

# Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

**Date: Monday, 25th January, 2021**

**Time: 4.00 pm**

**Venue: Virtual Meeting - Zoom - Public Access via  
YouTube**

**<https://www.youtube.com/bathnescouncil>**

**Councillors:** Karen Walker, Tom Davies, Alison Born, Shelley Bromley,  
Sue Craig, Joel Hirst, Lisa O'Brien, Grant Johnson and Dr Kumar



**Michaela Gay**

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## NOTES:

1. **Inspection of Papers:** Papers are available for inspection as follows:

Council's website: <https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

2. **Details of decisions taken at this meeting** can be found in the minutes which will be circulated with the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime, details can be obtained by contacting as above.

3. **Recording at Meetings:-**

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

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

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4. **Public Speaking at Meetings**

The Council has a scheme to encourage the public to make their views known at meetings. They may make a statement relevant to what the meeting has power to do. They may also present a petition or a deputation on behalf of a group.

**Advance notice is required not less than two full working days before the meeting. This means that for meetings held on Thursdays notice must be received in Democratic Services by 5.00pm the previous Monday.**

Further details of the scheme can be found at:

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=12942>

6. **Supplementary information for meetings**

Additional information and Protocols and procedures relating to meetings

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13505>

**Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel - Monday,  
25th January, 2021**

**at 4.00 pm in the Virtual Meeting - Zoom - Public Access via YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/bathnescouncil>**

**A G E N D A**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

At this point in the meeting declarations of interest are received from Members in any of the agenda items under consideration at the meeting. Members are asked to indicate:

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

(b) The nature of their interest.

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

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

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

At the time of publication, one member of the public has registered to make a statement.

6. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 12)
7. DRAFT ROUGH SLEEPERS AND HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVE (Pages 13 - 20)

A report is attached.

8. CORPORATE AND BUDGET PLANNING 2021/22

There will be a presentation on this item at the meeting.

9. PANEL WORKPLAN (Pages 21 - 24)

This report presents the latest workplan for the Panel. Any suggestions for further items or amendments to the current programme will be logged and scheduled in

consultation with the Panel's Chair and supporting senior officers.

The Committee Administrator for this meeting is Michaela Gay who can be contacted on 01225 394411.

**BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET**

**MINUTES OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING**

Monday, 16th November, 2020

Present:- **Councillors** Karen Walker, Tom Davies, Alison Born, Shelley Bromley, Sue Craig, Joel Hirst, Lisa O'Brien and Dr Kumar

Apologies for absence: Councillors: Grant Johnson

**72 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**73 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

There were none.

**74 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**75 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN**

There was none.

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

David Redgewell, Transport South West, made a statement to the panel regarding transport issues and the effects of Covid.

Councillor Karen Walker stated that the WECA Travel Plan will be discussed at the next agenda briefing meeting.

**77 MINUTES**

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

**78 AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN FOR FARRINGTON GURNEY AND TEMPLE CLOUD**

Phil Mansfield, Head of Building Control and Public Protection introduced the report to the Panel. The following officers were present – Cathryn Brown Team Manager (Licensing and Environmental Protection); Aled Williams, Environmental Protection Manager; Rob Spalding, Senior Environmental Monitoring Officer and Tiago Roque,

Public Protection Technical Officer. The officers gave a presentation which covered the following:

- Update
- Monitoring data – Temple Cloud
- Monitoring data – Farrington Gurney
- Public Consultation
- How much the public supports the following measures regarding Air Quality in Temple Cloud
- How much the public supports the following measures regarding Air Quality in Farrington Gurney
- Criteria and Attribute Weighting
- Temple Cloud overall preference against maximum possible score
- Farrington Gurney overall preference against maximum possible score
- Measures Proposed from the Consultation
- Progress so far (Molly Close Footpath, Width Restriction in Temple Cloud)
- Progress so far (Innovative Technologies)
- Progress so far (Tree cutting and Speed restrictions)
- Next Steps

Panel members made the following points and asked the following questions. Officer responses are shown in italics.

Councillor Wood, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods thanked the officers for the report and presentation. *An officer explained that as environmental monitoring officers, they are consultees on planning developments over a certain size, this means we can comment and ensure developments are as sustainable as possible.*

Councillor Walker asked about the shuttle scheme in Temple Cloud. *The officer explained that north bound vehicles come into the village at speed and so work would need to be done to see what it would look like.*

Councillor Craig raised the following points. *Officer responses shown in italics:*

- Regarding both locations – monitoring in August went in the opposite direction. *A number of things can affect this such as temperature and wind conditions. There are also changes and renewal of vehicles over time. The solid line is a 3-year trend and can be a better indicator than short term data.*
- 210 responses – how many homes are currently in the two areas? *Temple Cloud – 550 houses. Farrington Gurney – 450 houses.*
- Both locations – there was a high response asking for influence over planning decisions. Unless there is planning policy around this, the Committee cannot give comments much weight. *We work closely with planning officers and have the same Director now. Regarding an Air Quality Action plan – we are looking into an enhanced pool of planning conditions.*

Councillor Born raised the following points. *Officer response shown in italics:*

- The new Molly Lane footpath is a quick win and would allow people to walk away from the main road.
- Regarding the innovative technology – what size area would a device cover? *Innovative technology is not widely used and mainly used inside. The market is not flooded with options at the moment. The efficiency is 2/2.5 metres. This is for one type of technology only. We would need a certain amount of surface area for each unit – there are space and maintenance considerations.*
- Cutting the tree canopy – how do you balance with the positive effect trees have on pollution? *We were asked to cut back trees on safety grounds. It is a difficult balance to cut back the tree canopy which allows better mixing of air dispersion but also keeping enough of a barrier.*
- Annual average monitoring must disguise daily peaks and troughs? *There are peaks and troughs during the day which monthly monitoring does not pick up but when we are exceeding the annual average, the hourly average may also be exceeded. Our focus is on the annual average.*

Councillor Wood (Cabinet Member) commented that the A37 is a narrow road with a school at one end and Doctor surgery at the other end. The innovative technology is short reach, but the issue is a localised one. We will try to get people to use the foot bypass as much as possible.

In response to a question from Councillor Walker, the officer explained that the innovative technology costs £14,000 per unit with additional maintenance and running costs (although this is only one supplier's cost).

Councillor O'Brien commented that she was horrified by the levels in Temple Cloud and Farrington Gurney. She commented that the diverted footway and innovative technology – although good initiatives, are not really addressing the overall issue. The A37 runs through other villages (eg. Pensford) and it is a main artery road between the south and the M5 – it is not fit for purpose. Councillor Wood (Cabinet Member) stated that there is a level of frustration that a more dramatic approach cannot be taken. He stated that the WECA mayor had blocked the width restriction.

Councillor Hirst raised the following points. *Officer responses shown in italics:*

- If all these measures succeed, what is the bottom line, what will the impact be on Air Quality? *We want to see a reduction in NO2.*
- What is the level of confidence in deliverability? *There is a nonlinear relationship in percentage reduction in emissions and air quality eg. NO2 levels are lower in the summer. We are doing vehicle counts to monitor the effects Covid has had on travel to understand the changing patterns.*
- Regarding the innovative technology – there is no independent evidence around this. We do not want an expensive white elephant. We may need to think in a more radical way – maybe about charging for high emission vehicles. *We will be asking questions of the supplier/s.*

Councillor Walker stated that, regarding the shuttle north bound, signalling could be used so lights change when a heavy vehicle is coming through. *The officer explained that Temple Cloud has high concentrations due to heavy vehicles not being able to pass each other causing a stop flow.*

Councillor Born stated that there is an increasing body of knowledge which suggests that building new roads does not help overall.

Councillor Dr Kumar stated that the consultation was done Feb-May 2020 – there was less traffic in this period due to the lockdown. *The officer explained that some drop in events were held before lockdown and we still had online and paper responses after lockdown had started. Residents have lived in the area for a long time and were able to give us their examples and experiences which were not just about the Feb-May period. They still had their views.*

The Panel **RESOLVED** to note the progress and made comments which were noted by officers.

## 79 RENEWAL PROGRAMME WORKSTREAMS

Jane Wildblood, Corporate & Community Sustainability Manager (Renewal Vision Workstream Lead Partnerships & Corporate Services) introduced the report to the Panel and gave a presentation which covered the following:

- Renewal Vision Update
- Corporate Strategy and vision
- Renewal Vision purpose
- Workstream includes
- Vision – Phase 1: evidence & context
- Questions and themes
- The four emerging ‘stories’ or themes
- ‘Green recovery’ study
- Vision – Phase 2: widening engagement and developing the vision

Panel members made the following points and asked the following questions. Officer responses are shown in italics.

Councillor Sarah Warren (Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency) thanked the officers in the team for their work. She commented that there have been dramatic changes due to Covid which reduced carbon footprint and that this has provided the opportunity to rebuild in a way that is kinder to the environment.

Councillor Bromley stated that the 20 minute neighbourhood sounds like a good idea that would certainly be helpful to some small businesses in Weston ward. She asked how we will make the scheme successful. *The officer explained that this could mean developing local hubs (for working) in villages that will be like landing stations for employees that may not want to work from home every day. This means there would be more local footfall.*

Councillor O’Brien raised the following points. *Officer responses are shown in italics:*

- There is the issue of development retail and tourism to be net zero. Coaches are still parking in the city centre – should we insist on them using the

Oddown Coach Park (Councillor Walker agrees). We should utilize the space at Oddown. We want tourists to stay longer in the city.

- Working from home has been of great benefit regarding carbon emissions but it has not benefitted the high street – only online suppliers which means there are a lot more delivery trucks on the road.
- 20 minute neighbourhood – development of an insularity against the outside world. We do have to be realistic about how much local businesses can support this.
- We have had housing developments forced on us in North East Somerset, there must be a review of how the city of Bath is laid out and used. Maybe more living accommodation rather than retail.

*The officer responded that 20-minute neighbourhoods applies to the whole authority not just Bath. The officer stated that these comments were useful for the next stage and would be fed back.*

Councillor Warren (Cabinet Member) added that the hubs could be used as shared space for workers but also for part time retail/hairdressers etc. Reducing mileage per year is crucial.

Councillor Davies asked about economic recovery in terms of existing businesses and asked about having appropriate training in place including secondary schools. *The officer explained that representatives from universities sit on the economic recovery and renewal board. There is a recognition of the need to re skill people. We need people with skills in areas such as retro fitting and EV charge point installation. We need immediate short-term support for businesses and a future plan regarding training.*

Councillor Craig commented that there should be policy alignment with planning as opportunities to influence planning policies are few and far between. We need to take quick action on this. *The officer explained that she works closely with planning colleagues and that the Local Plan Partial Review should help this.*

Councillor Born commented that it was great that work started on this straight away although there will be difficulties as this is the biggest challenge the Council has had to face. She also asked if the Council should be putting in more resources to support this work (given the scale of the task).

Councillor Dr Kumar commented that some residents believe that the 20mph limits will increase pollution. He also commented that a lot of his Bath University colleagues are willing to work with the Council to share their expertise. *The officer responded that, as far as he knows, 20mph limits do not increase pollution. Regarding Bath University, conversations are happening.*

The Panel **RESOLVED** to note the purpose and scope of the Renewal Board's Renewal Vision workstream and the timetable for the work underway to develop a new, shared vision for Bath and North East Somerset.

## 80 TRANSPORT AND COVID RESPONSE

Paul Garrod, Traffic Management and Network Manager introduced the report and gave a presentation which covered the following:

- Public Transport
- Traffic Volumes
- Parking
- Emergency Active Travel Fund
  - Tranche 1 – schemes implemented
  - Other measures
  - Tranche 2 bid
- E-Scooter trial

Panel members made the following points and asked the following questions. Officer responses are shown in italics.

Councillor Davies raised the following points. *Officer response shown in italics.*

- Have you been able to learn anything with regard to data on cycling. *We will be analysing a couple sites shortly and are hoping to put in more cycle counters but at present, we do not have a lot of information on this. We hope to get some before and after data around the permanent schemes.*
- Regarding Liveable Neighbourhoods – when are ward Councillors likely to be asked to submit local schemes. *The strategy will be considered by Cabinet before the end of the year so, if it is adopted, ward members will be contacted in the new year.*

Councillor Joanna Wright (Cabinet Member Transport) thanked the officers for their work. She explained that WECA has some cycling data based on Bristol. She agreed that we could do more regarding cycling information. Regarding Liveable Neighbourhoods, she explained that this is due to be considered by the Cabinet on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020. If adopted there will be proformas for ward members and we will work, along with others such as the police, emergency services, waste services etc, to find solutions.

Councillor Craig stated that, while she supported the e-scooter scheme, there was an issue with people who are less able bodied, people with blue badges, having access to the city centre. She stated that Shop Mobility is closed at present and that this service is missed. David Trethewey, Director of Partnerships and Corporate Services stated that accessibility is an important issue and that the team have been working on equality impacts. He reported that Shop Mobility has not been allowed to open due to lockdown restrictions and logistic issues. Councillor Craig stated that, now more streets are pedestrianised, demand may rise again. Councillor Joanna Wright (Cabinet Member Transport) explained that the e-scooter scheme was a trial at this stage and would be carefully monitored. She added that there are a variety of models, including a sit-down model.

Councillor Born raised the following points. *Officer responses are shown in italics.*

- I am concerned to see that the Park and Ride usage has reduced. Are we considering cycle and scooter hire at Park and Ride sites? *There has been a*

*drop in usage, during this second lockdown, we have not stopped parking charges. Regarding cycle and scooter hire in Park and Ride sites, we would need good infrastructure and facilities for this. The Riverside Path from Newbridge Park and Ride is accessible but not ideal for social distancing.*

- Also concerns about the reduction in bus use. The Government is subsidising bus services at present, but I have concerns about what will happen if this is not sustained, especially with regard to rural services. Councillor Neil Butters (Cabinet Member Transport) stated that no bus operator in the country can make a profit – the Department for Transport (DfT) are supporting bus and rail. It is thought that bus use will settle at around 80% of normal use. When the support grants stop, there will be a co-ordinated effort by the DfT to get people back on buses.
- Is there any early feedback regarding the e-scooters – how about potholes? Councillor Joanna Wright (Cabinet Member Transport) stated that she would follow this up.

Councillor Hirst thanked the officers for their work in such challenging times. He stated that he supports growing the cycle journey information. He added that there needs to be a leap in investment regarding the cycle infrastructure. He noted the delay in response from the Government regarding bids.

Councillor Joanna Wright (Cabinet Member Transport) stated that the LTN20 documents are a game changer at the top of government. David Trethewey, Director of Partnerships and Corporate Services added that responsibility for delivery always lies with local government and this is coming together.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to note the update.

## 81 PANEL WORKPLAN

Councillor Walker explained that there will be a report on Homelessness and Rough Sleepers to be considered at the January meeting of the Panel.

Panel members noted the future workplan

The meeting ended at Time Not Specified

Chair(person) .....

Date Confirmed and Signed .....

**Prepared by Democratic Services**

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<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>		
MEETING	<b>Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</b>	
MEETING	<b>18 January 2021</b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	<b>HOMELESSNESS &amp; ROUGH SLEEPING UPDATE</b>	
WARD:	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b> None		

**1 THE ISSUE**

1.1 The Council delivers support and assistance to people at risk of becoming homeless and people who are homeless by commissioning services, developing effective partnerships with the voluntary sector and having an effective Housing Options & Homelessness Team. This report provides an update on these services including new approaches taken as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

**2 RECOMMENDATION**

**The Committee is asked to;**

2.1 Note the contents of the report.

### 3 THE REPORT

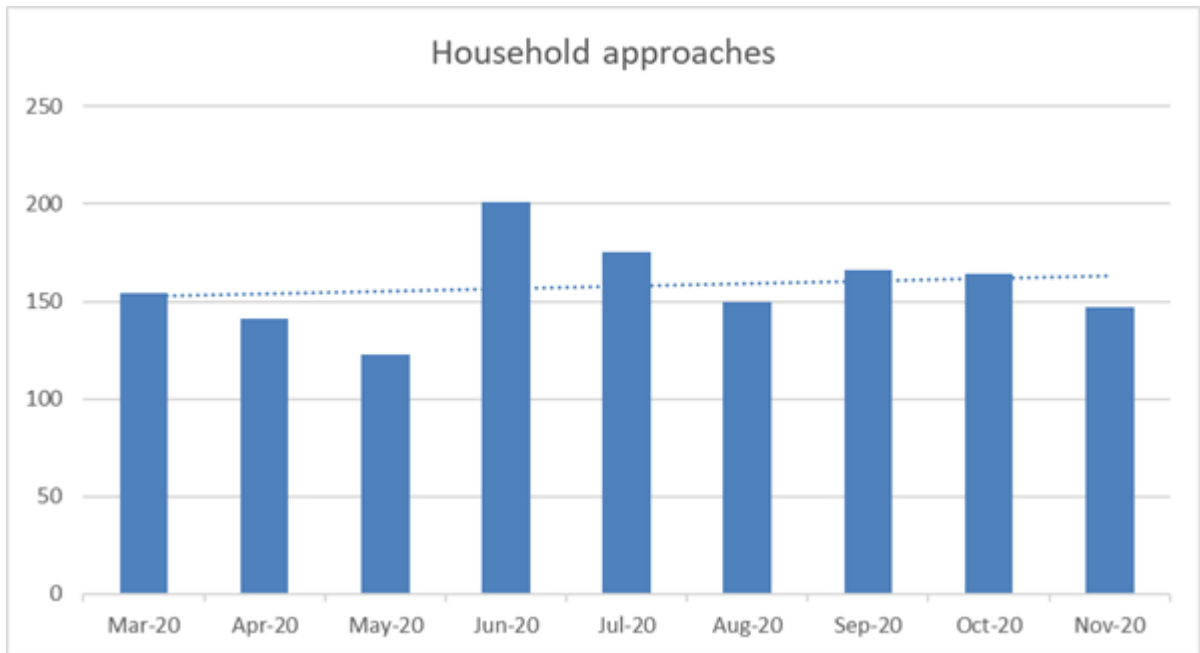
#### Background

- 3.1 The Council delivers support and assistance to homeless people by providing services directly, working in partnership with the voluntary sector and the commissioning of specialist services. The term homelessness is wide and includes: households threatened with imminent homelessness; those living in non-settled accommodation, such as “sofa surfing”, bed & breakfast or other types of temporary accommodation; or people sleeping on the streets/tents/cars etc.
- 3.2 Temporary accommodation (TA) provided by Bath and North East Somerset Council includes:
- Hostel accommodation occupied on a licence;
  - Flats occupied on an assured shorthold tenancy;
  - Bed & Breakfast accommodation.
- 3.3 Both the hostel accommodation and the flats are commissioned through Curo Housing. The hostel provides high quality accommodation suitable for singles and couples and small families of up to 3 people in 17 rooms with some shared communal facilities. The dispersed flats comprise 6 self-contained two bedroom properties and one, self-contained one bedroom property. These are family units and are for people with more than two children.
- 3.4 The Council tries not to use Bed and Breakfast accommodation (B&B). However, where there is no alternative, or it is an emergency, it will be used. In these circumstances the Council will attempt to accommodate households in B&B within district and for the shortest time possible. However, securing local B&B accommodation can be a challenge and as such out of district placements can also be used on occasion.
- 3.5 In 2019 a former supported housing scheme, located in the ward of Southdown, and leased to a third party was returned to the Council. Since April 2020 the property been used to accommodate rough sleepers during the Covid19 pandemic. However, Housing Services are proposing to renovate and extend the property to create an eleven-room supported housing scheme providing emergency/temporary accommodation for homeless households. The scheme will be directly managed by the Council. Works to renovate the property are due to start in later this year and once the current occupants have been provided with alternative accommodation.
- 3.6 This scheme will reduce the use of unsuitable and expensive bed and breakfast accommodation and provide an enhanced service and experience for households experiencing homelessness.

#### Statutory homelessness applications and use of temporary accommodation

Given the challenges and variable operating conditions of 2020, including full lock-down, limited lock downs and legislation to suspend eviction activity it might be reasonable to have expected to see significant fluctuations in homelessness applications and approaches across this period. Perhaps surprisingly, the data

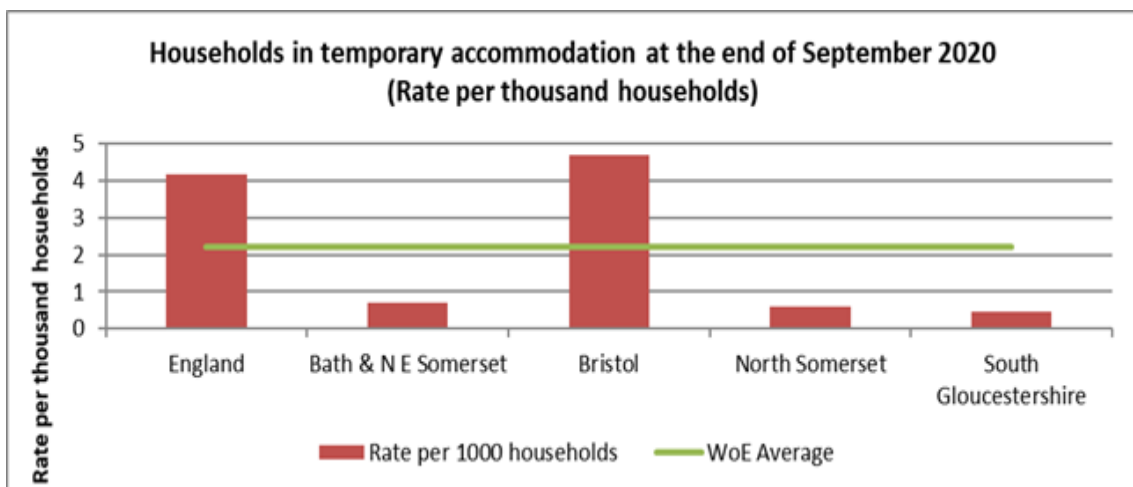
shows a broadly steady caseload of new homelessness approaches across the year, and which is not too dissimilar to previous years.



3.7 However, what has been significant is the number of households registering on Homesearch, which between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and 1<sup>st</sup> October increased by around 28% to 5,418 households. The increase was particularly significant in Group A, the highest priority group and which increased by almost 60% to 484 households.

Use of temporary accommodation

3.8 At the time of writing there are 53 households in temporary accommodation and accommodated under statutory homelessness provisions. However, this includes 26 rough sleepers housed in response to the pandemic. Removing this recording anomaly means that we have 28 households in temporary accommodation. Although this marginally exceeds our self-imposed target of 27 households, as in previous years, it remains extremely low when set against both local and national comparators, as shown in the table below.



Rough Sleepers

3.9 Whilst rough sleeping is only a relatively small part of the wider homelessness agenda it is the most visible element and the most challenging. High levels of specialist support are required to provide positive outcomes. Working with local partners, including health, welfare, housing and employment the following services were already in place before the pandemic was declared to help rough sleepers make a transition into safer and healthier lives:

- Provision of 29 units of modern high-quality accommodation with on-site medical provision. (20 direct access & 9 move-on units)
- Assertive outreach provided in partnership by Julian House, DHI and AWP – supports individual rough sleepers into accommodation and other services by working with them on the street.
- A Reconnection Service. Some rough sleepers arrive from other parts of the country, having left accommodation and support networks behind. Wherever possible, contact will be made to ascertain that accommodation is still available and that appropriate support can continue. Where this is the case, travel costs are covered and the person offered the opportunity to return home. If there is any suggestion of violence or any other threat, this is not implemented.
- Winter Shelter, open every night from November to March with 20 bed spaces plus funding for other agencies to attend and offer support to residents.
- Range of specialist support workers including: specialist mental health outreach worker; dual-diagnosis (mental health and substance misuse) worker; specialist rapid assessment and reconnection workers; and private sector housing worker.
- Homeless hospital discharge service based at the RUH
- Housing First Project, providing 16 units of accommodation
- Supported Housing Gateway – web-based single access point for supported housing schemes.
- Priority on Homesearch Scheme for people in supported housing, and in some cases rough sleepers. This helps release bed-spaces that can then be allocated to rough sleepers.
- A Task & Targeting multi-agency group that shares information on and identifies solutions for named, entrenched rough sleepers.

#### Response to the pandemic

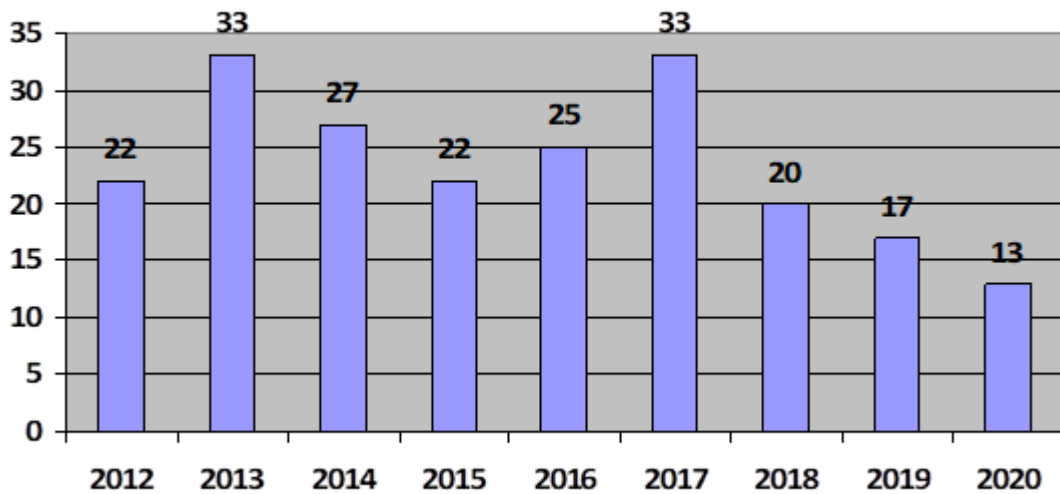
3.10 On Thursday 26th March, in response to the Covid-19 crisis, Dame Louise Casey, leading the government's response on rough sleeping, wrote to every local authority with a directive to get “everyone in” by Sunday 29th March. This unprecedented request from the government meant that councils across the country had just 48 hours to find emergency accommodation for all rough sleepers.

- 3.11 The emergency accommodation had to be suitable for self-isolation and social distancing, and therefore all communal night shelters had to be shut down, which included the MHCLG funded Safesleep winter accommodation. It was also necessary to move half the residents (10 in total) out of Manvers Street Hostel to reduce the risk of transmission in the hostel and to create space for residents to socially distance and self-isolate if required.
- 3.12 The Council and its partners, notably Julian House, adopted a hybrid approach to this task, utilising vacant council-owned, self-contained accommodation and only securing hotel type accommodation (through the YMCA and YHA) for a relatively small number of clients. The vacant accommodation took time to secure, clear, clean and commission but was in use by 7 April, 10 days after the directive was in place. MHCLG were fully supportive of the approach taken by the Council.
- 3.13 In total, 69 rough sleepers were assisted as part of covid-19 work, including those who needed to be decanted from the Manvers Street Hostel and Safesleep provision due to social distancing rules. Whilst many were helped to return to family or friends outside the B&NES area under the existing Reconnection Policy the Council ultimately and directly housed 42 rough sleepers.
- 3.14 The number assisted was greater than the combined total of those decanted and the rough sleeper count. This was due to a combination of factors including: the nature of rough sleeping, with many people moving in and out of temporary, insecure settings only to return to them at a later date; the limitations of the rough sleeper count (single night snapshot of demand); the government's decision to release prisoners early as part of their covid-19 prison plans; and the "pull factor" of the government's offer of accommodation.
- 3.15 It is interesting to note that of the 69 assisted, only 11 had been identified on rough sleeper counts since November 2018. This demonstrates the significant level of change within B&NES's rough sleeping cohort.
- 3.16 Despite the extra provision and improved offers of accommodation rough sleeping was not entirely eradicated and a small number of people continued to sleep rough, as follows:

Details	Number
Refused offers of accommodation	7
Have accommodation they are not using	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

3.17 The chart below details the official rough sleeper count for the district, which is undertaken each year, usually in November. Given the work that has gone into reducing rough sleeping over the past year the reduction to 13 was disappointing and in part explained by the above table. However, on a more positive note at the time of writing the latest informal count found only 4 people sleeping rough.

Official Rough Sleeper Count



### Future Plans

3.18 On the 18th July MHCLG launched their Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP). This scheme gave Local Authorities the chance to bid for funding to provide support and accommodation for rough sleepers. Following support from informal cabinet a successful bid for £2.1m was submitted to MHCLG to meet the cost of the following:

- Interim support for housed rough sleepers until 31st March 2021

The Council continues to fund support and assistance to around 30 residents in four separate Council owned buildings. This funding allows this support and assistance to continue until the end of the financial year.

- Platform for Life Scheme

This is a development of the Council's existing and very successful low-support housing model for young-people currently run in partnership with the YMCA. However, in this iteration the scheme will be orientated to former rough sleepers. The funding allows for around 8 units of accommodation across 2x properties. Property to be owned by the Council with management and support outsourced to a suitable and specialist partner.

- Supported Housing Scheme

Funding allows for the renovation of an existing Council owned building to create 20 units of supported housing for former rough sleepers. The scheme will be owned and maintained by the Council and with allocations overseen by the Council. However, the on-site management and support will be outsourced to a suitable and specialist partner.

3.19 With the pandemic ongoing, the Winter Safesleep dormitory provision could not be put in place as has become usual in November. In order to make sure lives are not lost and that there is extra provision for Winter 2020/21, a range of alternatives have been identified and agreed:

- 9 self-contained flatlets leased at Bath YHA via Julian House. Funding to cover costs has been secured under the MHCLG Cold Weather Fund;
- A 6-bedroom house in the private rented sector has been secured by DHI's private rented service, Home Turf Lettings. Leased for 6 months and managed by Home Turf, the property will be available during the colder months

#### **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 The, [Housing Act 1996](#), the [Homelessness Act 2002](#) and the [Homelessness Reduction Act 2017](#), all place significant statutory duties on local housing authorities (the Council) to ensure that advice, assistance and other housing duties are available to households who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.
- 4.2 New requirements from central government were introduced due to the Coronavirus pandemic and continue to be in force at the time writing. These included preventative measures, such as, the closure of some services and the development of new accommodation and support options. These are set out in the report.
- 4.3 The delivery of services for homeless people has implications for corporate statutory considerations such as equalities, crime and disorder, safeguarding and public health and inequalities.

#### **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

- 5.1 This report is for information only, and as such, there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

#### **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 None. Report for information only.

#### **7 EQUALITIES**

- 7.1 None. Report for information only.

#### **8 CLIMATE CHANGE**

- 8.1 Any new supported housing schemes will be designed to ensure the most practical energy efficiency measures are met. In addition ensuring our clients are accommodated within district will considerably reduce the need for unnecessary travel.

#### **9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

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

<b>Contact person</b>	Graham Sabourn (01225 477949) & Ann Robins (01225 337975)
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<b>Background papers</b>	None
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**Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format**

## CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

This Forward Plan lists all the items coming to the Panel over the next few months.

Inevitably, some of the published information may change; Government guidance recognises that the plan is a best assessment, at the time of publication, of anticipated decision making. The online Forward Plan is updated regularly and can be seen on the Council's website at:

<http://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/mgPlansHome.aspx?bcr=1>

The Forward Plan demonstrates the Council's commitment to openness and participation in decision making. It assists the Panel in planning their input to policy formulation and development, and in reviewing the work of the Cabinet.

*Should you wish to make representations, please contact the report author or, Democratic Services (). A formal agenda will be issued 5 clear working days before the meeting.*

*Agenda papers can be inspected on the Council's website and at the Guildhall (Bath), Hollies (Midsomer Norton), Civic Centre (Keynsham) and at Bath Central, and Midsomer Norton public libraries.*

Ref Date	Decision Maker/s	Title	Report Author Contact	Director Lead
<b>25TH JANUARY 2021</b>				
25 Jan 2021	<b>Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</b>	<b>Draft Rough Sleepers and Homelessness Initiative</b>	Graham Sabourn, Ann Robins Tel: 01225 477949, Tel: 01225396288	Director Development and Public Protection
19 Jan 2021 25 Jan 2021	<b>Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</b>  <b>Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</b>	<b>Corporate &amp; Budget Planning 2021/22</b>	Andy Rothery Tel: 01225 477103	Director Environment  Director Partnership & Corporate Services
<b>15TH MARCH 2021</b>				
15 Mar 2021	<b>Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</b>	<b>Climate Emergency Progress Report &amp; Ecological Emergency Update - TBC</b>	Jane Wildblood Tel: 01225 477685	Director Environment

<b>Ref Date</b>	<b>Decision Maker/s</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Report Author Contact</b>	<b>Director Lead</b>
15 Mar 2021	<b>Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</b>	<b>Final Strategy for Planting Trees in BANES - TBC</b>	Carol Maclellan Tel: 01225 394106	Director Environment
<b>17TH MAY 2021</b>				
17 May 2021	<b>Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</b>	<b>Annual Review of the Integrated Transport Authority transfer of functions</b>	Chris Major Tel: 01225 39 4231	Director Environment
Page 23				
<b>27TH JULY 2021</b>				
<b>20TH SEPTEMBER 2021</b>				
<b>22ND NOVEMBER 2021</b>				
<b>ITEMS TO BE SCHEDULED:</b>				
	<b>Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</b>	<b>Littering Review (progress report)</b>	Carol Maclellan Tel: 01225 394106	Director Environment

Ref Date	Decision Maker/s	Title	Report Author Contact	Director Lead
	Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Discovery Card Review	Stephen Bird Tel: 01225 477750	Director of Economy & Growth
	Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Bath Quays North Regeneration	John Wilkinson Tel: 01225 396593	Director of Economy & Growth
<p>The Forward Plan is administered by <b>DEMOCRATIC SERVICES:</b> <a href="mailto:Democratic_Services@bathnes.gov.uk">Democratic_Services@bathnes.gov.uk</a></p>				