congestion.

This was surely not the intended consequence of the proposal.

- b) With no strategy to encourage change behaviour or to manage the expectations of the visitor to Bath the plan as it stand will damage the major industry of Bath, with many future visitors staying outside of the area and 2 day tripping. This should have been part of the Economic Impact Assessment
- c) The current plans give the 400+ Airbnb properties who, can use their resident visitor permits to park guests on the street at little or not extra cost, an unfair competitive edge over businesses that have traded in some case for over 300 years

- d) That a blanket policy is not a solution and , as with LTNs, individual solutions for each neighbourhood can be found that together will be able or needed? to deliver the desired outcome for Bath as a whole.
- e) That parking in Charlotte Street is not guaranteed. For example, for a guest arriving in Bath last Saturday between 11.30am and 6pm there were no spaces left in Charlotte Street. When Avon Street is demolished and the Hilton Garden Hotel open on St James Street, the night time economy comes back and we are able to trade at full capacity the situation is a lot worse. The question is then where should we tell them to park and how do we assist them so that the overall welcoming visitor experience of Bath is not fundamentally flawed as a whole and the hard won reputation of the individual family run establishments forced to use the system fatally damaged overnight in the process.
- f) It was only yesterday that we and the councillors in the meeting found out that the Park and Rides were open 24/7 contrary to the Council's own website and the Travel West Website. This is a potential game changer and at least two establishments expressed interest in piloting their use for both guests and staff to park.
- g) The timing of the proposed changes, when the industry is struggling to get back in its feet, with many in greater debt than they have been before and with huge staff shortages is unconscionable. An increase in costs is expected and accepted. But its implementation in one go rather than in increments, will be a step too far for many to survive.

We know the Council do not want to destroy any business. We understand from our recent conversations that this was never your intention – but it is nevertheless a likely consequence of these proposals as they stand. I would like to take this moment on behalf of BIHA members to confirm our commitment to work with the Council to find workable, sustainable, pragmatic solutions. We need to listen to each other a lot better.

Our ask, is that with a potential solution, or group of solutions - to benefit all - within reach, that a final decision on this matter must be deferred. This does not mean that it will be kicked into the long grass. We would still like to see a resolution of this matter as quickly as possible - a matter of months not years -

even if that we to mean the implementation date has to be move to ensure its success.

In sum,

This proposal would manifestly increase the emissions and congestion

Whilst we can show how devastating it would be for business and the economy of Bath – this needs to be properly looked into and an urgent economic impact assessment needs to be undertaken

There is no Destination Management Plan or strategy to help with the behaviour change needed when it come to sell Bath as Green City. Without it none of the changes will be viable, or sustainable.

The ability of the independent businesses to trade successfully or at all in the constituency of the cllr for Transport has been brought into sharp focus and a piece to ITV recoded today will evidence this and we would ask you to watch it.

My final ask is lets deliver on Recommendation 5 of our new Chief Executive One Shared Mission an

“Build on the Ground-up Framework for Action set out in this report (Fair, Green, Creative, connected plus People, Place and Systems) by developing shared intelligence, data and place-based KPIs, which highlight understanding of inequalities alongside existing strengths and new investment opportunities. “

With a little more time, sharing of data and listening/ open dialogue it is so very possible.

Wouldn't it be great if we could do this? To put words into action. I think so and hope you do to.

Thank you.

STATEMENT FOR 20TH JULY BANES CABINET MEETING

SYLVIA SINCLAIR, DIRECTOR, ST JAMES'S SQUARE BATH LIMITED

I am speaking on behalf of St James's Square Bath Limited which represents approximately 130 homes in St James's Square. I wish to support the Council's proposal to require "Inner Zone" hotel guests to park their cars in Council owned car parks, rather than on our residential streets.

I would like to make three points:

1. Firstly, St James's Square residents regularly face disruption and annoyance from hotel guests taking up scarce residential parking spaces. In particular, The Royal Crescent Hotel often valet parks many cars in St James's Square for several days. This is despite the hotel only being a stone's throw from the Charlotte Street car park and having its own large, off-street parking facility. Our flats and houses, and those in our surrounding area, do not have the luxury of off-street parking. While The Royal Crescent Hotel is located in the newly named "Hotel Inner Zone", it has been highlighted to Councillors Rigby and Warren that this hotel uses its rear entrance in Zone 7, which is in the "Hotel Outer Zone", to obtain parking permits. Councillor Rigby has confirmed that this anomaly will be corrected, and the hotel will be required to follow the same rules as other Inner Zone hotels and not use its "back door" to park guest cars in Zone 7.

2. Secondly, the current rules incentivise private car journeys to Bath by allowing hotels to have, what is in effect, unlimited guest parking. These visitors should be coming to Bath by train or bus, or at the very least, using the Park and Ride. Many other UNESCO cities in Europe, such as Florence and Siena, have their historic centres completely closed off to visitors' cars. Despite this, visitors still come and stay, and they do so in very large numbers.

3. Finally, hotel guests should "pay their fair share" and be treated the same as other visitors to Bath. The Royal Crescent Hotel offers rooms from about £500 to £1500 per night during the week rising up to £1000 to £1500 per night at weekends. Valet parking is offered at an additional charge of £30 per stay for which the hotel's actual cost is minimal. I think you will agree £15 for parking at the Charlotte Street Carpark is very affordable in comparison and will have no effect whatsoever on the hotel or guest numbers. This small contribution to BANES will ensure that guests are putting something back into our city and our community.

Thank you.

Good evening,

I am speaking this evening to support the paper on investment in neighbourhood services, and in particular, the decision to move away from the use of weedkiller containing glyphosate in our treatment of street weeds.

The use of herbicides has a significant impact on the environment by indiscriminately destroying plants that are an important source of food and habitat for wildlife.

As well as having the support of organisations like the Soil Association, 3,000 people have signed a petition to this Council asking that we stop the use of glyphosate on our streets.

We have stated publicly that we are facing a climate and ecological emergency, and I believe that stopping the annual street-spray is an important step in changing the way we operate.

Instead, the paper proposes a move to mechanical and manual weed removal, in all but exceptional circumstances (such as invasive species).

I am also really pleased that there is also a commitment to work with residents to manage weeds, or as they might like to call them - pavement plants. This will include looking at how we can provide residents with weed removal tools, in the same way we have provided litter pickers, so that they can choose which plants to remove and when.

This is great news for local biodiversity, allowing more plants to flower and offer benefits. I know this will be welcomed by the many residents that have been in touch with us on this issue.

In my role as member advocate for biodiversity I am aware of other actions that the Council is taking to support local biodiversity through the work that we do:

- Firstly, altering our mowing regime so that we allow more grassy areas to grow for longer. Currently 20% of our grassland is managed in this way – and there is the potential to go further in the way we manage our roadside verges.

I am pleased to hear that we are working with residents to identify sites which have rare species. For example, in places like Twerton Fork, where there are wild orchids growing and we will now have a reduced cutting regime.

- Secondly, we must also plant new areas of wildflowers to encourage more biodiversity. I am pleased to hear that this Autumn we will work with residents in locations across BNES to plant new wildflower areas.

- Thirdly, we must also steer the planning system to deliver for biodiversity. I am delighted to see that our Local Plan Update includes the requirement for developers to deliver a 10% net gain in biodiversity.

Alongside this we must use developer contributions from the Community Infrastructure Levy to deliver large scale improvements to local biodiversity, through investing in open spaces and waterways such as the Bath River Line project.

The Parks Department have recently created new meadows in Innox Park and Kensington Meadows using S106 funds.

There is an appetite for more amongst our staff and communities – and I would like us to commit further resource to kickstart an action plan and take this habitat restoration forward on a larger scale – in the same way that we are doing with tree planting.

E3281 On Street parking and parking permits.

Yesterday Cllr Shaun Hughes and I were driving between the site in Charlecote Road which is the subject of a controversial planning application and the Mineral Hospital for a briefing prior to the next planning committee meeting. We missed the briefing because even with my blue badge we could not find a parking space near the Min. until we had circled round the new security system several times. It would be interesting to know how much of the air pollution in Bath is caused by disabled people circling round. This struck me as being a metaphor for the whole problem highlighted in this report, the problem of striking a balance between the need to reduce emissions and the demand to regenerate the economy by attracting businesses and tourists Not to mention the problems faced by humble NES residents who (apart from when they avoid the Christmas market like the plague) have to come into Bath, and find the First bus fares too expensive without a bus pass, and too unreliable.

Radstock/Westfield residents, especially the traders and taxi drivers find the CAZ a real problem, and they resent having had to upgrade their vehicles to avoid the higher charges. The taxis have enough problems with Uber. At the end of the day, it is not so much the Bath residents who will be affected by these changes, but NES.

However, I am here tonight to talk about a very specific problem this report exposes. People such as medics, carers and traders need cars and then long stay permits in order to provide a service. Now that the long stay permits in council car parks have been withdrawn, doctors, nurses and administrators are getting parking tickets if a patient delays them over the allotted four hours. The pharmacist is threatening to leave. The town will die if basic services cannot be provided there.

Previously RADCO had its own permit system for traders, but the development of the new store and the adjacent sites at The Shambles and St Hugh's, are no longer available.

In 2015 a senior planner said that Radstock was 100 parking places short to conform to the then policies Things have now got worse.

It may seem obvious that this report should go through because pollution kills but lack of a balanced strategy in our small towns and villages will kill the local economy and turn us into dormitories for Bristol – and put yet more commuters on the roads.

Cllr Eleanor Jackson (Westfield)

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CABINET MEETING 20th July 2021

STATEMENTS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

1. Lily Hughes - Stopping glyphosate being sprayed in BaNES (statement and petition)
2. Kari Erickson – Tourism and Business in Bath
3. Simon Marshall – City Centre Security
4. Ian Perkins – City Centre Security
5. Susan Charles – City Centre Security
6. Julie Gregory – City Centre Security
7. Lindsay Holdoway – City Centre Security
8. Lynda Lloyd – City Centre Security
9. Harry Tedstone – Parking Permits Consultation
10. Sylvia Sinclair – On street parking permits and charges

Councillors:

1. Councillor Jess David – Use of Glyphosate for street weeds
2. Councillor Eleanor Jackson - Parking permits for traders and medics
3. Councillor Vic Pritchard - City Centre Security

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

M	01	Question from:	Councillor Shaun Hughes
<p>We understand that as a result of the clean air zone ALL taxis in the B&NES area are required to meet the omissions standard regardless of whether the taxi operates within the clean air zone.</p> <p>However, it appears that only those taxis permitted to use the clean air zone have access to the grant system to upgrade their vehicles.</p> <p>The current scheme appears to give the Bath based businesses an unfair advantage.</p> <p>If we are imposing the same regulations on all vehicles in B&NES surely all should equally have access to the grant system?</p>			
Answer from:			Councillor Sarah Warren
<p><i>The revised taxi licensing policy agreed in 2018 required all taxi vehicles licensed by the Council to be compliant with the terms of any future Clean Air Zone to ensure consistent enforcement across all sectors of the local trade and that all areas of the authority could benefit from improved air quality from cleaner engine technology.</i></p> <p><i>Any licensed taxi owner, irrespective of where they are based, is able to access help from the CAZ financial assistance scheme if they meet the relevant eligibility criteria which includes travelling into the CAZ on an average of two or more times a week over a minimum 60 day period. This also applies to owners of taxi hackney carriage vehicles, which although not licensed to ply for hire from ranks within the CAZ, may still be travelling within it to fulfil customer journeys. Taxi owners who fit these circumstances have benefited with assistance from the scheme.</i></p>			
M	02	Question from:	Councillor Shaun Hughes

Recently I have seen an increase in residents raising concerns over feeling unable to object to planning applications through fear of intimidation and repercussion, particularly elderly residents and people within small communities. The result of is they don't raise objections in fear of creating fall out or backlash. We understand from our officers that present legislation does not offer an informal way to comment on applications. I am not sure what the solution is but is this something that the Cabinet could review?

Answer from:

Councillor Tim Ball

Local Planning Authorities cannot take anonymous comments on planning applications because the planning legislation and process is designed to be deliberately open and transparent. Officers can only take into account comments that are made by real and traceable people allowing the officer to contact contributors to find out more about their views. We publish the contributor name on the website so it is possible to see who is making multiple or follow-on comments, which becomes relevant when proposals are updated as the views of contributors may change too. There are data protection considerations as well which we are careful to comply with.

M 03

Question from:

Councillor Vic Pritchard

Is the administration planning to hold a by-election in Lambridge following Cllr Wright's move from the Liberal Democrats to the Green Party?

Answer from:

Councillor Kevin Guy

Councillor Pritchard will be aware that the decision to hold a by-election is not a function of the administration.

M 04

Question from:

Councillor Vic Pritchard

Please confirm how many new waste truck drivers the Council has recruited to address the staffing issues in the kerbside

collections team over the past four weeks?		
Answer from:		Councillor David Wood
<p><i>We have secured an additional 4 agency drivers and have daily rolling adverts out for both permanent recruitment and agency staff. We are working closely with our network of recruitment agencies. We have also enrolled 6 current members of staff in the LGV driver training programme.</i></p> <p><i>We have recruited an additional 12 loaders and have restructured a large proportion of our rounds so that we need less drivers and more loaders. This means that the vast majority of our collections are being collected to schedule, thanks to the hard work of our crews and their supervisors.</i></p> <p><i>The national shortage of drivers will continue to be a problem for this country for some time. The government have announced some national interventions to address this such as a relaxation of drivers hours regulations, and an increase in the number of slots through driving assessment centres. We will continue our efforts to make our workplace an attractive proposition for drivers, and to invest further in training our workforce.</i></p>		
M	05	Question from: Councillor Karen Warrington
Does the Council have any plans to provide recycling bins at public places in the district's rural areas to help residents re cycle? If so, would the cabinet member be willing to meet with ward councillors to discuss the best locations for recycling bins in their wards?		
Answer from:		Councillor David Wood
<i>Every resident in B&NES has a weekly kerbside collection of a comprehensive range of recyclables and most larger</i>		

supermarkets offer a range of facilities also. If ward councillors feel there is a need for additional facilities for specific waste streams in their area and have suggested sites, then I would be pleased to hear from them on this so that we can work with officers to identify where the waste is originating from and to find the best solutions.

M 06

Question from:

Councillor Sally Davis

A resident has raised concerns about pets – mainly goldfish, though not exclusively – being used as prizes at events such as funfairs or fairgrounds. Does the Council have an official position on the use of pets as prizes and does the Council have any powers to restrict the use of pets as prizes at events hosted in B&NES? If so, does the Council currently have any plans to restrict the use of pets as prizes at events hosted in B&NES?

Answer from:

Councillor Kevin Guy

Bath and North East Somerset Council does not permit animals to be given away as prizes at events and funfairs on council-owned land. Of the three established funfairs which visit the Bath and North East Somerset area, two have never given pets as prizes in the history of their funfair and one has not permitted this activity in many years (more than 10 years).

Here is the link to the Council's Events Policy <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/policy-and-documents-library/events-policy> and the section on restricted events is at S 20.1. We state we have the right to refuse permission and this includes activities which cause harm to animals.

Not all funfairs are members of the Showmen's Guild but for information, here is the section from the Showmen's Guild Rules 2020 <https://showmensguild.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/66/2020/08/Showmens-Guild-Rules-2020-for-WEB.pdf> which refers to 'Animals as Prizes' at Page 68."

M 07

Question from:

Councillor Paul May

Can you outline in detail exactly what your 'economic development' responsibilities are in your Cabinet portfolio?

Answer from:

Councillor Richard Samuel

The portfolio responsibilities are wide ranging and include:

- *Developing the local labour market in terms of skills and lifelong learning (with Cllr Romero)*
- *Creating the conditions for business growth and enterprise (With Cllr Ball)*
- *Establishing high quality trading space and public realm (With Cllr Romero)*
- *Ensuring our poorest communities and residents have adequate welfare support*
- *Using cultural regeneration as a key driver in the local economy (With Cllr Romero)*
- *Maximising the use of the council's property holdings to drive regeneration*
- *Closing the inequality gap between our richest and poorest communities*
- *Ensuring sustainable transport is available for employment and education (With Cllr Warren)*

All these diverse work streams contribute to economic development and later this year will be drawn together into a new Economic Development and Regeneration strategy for B& NES.

M 08

Question from:

Councillor Paul May

Following the recent reshuffle of Cabinet roles, are you going to undertake a review of Scrutiny committees?

Answer from:

Councillor Kevin Guy

The changes to Cabinet roles and their impact on the terms of reference of PDS Panels will be addressed as part of the LGA Scrutiny peer review.

M 09

Question from:

Councillor Paul May

The Local plan revision is due to be considered by Council following a correct and proper consultation process. Will paper copies be available for people without computers and will the consultation period be extended to allow for the school holiday period?

Answer from:

Councillor Tim Ball

Consultation on the Local Plan Partial Update (LPPU) will take place from 27th August to 8th October. Given that this only marginally overlaps with the school holiday period it will be the statutory six week consultation period. This is necessary in order for the Council to adhere to the preparation programme and adopt the partial update as quickly as possible. In line with central government policy the Council is focussing preparation of and consultation on the LPPU using on-line methods. However, in recognition that some people will not have computers paper copies of the LPPU and a summary leaflet can be made available on request.

M 10

Question from:

Councillor Paul May

As the representative of Whitchurch Village, I was pleased to see it included in Phase One of the Liveable Neighbourhoods scheme. It was a complex bid, with the parish council even offering to part fund the crossing for the A37. This is a big project, so can timescales be planned for please?

Answer from:

Councillor Sarah Warren

Whitchurch village is well-deserving of liveable neighbourhood measures and I was pleased to be able to include this area within

our phase 1 liveable neighbourhoods programme.

We are currently in the process of procuring consultant support to assist with delivery and we expect public engagement to commence in September/October. Given our commitment to co-design with the community, schemes will progress at different rates. Therefore, we will not be setting target dates for the implementation of any individual scheme until a concept design has been agreed.

M 11

Question from:

Councillor Paul May

With the strategic planning function now residing with WECA, is the Council prepared to withhold its support if WECA tries to impose undeliverable housing targets on B&NES? If this happens, how vulnerable is the green belt to challenge by developers?

Answer from:

Councillor Tim Ball

I will provide an answer in 5 clear working days.

M 12

Question from:

Councillor Paul May

Can you inform me how much extra funding the Government has invested in SEND support in the last three years?

Answer from:

Councillor Dine Romero

The revenue increases in our education budget are illustrated below.

<i>DSG High Needs Block Funding totals</i>			
	<i>£000s</i>	<i>£000s</i>	<i>% increase</i>
<i>18-19</i>	<i>23636</i>		
<i>19-20</i>	<i>24095</i>	<i>459</i>	<i>1.9%</i>
<i>20-21</i>	<i>26071</i>	<i>1976</i>	<i>8.2%</i>
<i>21-22</i>	<i>28852</i>	<i>2781</i>	<i>10.7%</i>
<i>22-23 est</i>	<i>31160</i>	<i>2308</i>	<i>8.0%</i>

Alongside this the government has provided £979,547.76 of SEND Capital.

M 13

Question from:

Councillor Paul May

Renewable energy is important for the future but can have negative community impacts. Will the Council commit to a cost/benefit calculation before agreeing any proposals?

Answer from:

Councillor Sarah Warren

In formulating its planning policies on renewable energy, the Council needs to take into account its objectives, consider the evidence and look at the options. It needs to consider a range of issues such as the impact on landscape, ecology, heritage, feasibility and on local communities. These options are appraised and consulted on before arriving at the preferred approach which is then publicly tested at examination. The adopted policy is therefore the outcome of a thorough and transparent process which has taken into account the relevant interests. Councils do not use a cost/benefit calculation approach to formulate such

planning policies. Planning applications must then be determined in accordance with the adopted policy.

M 14

Question from:

Councillor Paul May

The current cabinet seems to be quite large. Can you supply the current annual cost in comparison with the former Council annual Cabinet costs?

Answer from:

Councillor Kevin Guy

The present size of the Cabinet and the annual allowances paid are as follows.

PREVIOUS CABINET	<i>[Budget year 20/21]</i>
Leader	1 x £32,445
7 x Cabinet Member allowances	7 x £19,484
TOTAL	£168,833
CURRENT CABINET	<i>[Budget year 21/22]</i>
Leader	1 x £33,337
7 x Cabinet Member allowances	7 x £20,019
TOTAL	£173,470

Where a Cabinet portfolio is split in a job share arrangement, the allowance is split.

The increase in amount of allowance paid between the present and current Cabinet is due to the inflationary uplift applied by Payroll, in line with the pay award for staff.

M	15	Question from:	Councillor Vic Pritchard
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At next week's Cabinet meeting, members will be asked to approve an extra £13.6m of funding for the Waste Infrastructure programme on top of £16.3 already earmarked. Please explain why this extra £13.6m wasn't already budgeted for, why it is required and how it is to be spent.

Answer from:	Councillor David Wood
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The project budget has been allocated in milestone phases so that costs can be determined with more accuracy at each stage. The last round of approved funding took the project up to planning application stage. This stage is now complete with the application due to be determined in July. The Cabinet is now being asked to allocate the funding to award the construction tender. Exact costs will be determined through the tender process. The full scope and design detail have been developed to include additional operational elements and key contributions to the council's climate and nature priorities.

M	16	Question from:	Councillor Karen Warrington
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What further public consultations are due to take place for the City Centre Security proposals and will local residents get a say in such matters as the design of cycle lanes or Blue Badge drop off spaces?

Answer from:	Councillor Kevin Guy
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The public will have an opportunity to have their say when the Traffic Regulation Order is advertised, in a local newspaper and notices posted within the relevant area. The documents will be available for inspection from the date that the notice of proposal is first published until six weeks after the proposed Order has been made. Anyone may object in writing to an order within 21 days of the notice being published. Any objection must be considered and a response in writing provided giving the reasons for the decision taken. If the TRO is made a further notice must be published in a local newspaper. Any change coming forward as a result of TRO consultation, will need also to be compliant with our PSED.

M	17	Question from:	Councillor Karen Warrington
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I note in the Cabinet report on the City Centre Security proposals the plan to use CCTV to allow Blue Badge holders access to some streets. Please explain how this will work in practice – for example will the camera pick up the Blue Badge on the person’s dashboard or will they be required to call the control room ahead of time?

Answer from:	Councillor Kevin Guy
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Blue Badges are issued to the person, not the vehicle and therefore it will not be possible to use CCTV to automatically allow a person holding a blue badge through the barriers. An Operational Management Procedures document is being produced which will detail the process and Officers will work with access groups to ensure the process is as seamless as possible. The proposal is for a blue badge holder, or person transporting a blue badge holder, to present themselves at the vehicle access point, where a video messaging service or equivalent access service will be located. The driver will request access and the CCTV operator will request sight of the blue badge before permitting access. In effect any blue badge holder, or someone transporting a person with a blue badge will present themselves at the barrier and have to show the blue badge to an operative in the CCTV control room to gain access. A similar schedule will operate for emergency trades access for city centre residents.

M	18	Question from:	Councillor Vic Pritchard
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Residents have recently been advised not to put out their rubbish and recycling the night before it is due for collection to avoid it being left out too long. Since the kerbside collection service have been hampered by delays, with the result that daily collections

are being missed, residents have been told to keep their uncollected rubbish out for return collections the next day. Please could you confirm the current guidance on how long before collection residents should put out their rubbish?

Answer from:

Councillor David Wood

Our crews are working exceptionally hard to complete the scheduled collections each day. The national shortage of drivers combined with increased amounts of waste to be collected due to the impact of lockdowns is well documented in the national press. If any collections remain outstanding then they are collected the following day, with all collections being completed by end of the Saturday working day. Residents are asked to leave their rubbish out for 1 day only. Please bear with us and thank you to all of our residents who show support for our hardworking crews. They very much appreciate it. A thank you means a lot to them too.

M 19

Question from:

Councillor Chris Watt

In March, the Government passed the Covert Human Intelligence Sources Act. The Act amends the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 by creating a statutory process for public bodies to authorise covert human intelligence sources (undercover agents) to engage in criminal activity with impunity. In what circumstances might this Council be involved in the exercise of such powers in conjunction with other relevant authorities, either through the provision of intelligence or access to intelligence, and what safeguards does the Council have in place if indeed it is to be involved in the exercise of such powers?

Answer from:

Councillor Kevin Guy

The Council is currently unable to anticipate the circumstances where it might be involved in an investigation, in conjunction with a relevant authority, exercising such a power. Exercise of the power by a relevant authority is unlikely to ever be disclosed to the Council by virtue of the fact that operating a covert human intelligence source (CHIS) is, by its nature, on a need to know basis to protect the CHIS' identity and safety. However, if the Council were ever to be made aware of the identity of a CHIS with a criminal conduct authorisation the Council could seek an undertaking that the exercise of such a power by a relevant authority complied with the safeguards in the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. In particular, compliance requires evidence of

necessity and proportionality, balancing human rights considerations, monitoring and review. Ultimately exercise of the power is subject to oversight by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner.

M 20

Question from:

Councillor Robin Moss

What percentages of the population have had 1 or both vaccinations, broken down into age bands?

Answer from:

Councillor Dine Romero

By 11th July, 80% of adults in B&NES had received their first COVID vaccination dose and 57% of adults has also received a second dose.

Amongst people aged 50 or older, more than 90% of all these age groups have had their first vaccination.

For second doses amongst people aged 50 or older, the figure varies from 87% of 50-54 year olds to 96% of people aged 80 and above.

For people under 50 years of age, uptake is lower because these age groups were only invited for vaccination more recently and many younger people are not yet eligible to receive second doses as it has been less than 8 weeks since their first dose.

For first doses:

- 58% of 25-29 year olds have had their first dose*
- 69% of 30-34 year olds*
- 76% of 35-39 year olds*

- 83% of 40-44 year olds
- And 87% of 45-49 year olds

For second doses:

- 17% of 25-29 year olds have had their second doses.
- 23% of 30-34 year olds
- 27% of 35-39 year olds
- 48% of 40-44 year olds
- And 64% of 45-49 year olds.

With many university students leaving B&NES in the last few weeks, and others returning from across the country, there are challenges with the accuracy of data for the 18-24 years age group. So we have not included a figure here.

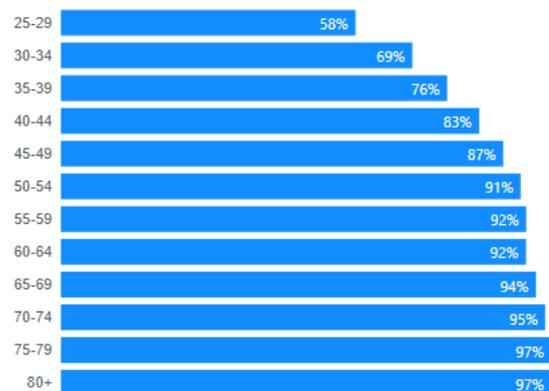
However, second doses for adults aged 18-24 years is likely to be slightly lower than the 25-29 year old uptake, so that's less than 17%.

This is because they are the youngest group and the last to have been invited by the national programme.

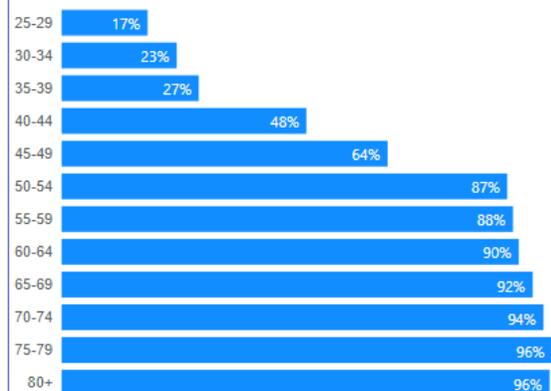
COVID-19 Vaccination (B&NES) - by Age Range

As of 11th July a total of **136,062 (80.3%)** people had received their first dose of their vaccination (2,768 more than reported last week) and a total of **96,148 (56.8%)** people had received their second dose (2,804 more than reported last week).

Percentage of B&NES population vaccinated for COVID-19 with first dose, up to 11 July 2021



Percentage of B&NES population vaccinated for COVID-19 with second dose, up to 11 July 2021



Note 1: Due to the highly transient nature of the 18-24 population, uptake rates for this cohort are not accurate enough to provide meaningful intelligence

Note 2: NHS England have now released the recommended National Immunisation Management System (NIMS) population denominators, and these have been used in these calculations.

Source: NHS (2021), COVID-19 Vaccinations, available from: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/> downloaded weekly on Thursday

M 21

Question from:

Councillor Robin Moss

Considering that over 90% of all infections are in the 15-25 yo age band, what steps are being taken to encourage take up of vaccination by this group?

Answer from:

Councillor Dine Romero

Firstly, I would like to thank Cllr Moss for highlighting this crucial and timely issue, especially as cases are rising both locally and nationally amongst this age group. We are all aware of the huge success of the vaccine roll-out and I would like to take this

opportunity of thanking all those involved, including both staff and volunteers. It is about a month since the vaccine became available to everyone over 18 and so naturally the rates are not as high in the younger compared to older age groups, although as of 14 July our percentage uptake of the first dose for 18-24 year-olds was 60%.

The NHS and council have been working closely together to get as many of our young people jabbed as possible, using social media and other channels to get the message out. We've been sharing social media and videos aimed specifically at 18-30 year olds and are continuing our "get vaccinated" message on our local community radio stations including BA1 Radio, which is staffed by and aimed at young people. BSW CCG also held a "myth-busting" Q and A session for 18-30 year olds which included younger clinicians and to which social media influencers were invited, with a local influencer sharing this content. BSW CCG have also produced a video aimed at young people telling them what to expect, which we have also shared.

It has also become clear that we need to encourage more "walk-in" facilities to encourage young people to get the vaccine. So a walk-in Pfizer-only vaccine centre has been set up at the Pavilion from 14th-18th July, available to all aged 18 or over who have not had their first dose, and those who had their first Pfizer dose over 8 weeks ago. Again, this was publicised through social media, flyers and other channels such as through our third sector organisations, particularly those that work with young people, e.g. Off the Record and Youth Connect. Bath Racecourse are also offering daily walk-in clinics and there is a regular free bus from Bath Bus Station to the Racecourse. There are also 3 pharmacies in B&NES offering Pfizer vaccinations, including walk-in appointments when capacity allows. Through social media we have promoted other clinics available outside of B&NES too.

Naturally, this is taking place alongside more general vaccine take-up messaging such as making it clear that women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or trying for a baby can have the vaccination and also targeted work with BAME communities and other vulnerable groups. The vaccine bus and vaccine boat have also had a big impact in extending our reach into as many communities as we can, and we are also working directly with people in supported living. The vaccine bus was picked up and covered by BBC Points West recently.

We are also working with our Universities to make sure there is enough accessible provision in place for returning students who have not had first or second doses by the beginning of the new academic term. Can I end though with a final plea that if elected members themselves have any influence at all over young people in this age group that they urge them to get their jab and also their second one, there is plenty of capacity in the system.

M	22	Question from:	Councillor Robin Moss
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As the decision has been taken recently to extend the Xmas market from 18 to 25 days in 2021:

- (1) What is the assessed financial risk if there has to be a cancellation, comparing 18 & 25 days?
- (2) What will be the additional cost to B&NES, again comparing 18 to 25 days?
- (3) What consultation has taken place with Bath residents?
- (4) What consultation has taken place with individual Bath businesses?
- (5) What consultation has taken place with other cities also running Xmas markets?
- (6) Has there been any assessment on the numbers of additional visitors the extension may attract?
- (7) Has there been any consultation with coach & tour operators as to their assessment of additional organised groups the additional days will or will not attract?
- (8) What discussion took place in Cabinet to change the time span of the market from 18 to 25 days?

Answer from:

Councillor Kevin Guy

(1) What is the assessed financial risk if there has to be a cancellation, comparing 18 & 25 days?

- a. *Whilst the financial risk moving to 25 days has increased, there are key gateway decision dates leading up to the Market to mitigate the risk*

(2) What will be the additional cost to B&NES, again comparing 18 to 25 days?

- a. *The additional cost will be £157k, however, this is expected to be offset by the income*

(3) What consultation has taken place with Bath residents?

- a. *Prior to the Cabinet Report, FOBRA and TARA were both invited to consultation, neither responded*

(4) What consultation has taken place with individual Bath businesses?

- a. *Prior to the Cabinet Report, Bath Business Improvement District and several key independent traders were*

consulted, particularly Abbey Quarter Traders Association

(5) What consultation has taken place with other cities also running Xmas markets?

- a. *Other cities look to Bath to lead the way in Christmas Markets, and were waiting for us to make our decision – we were aware via social media that York, Winchester, Salisbury, Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow were looking to proceed with their plans*

(6) Has there been any assessment on the numbers of additional visitors the extension may attract?

- a. *An assessment was made and changes to the design and layout of the site was updated*

(7) Has there been any consultation with coach & tour operators as to their assessment of additional organised groups the additional days will or will not attract?

- a. *No, currently coach and tour operators are putting their packages together and we were not in a position to have those conversations*

(8) What discussion took place in Cabinet to change the time span of the market from 18 to 25 days?

- a. *Appropriate conversations took place*

M 23

Question from:

Councillor Robin Moss

What money has been awarded from central government to support Low Traffic Neighbourhoods? And, is it anticipated that all this money will be retained & used?

Answer from:

Councillor Sarah Warren

No central government funding has been awarded to B&NES to support Low Traffic Neighbourhoods. The liveable neighbourhood programme is currently funded from the council's own resources, supplemented by community infrastructure levy (CIL) funding, received in connection with new development.

E3306 Supplemental Paper Bath Household Recycling Relocation

This Administration is committed to ensuring Bath residents are provided uninterrupted service provision of recycling when the Midland Rd public reuse and recycling (RRC) facility closes. Closure is planned for July 2023, after the new Pixash Lane Keynsham facility fully opens for operational uses. The new re-modelled public Reuse & Recycling Centre at Pixash Lane is programmed to open in Summer 2022, as part of Phase 1 construction. This provides continuity of RRC provision as the current existing area is demolished.

This is not linked to the closure of Midland Rd household Recycling centre and can operate as soon as it fully completes in summer 2023 (subject only to service planning on decant and operation, with the preferred service option to ensure collection services remain consistent and reliable for residents).

To financially support the Council and contribute to deliver Pixash Waste Transfer Station (WTS), Homes England grant funding is being deployed from Local Authority Accelerated Construction Grant to support housing delivery on Midland Rd. The Grant terms require funding to be expended by 31 Dec 2021 with a milestone for Housing construction commencing on Midland Rd by March 2023.

The public statements within the Council Decision E3306 state.

1.2 Proposals for re-providing household waste and recycling centres in Bath continue to be developed and appraised so that Bath residents will have uninterrupted access to recycling centres local to them, aligned with the Council's climate and nature priorities. The Council is committed to keeping the public recycling centre at Midland Road open until an alternative is in place for residents of Bath. A supplementary paper outlining more detail on providing at least one recycling centre in the city of Bath is intended to be tabled at the meeting.

Bath HRC Relocation

Previous option assessments and sequential testing of sites only point to a single location suitable for the permanent relocation of a full replacement for the Midland Rd Household recycling centre at Odd Down. A new facility will be progressed at Odd Down, to establish a new permanent RRC alongside (or within) the Joint Waste Core Strategy residual waste allocation at this location.

The design of the new facility will be subject to future planning and waste consents and permits but be designed to provide for the full range of recyclable, hazardous and bulky materials and large reuse facilities, and to continue to enable the district to meet its climate emergency policies. Opportunities for renewable energy generation will also be integrated in the

same way the new facilities at Pixash Lane will. NB much less roof space available for PVs, but an RRC has much lower energy use anyway

The current Midland Rd RRC facility will remain open for public use until July 2023. The new re-modelled facility at Pixash will open during the Summer of 2022.

Waste Infrastructure - Key Programme Milestones

The 3 waste programme elements all have key milestones to achieve in order to meet grant commitments.

Pixash New WTS & RRC	Milestone
Planning Determination	2021 July
Contract Award	2021 September
Grant Expenditure	2021 Dec
New public RRC at Pixash opens	2022 August
Construction Completion	2023 February
Opening	2023 July to allow for decant/ operational contingency
Midland Rd current WTS & HRC	
Planning Consent (Housing)	2021 April
WTS Closure	2023 June
HRC Closure	2023 July
Vacant Possession for Development (remediation activity)	2023 July
New Bath HRC	
Site selection agreement	2022 March
Planning Application	2023 March
Contract Award	2023 May
Construction Completion	2024 Apr
Opening	2024 July

The relationship between the three project elements creates a 'gap' in permanent HRC site availability between July 2023 and July 2024.

Bath Interim HRC solution

To maintain a dedicated RRC until the new permanent facility is opened, an interim facility will need to be provided. Whilst this will be modelled to maintain the same level of service for residents of Bath, its precise configuration and operation may vary, depend upon a number of factors.

1. Availability of land to provide the interim RRC on a leased basis. - This is proposed to be secured within the wider Bath Riverside project either on Council owned land holdings within the site or adjoining land forming part of the wider BWR housing allocation.

2. Planning, licencing and permitting consents will be required for the permanent and interim Bath sites . These decisions may well influence the model for how the facility is operated whilst being open to the public

Financial Implications

The Cabinet decision E3306 consider the capital envelope to provide both the new Pixash Lane and Bath RRC provision , although as proposals develop the business case will have to consider further impacts dependent upon the specific site selected.

For the Bath HRC relocation , the proposed solution will have a number of interim revenue implications on the overall services plans, depending upon the nature of future lease or land acquisition. The service model will need to be developed in future years budget setting should the delivery model give rise to additional lease costs.

The interim solution will need to be absorbed within the business case and future service plan to accommodate any short-term lease and other additional costs relating to its operation from July 23 – July 24. This will be a one-off service pressure to manage within the budget setting process for 22/23 & 23-24 Financial Years.

Future Decisions

E3306 approves the capital for the Pixash site.
Further changes to the business plan will need to be assessed and built into future years budget setting as set out in the decision papers.

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